



IN BRIEF



UNODC-KOSTAT
Centre of Excellence for Statistics
on Crime and Criminal Justice
in Asia and the Pacific



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENDING GENDER-BASED KILLINGS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

Photo: DALL-E 3 AI generative image

Introduction

Gender-related killings of women and girls, often referred to as femicide¹, or feminicide, are the most extreme and brutal manifestation of violence against women (VAW), affecting all regions and countries worldwide. According to a report jointly published by UN Women and UNODC in 2023, approximately 48,800 women and girls lost their lives at the hands of intimate partners or other family members in 2022. On average, more than 133 women or girls are killed every day by someone in their own family.

Estimating the global number of gender-related killings of women and girls is challenging and data gaps persist. The absence of internationally comparable data, along with some debate over definitions and methodologies, has complicated the estimation of gender-related killings of women and girls.

UN Women and UNODC, together with the Global Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics and the UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence in Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice jointly developed the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls (Femicide/Feminicide) that was adopted in 2022 by the UN Statistical Commission. The Framework establishes a statistical definition for femicide and outlines a typology of gender-based killings of women and girls, providing a list of variables to identify and quantify these forms of violence.

The UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its

causes and consequences has called for all States to establish a 'Femicide Watch' or observatory to study gender related killings of women and girls. In some regions across the world, the gender related killings of women and girls are receiving intense attention by governments, advocates and researchers, with specialised legislation, policies and observatories established to better understand the phenomenon and take measures to prevent fatalities. In Asia and the Pacific, research, evidence and analysis of femicide appears limited, and increased attention to the worst forms of violence against women is needed.

Against this backdrop, the UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality (UN Women CoE), the UNODC-KOSTAT Centre of Excellence for Statistics on Crime and Criminal Justice in Asia and the Pacific (UNODC-KOSTAT CoE), and the UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific co-organised the 'International Conference on Ending Gender-Based Killings of Women and Girls' in Seoul, Republic of Korea in 2023.

This brief presents an overview of the work, expertise and experiences shared by experts and specialists during the Conference. Government focal points on violence against women and homicide from 6 countries (Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Mongolia, Pakistan and Viet Nam), researchers and advocates from Latin America, Europe, Asia, and the Pacific convened to exchange current practices on collecting, producing, disaggregating, and analysing data related to femicide, while also delving into the importance of evidence-based prevention policies.



Overview of Violence against Women and Girls

Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) is one of the most serious, life-threatening and widespread violations of human rights worldwide.

- In Asia and the Pacific, the levels of intimate partner violence remain unacceptably high. Over 37% of women in South Asia, 34% of women in South East Asia and up to 48% of women in the Pacific have experienced violence at the hands of their partners².
- In Latin America and the Caribbean, in 2021 alone, 31% of women aged 15–49 have experienced violence at the hands of an intimate partner and sexual violence inflicted by others³. In 2022, at least 4,050 women were victims of femicide, with Honduras having the highest rates (6.0 per 100,000 women).⁴
- In Africa, 33% of women aged 15–49 were subjected to physical and/or sexual violence from a current or former husband or male partner at least once in their lifetime. This works out to an average of 70 million women, and up to 80 million women, in this region⁵.

A critical point is the recognition that violence is rooted in gender inequality and strongly influenced by harmful social and gender norms. In many regions of the world, gender-based discrimination and violence are still regarded as socially acceptable.

- Violence is an expression of privilege and entitlement exercised through an abuse of power. For example, research in Asia and the Pacific regarding men and violence revealed that motives for men perpetrating rape include sexual entitlement (71%), seeking fun or boredom (44%), anger or a desire for punishment (35%), and, to a lesser extent, alcohol consumption (17%).⁶

- Violence is gendered, and influenced by social and gender norms. In the Asia and Pacific region, attitudes and practices stemming from gender inequality are found to be most important in accounting for men's perpetration of intimate partner violence⁷. Some examples of such attitudes and social norms include linking violence as a 'family matter' that is shameful and should not be discussed openly; or the concept of 'women's purity' being tied to family honour.
- Institutions play a significant role in shaping public opinion and behaviour on a large scale, including media, which can perpetuate harmful narratives, such as suggesting that victims are responsible for the violence they experience.

Femicide is the most extreme form of violence against women, and this violence often happens within families and in intimate relationships. While the overwhelming majority of homicides worldwide are committed against men and boys (81%), women and girls are disproportionately affected by homicidal violence in the private sphere.⁸ For women and girls, the most dangerous place is the home where they are supposed to feel the safest. On average, more than five women or girls are killed every hour by someone in their own family⁹. Linking femicide data, investigations, and prevention efforts will result in better interventions, preventing harm and death, and saving lives of women and children.

“A critical point is the recognition that violence is rooted in gender inequality and strongly influenced by harmful social and gender norms. In many regions of the world, gender-based discrimination and violence are still regarded as socially acceptable.”

¹ 'Femicide' is often used in Latin America and used interchangeably with femicide, but it encompasses more than femicide because it holds responsible not only the male perpetrators but also the state and judicial structures that normalise misogyny. Guatemala Human Rights Commission, 'Fact sheet: Femicide and Femicide' 2013: <https://www.ghrc-usa.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Femicide-FACTsheet-2013.pdf>

² WHO (2021), Violence Against Women Prevalence Estimates: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240022256>

³ WHO (2021), Violence Against Women Prevalence Estimate in the Americas: <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/341592/WHO-SRH-21.11-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

⁴ CEPAL (2023), Femicidal Violence in Figures Latin America and the Caribbean:

<https://repositorio.cepal.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/c3e68288-bbe2-422d-b9e9-b3a309f1f69f/content>

⁵ WHO (2021), Violence Against Women Prevalence Estimate in the African Region: <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/341591/WHO-SRH-21.7-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

⁶ UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP, UNV (2013), Why do some men use violence and how can we prevent it: <https://www.undp.org/asia-pacific/publications/why-do-some-men-use-violence-against-women-and-how-can-we-prevent-it>

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ UNODC and UN Women (2022), Gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/femicide): https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/briefs/Femicide_brief_Nov2022.pdf

⁹ Ibid.



Background of Femicide

1. What is Femicide and How Has It Been Counted?

Gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide) comprise many interconnected and overlapping forms. It is often defined as ‘an intentional killing with a gender-related motivation, which may be driven by stereotyped gender roles, discrimination towards women and girls, unequal power relations between women and men, or harmful social norms’¹⁰. However, given the only recent adoption of the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Gender-related Killing of Women and Girls, a standardised statistical approach has yet to be put into practice.

- The term ‘femicide’ was introduced by Diana Russell in 1976 and gained recognition in the 1990s.¹¹ In her book, she defined femicide as the ‘misogynistic killing of women by men’.¹² The definition was later refined in 2001 as the ‘killing of females by males because they are female’¹³, placing crimes against women and girls within the patriarchy and identifying them as the most extreme example of gender-based violence against women.
- The theoretical evolution of the term femicide primarily arose in Latin America, where 18 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela) currently have legislation classifying femicide/feminicide as a crime.
- The definition of femicide, however, remains contested, with varying interpretations across different countries. Many countries continue to rely on local legal definitions or practices that differ greatly from one another.
- There are currently different methods of counting femicide, including:
 - Sources of data: administrative data (data from institutions dealing with reported cases of VAW, including police, justice, health or social services), media reports and court data, as well as the work of international organisations such as UN and WHO, highlighting the fatal consequences of intimate partner violence for women around the world and providing a global quantification of the prevalence of femicide.
 - Femicide observatories: the emergence of national observatories over the last decade e.g.

- the Canadian Femicide Observatory; the observatories use mixed methods for collecting the data, including media reports, court data and police statistics.
- Domestic and family violence and homicide death review teams: Emerging at the national level, including in 7 high-income countries (e.g. Australia, New Zealand, England and Wales).

BOX 1

‘Feminicide’ by law in Mexico

In Mexico, ‘feminicide’ is a concept that was incorporated into the General Law on Women’s Access to a Life Free of Violence, where it is defined as “*The extreme form of gender violence against women, a product of the violation of their human rights, in the public and private spheres, comprised of a set of misogynist behaviors that can lead to social and State impunity and can culminate in homicide and other forms of violent deaths of women.*” However, in Mexico’s Federal Criminal Code, feminicide is a common law crime that is prosecuted at the local level. All 32 Mexican states have laws defining feminicide, but each state has different classification and definitions. Thus, harmonisation of the different local legislations with the federal provisions is necessary.

Counting gender-related killings is complex and challenged by other factors. For instance:

- Some populations may not be accounted for fully (e.g. indigenous women or migrant women)
- Certain forms may not be fully recognised (e.g. honour-related killings).
- Women who die by ‘slow femicide’¹⁴ or who are killed little by little every day; those who commit suicide due to violence; and women who die prematurely due to the impacts of living with violence are likely not counted.

¹⁰ UNODC and UN Women (2021), ‘Statistical framework for measuring the gender-related killing of women and girls (also referred to as femicide/feminicide’: https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/Statistical_framework_femicide_2022.pdf

¹¹ Diana Russell and Nicole Van de Ven (1976), *Crimes Against Women: Proceedings of the International Tribunal*, Les Femmes Publication

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Diana Russell and Roberta A. Harmes (2021), *Femicide in Global Perspective*, Teachers College Press

¹⁴ Walklate, S., & Fitz-Gibbon, K. (2023). Re-imagining the measurement of femicide: From ‘thin’ counts to ‘thick’ counts. *Current Sociology*, 71(1), 28-42: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/00113921221082698>



Acknowledging these uncounted deaths is vital for gaining a comprehensive understanding of the problem. In academia, there is a trend towards emphasizing 'thick counts', which draw on a range of data sources and take into account the impact and consequences of the slow violence present in women's everyday lives.¹⁵ This approach considers the broader context and underlying causes, thereby informing more effective prevention efforts and assessments of systemic responses.

2. The Role of Monitoring Mechanisms

The UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Girls, in 2015, called for States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to establish Femicide Watches/Observatories. Since 2016, there has been modest progress towards the creation of various types of bodies around the world to monitor gender-related killings. To date, countries that have established femicide observatories include Argentina, Canada, Croatia, Colombia, Georgia, Israel, Mexico, Panama, Poland and Spain, while Peru and Argentina established a Femicide Registry. These observatories regularly collect, analyse, and publish statistical data on femicide. They are created to address gaps in monitoring and data collection, aiming to enhance government efforts in addressing violence against women and girls.

In **Europe**, the [European Observatory on Femicide](#) was established in 2018 by 23 country research focal points across Europe and Israel, with the mission of 'preventing femicide through data collection, data visibility, research and awareness raising'. Qualitative and quantitative data collection tools were developed to analyse cases across Europe, capturing victim-perpetrator relationships, situational factors such as pregnancy status, the context of sexual violence, prior violence, whether there are other victims including children, whether the killing occurred during separation and whether there were protection orders in place, among others. Main sources of data include police statistics, social work statistics, statistics and data gathered by CSOs in the field and media reporting. The observatory has found:

- High prevalence of femicide has been documented in all countries monitored (Cyprus, Germany, Malta, Portugal, Spain), and among the victims, there were few indications of previous domestic violence or reports to police.¹⁶
- In some cases from Spain, despite evidence of prior violence, there were no reports or help-seeking. Victims disclosed violence to friends or family without

official involvement, yet the informal network did not intervene.¹⁷

- In terms of intervention, support and intervention systems have been found to be insufficient in addressing the needs of victims of VAW.¹⁸
- Each country's context is unique and needs to be taken into account, including information on the legal framework on gender-based violence, institutional protocols on identifying or reporting GBV, social and cultural values around the 'family' and domestic violence, and data on gender parity in politics, media, and public figures.

In **Latin America and the Caribbean**, the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) contribute to the analysis of femicidal violence by compiling and disseminating official statistics on the gender-related killings that occur annually.¹⁹

- In Latin America, 18 countries have passed laws criminalizing femicide, with 13 of those having laws addressing violence against women that specifically contain provisions on statistics, records, observatories or reports on gender-based violence against women and girls²⁰.
- The characteristics of femicides reported by Latin American countries for 2022 are: relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, age and nationality of the victim, and number of surviving children. Most Latin American countries distinguish the links between the victim and perpetrator and report significant differences among them.²¹
- Yet, in the Caribbean, none of the countries have comprehensive laws on gender-based violence or laws to tackle femicide or feminicide. As such, only intentional homicides are recorded.²²

In **Asia and the Pacific** region, [the National Homicide Monitoring Program](#) (NHMP) was established by the [Australian Institute of Criminology](#) in 1990 to collect data on all deaths classified as homicides by police, including domestic homicide and intimate partner homicide. NHMP complements other data sources, such as national statistics recorded by police on family, domestic, and sexual violence victims and offenders, which are collated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Some of the findings from the monitoring program are:

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Fem-United (2021), 'Comparative report on femicide research and data in five countries (Cyprus, Germany, Malta, Portugal, Spain)': https://sigarra.up.pt/fpceup/pt/pub_geral.show_file?pi_doc_id=338149

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Femicidal Violence in Figures Latin America and the Caribbean (2023): <https://repositorio.cepal.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/c3e68288-bbe2-422d-b9e9-b3a309f1f69f/content>

²⁰ Ibid. Countries include Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay.

²¹ Ibid. In Uruguay, Argentina, Costa Rica, Colombia, Panama and Brazil, the same link between victim and perpetrator was found in 50% to 75% of cases.

²² Ibid.



- Among 3,349 female victims of homicide in Australia (from 1989-90 to 2020-21), 84% were perpetrated by males. Among 2,803 female victims of homicide perpetrated by males, 12% were girls. Also, approximately 6% of female homicide victims experienced sexual violence or other violent offenses prior to their homicide.
- The most prevalent form of homicide incident against female victims was by an intimate partner. On average, a woman is killed by an intimate partner every 10 days.
- Rates of violence are even higher for certain groups, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.
- Women are more likely to experience violence at particular life stages, such as while pregnant or while separating from a relationship.



Photo: UN Women/kwanju Kim

The importance of monitoring mechanisms in countering femicide has been discussed, with examples of NHMP in Australia and European Observatory on Femicide being highlighted.

3. Improvements in the Collection and Use of Administrative Data on Femicide/Homicide

Improving the collection and utilisation of administrative data on femicide and VAW more broadly stands as a critical imperative, essential for advancing our understanding of, and responses to these various forms. Administrative data on VAW cannot be used to establish prevalence, which can only be determined through population-based surveys. For femicide, however, administrative data is the main source of determining the number of gender-related killings. Some key milestones in the improvement of administrative data include:

- In 2022, '[Global technical guidance on improving the collection and use of administrative data on VAW](#)' was developed under the auspices of the UN Women-WHO Global Joint Programme on Violence Against Women Data, aiming to strengthen methods and methodologies, increase country capacities to collect VAW data in line with the global standards and promote national VAW data use for advocacy, policy and programming. The guidance also provides

information, country examples and additional resources to establish or strengthen Information Sharing Protocols and Standard Operating Procedures for data management, with a specific emphasis on protecting privacy and confidentiality (see Box 2).

- In Europe, to enhance the utilisation of administrative data, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) developed [13 indicators](#) of intimate partner violence against women using data from the police and justice sectors. Member states provide data on each indicator, including the number of femicide victims and details about victim-perpetrator relationships (intimate partner relationships, domestic relationships, and other types of relationships). EIGE found numerous challenges in data collection on intimate partner femicide, such as:
 - Lack of standard definitions: EU member states have not established a common definition of femicide. The lack of a uniform definition hampers the measurement of femicide, hidden under general homicide data.
 - Lack of standardised methods of data collection across EU jurisdictions: States use different units of measurement, counting rules, recording processes and databases for collecting data on femicide.
 - Lack of disaggregated data: Gaps exist in data availability, especially for data disaggregated by sex and age of the victim and perpetrator, victim-perpetrator relationship and other femicide indicators.
 - Poor coordination: There is a lack of effective coordination between institutions that collect administrative data on femicide.



Photo: UN Women/kwanju Kim

Experts shared regional initiatives aimed at tackling gender-based violence and enhancing data collection and analysis on femicide.

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BOX 2

Eight Steps to improve administrative data collection mentioned in the Global Technical Guidance on Improving the Collection and Use of Administrative Data on VAW²³:

Leadership and Coordination

1. Know the appropriate uses of VAW administrative data and identify priorities
2. Create a national or subnational VAW administrative data coordination mechanism
3. Analyse and align with the VAW legislative, policy and data environment
4. Convene a VAW administrative data user-producer dialogue

Increased capacity to produce quality administrative data on VAW

5. Agree on what VAW administrative data will be collected, analysed and reported
6. Create an implementation plan to collect and use VAW administrative data

Improved reporting and data communication

7. Implement and monitor regular reporting of VAW administrative data
8. Engage in data communication

4. Beyond Measurement to Address Femicide

Recognizing the significance of femicide attempts is crucial, underscoring the need for vigilant monitoring and close attention to this aspect in the broader effort to prevent violence against women. Addressing violence against women, including femicide, requires a multifaceted approach that strengthens legal frameworks, sectoral responses and practical measures, such as: conducting thorough risk assessments; integrating femicide risk factors into risk assessments by police, crisis centres or other services interfacing with survivors; impressing upon duty bearers the gravity of femicide attempts; and fostering awareness that femicide is preventable.

International and regional human rights mechanisms and instruments, including CEDAW, the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Committee against Torture (CAT), and the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, among others, play a crucial role in combating gender-based violence, including femicide. Alignment of national laws with

these commitments is critical to provide a national authorizing environment to implement the norms, standards and monitoring mechanisms required.

Addressing femicide requires a comprehensive approach aimed at dismantling existing mitigating factors that increase impunity for this crime (e.g. “crime of passion”), while focusing on the implementation of effective, proportionate and dissuasive sentences that account for aggravating factors.

In addition to strong legal frameworks, building capacity among relevant sectoral stakeholders is required to ensure quality implementation. These can take various forms, such as offices with dedicated expertise or broader training and institutional policies to mainstream responses. The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) 2023 study on ‘[Improving legal responses to counter femicide](#)’ underscores the necessity for a specialised agency within the police or government to streamline efforts in effectively addressing femicide.

Finally, while the State is obligated to address the issue of femicide, other partners can be important allies in collecting data and monitoring; engaging in prevention of violence efforts; and supporting survivors to escape escalating abuse and to heal from the trauma inflicted. In Honduras, for example, through [the Spotlight Initiative](#),²⁴ civil society organisations (CSOs) supported independent data collection in collaboration with the National Statistical Office (NSO) to undertake a comprehensive prevalence survey for the first time. The collaborative effort involving CSOs, government bodies, youth groups, and the NSO generated robust data that informed the government responses in areas where official statistics were lacking.

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²³ WHO and UN Women (2022), ‘Improving the collection and use of administrative data on violence against women: global technical guidance’: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2022/05/global-technical-guidance-for-collection-and-use-of-administrative-data-on-violence-against-women>

²⁴ The Global Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls is a United Nations initiative in partnership with the European Union and other partners. It responds to all forms of violence against women and girls, with a particular focus on domestic and family violence, sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices, femicide, trafficking in human beings and sexual and economic (labour) exploitation.



Asia Pacific Country Snapshots²⁵

Cambodia

In Cambodia, the Cambodian National Council for Women (CNCW) serves as the national mechanism for coordinating and providing inputs to the Cambodian government on gender-related issues, aiming to reduce and eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women. Cambodia has established a legal framework to address gender-based violence (GBV), including laws such as the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims Act, the Law on the Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation, and compliance with international conventions like CEDAW. The country has also developed various strategies, action plans, and policies to prevent GBV.

There have been two national surveys on violence against women in Cambodia in the last ten years. The Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey (CDHS) was conducted in 2014, and the National Study on Women's Health and Life Experiences was conducted in 2015. Two recent studies have provided national-level data to better understand the prevalence of intimate partner violence and sexual violence in Cambodia. The most recent CDHS was conducted in 2021-22 and showed that the percentage of ever-married women who have experienced spousal physical, sexual, or emotional violence declined from 29% in 2014 to 21% in 2021-22. This data, along with other studies, provides a better understanding of the current situation of violence against women in Cambodia but does not capture femicide. Administrative records similarly lack gender-disaggregation and motives for 'homicides'. Challenges have been identified in coordinating and harmonizing GBV data among the ministries. Additionally, prevention efforts are limited in scope, primarily being project-based. The prevention strategy needs to incorporate a specific focus on femicide prevention.

Fiji

Fiji faces a high prevalence of VAWG, with 2 in 3 women experiencing physical or sexual violence. In response to this alarming trend, Fiji has developed the [National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls 2023-2028](#). This plan outlines strategies and initiatives designed to raise awareness, provide victim support, and strengthen the legal framework for addressing gender-based violence. Despite the severity of the issue, a standard legal definition for femicide is absent within the existing legislative framework, leading to misconceptions about its prevalence in the country.

According to Fiji's Women Crisis Centre, a leading NGO in the country, over the past decade, 50 women in Fiji reportedly lost their lives as a result of domestic violence or at the hands of their partners. This figure, however, may be much higher given the lack of a clear legal definition for femicide posing challenges in estimating the actual number. The absence of a standardised definition for femicide further results in an inconsistency in data collection, reporting mechanisms and inter-agency cooperation. National institutions, perhaps due to privacy concerns, are hesitant to share data with each other, exacerbating the difficulties in addressing and understanding the extent of femicide in the country.

Fiji is in the process of developing a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics and planning a Fiji Gender Statistics Framework, to improve coordinated responses. This initiative aims to establish a framework that addresses the current gaps in data collection and reporting, fostering a more comprehensive and cohesive approach to combating femicide and VAWG in the country. Fiji has also committed to implementing the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls with the support of UNODC-KOSTAT CoE and UN Women CoE.

Indonesia

In Indonesia, the recording of violence against women resulting in death began in Komnas Perempuan's (National Commission on Violence against Women) Annual Records (CATAHU) in 2005, although the term "femicide" was not used. Komnas Perempuan went on to conduct [a study on femicide](#) through online media monitoring, by documenting the femicide cases from 2017. This study helped highlight the issue, even though there is no specific law addressing femicide. The crime of murder is regulated in the Criminal Code and those dedicated to violence against children (the Child Protection Law) and women (the Elimination of Domestic Violence Law) do not specifically address femicide. Due to the absence of the term 'femicide' in court rulings, keywords such as "the victim is the wife", "murder of wife" and "abuse of wife" were used to describe femicide cases. Court decisions on these three keywords totalled 100 cases, with 60% of the murder cases occurring at home. Komnas Perempuan defines femicide as 'the killing of women whether committed directly or indirectly because of their sex or gender, driven by superiority, domination, hegemony, aggression or misogyny against women as well as over-possessiveness toward women, inequality in power relations and sadist pleasure'²⁶.

²⁵ The country snapshots included in this report are primarily from the country presentations made at the 'International Conference on Ending Gender-Based Killings of Women and Girls' in Seoul, Republic of Korea in September, 2023.

²⁶ National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan) (2022), 'Vanish in the Silence: Victims of Femicide & Their Families Have the Right to Justice': <https://komnasperempuan.go.id/download-file/999>



Komnas Perempuan divides femicide into **9 categories**:

1. Intimate Femicide
2. Cultural Femicide: Honour Femicide, Dowry Femicide, Racial and Ethnic Femicide, Witchcraft Accusation Femicide, Femicide related to Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting (FGM/C), infant femicide (abortion, infanticide, killing of under three and under five toddlers)
3. Femicide in the Context of Armed Social Conflict and War
4. Femicide in the Context of the Commercial Sex Industry
5. Femicide of Women with Disabilities
6. Femicide on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
7. Femicide in Prison Murders committed to female prisoners within a prison and/or similar detention facility
8. Non-Intimate Femicide (Systematic Murder)
9. Femicide of Women Human Rights Defenders

Komnas Perempuan recommended: 1) the police and the Statistics Indonesia Bureau (BPS) collect disaggregated data and categorise femicide for law enforcement and policy development purposes; 2) collect data on the impact of femicide on the victim's family for recovery and support; and 3) promote collaboration between institutions and the ministries for collecting femicide data.

Mongolia

In Mongolia, crime data is generally classified based on gender, age, and the type of crime committed. Multiple institutions, including the NSO, the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs, the Anti-Corruption Agency, and the Police, are involved in collecting this data. Since 2010, Mongolia has been consistently sharing crime data with UNODC via the NSO through the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS), including the total number of homicides disaggregated by sex. The Coordination Council for Crime Prevention, under the Ministry of Justice, contributes by publishing an annual statistics book titled "White Paper on Crime in Mongolia," which encompasses gender-related crimes such as murder resulting from domestic violence. The main challenges associated with collecting femicide data in Mongolia include the need for improved institutional coordination, the lack of human resources, and the need for the establishment of a unified database to enhance the reliability and utility of crime statistics in the country. To address the issues identified, Mongolia has committed to implementing the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls with the support of UNODC-KOSTAT CoE and UN Women CoE.

Pakistan

In Pakistan, femicide is not formally recognised, though violence against women and girls is regulated and so-called "honour killings" have been redefined as murders.

The primary hurdle stems from the absence of specific laws or regulations mandating the systematic collection of data on homicide and femicide in the country. Challenges in data collection include the lack of centralised information, reluctance to analyse data, and disparities in data collection methods. Autopsies and suicides are considered taboos due to religious and societal beliefs, posing a challenge in obtaining accurate data and leading to underreporting. Autopsies lacking distinctions between femicide and homicide make data heavily reliant on police reports. Regional disparities, non-cooperation of some police regions, and the absence of 'slow femicide' data complicate the situation.

Efforts are being made to reform the medical-legal field, with the Ministry of Pakistan showing willingness to incorporate femicide in their framework. Initiatives include standardizing criteria, media-driven data analysis, and training medical legal officers to provide scientific evidence for femicide. Despite challenges, Pakistan is taking steps towards addressing Gender-Based Violence and femicide through comprehensive reforms.

Republic of Korea

In the Republic of Korea, homicide data are collected and shared through a system called 'Korea Information System of Criminal Justice Services (KICS) (see Box 3). The Police, Prosecution Service, Court and Ministry of Justice each operate their own criminal justice information system, and KICS serves as a platform for these agencies to share data in real time. This fosters collaboration between different agencies, facilitating communication and cooperation in criminal investigations. The public has access to the data, and information on offenders is registered and updated simultaneously.

However, there is no defined category for femicide in the criminal justice system, as well as in the statistical data collection system. Therefore, to trace femicide data, administrative data and two major Surveys related to violence against women play an important role:

- Korean Crime and Victimization Survey (KCSV): This biannual survey, conducted by the Korea Institute of Criminology and Justice, contributes to identifying unreported or 'hidden crimes' in official statistics.
- Survey on Violence Against Women: Conducted every 3 years by the Korean Women's Development Institute, it gathers data on intimate partner violence and other forms of VAW, targeting 9,000 women aged 19 and older.



BOX 3

In the Republic of Korea, administrative data are collected by law enforcement agencies and shared through the Korea Information System of Criminal Justice Services (KICS). Variables include:

Incident Record: Investigation agency of origin, name of crime, date of occurrence, date of recognition, period from occurrence to recognition, method of crime, special circumstances on date of occurrence, diary of time of crime, investigation clues, reason for non-reporting, gender of victim, age of victim, circumstances at the time of victim damage, occurrence, place of occurrence, degree of property damage, name of property damage product, amount of property damage product, degree of physical injury, number of men physically killed, number of women physically killed, status of foreigner suspect, foreign nationality, foreigner status, etc.

Apprehension Record: Arresting investigative agency, name of crime, date of arrest, date of occurrence, period from occurrence to arrest, method of crime, entrance gate, method of entry, whether the arrestee is a corporation, number of male arrestees, number of female arrestees, classification of attempted and attempted criminals, number of accomplices, types of crime tools, crime tool structure, method of obtaining crime tools, arrest clues, method of disposing stolen goods, cost of recovering stolen goods, name of recovered item, degree of recovery, etc.

Suspect/ Offender Record: Final arrest investigative agency, crime name, age at time of crime, gender, occupation, civil servant affiliation, civil servant rank, relevance to civil servant duties, alien status, criminal record, details of recidivism disposition, recidivism protection disposition, recidivism period, recidivism type, relationship with accomplices, relationship with the victim, hiding place after the crime, use of drugs, mental state at the time of the crime, motive for the crime, education, living standards, religion, marital relationship, parental relationship, arrestee, measures, confession, transfer opinion, case processing period, etc.

Viet Nam

In Viet Nam, the Department of Criminal Justice Statistics and Information Technology serves as the specialised unit for handling statistical data on violence against women. They have undertaken the development of a comprehensive set of statistical criteria for violence against women, categorizing data into three typologies: charged defendants (individuals who have been formally accused of a crime), prosecuted defendants (individuals found guilty of a crime), and cases in the state of adjudication (or those that are still in process). At each level of Procuracy, the dedicated units overseeing statistical work are responsible for collecting, synthesizing and managing statistical data within their respective level. The Procuracy collaborates closely with the police to enhance the effectiveness of data management in collecting and compiling data. Notably, their focus on femicide involves the collection of data specifically for victims under 18 years old, with an emphasis on especially vulnerable groups. By narrowing the demographic range, however, there is a risk of overlooking important patterns and instances of violence against adult women, potentially resulting in an incomplete representation of the overall landscape of femicide. A more comprehensive approach, encompassing data on women of all age groups, would provide a fuller picture and contribute to a more nuanced and effective strategy in combating violence against women.



Photo: UN Women/kwanju Kim

The Supreme People's Procuracy of Viet Nam introduced Viet Nam's data collection process on violence against women and girls, emphasising the need of a multisectoral approach.

“The primary hurdle stems from the absence of specific laws or regulations mandating the systematic collection of data on homicide and femicide in the country. Challenges in data collection include the lack of centralised information, reluctance to analyse data, and disparities in data collection methods.”



Statistical Framework for Measuring the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls

The Statistical Framework for Measuring the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls clarifies how to define, classify, collect data, and analyse these killings.

“Besides the statistical definition of such killings, the framework identifies a typology of gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide) and the list of variables that can be used to identify and count the various types of such killings. The proposed definition and typology are aligned to the structure and framework of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS), which can therefore be applied independently from the specific national legislation on such crimes. The framework also identifies main data that should be collected for providing information on victims, perpetrators and state response to gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide).”²⁷

1. Statistical Definition of Femicide

The Statistical Framework for Measuring the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls, developed by UN Women and UNODC, defines femicide as “intentional homicides of female victims committed by other known or unknown perpetrators with a certain modus operandi or in specific contexts indicative of gender-motivations”.

- The challenge lies in measuring gender-related motivation, which may stem from root causes such as stereotyped gender roles, discrimination, and unequal power relations. For the purpose of collecting and aggregating statistics on gender-related killings, the framework is composed of three data blocks.
- The first data block refers to women and girls killed by intimate partners. The second data block refers to women and girls killed by family members. The third data block refers to women and girls killed by other known or unknown perpetrators where the types of homicide meet at least one of the eight criteria shown in Figure 1 below:

Figure 1: Characteristics indicative of gender-related motivations of killings of women and girls (third data block)



Source: UNODC and UN Women (2022), *Statistical Framework for Measuring the Gender-related Killing of Women and Girls*

2. Statistical Framework Variables in the Crime and Criminal Justice System

The Statistical Framework for Measuring the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls builds upon the foundation laid by the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS)²⁸. It refines the ICCS by concentrating on gender-based violence, introducing additional disaggregating variables, and emphasizing the need to comprehend the dynamics underpinning such crimes.

- This framework complements the ICCS by focusing on gender-based killings and introducing new key disaggregating variables, enhancing the understanding of the characteristics and trends of gender-related killings.
- Similar to the ICCS, the Framework heavily relies on disaggregating variables, which are collected for victims, perpetrators, and the context of each criminal act, as detailed in the Annex. They provide additional information to produce policy-relevant analyses, identifying drivers and enablers of gender-related killings and factors that could prevent their occurrence.
- The rationale behind these variables and the framework is to integrate a gender perspective into the collection and registry of administrative data on crime and criminal justice.
- Incorporating these variables not only enables the measurement of femicide but also enhances situational analysis, policy improvement, and the prevention of gender-based crimes, particularly femicide. With the introduction of the Framework, comprehensive and standardised disaggregating variables can be used by the entire crime and criminal justice system.

²⁷ UNODC and UN Women (2021), ‘Statistical framework for measuring the gender-related killing of women and girls (also referred to as femicide/feminicide)’: https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/Statistical_framework_femicide_2022.pdf

²⁸ UNODC (2016), International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes: https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/crime/ICCS/ICCS_English_2016_web.pdf



3. The Femicide Framework Pilot in Latin America and the Caribbean

Several countries in Latin America have already criminalised femicide, albeit with varying legal definitions. Currently, four countries in Latin America and the Caribbean: Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras and Mexico are undertaking the pilot implementation of the Framework in collaboration with UNODC and UN Women. The adaptation of the pilot of the framework is essential, considering the diverse national contexts, crime landscapes, and criminal justice statistical systems. The pilot involves an evaluation of the institutional structure, culminating in the formulation of a report highlighting findings, challenges, and strategies for overcoming obstacles. The results will be reported to the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2025 and serve as the basis for UNODC and UN Women to develop customised technical support tailored to each country.

- Recognizing femicide as a multidimensional issue, it is crucial to foster a multi-sectoral response within the country, specifically, within the crime and criminal justice statistics system. The pilot focuses on assisting countries in integrating and customizing the framework within their data collection processes. This involves ensuring the incorporation of disaggregating variables and categories into their systems, with a specific emphasis on granularity and alignment with the established framework. During the pilot phase, similarities, differences, or gaps in variables may emerge.
- It becomes crucial to identify which institutions possess relevant data for each variable, along with determining the most accessible sources of information. Furthermore, the categorisation used by institutions needs scrutiny to translate and reclassify them in alignment with the Framework.
- Inter-agency collaboration is fundamental, emphasizing open and direct communication and data sharing to ensure interoperability. The ultimate goal is to enable each country to generate high-quality, disaggregated homicide data. This, in turn, facilitates the development of evidence-based policies aimed at preventing femicide. Bearing this objective in mind, the phased implementation of the framework, starting with the pilot, serves as a strategic approach to enhance data collection and foster inter-institutional cooperation.



Conclusion and Recommendations

The convening served as a crucial platform to assess and disseminate global and regional advancements in comprehending and quantifying femicide. The insightful discussions underscored the existence of worldwide, regional, and national initiatives aimed at enhancing data collection on gender-based violence and femicide, essential for developing prevention strategies and evidence-based policymaking. The significance of monitoring mechanisms, such as femicide observatories and death review teams, emerged as crucial for evaluating the scale and patterns of such violence.

Insights gleaned from the experiences shared by Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Mongolia, Pakistan, and Republic of Korea, and Viet Nam revealed the existence of diverse frameworks, definitions and classifications of femicide, complicating data collection from various sources and resulting in data incomparability across regions. The imperative for a data coordination mechanism to regularly oversee, monitor, and evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of measures at national, local, and regional levels became evident from these discussions.

The Statistical Framework for Measuring the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls has been highlighted as a valuable tool, providing a clear statistical definition of femicide. This framework enables the precise identification of data and statistics, essential for accurately recognizing and counting these incidents. This evidence has the potential to build a better understanding of patterns of violence and risk factors associated with femicide, aiming to prevent such killings. Moreover, it has the potential to enhance coordination among national statistical agencies and other stakeholders, fostering consistency in data collection instruments that provide comprehensive information on femicide.

Key recommendations shared by the experts include:

 **Support countries to put in place a standardised statistical framework for defining and collecting data on gender-related killings to address different understandings and inconsistencies in approach.**

Consistent, comprehensive, continuous, and disaggregated data are essential for generating national statistics and globally comparable insights. Foster collaboration with national focal points and data providers and encourage countries to develop country fact sheets to contextualise and accurately interpret national data.



Support and advocate for the establishment of observatories on the gender-related killing of women, in alignment with the call for action by the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women.

Establishing specialised entities dedicated to monitoring and analysing gender-related killings ensures a continuous and vigilant approach to data collection. By implementing observatories, countries can develop evidence and analysis that is critical to fostering a more systematic and in-depth understanding of femicide. This proactive step contributes to providing essential insights for evidence-based policymaking and effective prevention strategies aimed at addressing gender-based violence against women and girls.



Engage multi-disciplinary teams of service providers, including statisticians and data analysts to analyse data on femicide.

Existing statistical data often lack the necessary contextual information to determine whether a homicide should be classified as femicide. Connecting service providers specialised with violence against women with statisticians and data analysts to analyse patterns of violence and homicide data can bridge the gap in official statistics, enhancing earlier intervention measures and ultimately, bolstering efforts to prevent femicide more effectively.



Enhance the quality and comprehensiveness of crime statistics and address the lack of dedicated human resources for data collection.

Investing in training programmes for personnel dedicated to the collection, analysis and reporting of crime data is essential to ensure quality. Additionally, the establishment of a unified database can contribute significantly to overcoming challenges related to data discrepancies and mismatches. Implementing the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls can provide a standardised approach that facilitates the integration of disaggregating variables and promotes the establishment of a unified database.



Establish coordinating mechanisms and policies aimed at harmonizing data collection efforts on Gender-Based Violence, including femicide.

In most countries, different ministries and government institutions currently collect and accumulate data independently. Poor coordination, mismatches in data and lack of sharing among different agencies highlight the need for a more unified and collaborative approach. It is recommended that standardised operating procedures or tools for collecting and monitoring femicide cases be implemented to enhance the quality of gender-based violence (GBV) data and support informed policy-making. Enhancing communication and fostering inter-agency collaboration can help address the existing gaps in the crime data collection system.



Photo: UN Women/kwanju Kim

UNODC-INEGI Center of Excellence in Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice introduced ongoing pilot studies in Latin America and Caribbean region.

“Data is not generated simply for the sake of having it. Its purpose is to prevent femicide. To achieve this goal, every institution responsible for data collection must engage in ensuring that data is interoperable and comparable. Inter-institutional collaboration is crucial in this regard.”

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