



International Conference on Ending Gender Related Killings of Women and Girls

25-27 September 2023

2nd Floor Lilac Hall, Westin Josun Hotel Seoul, Republic of Korea

(Address: 106, Sogong-ro, Jung-gu, Seoul)

Concept Note

Background and rationale

Despite the national and international efforts to tackle gender related killings and violence against women and girls, more than five women or girls are killed every hour by someone in their own family. Of the estimated 81,100 female homicides in 2021, roughly four in ten have no contextual information to allow them to be identified and counted as gender-related killings. Asia is the region with the largest absolute number of killings, with 17,800 cases of female intimate partner/family related homicides out of 45,000 worldwide in 2021.¹

Recognizing the urgency of addressing this pervasive human rights violation, the 2013 United Nations General Assembly resolution on “Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls” laid the framework for further understanding the multidimensional aspects of femicide. The resolution encourages countries to adopt strategies and policy responses to address violence against women and reduce the risk of gender-related killings, including the criminalization and prosecution of gender-related violence. To effectively counter gender-related killings, a variety of policy and institutional measures need to be implemented including preventive measures and the enactment and implementation of legislation, that address gender-related killing of women and girls and to periodically review those measures with a view to improving them. Designing, implementing and evaluating comprehensive programmes aimed at preventing all forms of violence against women and girls and conducting research focused on public education and interventions that target those vulnerabilities and risks should be encouraged at all levels. To promote evidence-based policies and strategies for the prevention of femicide at the national, regional and global level, the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women has issued a call for establishing Femicide Watches/Observatories in every country, and to submit reports with data, evidence and analysis about femicide.

As for the measuring aspects of femicide, high quality data are essential for countries to address the existing problems of underreporting violence by women by enhancing data collection and analysis, as well as sharing relevant data, in accordance with national laws, and related information on gender-related

¹ UNODC and UN Women, *Gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide)* (Vienna, 2022).

killing of women and girls, in order to inform the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of laws, policies and programmes. Despite the importance of data to strengthen service providers' capacity and improve investigation and prevent these killing from occurring, lack of internationally comparable data with agreed definitions and methodologies makes it difficult to estimate the number of gender-related killings of women and girls. To address this data collection challenge, in its 53rd session in March 2022, the UN Statistical Commission endorsed the statistical framework for measuring the gender-related killings of women and girls², jointly developed by UN Women and UNODC. The framework prompts countries to collect information on the specific context in which gender-related killings of women and girls occur, in order to determine the gender motivation of the killing, and to develop a better analysis of its root causes and drivers to foster the development of policies to prevent it.

Against this backdrop, the UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, the UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the UNODC-KOSTAT Centre of Excellence for Statistics on Crime and Criminal Justice propose to hold a regional conference to discuss the challenges of and good practices in implementing and evaluating relevant policy and legal measures to address gender-related killings of women and girls, and monitoring the implementation gap by adopting the above mentioned statistical framework for measuring gender-related killings of women and girls.

Objective

The objectives of the conference are to:

- Create an interactive forum for countries in Asia and the Pacific region to discuss key challenges they might face in reviewing, evaluating, updating and implementing legal and policy initiatives for addressing gender-related killing of women and girls
- Share country experiences on strengthening institutional capacities, data availability and exchanging knowledge and best practices for improving data collection and use (and analysis) on gender-related killing of women and girls

Participants

The workshop will bring together around 40 focal points of the various institutions of the criminal justice sector (ministries, national women machineries, police, prosecution and civil society organizations) and national statistics offices in Asia and the Pacific, who are mainly responsible for formulating policies or producing femicide and/or gender-based violence data.

² <https://data.unwomen.org/publications/statistical-framework-measuring-gender-related-killings-women-and-girls-also-referred>

Format

The workshop will be convened in a hybrid format i.e. in-person at The Westin Josun Seoul (<https://josunhotel.com/m/hotel/westinSeoul.do>) in Seoul with the option for online participation via the Zoom platform.

Language

English and Korean

* Simultaneous interpretation from English to Korean, and vice versa will be available.