

**Towards the Constitution of a European Observatory on Femicide**  
**A Census of resources at country level in 26 European countries**  
**Working document, edited by the COST Action IS1206 *Femicide across Europe***

*One of the aims of the COST Action IS 1206 Femicide across Europe is to assess the feasibility of building a European Observatory on femicide. What follows is a census of the resources that are available today at country level in 26 European countries. We are convinced that building a European Observatory is possible and that this should be undertaken in close partnership with the many institutions, NGOs and public and private research centres that engage daily in collecting, classifying and disseminating data on femicide across Europe.*

## Country Level Resources

### 1. Austria (by Birgitt Haller)

There is no specific term in German for the murder of women: the same expression is used both for female and male victims (the German word, “Mord” is of Germanic origin and does not allow for a female suffix). The intervention centres (victim protection organisations, established by the Austrian Protection against Violence Act 1997) have been pointing out the risk of being killed by a (former) partner for years.

The first (and only) empirical research study on femicide was completed by Birgitt Haller in 2011, financed by the Ministry of Women’s Affairs. Under the title of “High-risk victims. Homicide in relationships,” all convictions for (attempted) femicide from 2008 to 2010 were analysed: 39 legal proceedings against male perpetrators (and, additionally, eight legal proceedings against female aggressors) were analysed.

Homicide data are collected and published annually by the Austrian police/ Ministry of the Interior. These are based on police reports - so, for example, it may emerge that a person was not murdered, but died in a domestic accident. Police data provide the sex of both victim and aggressor, but the categories used to define the relationship between victim and aggressor are very imprecise: they reflect whether the persons concerned had been living together or not, but they do not reveal the type of relationship between them (partners, aunt and niece, etc.). Therefore, precise information on femicide in the strict sense is not available.

### 2. Croatia (by Ivana Radacic and Irena Cajner Mraovic)

The notion of femicide has been in circulation in Croatia since the late 1990s (Kovčo 1996), but mainly among the research community who nevertheless prefer to talk about killing women, rather than using the term femicide. Although there are several studies of domestic violence in Croatia, the first paper to use the concept of femicide was published in 2014 (Asančaić, 2014).

#### **2.1 Definition**

The term femicide is not widely used in Croatia. All reliable sources use expressions like “killing of women”. The expression “intimate homicide” is also in use to indicate the killing of a woman by an intimate partner as a specific form of homicide.

The term femicide is most commonly used by feminist web portals, where articles about the problem of intimate partner violence in Croatia are occasionally published, and where the developments with respect to femicide within the UN or in other countries are reported. Government bodies do not employ the term.

#### **2.2 Sources**

There are no comprehensive resources on femicide in Croatia. The Ministry of Interior is the body that officially collects the data on reported murders of women, which include information about the relationship with the perpetrator, but not necessarily the motivation or the context in which the murder occurred. However, publicly available data reported in the Statistical Overview of the Basic Security Indicators and Police Work Results, published annually on the web of the Ministry, contain Draft, March 7, 2017. Do not quote without permission.

only information about the sex of the perpetrators and the victims of homicide. The annual publication, *Men and Women in Croatia*, published by the State Institute for Statistics does not contain any data on femicide.

### **3. Cyprus** (by Christiana Kouta and Elena Rousou)

#### **3.1 Definition**

There is no legal definition for femicide. While the murder of a woman or a girl by a family member is recognized by law, it is only in relation to family violence, which is not gender-specific:

*“Violence in the Family Law”* - Under section 3 of the Violence in the Family (Prevention and Protection of Victims) Laws 119(I)/2000 and 212(I)/2004, this refers to: “any act, omission or behavior which causes physical, sexual or mental injury to any member of the family and includes violence used for the purpose of having sexual intercourse without the consent of the victim as well as of restricting its freedom.

When a woman, or a girl, is murdered by a family member, it is defined by law as Violence in the Family and there is no differentiation between female and male perpetrators.

Homicides that take place outside the family as a result of gender-based violence (e.g. by a boyfriend) are not categorized as violence against women or gender-based violence, despite the fact that analysis of the data in Cyprus demonstrates that the majority of these cases can indeed be categorized as gender based violence and acts of femicide.

No forums and no literature exist in Cyprus related to the issue of femicide.

#### **3.2 Sources**

There are organizations dealing with family violence, but these are not gender specific, such as:

**1) The Service for Families and Children** (Social Welfare Services), which aims to support the family unit, in order to enable family members to perform their roles and responsibilities effectively; to resolve family disputes that threaten the unity of family; to safeguard the protection and the welfare of children; to prevent delinquent behaviour and domestic violence; and to encourage the rehabilitation of people involved in anti-social behaviour and delinquency (<http://www.mlsi.gov.cy>)

**2) *Police Criminal Investigation Office*** (Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Office), which attends to all matters dealing with prevention, repression and handling of domestic violence and child abuse (<http://www.police.gov.cy>)

**3) *Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family*** (A project funded by the European Union) ([www.domviolence.org.cy](http://www.domviolence.org.cy))

**4) *Advisory Committee for the Prevention and Combating of Violence in the Family*** ([www.familyviolence.gov.cy](http://www.familyviolence.gov.cy))

#### **4. Denmark** (by Yvonne Mørck)

Until a few years ago, the term ‘wife killing’/‘wife homicide’ was used in the judicial system (and was linked to marital status), but this has now changed to ‘partner killing’ (not linked to marital status or gender), i.e. it is a gender neutral concept.

The notion of femicide is not used in the official Danish system of registration. However, the victim statistics regarding homicide are divided by gender (Denmark's Statistics). The term femicide is to some extent used in the Danish media.

#### **5. France** (by Lisa Anteby-Jemini and Valérie Raffin)

##### ***Use of the term femicide***

The notion of femicide (in French « fémicide » or « féminicide ») is rarely used in France. In France the media reports of femicide cases by an intimate partner generally conceal the violence and the murder, by calling them “family dramas” or “separation dramas”. An association, “Osez le féminisme” (translation “Don’t be shy about feminism”), has been actively advocating for the legal recognition of the term since 2014. Its website is: (<https://reconnaissonslefeminicide.olf.site/>).

##### ***Statistics***

In France, data is available on homicides and violence leading to a death in a couple (including the murder of children and collaterals). The average figure of deaths for couples between 2006-2013 in France, according to the sex of victim and link to the perpetrator, is 205 deaths, including:

- 159 femicides in heterosexual couples
- 29 husband deaths in heterosexual couples
- 2 husband deaths in gay couples
- 1 femicide in a lesbian couple
- 9 murders of children
- 5 collateral murders
- 54 suicides of men perpetrators

(Source: Annual study on violent deaths in the couple of the Delegation of Victims – DAV- analyzed by INED National French Institute of Demography) in Christelle Hamel, entry on Femicide in *Atlas mondial des femmes: les paradoxes de l’émancipation*, I. Attané and C. Bruguilles, eds.

There have been only very slight variations in these figures over the last 10 years in France (around 205 per year, on average) and these represent 30% of the total number of homicides and violence that lead to death in 2013, whereas violent deaths linked to other circumstances have diminished.

##### ***5.1 Definition***

In official reports in France, deaths related to violence within the couple take into account not only the murder of women by their intimate partner (husband, ex-husband, lover, boyfriend or potential boyfriend, whether there have been sexual relations or not) but also the murder of men by their female partners, murders by same-sex partners, suicides of perpetrators (for which, given the lack of police data, one can only estimate) and homicides qualified as “collaterals” (i.e. children, family members who tried to interpose themselves, such as parents, neighbours, lawyers, etc.). The data also includes estimates for the number of suicides resulting from marital violence, irrespective of whether this be the suicide of victims or perpetrators. The data also includes further criteria, such as

region, French or foreign nationality, possible cause of murder, etc., concerning both the victim and perpetrator.

**Limitations:** The data for the number of suicides of women victims of domestic violence is still lacking in statistics for Europe. For example, in France, a rate of 13% has been applied to the national rate for suicides in order to estimate the number of real suicides resulting from violence within the couple. This rate was elaborated from the “National Survey on violence against women”.

## 5.2 Sources

The annual report on data for violent partner deaths appears on both the website of the French Interior Ministry (through its Delegation for Victims - DAV) and the website of the French Ministry for Families, Childhood and Women’s Rights (the most recent report can be found here: <http://www.familles-enfance-droitsdesfemmes.gouv.fr/parution-du-rapport-annuel-concernant-les-morts-violentes-au-sein-du-couple/>). Official action and response are conducted through the MIPROF (Interministerial Mission for the Protection of Women Against Violence and Fight Against the Trafficking of Human Beings).

There is a National Observatory of Violence against Women, which also publishes statistical reports on violence against women drawn from the results of INSEE surveys on "Life Framework and Security" (CVS) ([http://stop-violences-femmes.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/Lettre\\_ONVF\\_8 -  
\\_Violences faites aux femmes principales donnees - nov15.pdf](http://stop-violences-femmes.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/Lettre_ONVF_8_-_Violences_faites_aux_femmes_principales_donnees_-_nov15.pdf)).

There are also local observatories, for example, in the Greater Paris region (en IDF : <http://www.centre-hubertine-auclert.fr/observatoire-regional-des-violences-faites-aux-femmes> ; in region of Seine-Saint-Denis : <https://www.seine-saint-denis.fr/-Observatoire-des-violences-envers-les-femmes-.html>).

## 6. Georgia (by Tiko Tsomaia)

**Data.** According to a global study on homicide conducted in 2013, the intentional homicide rate per 100,000 population is 3.4, which puts Georgia in the group of low homicide rate countries. The percentage of male and female intentional homicide victims is 75.7 and 24.3, respectively.

According to the analysis provided by the Chief Prosecutor Office of Georgia, 53 women were killed in 2014-2015, of which 27 murders were so-called “domestic violence murders”, and 18 women were killed by their intimate partners.

### 6.1 Definition

The term “femicide” has been used regularly by the media, activists, and the general public since 2014. The term “femicide” entered public discourse after a murder that occurred on October 17, 2014, when a man recently released from prison killed his ex-wife and then committed suicide in front of students and professors at Ilia State University in Tbilisi, Georgia. The broad media coverage of this particular murder and other killings of women in 2014 brought femicide into the foreground and caused a public outcry.

Different organizations (NGOs, media, academia, state institutions) define femicide as the gender-related killing of women, related to gender-based violence by an intimate partner.

## **6.2 Legislation**

Legislation in the Republic of Georgia does not recognize femicide as a separate crime; all cases of killings of women are investigated and punished as crimes against human beings. Therefore, no separate statistics are collected on the killings of women, based on gender.

Currently femicide cases are investigated under penal code articles, including: murder, murder in aggravating circumstances, intentional murder in a state of sudden strong emotional excitement, intentional infliction of grave injury that caused death, incitement to suicide, an article specifying domestic crimes, and articles that describe the commission of a crime related to sex.

## **6.3 Sources**

Journalists and civil society can only speculate about the veracity of the data, since government institutions and legislation have not responded to requests for detailed crime data, which would help shed light on the actual trends. Government institutions (Ministry of Interior, Prosecutor Office, Courts) remain the source for collecting and disseminating data. No organization exists to collect and collate data from alternative sources and double-check the information.

*Groups following the topic include:*

Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA) ([http://newscafe.ge/homicide/Honor\\_killing.html](http://newscafe.ge/homicide/Honor_killing.html)) which has received a grant from European Commission to track violent crime against women.

In 2015, the Chief Prosecutor Office published an analysis on intimate and family homicide [http://pog.gov.ge/geo/news?info\\_id=890](http://pog.gov.ge/geo/news?info_id=890)

On April 4, 2016, the Georgian Young Lawyers Association released a study entitled, “Judgments in cases of femicide – 2014”.

<https://gyla.ge/en/post/kvlevis-prezentacia-femicidis-saqmeebis-ganachenebi-2014>

The Public Defender of Georgia publishes special reports:

<http://www.ombudsman.ge/en/reports/specialuri-angarishebi>

The UNFPA is paying attention to one particular type of femicide -- sex selective abortions.

<http://www.unfpa.org/gender-biased-sex-selection>

The Georgian Center for medical psychosocial rehabilitation of torture victims works with victims of gender violence. <http://gcrt.ge/en/>

## **7. Germany** (by Monika Schröttle and Ksenia Meshkova)

The term “femicide” is not widely used in Germany. One possible reason could be its similarity to “genocide” and its connotations for German history. Nevertheless, the killings of women are recognized as an extreme form of VAW and are included in criminological data and murder statistics, and are also recognized in research and policies on VAW. There are few publications and studies focusing on femicide; the most recent systematic work was a research study carried out by Luise Draft, March 7, 2017. Do not quote without permission.

Greuel (2009) on the escalation of violence in intimate partner relationships.<sup>1</sup> In addition, Dr. Susanne Heynen has started a research project on homicide within families in the context of intimate partner violence, where relatives were interviewed about the circumstances and consequences of the homicides in a systematic manner.<sup>2</sup>

### 7.1 Sources

There are 3 bodies that collect femicide data in Germany on a regular basis. However, two of them (with the exception of the police) are neither financed, nor institutionalized.

a) The German Criminological Police Statistics (PKS) collects all cases of killings (and additional data on the gender of the victims and victim-perpetrator relationship).<sup>3</sup> Thus, the number of women killed and – to some extent – the relationship to the perpetrator, can be accessed. Another available source is the court statistics on convicted perpetrators. Cases where the perpetrator is unknown and/or the relationship is not clear are not detailed. Therefore, the number of women killed by partners and/or ex-partners might be underreported in this source.

b) Over the past few years, The Network of Autonomous Shelters (ZIF) has collected cases of femicide using Internet searches alongside the published data from the police and the media. This information is collected for internal reasons and not published regularly.

c) In 1916, two researchers (Dr. Monika Schröttle and Julia Habermann) began systematically collecting information and data on femicides and building a national database. They also joined the European Homicide Monitor and are planning to institutionalize this project in the framework of a

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<sup>1</sup> **Greuel, Luise (2009):** Forschungsprojekt „Gewalteskalation in Paarbeziehungen“ (Abschlussbericht), Institut für Polizei und Sicherheitsforschung (IPOS). Unter: [http://www.polizei.nrw.de/media/Dokumente/Behoerden/LKA/Gewaltesk\\_Forschungsproj\\_lang.pdf](http://www.polizei.nrw.de/media/Dokumente/Behoerden/LKA/Gewaltesk_Forschungsproj_lang.pdf). Datum letzter Abruf: 10.05.2016.

<sup>2</sup>

[https://www.google.de/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&ved=0ahUKEwjRsLzpzYlQAhUCPxQKH Ru4AacQFggpMAI&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.karlsruhe.de%2Fb3%2Fsoziales%2Ffeinrichtungen%2Ftoetungsd elikte%2FHF\\_sections%2Fcontent%2FZZmJB4juGeb5ve%2FZZmJB4SN0aTFcY%2FInnerfamili%25C3%25A4re%25 20T%25C3%25B6tungsdelikte%2520-%2520Expos%25C3%25A9.pdf&usq=AFQjCNFmfSsQvs3P64U9u3Hzyt6fbu4hzw&sig2=t-xUoRlds-Vg0j676ugvAw&cad=rja](https://www.google.de/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&ved=0ahUKEwjRsLzpzYlQAhUCPxQKH Ru4AacQFggpMAI&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.karlsruhe.de%2Fb3%2Fsoziales%2Ffeinrichtungen%2Ftoetungsd elikte%2FHF_sections%2Fcontent%2FZZmJB4juGeb5ve%2FZZmJB4SN0aTFcY%2FInnerfamili%25C3%25A4re%25 20T%25C3%25B6tungsdelikte%2520-%2520Expos%25C3%25A9.pdf&usq=AFQjCNFmfSsQvs3P64U9u3Hzyt6fbu4hzw&sig2=t-xUoRlds-Vg0j676ugvAw&cad=rja)

<sup>3</sup> **Polizeiliche Kriminalstatistik (PKS) (Hrsg.) (2016b):** PKS 2015 - Opfer - Tatverdächtigen - Beziehung – formal – Angaben zu Verwandtschaft einschl. Partner nichtehelicher Lebensgemeinschaften. Unter: [http://www.bka.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Publikationen/PolizeilicheKriminalstatistik/2015/Standardt abellen/Opfer/tb921\\_OpferTatverdaechtigenBeziehungPartnerschaften\\_excel.templateId=raw,property= publicationFile.xlsx/tb921\\_OpferTatverdaechtigenBeziehungPartnerschaften\\_excel.xlsx](http://www.bka.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Publikationen/PolizeilicheKriminalstatistik/2015/Standardt abellen/Opfer/tb921_OpferTatverdaechtigenBeziehungPartnerschaften_excel.templateId=raw,property= publicationFile.xlsx/tb921_OpferTatverdaechtigenBeziehungPartnerschaften_excel.xlsx). Datum letzter Abruf: 22.07.2016.

national scientific monitoring of the Istanbul Convention and VAW, in cooperation with the German Ministry on Women and Family Affairs.<sup>4</sup>

## 7.2 Definition

In order to facilitate the collection of data on femicide, it is crucial first to include all cases related to the killing of women. Gender-based cases can then be filtered out according to the victim-perpetrator relationship (e.g. the killing of a woman by a former or current intimate partner, by family members in the context of honour killings, or by other persons in the context of prostitution or sexualized crimes). The term “partner” needs to be defined in a broad manner, to include married and non-married, cohabiting and non-cohabiting relationships, dating partners and lovers.

## 8. Greece (by Athena Peglidou)

There is no statistical data concerning the female death rate due to assault in Greece, as data on homicides are not sex-disaggregated. According to the Greek Police Statistical Service, the only available quantitative data concern the relation of the sex of the perpetrator or the victim and the locus of murder (2013):

According to victim’s sex and murder loci:

<i>Loci</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
Other spaces	54	9
Home	49	42
Total	103	51

According to perpetrator’s sex and murder loci:

<i>Loci</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
Other spaces	80	2
Home	76	14
Total	156	16

The dominant femicide pattern is that of intimate partner murder. The term “femicide” (*γυναικοκτονία-gynaikoktonia*) is not in use, even in media discourse, where these murders are described mostly as a “family tragedy”, “crime of passion”, “love crime” or even “unexpected crime”,

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<sup>4</sup> Granath, Sven/Hagstedt, Johanna/Kivivuori, Janne/Lehti, Martti/Ganpat, Soenita/Liem,

Marieke/Nieuwebeerta, Paul (2011): Homicide in Finland, the Netherlands and Sweden. A First Study on the European Homicide Monitor Data. Unter:

[https://www.bra.se/download/18.656e38431321e85c24d80007748/1371914718498/2011\\_15\\_homicide\\_finland\\_netherlands\\_sweden.pdf](https://www.bra.se/download/18.656e38431321e85c24d80007748/1371914718498/2011_15_homicide_finland_netherlands_sweden.pdf). Datum letzter Abruf: 19.04.2016.



where the “unfortunate woman” lost her life. A representative case study could be a young man who kills his girlfriend, or wife, through his own excessive jealousy, particularly after she attempted to break up their relationship. Two particular characteristics are worth mentioning: the cruelty and, in some cases, the dismemberment and disappearance of the female body, as well as the suicide or attempted suicide of the perpetrator after the murder.

## **9. Iceland** (by Freidis Freysteinsdottir and Halldora Gunnarsdottir)

Femicide as a concept has hardly gained any ground in Iceland. The term has only recently come into public use by the Icelandic members of the COST project on femicide.

### **9.1 Sources**

Data on femicide as such is not collected in Iceland. However, three databases with information on murders provide the possibility to generate data on femicide in Iceland.

- a) Police data. The Police keep a closed data base on all crimes, including murders. This database can be consulted on request, i.e. access is limited, except for specific research use.
- b) Open source data. On Icelandic Wikipedia, a list of murders going back centuries in time can be accessed. According to verbal information, the list was created and is maintained by a lawyer. However, not all murder cases, including cases of femicide, appear on that list and the term femicide is not used.
- c) A closed database, called “Fons juris” exists (<http://fonsjuris.is/about.php>), which is not public, but private. People are required to pay for access to data in this database. The database includes all verdicts from 1999, which have taken place in Iceland. All the cases of femicide can be retrieved from that database, according to a legal definition of a murder in the General Criminal Law [Almenn hegningarlög] nr. 19/1940 (paragraph 211) and severe physical assault (paragraph 218), which might include assaults that result in death. This database does not include cases dismissed for lack of evidence, although there is a suspicion that a murder or femicide has occurred. Those kinds of cases are not included in the verdicts.

### **9.2 Definition**

In reliable sources, femicide is best defined as the killing of a woman by an intimate partner. Partner is defined in a broad way, to include the husband, living and dating partner, lover; former husband, former partner and former lovers are also included in the definition. The expression "family femicide" is also used to indicate killing by a relative, such as a father, son, or other.

## **10. Ireland** (by Siobàn O’Brien Green)

### **10.1 Background**

The word femicide is rarely used in Ireland; intimate partner murder or homicide are more common terms in use.

### **10.2 Sources**

Data on femicide in Ireland are (potentially) available from the following sources:

- a) **Central Statistics Office** - An Garda Síochána (Irish Police Force) crime statistics are collected via the PULSE (Police Using Leading Systems Effectively) system and are collated and published by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) Crime and Justice section on a regular basis. Data from annual and quarterly homicide offences can be dis-aggregated by sex of victim. Currently (September 2016), homicide data cannot be dis-aggregated by sex of perpetrator and relationship of homicide victim to perpetrator; however, this is anticipated to change in the near future when a more comprehensive data breakdown will become available in relation to crime statistics in Ireland.
- b) **Courts Services** – Murder legal cases in Ireland are heard in the Central Criminal Court. A review of relevant murder trial proceedings and sentencing is possible, to determine cases of femicide through information on the Courts Service website. However, this data is not collated as femicide statistics.
- c) **Coroners' Courts** - In all cases of homicide, an inquest is held by the relevant coroner. Data on number of Deaths Reported, Post Mortems and Inquests held are reported on an annual basis by each Coroners office in Ireland; these are collated into national statistics by the Coroner Service Implementation Team. Currently (September 2016), these statistics are not dis-aggregated by sex of the deceased, nor by relationship of the deceased to anyone involved in the homicide. As a result, data in relation to femicide is not available through national Coroners' statistics.
- d) **Maternal Death Enquiry** - Data on all maternal deaths (deaths during pregnancy, within 42 days of the end of the pregnancy and up to one year post-partum) are collected and analysed by the Confidential Maternal Death Enquiry Ireland Office (MDE). Deaths as a result of femicide during this time period are included in this data analysis and would be classified as "Indirect deaths". Data from Ireland is collated with data from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and published as triennial reports by MBRRACE-UK. The 2015 MBRRACE report contained a specific chapter on "Learning from homicides and women who experienced domestic abuse". Where known, the perpetrator of the homicide is documented as a family member, stranger or (ex)partner in the report.
- e) **Women's Aid Female Homicide Media Watch** - Women's Aid are an Irish domestic violence, non-governmental organisation (NGO), which has collated media reported cases of femicide in Ireland since 1996. They report on the number of women murders, the location of murder, sex of perpetrator and relationship of victim to perpetrator of the murder. This data source and subsequent figures are referenced in medical and social care guidelines developed by the Irish College of General Practitioners and the Health Service Executive. See: <https://www.womensaid.ie/about/policy/natintstats.html#X-201209171232213>

### **10.3 Definition**

The term "femicide" is rarely used in Ireland and does not appear in recent and relevant statutory national policy or guideline documents, nor in the Irish Statute Book (collection of Irish legislation). It is briefly referenced in the Women's Health Council 2007, Violence Against Women and Health report. Instead, the terms: female homicide, intimate partner homicide or homicide/murder are used, as many of the statutory national policy and guideline documents and research adopt a gender neutral phrasing to domestic violence terminology. Holt defines femicide in her 2007 academic paper as "...the killing of a woman by her intimate partner or ex-partner." (*Irish Journal of Family Law* 10(4)).

## **11. Israel** (by Yifat Bitton and Shalva Weil)

The notion of “femicide”, as such, is practically absent from Israel. In recent years, though, awareness to “the murder of women” or “women murder” by their (normally) male family members is well evident in public discourse. Overall, the media plays a key role in Israel in disseminating the notion of “women murder” as a social phenomenon, which should be condemned. In addition, Israeli academics are among the leader scholars in the field of femicide. Nowadays, it is widely accepted that the murder of women by their family members warrants special attention.

### **11.1 Sources**

Up until the last 5 years, apart from sporadic media-initiated projects, no data collection of femicide was available in Israel. The parliamentary Committee on Women’s Rights initiated, 5 years ago, a special report on violence against women, whereby femicide is supposed to be reported annually (<https://www.knesset.gov.il/mmm/data/pdf/m03643.pdf>). Despite being highly accessible to the public, this report was subject to meager dissemination efforts outside Israeli Parliament. After 2015, there was no systematic and formal data on femicide in Israel, just a statement by the Israeli Parliament with statistics that they said were gathered from the police (<https://www.knesset.gov.il/mmm/data/pdf/m03849.pdf>), but in fact differed from what the police reported.

In addition, the Israeli Ministry of Internal Security, in its annual report on violence, now features a specific and distinct section on women victims of murder. However, no special attention is dedicated to the reasons for having these women murdered, and the report is laconic and de-contextualized on the topic. Another example for this disregard is shown in the Israeli police’s official Violence Report of 201 The report introduces no less than nine(!) different types and definitions for murder, none. 4 . of which relates specifically to the murder of women

### **11.2 Definition**

The criminal code assigns no specific clause to femicide, and femicide murderers are charged with the general murder offence. In other reliable sources, femicide is mainly associated with the killing of a woman by an intimate partner, broadly defined. Highly prevalent as well is the expression “family honor killing”, which is used to indicate killing by a relative, in non-Jewish communities in Israel, under a claim that a woman has manifested no respect to her family by being promiscuous. This type of femicide is perceived as a category of its own and is ultimately associated with killing a woman “due to her gender”, a characterization not easily assigned to other forms of femicide.

## **12. Italy** (by Anna C. Baldry, Consuelo Corradi and Augusto Gnisci)

The notion of femicide has circulated in Italy since 2004, when the European SARA and subsequently FEAR projects (both funded by the Daphne framework) were implemented. As a result of these projects, publications (Baldry, 2006) and conferences (2005) disseminated the term. In 2006, Spinelli authored a book bearing that title (Spinelli 2006). For the last decade, due to social, political, and NGO’s movements, the term has been used intensively, and even exploited by the media, with the aim of raising awareness on the topic. Debates are still ongoing as to whether the term should be used, or even if there should be a ‘dedicated’ legal term identifying these crimes. Attention peaks on specific dates in the year (8<sup>th</sup> March, International Women’s Day and 25<sup>th</sup> November, International

day against violence against women), when most of the media will discuss the issue and conferences are organized. Due to the fact that there is one femicide every three or four days in Italy, on average, media attention responds cyclically, focusing on the crime in the news. Social perception for the rates of violence against women is shaped by these waves of media response, together with social and political attention.

### **12.1 Sources**

Given that the definition of femicide is not always consistent between agencies and social contexts, in relation to 'counting' the victims, differences could also emerge. With this limit in mind, we can identify three bodies in Italy that collect data on gender-related killing of women in the country:

a) The most accurate and long-standing database on femicide is gathered by EURES (Center for Economic and Social Research). Since 1990, this private research center has collected data from media sources on voluntary homicide and it validates this information against the Ministry of Interior source that releases official data at the end of each year. Since 2000, EURES has also focused on femicide, by systematically collecting an extensive number of variables (*inter alia*: age, marital status, education, employment, etc.) related to both the victim and the perpetrator (Piacenti & Pasquali 2015). [www.eures.it](http://www.eures.it) .

b) *Casa delle donne per non subire violenza* (Women's Home) in Bologna is part of the National Networks of DiRe shelters. This is an independent, women's only NGO, established in the 1980s and aiming at preventing and eliminating all forms of violence against women. They publish and annotate data, but this activity does not appear to be a continuous endeavour. [www.casadonne.it](http://www.casadonne.it)

c) Since 2014, the Ministry of Interior publishes a short report annually on intimate and family homicide.

[http://www.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/dati\\_polizia\\_criminale\\_omicidi\\_violenza\\_di\\_genere.pdf](http://www.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/dati_polizia_criminale_omicidi_violenza_di_genere.pdf)

d) The National Institute of Statistics gathers data on homicide, based on data from the Ministry of Justice and the Interior.

### **12.2 Definition**

In reliable sources, femicide, although not used in the legal framework, is best defined as the killing of a woman because of her gender. Most cases refer to killing by an intimate partner. However, other killings of women would be included (e.g. a woman who is raped and then killed, an exploited woman or prostitute who is killed, other family related murders, could fall under this category).

'Partner' or ex-partner includes the current or a previous husband, living and dating partner, lover, occasional partner. The expression "family femicide" is also used to indicate killing by a relative, such as a father, son, or other.

## **13. Lithuania** (by Vilana Pilinkaitė)

Femicide as a consequence of intimate partner violence has been mainly utilized by women's NGOs, which advocate for legal reform and policy changes in Lithuania. Data on femicide are generally collected under statistics for homicide.

### **13.1 Sources**

The most reliable source on femicide is the crime statistics collected by the Ministry of Interior. The **Department of Information Technology and Communications under the Ministry of Interior** (DITC), in the Ministry of Interior, collects data nationally and manages its collection and systematisation. Draft, March 7, 2017. Do not quote without permission.

Data includes cases of crimes, victims and offenders, as well as the beginning of the pre-trial investigation under the Penal Code. Records from police, prosecutors and judges of private prosecution cases should appear in the register. The national standard for recording the administrative data is the **Order of the Minister of the Interior on Regulations of Institutional Register of Criminal Acts** (*LR Vidaus reikalų ministro įsakymas "Nusiklatimo veikų žinybinio reigstro nuostatai"*).<sup>5</sup> The DITC refers to the collected administrative data to generate the statistics for crimes. It is possible to identify the numbers of victims and offenders according to gender and family relations in these crime statistics. DITS manages the database on any pre-trial investigations, in accordance with to the Penal code. Crimes reported by police to the judicial system include data on **homicides** by sex of a victim and family relations. Thus, statistics on femicide are identifiable. The DITC publishes these statistics on a specially designated website for violence against women, operated by the Ministry of Interior (<http://www.bukstipri.lt/lt/statistika> )

### **13.2 Definition**

The term Femicide is hardly used in academic research. However, femicide might be retrievable under the Art. 129 of the Penal Code, which identifies sentences in cases of homicide. The same article defines the relationships between an offender and victim, in terms of close relative or family member.

### **14. Macedonia** (by Biljana Chavkoska and Viktorija Chavkoska)

Generally, there is lack of data information and statistics on femicide in the Republic of Macedonia. This is due to the fact that is no legally binding definition of femicide in the legal acts of the Republic of Macedonia. The definition of homicide is covered under Criminal law. Some changes have been made in this definition due to the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

The femicide data statistics can be obtained as follows:

1. Through the general report by the Ministry of Internal Affairs on homicide data statistics. This report renders the question of femicide problem invisible, although it is reported that men are perpetrators of the homicide crimes. As to the motives for committing the murders, most of them are reported as occurring in the family circle, because of disrupted family relationships, with mostly women as victims.
2. Some statistical data on femicide can be obtained from the Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs through the National Strategy for preventing family violence and homicide, as the most extreme form of family violence. However, the data for femicide is not visible despite the fact that it is reported that most of the victims are female partners.
3. Unfortunately, femicide statistics are also not covered by the National Statistics Authority at the moment, due to the lack of research and official information provided.

### **15. Malta** (by Marceline Naudi and Katya Unah)

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<sup>5</sup>Lithuania, Minister of Interior, Order of the Minister of the Interior on the Regulations of Institutional Register of Criminal Acts (*LR Vidaus reikalų ministr įsakymas "Nusiklatimoveikųžinybinioreigstronuostatai"*) No. IV-36, 26 January, 2006). [http://www.ird.lt/viewpage.php?page\\_id=196](http://www.ird.lt/viewpage.php?page_id=196)  
Draft, March 7, 2017. Do not quote without permission.

To date, Malta does not have an official body/entity which collects femicide data, other than the Police and, to the best of my knowledge, there it is classified as homicide. Moreover, nor has the definition of femicide been inserted into the criminal code. The Commission on Domestic Violence collects newspaper articles following the murder of a woman. For example, this year (2016), there were two such deaths in Malta; one in July and another in September.

## **16. The Netherlands** (by Marieke Liem)

### **16.1 Sources**

In the Netherlands, homicides in recent years (from 2003 onwards) have been classified according to the Dutch Homicide Monitor. For details on the construction of the dataset and the available variables, see [Granath et al. \(2011\)](#). This Monitor is based on various sources, which partially overlap, but also complement one another:

- All homicide-related newspaper articles generated by the Netherlands National News Agency (ANP). These articles contain much information on the characteristics of the homicides, the perpetrators and victims.
- The Elsevier Annual Report. Elsevier is a weekly magazine that publishes an annual report on all occurring homicides. This report is based on both ANP articles and Police files.
- Data stemming from police records in the 10 Police regions in the Netherlands. Several Police regions supply (additional) data from their own documentation, which is incorporated in the database.
- Files from the Public Prosecution Service of the Ministry of Justice. This database includes the judicial procedures of prosecuted homicide perpetrators.

### **16.2 Definition**

Femicides are not classified separately, as such. The available data allow for the extraction of female victims among sexual homicides, intimate partner homicides and other types of homicides.

## **17. Norway** (by Anne Ryen)

### **17.1 Terms and definition**

The term “Femicide” is not employed in Norwegian texts, unless in reference to international work, and would be viewed as a foreign term without resonance in the Norwegian language. A preference exists for Norwegian terms. The Norwegian term used in official documents is “partnerdrap” translated as “partner murder” or “partner killing”, where the partner may be a man or a woman. We also find the term “kvinnedrap” or women killing, although it refers to the wider category of women and is less specific about the offender. In practice, the statistics specify the gender of the victim and the offender as “Women killed by...” or “Men killed by”. To illustrate, in 2015, we can read that Norway had 22 murder cases, with 23 victims and 24 offenders. Ten of the victims were the partner/ex-partner of the offender. Nine of these were women killed by their husband (7), a cohabitant (1) or former cohabitant (1), while one man was killed by his female cohabitant (no men Draft, March 7, 2017. Do not quote without permission.

or women were killed by a divorced or separated partner). Criteria for registration as a partner killing are that the offender and victim were married, cohabitant, or had registered partnership at the time of the killing, or earlier, prior to the killing. The Norwegian statistics then include separated, divorced, former cohabitants and former partners. Lovers who never lived together are not included.

### **17.2 Sources**

The category “partner killing” (with the subcategory of femicide) has been registered systematically from 1990 onwards. In 1998, the government decided to initiate research on partner killings and the Centre for security, prison and forensic psychiatry («Kompetansesenteret for sikkerhets-, fengsels-, og rettspsykiatri») with Ullevål University Hospital, Oslo, as the responsible research institution. A doctorate study mapped all partner killings in the period 1980-2008 and was part of the governmental Plan of Action “Turning Point” (“Vendepunkt”) on intimate partner violence. In 2015, we saw a second major and extensive report on Partner killing in Norway 1990-2012. A mixed method study of risk factors for partner killings (Partnerdrap i Norge 1990-2012. En mixed-methods studie av riskiofaktorer for partnerdrap) (S.K.Bø Vatnar) also appeared from Oslo University Hospital (OUS) and was linked up with The Government’s Plan of Action against violence in intimate relations, Turing Point 2008-2011 (Regjeringens handlingsplan mot vold i nære relasjoner, Vendepunkt 2008–2011).

Further, every January, Kripos (The national unit for combating organized and other serious crime) publishes annual national statistics on murders, including “partner murder”, based on Strasak (reviewed crimes), itself based on the Police’s own criminal records.

SSP (The Central Criminal and Police Enlightenment Register) is used to update the overview of convictions.

The Shelter Secretariat (Krisesentersekretariatet or KSS) established in 1994 is another source, working on policy issues and praxis. This organization works as a link between the various public authorities, shelters, media, national and international organisations, research institutions and society in general. It is well known from media and beyond, for its work on violence against women and survivors.

The Norwegian Authorities have released five national action plans to combat violence against women and in intimate relations (2000-2003, 2004-2007, 2008-2011, 2012, 2014-2017); one international action plan against rape (2012-2014); one national action plan to reach gender equality (2014); three national action plans against forced marriages and two against female genital mutilation (FGM); and three different action plans on fighting against human trafficking. These reflect, frame, initiate and legitimate the ongoing work to prevent and handle intimate partner violence and killing of women, with the two often linked. In relation to human trafficking, Norway reports to the European Organisation GRETA, and in 2015 submitted The Report, submitted by the Norwegian authorities on measures taken to comply with Committee of the Parties Recommendation CP(2013)6 on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Being to the Secretariat of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. Their list of proposals to GRETA includes a Plan of Action against Trafficking, improved coordination, training of relevant professionals, annual meetings between relevant authorities and NGOs, new curriculum and special training in the Police, continued regular

updating of the knowledge base for the Police, data collection and research, assistance measures for child and adult victims of trafficking.

## **18. Poland** (by Magdalena Grzyb)

The notion of femicide has lately been introduced into academic discourse (Grzyb 2014 <https://www.ceeol.com/search/article-detail?id=292041>), although its circulation is rather scarce. The only context where the term circulates is in the media coverage of femicide in Latin American countries, especially in Central America and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

### **18.1 Sources**

To the best of my knowledge, there is no institution, public or non-governmental body, that collects data on femicide. The official criminal statistics on homicides do not disaggregate data according to victim's sex.

### **18.2 Definition**

In my paper (Grzyb 2014), I proposed a broader definition of femicide as the killing of a woman because of her gender.

M. Grzyb *Kobietobójstwo. Kryminologiczna charakterystyka zjawiska* [Femicide. A criminological approach.], [in:] *Archiwum Kryminologii*, vol. 36/2014, pp. 75-107

## **19. Portugal** (by Sofia Neves)

### **19.1 Definition**

Intimate Partner Violence is contemplated as part of the autonomous crime of Domestic Violence – Article 152 of Portuguese Penal Code: “Whoever, in a repetitive manner or not, imposes physical or mental abuses, including bodily punishments, deprivations of liberty and sexual offences to the spouse or ex-spouse; to a person of another or of the same sex with whom the agent maintains or has maintained a relationship equal to a relationship of spouses, even if without cohabitation; to progenitor of common descendant in first degree; or to a person particularly undefended, due to age, deficiency, disease, pregnancy or economic dependency, who cohabitates with him, is punished with sentence of imprisonment from one to five years. If the agent commits the act against a minor, in the presence of a minor, in the common domicile or in the victim's domicile is punished with sentence of imprisonment from two to five years. If, from the acts referred to above, results death, the agent is punished with sentence of imprisonment from three to ten years and in the cases where it results grievous bodily injury, the agent is punished with sentence of imprisonment from two to eight years”.

Portugal remains embedded in conservative and patriarchal cultural values about family and intimacy, which favours the social acceptance of gender inequality particularly in the family context.

The designation of femicide is not adopted by the Portuguese current administrative system and is relatively unused in general. The terms most used are homicide or marital homicide.



## **19.2 Sources**

Despite the extension of the phenomena and the legal advances made in the last decades Portugal does not have a specific national legal and regulatory framework concerning data collection on Violence against Women (VAW).

Both the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Internal Administration collect data on marital homicide. Beyond criminal statistics, provided by official administrative sources, data collection on marital violence is made mainly by academics and civil society organisations, particularly women's associations, adopting each entity different approaches and methods.

Since 2008, the Ministry of Internal Administration produces annually a report on domestic violence - Domestic Violence: Annual Report of Monitoring -, which integrates information concerning crime registrations based on complaints reported to police authorities [The Republican National Guard (GNR) and the Police of Public Security (PSP)].

The Portuguese Observatory of Murdered Women - a mechanism created in 2004 by The Women's Collective Alternative and Answer (UMAR) - produce periodically reports on femicide and recently The Portuguese Association for Victim Support (APAV) has created a Homicide Crimes Observatory, where marital homicide crimes are also analysed.

In 2016 it was created, by the Portuguese Government, the Team of Retrospective Analysis on Domestic Violence Homicides (Ordinance n. º 280/2016, October 26), whose mission is to carry out the retrospective analysis of homicide situations that occurred in the context of domestic violence to develop prevention measures.

## **20. Romania (by Ecaterina Balica)**

In Romania, the concept of femicide appeared for the first time in 2014 (Balica et al). From this year onwards, there are some studies focused on femicide-suicides (Balica 2016) and femicide (Balica, 2017). This term is used only in academic papers.

### **20.1 Sources**

There are only one institution that has collected femicide data in Romania: the Laboratory Violence and crime. Mediation and Prevention from Institute of Sociology of the Romanian Academy (coordinator: Balica). Since 2015, Balica has initiated a pilot project to collect information about femicide committed in Romania between 2011-2015. To date, the database contains information from the online media for about 298 cases of femicide committed in Romania. The definition of femicide used for this database was: femicide is best defined as the intentional killing of a woman by an intimate partner. Partner is defined in a broad way, to include a husband, living and dating partner, lover; former husband, former partner and former lover are also included in the definition. The Femicide in Romania database (n=298 cases) includes information about victims, aggressors and violence.

### **20.2 Definition**

Femicide is defined in the studies by Romanian researcher as the killing of a woman by an intimate partner. Partner is defined in a broad way, to include husband, living and dating partner, lover; former husband, former partner and former lover are also included in the definition.

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Balica, *Homicide-Suicide in Romania: Statistical data and Media Representation*, Peter Lang Publishing House, 2016, 210 pages, ISBN 978-3-631-66722-4

### **21. Serbia** (by Vesna Nikolic-Ristanovic and Ljiljana Stevkovic)

In Serbia, femicide as a form of gender-based homicide has not been yet recognized in official documents (such as the Criminal Code), nor in official communications concerning gender-based violence. The term "killing of women", which is in use includes intimate partner homicide, usually after a period of continuous violence. In the past year, femicide has been covered extensively by the media, in order to raise awareness on this problem.

#### **21.1 Definition**

*The Women against Violence Network* (<http://www.zeneprotivnasilja.net/en/>) is a coalition of specialized women's NGOs, which provide individual support to women and work on changing the social context, with the aim of decreasing violence against women in Serbia. The Network has adopted the concept of femicide, which is defined as, "gender-based killings of women, girls and even females babies committed by males. In order for homicide be qualified as femicide, the gender of the victim must be relevant to the perpetrator. As such, femicide is a crime against women, motivated by hatred of women, contempt and a sense of superiority, in which the perpetrator thinks he has the right to take away the life of a woman."

#### **21.2 Sources**

Two bodies collect data on femicide in Serbia:

1) Since 2010, *The Women against Violence Network* (WAV Network) has collected and published announcements as well as quantitative narrative reports on femicide, including data on victims, perpetrators, their relationship, what preceded the murder, and the *modus operandi* of the murder (use of a weapon in killing, or where the woman was beaten to death, strangled, etc.), as well as the

analysis of media reports on femicide. The latest published Quantitative-narrative report is for the year 2015 and the most recent Announcement is for the period from January 1 to July 31 2016.

During 2016 the WAV Network has began monitoring of femicide trials.

<http://www.zeneprotivnasilja.net/en/femicide-in-serbia>

2) *Counseling Against Family Violence* (CAFV) is an NGO, established on July 8, 1996 in Belgrade, with aim of helping women and children who are victims of domestic violence. CAFV has records of murdered women, with their photographs and basic information about the perpetrator, what preceded the murder and its *modus operandi* (use of a weapon in killing, or where the woman was beaten to death, strangled, etc.) for the period from 2011 to 2014 (available only in Serbian).

[http://www.sigurnakuca.net/nasilje\\_nad\\_zenama/femicid/femicid\\_price\\_o\\_ubijenim\\_zenama.318.html?page=0&year=](http://www.sigurnakuca.net/nasilje_nad_zenama/femicid/femicid_price_o_ubijenim_zenama.318.html?page=0&year=)

After a case of mass murder in which primary victim was a woman killed by her former husband, the Ombudsman of Serbia (Protector of citizens) carried out an inspection of the legality and regularity of the work of 45 centers for social work (CSW), operating under the auspices the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Issues, in Serbia. This inspection revealed shortcomings in the work of the official services and institutions in domestic violence cases which resulted in recommendations for the improvement of work within the Police, CSWs and health institutions, as well as recommendations for the improved implementation of ratified international documents. In particular, the control showed shortcomings in the reaction of official institutions in 11 of 14 gender-based murders of women, which could have been prevented, in that their response to registered intimate partner violence was inadequate.

<http://www.ombudsman.org.rs/>

## **22. Slovenia** (by Milica Antic and Jasna Podreka)

In Slovenia, the concept of femicide is not in common use and is not recognized as an expression denoting the homicide of women. Moreover, it is not even currently used in academic circles, nor does it appear in the media and, consequently, is not found among the general population. The concept of femicide is employed only by a few feminist scholars and researchers and a number of NGOs working with women victims of violence. The problem of femicide is still underestimated and under-researched in Slovenia.

### **22.1 Sources**

In Slovenia, only one official body can provide data on femicides, namely, the Ministry of Interior, where statistical data about homicides of women is systematically collected and the relationship between the victim and the offender is viewed as serious and important data.

Another important source on femicide in Slovenia is the first and only study on intimate partner femicide, conducted for PhD research at the Faculty of Arts and Science in Ljubljana, entitled *Violence against women and intimate partner homicides of women in Slovenia*.

The analysis is based on the review and qualitative analysis of 24 criminal records from all the District courts in Slovenia, for the period between 2000 and 2011.

## **22.2 Definition**

Is hard to say what the definition of femicide in Slovenia might be, because there is no public debate on the issue. In general, when someone uses the concept of femicide he/she is referring to the killing of women by an intimate partner. However, in the academic field we employ Russell's definition, "the killing of females by males because they are females" (Russell, 2001, p. 3). We use this definition to stress the importance of the term's political significance.

**23. Spain** (by Santiago Boira Sarto, Chaime Marcuello, Yolanda Rodriguez Castro, Maria Lameiras Fernandez, Laura Otero Garcia, Belén Sanz Barbero, Carmen Vives Cases, Isabel Goicolea Julian) The 2004 Organic Law for integral protection against gender-based violence (GBV) (Law 1/2004) applies only to "violence that men exert against women who are or have been their intimate partners, or who are or have been in an intimate relationship with them, with or without cohabitation". The Spanish Penal Code specifies several crimes related to violence against women in the case of sexual crimes. The Penal Code increases penalties when the crime is committed under conditions that are specified as GBV. Article 153 of the Penal Code specifies injury crime in relation to GBV. However, the Spanish legislation does not specifically specify femicide as a crime, and homicides and murders of women are included within Title 1 of the Penal Code, which deals with homicide and all its forms.

The restricted approach to GBV in Spain as framed in the Law 1/2004 does not align with the definitions assumed by international organizations, such as UN or the European Union. The restrictive approach to GBV under Spanish law prevents the visibilization and development of intervention for other forms of GBV to which women in Spain are exposed, e.g. murders of women in situations of prostitution, or murders of women when the murderer is not her current or former intimate partner. Official registers for such crimes do not exist in Spain.

The Spanish signature of the Istanbul convention, which establishes a broad definition of violence against women based on gender and independent on the relationship between victim and aggressor, implies that the Spanish legislation needs to change accordingly. However, to date, the official response – namely, the reform incorporated in the organic Law 1/2015, 30<sup>th</sup> March, that modifies the Organic Law 1/1995, 23<sup>rd</sup> November of the Penal Code – has been insufficient. This reform includes: gender-based discrimination as an aggravating factor (art. 22.4 of the Penal Code.); crimes against life are modified to be considered as aggravated crime, when homicide is committed after sexual aggression (a172 bis); harassment (172 ter) and sharing, without the consent of the victim, of images taken in private locations with the victims' consent (197.7 of the Penal code). However, Spanish legislation fails as yet to incorporate in the definition of GBV those cases where the aggressor is not a current or former intimate partner. This limitation has been highlighted in the CEDAW report of the 24<sup>th</sup> of July of 2015, where the need to include other types of GBV – such as caretaker violence, police violence, violence in public spaces, working places and schools – is emphasized. Although the term of femicide is used by certain social and academic institutions, its use is not generalized and it is utilized mainly in relation to the murder of women occurring within intimate relationships. In 2014, the 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Spanish Language Dictionary incorporated the word femicide, defined as "Murder of a woman due to her sex" (<http://dle.rae.es/?id=Hjt6Vqr> )

## **23.1 Data sources**

Since 2003, the statistical web of the Government Delegation for GBV of the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality, has incorporated information on deaths due to GBV. In addition, the following information about deaths of women over age 15 is available aggregated by year, in relation to the victim: denouncer's characteristics, protective orders, violation of restrictive orders, country of birth, age, cohabitation with aggressor, geographical location; in relation to the aggressor: country of birth, age, whether suicide was committed

(<http://www.violenciagenero.msssi.gob.es/violenciaEnCifras/victimasMortales/home.htm>).

Since 2007, the State Observatory of Violence Against Women, under the auspices of the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality, publishes an annual report with information of all fatality victims of GBV. The latest report published includes information about murders committed in 2013 and includes women older than 15.

- a) The General Council of Judicial Power (C.G.P.J.) publishes annually data on violence against women in the judicial statistics where homicide crimes are reported (<http://www.poderjudicial.es/cgpi/es/Temas/Violencia-domestica-y-de-genero/Actividad-del-Observatorio/Datos-estadisticos/?filtroAnio=2015>). Since 2007, the Observatory for Domestic and GBV of the CGPJ, created in 2007, has published annually a "Report of death victims due to domestic violence and GBV within intimate relationships". The latest published report includes information for murders committed in 2013 and includes murders of women older than 15. (<http://www.poderjudicial.es/cgpi/es/Temas/Violencia-domestica-y-de-genero/Actividad-del-Observatorio/Informes-de-violencia-domestica/>). It is important to note that these reports have been employing the term femicide since 2009, when referring to "the violent death of a woman by her current or former partner, or a person who is or has been related to her by a similar affective relationship, and where the aggressor is a man".
- b) Some non-governmental organizations also gather statistics on the number of women murdered, mainly by their intimate partners or ex-partners. It is important to mention the Federation of Associations of Divorced and Separated women, which facilitates access to media news published by the Spanish press in relation to femicide cases since 1999 through today. (<http://www.separadasydivorciadas.org/wordpress/estadisticas/>). Additionally, the "Fundación Mujeres femicidio.net" offers information on femicides committed in Spain, in any of its forms, not limited to intimate partner femicide (<http://www.femicidio.net/menu-femicidio-informes-y-cifras>).

## **24. Sweden** (by Lucas Gottzén and Sofia Strid)

The term of femicide is not widely employed in Sweden. Swedish research on the matter is scarce, and the most common terms found are 'deadly violence', 'deadly intimate partner violence against women' and the gender-neutral 'deadly intimate partner violence' (Nybergh 2016), which is also often used by government agencies (e.g. Brå 2007, Socialstyrelsen 2016).

### **24.1 Sources**

The main body that collects data on violent crime (including the murder of women and men) is The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brottsförebyggande rådet – Brå), an agency under the Ministry of Justice, established in 1974. Brå is a centre for research and development within the Draft, March 7, 2017. Do not quote without permission.

judicial system, working primarily to reduce crime and improve levels of safety in society by producing data and disseminating knowledge on crime and crime prevention work. Brå produces Sweden's official crime statistics, evaluates reforms, conducts research to develop new knowledge and provides support to local crime prevention work. The results of Brå's work form a basis for decision makers within the judicial system, Parliament and the Government. Brå often works in collaboration with other organisations and public sector agencies. It collects data on reported crime from the police, costume, prosecutor and the courts. Other sources include Statistics Sweden (SCB), but the SCB statistics themselves draw on Brå's data.

Another, more qualitative, source is The National Board of Health and Welfare (Socialstyrelsen), a government agency under the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs. The agency is required by law to conduct special investigations in cases where the cause of death is related to 'a crime conducted by a close, or formerly close person' (Socialstyrelsen 2016, p. 10). The aim of the investigations is to provide information that could be used in developing prevention measures in matters of intimate partner or family violence, as well as to enable long-term knowledge production. The National Board of Health and Welfare has been critical of their own investigations and argued that it is impossible to draw any general conclusions, or make any systematic analyses, due the sample being too small, and too narrowly defined, and the fact that the Board is not permitted to obtain information about perpetrators.

## **24.2 Definition**

Crime statistics and law refer to 'deadly violence', which includes murder, manslaughter, childslaughter and assault with deadly outcome (these are literal translations from Brå), collectively termed 'deadly violence' (Brå 2016a). Common terms used by government agencies are 'deadly intimate partner violence against women' and 'deadly intimate partner violence' (e.g. Brå 2007, Socialstyrelsen 2016), which primarily refers the murder of a woman by an intimate partner. An intimate partner is commonly defined as: current or former husband, partner, boyfriend, girlfriend or lover, regardless of currently or previously having lived together.

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## **25. Turkey** (by Sadik Toprak)

### **25.1 Sources**

The number of sources collecting data on femicide in Turkey is limited. There has not yet been agreement as to the definition of femicide and the national authorities do not distinguish between femicide and female victims of homicide.

1- Turkish statistical Institute collected data about femicide and publishes annually. This data is the most accurate data for Turkey. However, the data covers only the number of women killed and it does not provide any other information.

2- A LGBT activist NGO has collected data about femicide, mainly from the media, since 2009 (<http://bianet.org/kadin/bianet/133354-bianet-siddettaciz-tecavuz-cetelesi-tutuyor>). In addition, there are two other NGO's collecting data about femicide: [www.anitsayac.com](http://www.anitsayac.com) and <http://kadincinayetleri.org>

## **26. United Kingdom** (by Hilary Fisher, Aisha K. Gill and Heidi Stöckl)

The UK Home Office collects data on all homicides on the England and Wales Homicide Index<sup>6</sup>, which is a computer-based system where all homicides are initially recorded by the police. It has existed since 1976. This initial information is updated with suspect information and court outcomes, once available. Information relating to age, gender, motivation and relationship is recorded for all victims and perpetrators. It also contains information regarding female homicide victims, their ages and their relationships to the perpetrators. In Scotland, similar information is collected by the Scottish Government.

In the UK, the Femicide Census was developed in partnership by Karen Ingala Smith, CEO of Nia, and Women's Aid, and with support from Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer and Deloitte LLP. The Femicide Census aims to provide a clear picture of femicide in the UK, in order to understand and address this phenomenon and, most importantly, to give a voice to the victims who have lost their lives to men's violence. Originally developed with data from Ingala Smith's blog *Counting Dead Women*, it is now an influential observatory on femicide, detailing almost 1000 women who have been killed by men in England and Wales, since 2009.

The Femicide Census provides invaluable quantitative information regarding femicide in the UK, which equips us with a better understanding of the phenomenon and places us in an improved position to tackle a leading cause of premature death among women. Where possible, the Census

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<sup>6</sup> Source:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/compendium/focusonviolenceandsexualoffences/yearendingmarch2015/chapter2homicide>

Draft, March 7, 2017. Do not quote without permission.

includes information, such as the name of the woman and her killer, their ages, occupations and health statuses, the elements of the killing itself – including the date, police area, weapon and recorded motive – as well as other available details for each case, relating to children, ethnicity and country of birth. The collection of this data demonstrates that these killings are not isolated incidents, and enables us to analyze trends and patterns in more depth, significantly furthering our understanding of the phenomenon of femicide. Most importantly, the Femicide Census gives a voice to the victims who have died as a result of the most extreme manifestation of male violence against women. In her recent report to the General Assembly (A/71/398), the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women (SRVAW) specifically cites the UK's Femicide Census as an outstanding example of data collection practice. The SRVAW, the UN and its member states have repeatedly concluded that the comparability and availability of data are key requirements for defining and understanding femicide together with its manifestations, causes and consequences.<sup>7</sup>

### **26.1 Definition**

There is no agreed-upon UK government definition of femicide, and the term is not employed in official statistics. The Office for National Statistics publishes data on homicide in their Crime Survey for England and Wales<sup>8</sup>. These data are categorized according to the sex of the victim. The motive in these statistics is not given based on the gender of the victim, but instead on the victim's relationship to the perpetrator. While men are more likely to be killed, it is primarily by other men, while women are far more likely to be killed by their current or former partners, often as part of a premeditated action following coercive and controlling behavior by the perpetrator.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Source:

<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/what-we-do/campaigning-and-influencing/femicide-census/>

<sup>8</sup> Source:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/compendium/focusonviolenceandsexualoffences/yearendingmarch2015/chapter2homicide>

<sup>9</sup> Source:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/compendium/focusonviolenceandsexualoffences/yearendingmarch2015/chapter2homicide#focus-on-domestic-homicides>