

Contribution ID: 00a84c2e-0db9-437d-8e12-cc6e415d8310

Date: 10/05/2021 21:33:52

# Preventing and combatting gender-based violence against women and domestic violence

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

---

## Introduction

---

### About this consultation

Topic: Preventing and combatting gender-based violence against women and domestic violence

### Target audience

The Commission seeks to gather input from the widest possible range of stakeholders, including individual citizens, civil society organisations, social partners, equality bodies, Member States and national authorities. Member States will also be consulted through a targeted consultation.

This consultation is directed towards all stakeholders with an interest in the topic.

### Why we are consulting

Violence against women is one of the most persistent forms of gender-based discrimination in Europe. 'Gender-based violence against women' or 'violence against women' refers to violence directed against a woman because she is a woman. It can also be violence that affects women disproportionately, such as rape and other sexual crime. In addition, domestic violence – against women and other victims such as children, men, people with disabilities and older persons – continues to affect many families. Domestic violence means violence that occurs within the family or domestic unit, or between former or current partners, regardless of whether the perpetrator shares the same residence as the victim.

The European Commission launches this consultation to gather the views of the public on the measures taken by the EU Member States to address gender-based violence against women and domestic violence.

The purpose of the consultation is to inform the Commission's work on further measures for improved, coordinated prevention of and protection against this kind of violence.

This public consultation forms part of the evidence gathering the Commission is carrying out in preparation for a legislative initiative to prevent and combat gender-based violence and domestic violence. The initiative was announced by President von der Leyen in connection with the State of the European Union 2020 speech in September 2020, and is included in the Commission Work Programme for late 2021. Because this consultation aims to provide evidence to support the Commission's work more broadly, the questions are general in scope.

### Responding to the questionnaire

You can contribute to this consultation by filling in the online questionnaire. If you are unable to use the questionnaire, please contact us using the email address below.

The questionnaire is available in all official EU languages except Irish.

The consultation is divided into five sections. You may respond to one, several or all of the sections. At the end of the questionnaire, you will also be able to upload a document, if you wish to do so. There, you can inform us of topics that are not specifically covered in the questionnaire. You can also save your replies and get back to the questionnaire at a later stage. Please make sure to submit the questionnaire before the end of the consultation period.

A glossary further clarifies the terms used.

For reasons of transparency, organisations and businesses taking part in the Commission's public consultations are asked to register in the EU's Transparency Register.

The views reflected in this questionnaire do not prejudge the contents of any upcoming measures taken by the Commission.

In order to ensure a fair and transparent consultation process, only responses received through this online questionnaire will be taken into account. They will be included in a report summarising the responses. This report will be made available on the Have your say portal [hyperlink to be added] after the consultations have closed.

### **Personal data and privacy statement**

The European Union is committed to protecting your personal data and to respecting your privacy. When carrying out public consultations, we adhere to the policy on "protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions", based on Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 on processing of personal data by the EU institutions.

Further information on the information on the protection of your personal data is available [here](#).

---

## About you

---

\* Language of my contribution

\* I am giving my contribution as

\* First name

**\* Surname**

ARRUE ASTRAIN

**\* Email (this won't be published)**

borja.arrue@age-platform.eu

**\* Organisation name***255 character(s) maximum*

AGE Platform Europe

**\* Organisation size**

Small (10 to 49 employees)

## Transparency register number

*255 character(s) maximum*

Check if your organisation is on the transparency register

(<http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/homePage.do?redir=false&locale=en>). It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

16549972091-86

**\* Country of origin**

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

Belgium

The Commission will publish all contributions to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would prefer to have your details published or to remain anonymous when your contribution is published. **For the purpose of transparency, the type of respondent (for example, 'business association', 'consumer association', 'EU citizen') country of origin, organisation name and size, and its transparency register number, are always published. Your e-mail address will never be published.** Opt in to select the privacy option that best suits you. Privacy options default based on the type of respondent selected

**\* Contribution publication privacy settings**

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

 **Anonymous**

Only organisation details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.

**Public**

Organisation details and respondent details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name will also be published.

- I agree with the personal data protection provisions (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/specific-privacy-statement>)

---

## Section I: How to effectively prevent gender-based violence and domestic violence

---

1. In your view, how important is it that your Member State takes measures to prevent violence against women and domestic violence?

- Very important  
 Important  
 Not very important  
 Not important at all

2. To your knowledge, what measures have been taken in your Member State to prevent violence against women and domestic violence?

[Multiple choice possible]

- Awareness-raising on violence against women and domestic violence among the general public;  
 Training of the relevant professionals (law enforcement authorities, judicial authorities, social and health professionals, teachers etc.);  
 Teaching on non-discrimination, gender equality and non-violent communication topics in schools;  
 Work with boys and men;  
 Work with perpetrators;  
 No measures at all;  
 Other measures.

Please explain [free text.]

*400 character(s) maximum*

These measures have been adopted in most EU countries, with big differences reported amongst them. We have less evidence of such measures taking into consideration intersecting forms of discrimination and violence against women, such as violence against older women.

3. Are you aware of prevention programmes set up at the national or local levels for perpetrators of violence against women or domestic violence?

- Yes  
 No

4. In your opinion, how important is it to challenge harmful gender stereotypes in order to prevent violence against women and domestic violence?

- Very important
- Important
- Not very important
- Not important at all

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

Addressing discrimination is a key step to make policies and laws deliver on better supporting and protecting women experiencing violence and abuse. Discriminations make violence and abuse justified, acceptable or ignored. They prevent society from identifying violence and taking action against it. Addressing discrimination, including multiple discrimination, is key.

5. In your opinion, what measures should be taken, if any, to challenge harmful gender stereotypes to prevent violence against women and domestic violence?

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

A life-course approach is required to address such stereotypes in different moments of life. When it comes to older women, tackling discrimination in the labour market and in access to goods and services is key. This includes training care services to call their own attitudes into question and address both ageist and sexist stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination.

6. To your knowledge, in which sectors have efforts been made to support the prevention of violence against women and domestic violence in your Member State?

[Multiple choice possible]

- The media;
- The private sector;
- The public sector including governmental, municipal and/or local bodies;
- The information and communication technology (ICT) sector, including social media;
- Cultural and creative sectors;
- Sport and physical activity sectors;
- Other sectors;
- I have not seen that any such efforts have been made.

If efforts have been made and this information is available to you, please specify what kinds of actions there have been.

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

Whereas all such actions have been put in place in the EU - inconsistently across member states -, references to older women are reportedly scarce. There is a tendency to leave older women out of the picture of gender-based violence. Data and some initiatives are available in the dedicated sections of the Ageing Equal campaign: <https://ageing-equal.org/ageism-and-gender/>

7. If in your view the measures taken in your Member State to prevent this kind of violence are ineffective, why do you think that is?

[Multiple choice possible]

- Too few preventive measures are taken in my Member State;
- Prevention measures are taken in my Member State but they do not cover my geographical area;
- The professionals who come in contact with victims or perpetrators have insufficient knowledge on this kind of violence to prevent it;
- Insufficient resources are made available to the relevant professionals / other actors for preventing violence against women and domestic violence;
- Insufficient resources are made available to the relevant professionals/other actors to reach out to women in particularly vulnerable positions (e.g. migrant women and victims of trafficking);
- The general public is not sufficiently aware of this kind of violence or sees it as a private matter;
- There are not enough services and activities offered to empower survivors and encourage them to break the silence;
- I do not think this kind of violence can be prevented.
- I think the measures taken are effective.
- Other.

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

There is a lack of training and awareness among victim support services, law enforcement bodies and justice systems regarding the realities of older women experiencing abuse and violence. They are reportedly much less likely to be taken seriously by such services and public authorities. Such barriers aggravate the feelings of powerlessness of older women who may have been victims for decades.

8. In your opinion, which (further) measures, if any, would be needed to better prevent violence against women and domestic violence in your Member State?

[Multiple choice possible]

- Awareness-raising on violence against women and domestic violence among the general public;
- Training of the relevant professionals (law enforcement authorities, judicial authorities, social and health professionals, teachers, cultural workers, youth leaders, sports staff etc.) so that they can better identify signs of violence before it (re-)occurs;
- Teaching non-discrimination, gender equality and non-violent communication topics in schools;
- Work with perpetrators;
- Other measures.

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

It is essential to ensure multi-agency cooperation between organisations of older people, organisations fighting for gender equality, victim support services, law enforcement bodies, care services and the judicial system to share knowledge in a systematic manner about the situations of older women. Training care professionals to detect and report abuse and violence against older women is key.

9. In your view, would additional measures be necessary to ensure coordination among prevention services, including national authorities and / or non-governmental organisations? If yes, what measures should they be?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know.

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

As mentioned, stable cooperation between all stakeholders is essential. This should not be limited to one-shot actions and a continuous dialogue should be ensured. Capacity-building about gender-based violence may be a key prior step to consider to ensure all stakeholders can become operational and active in the work to combat gender-based violence.

## Section II: Access to justice, protection from further violence and compensation

---

10. To your knowledge, do the law enforcement authorities and judicial authorities of your Member State ensure an appropriate follow-up to reports of violence against women and domestic violence?

- Yes, law enforcement authorities do  
 Yes, judicial authorities do  
 Yes, both of them do  
 No  
 I don't know

11. To your knowledge, in your Member State, are victims of violence against women and domestic violence informed of their rights, the services they can turn to, and the follow-up given to their complaint (including the options available to them, the charges, the progress of the investigation or proceedings, and their role therein, as well as the outcome of their case)?

- Yes  
 Partially (e.g. the information referred to is not easily accessible or not available on all issues mentioned above )  
 No  
 I don't know

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

Situations across the EU vary consistently, therefore it is not possible to provide a single response that covers all situations. Yet, the barriers that ageism adds to the realities of older women suffering violence are likely to be true all over the EU. Older women are furthest from the justice system and barriers to access it are substantial, particularly for those who live in institutions.

12. To your knowledge, in your Member State, do victims of violence against women and domestic violence receive the information mentioned above in a timely manner and in a language they understand?

[Multiple choice possible]

- The information is easily available;
- The information is difficult to find;
- The information is inconsistent and spread over different sources;
- The information is not available in all languages needed;
- The information is not provided quickly enough;
- Something else I would like to flag.

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

Support mechanisms, information and legal assistance are not equally available across the national territory and financial barriers to access justice persist. In a few countries national ageing strategies aim, among others, to raise awareness among older persons, civil servants and legal professionals about older people's rights and obstacles to their exercise.

13. To your knowledge, do the law enforcement and justice authorities treat victims of gender-based and domestic violence, as well as child witnesses, in a gender-sensitive and child friendly manner?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

Situations vary very widely; lack of preparation to support older women is often reported.

14. Are sanctions, in your opinion, sufficient in your Member State for gender-based and domestic violence offences?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

15. To your knowledge, do the relevant authorities or services ensure that risk factors, such as serious safety concerns of the victim and risk of repeated violence, are sufficiently take into account at all stages of investigation and court proceedings?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know

Please explain [free text].

400 character(s) maximum

16. To your knowledge, are protection orders (including barring orders) used to protect potential victims from (further) violence? If yes, are they effective?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know

Please explain [free text].

400 character(s) maximum

17. To your knowledge, is information available in your Member State on how victims of violence against women or domestic violence can obtain compensation (from the offender and/or from the state)?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know

Please explain [free text].

400 character(s) maximum

18. To your knowledge, do victims of violence against women or domestic violence receive compensation from the offender?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know

Please explain [free text].

400 character(s) maximum

If yes, would you describe the process of receiving and executing compensation from the offender as:

- A fairly straightforward process;

- It is relatively straightforward to have a court's decision on compensation, but difficult to have it executed from the offender;
- The process is difficult and long.

19. In case you were entitled for compensation covered by the state, would you describe the process:

- A fairly straightforward process;
- It is relatively straightforward to have a court's decision on compensation, but difficult to have it executed from the state;
- The process is difficult and long.

20. Do you consider that further measures to improve access to justice in matters of violence against women and domestic violence could improve the situation of victims?

- Yes, at national level
- Yes, at EU level
- Yes, at both national and EU level
- No
- I don't know

Please explain. If yes, which measures should be taken?

[Free text]

*400 character(s) maximum*

Laws may be ageist themselves, which makes it more difficult for older women to access justice. EU legislation banning discrimination on the basis of age beyond employment is needed, as well as a revision of national legislations to identify provisions that may constitute barriers for older women to access justice. An EU-wide framework to train professionals in justice systems to tackle VAW.

## Section III: Supporting victims of violence against women and domestic violence

---

21. To your knowledge, are support services (general or specialised) available to victims of gender-based and domestic violence in your Member State?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

Services are available, even though not to the same degree in every EU country. However, they may be less well prepared to support older women, and be based on assumptions that exclude older women, such as ideas around vulnerability and inevitability of long-lasting episodes of violence.

22. Have you or someone in your family or close relationships used the general support services in your Member State? If so, please explain which services (e.g. social, health or employment services) and their usefulness.

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know

Please explain [free text].

400 character(s) maximum

23. To your knowledge, do general support services systematically take into account the needs of victims of violence against women and domestic violence in your Member State?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know

Please explain [free text].

400 character(s) maximum

There is room for improvement in terms of individualising the support and taking into account the lived experience of each victim. This is truly relevant for older women.

24. To your knowledge, do general support services systematically take into account the special needs of child victims and child witnesses of domestic violence based on a child-sensitive approach (taking due account of the child's age, maturity, views, needs and concerns)?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know

Please explain [free text].

400 character(s) maximum

25. To your knowledge, do general support services refer victims to appropriate specialist services in your Member State?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know

If yes, to which specialist support services are victims usually referred to?

[multiple choice possible]

- psychological support services;  
 health services;

- legal counselling services;
- helplines for victims;
- financial support services;
- housing services; including interim accommodation such as shelters;
- other.

26. To your knowledge, are there specialist support services in your Member State which are accessible only to women victims of gender-based or domestic violence?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

27. To your knowledge, are there specialist support services in your Member State which are accessible to male victims of domestic violence?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

28. To your knowledge, do these specialist support services systematically take into account the special needs of child victims and child witnesses of domestic violence based on a child-sensitive approach?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

29. To your knowledge, are support services accessible to persons with disabilities (i.e. availability of barrier free environment, easy to read and understand language, sign language interpretation, etc.)?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

Situations vary widely across the EU. However, older women with disabilities may experience additional barriers to access support. The need for support to access services and information may mean not having actually the possibility to enjoy such rights. This applies both to older women with disabilities at home and in institutions, where support and remedy are often unavailable.

30. To your knowledge, are support services available to all women victims of violence without discrimination on grounds such as racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know

Please explain [free text].

400 character(s) maximum

As reported earlier, intersecting forms of discrimination are insufficiently addressed. Being older puts women who suffer violence in situations of greater vulnerability. Notions of inevitable frailty, lesser value or the perception that the person is approaching end of life make services incapable of addressing the needs of older women, who most times remain invisible.

31. To your knowledge, are measures taken in your Member State to ensure that victims of violence against women and domestic violence receive information on support services available to them in a timely manner and in a language they understand? If so, which measures?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know

Please explain [free text].

400 character(s) maximum

32. To your knowledge, are professionals adequately trained to work with victims of violence against women and domestic violence, or with perpetrators of said violence?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know

Please explain [free text].

400 character(s) maximum

Training on intersectionality is key to address all the realities, lived experiences and needs of the victim.

33. To your knowledge, is the training provided by non-governmental organisations?

- Yes

- No
- I don't know

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

There are cases of trainings provided by NGOs. Inter-agency work may ensure a sharing of information between NGOs covering different grounds of discrimination, and can help other relevant stakeholders become more effective in detecting gender-based violence and supporting survivors, victims and women at risk.

34. Do you consider that further measures should be taken to improve the support to victims of violence against women and domestic violence?

- Yes, at national level
- Yes, at EU level
- Yes, at national and EU level
- No
- I don't know

Please explain. If yes, which measures should be taken?

[Free text.]

*400 character(s) maximum*

Actions include those mentioned earlier. Training for professionals, with some form of EU-level coordination and a shared level of ambition is necessary to improve support overall and fight the unequal support that exists across the EU.

## Section IV: Specific forms of violence against women

---

### A. Sex-based and sexual harassment

35. EU law requires the Member States to prohibit sex-based and sexual harassment in employment and occupation. In your view, are there gaps in protection against sex-based and sexual harassment in your Member State, in that:

[Multiple choice possible]

- Sex-based harassment is not prohibited by law;
- Sex-based harassment is prohibited by law but it is not clearly prohibited in all work settings (e.g. outside the physical place of employment, in the informal economy such as platform work or domestic work, or the prohibition does not cover harassment perpetrated by customers and other third parties);
- Sex-based harassment is prohibited by law but not outside the field of employment;
- Sex-based harassment is prohibited by law but the provisions are ineffectively enforced in practice;
- Sex-based harassment is not considered a real problem by the general public;
- Remedies available in cases of sex-based harassment are insufficient;
- Support available to victims of sex-based harassment is insufficient;
- Sanctions against sex-based harassment are not sufficient/persuasive;

Other.

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

36. Are you aware of anti-harassment policies or guidelines developed by the government or social partners on tackling sex-based harassment at work?

- Yes, government guidelines  
 Yes, guidelines from social partners  
 Yes, both government and social partners' guidelines  
 No

37. Are you aware of a workplace policy on sex-based harassment in your company, including but not limited to identification, prevention and control of risks, complaint and investigation procedures, as well as trainings and awareness raising?

- Yes  
 No

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

38. Are you aware of training provided in your Member State to employer representatives, such as human resources staff, or employees on tackling sex-based harassment at work?

- Yes  
 No

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

39. Do you know which national authorities or other bodies you can contact in your Member State in cases of sex-based harassment at work?

- Yes  
 No.

### **B. Gendered online content**

40. In your experience, has illegal and harmful gendered online content become more common in recent years in your Member State?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know.

41. In your experience, what forms of illegal gendered online content are the most common?

[Multiple choice possible]

- Cyber-stalking;
- Cyber-harassment on the ground of gender;
- Illegal sharing of private information, such as photos;
- Impersonation (pretending to be another person);
- Recruitment and exploitation of trafficked persons;
- Gender-based hate speech (illegal expressions which spread, incite, promote or justify hatred based on sex/gender);
- Other.

Please explain [free text].

400 character(s) maximum

42. In your experience, do perpetrators explicitly state online that their behaviour is based on the victim's gender?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know.

Please explain. How is it known that an online behaviour targets someone because of their gender?

[Free text.]

400 character(s) maximum

43. In your opinion, what measures should online platforms take to combat illegal and harmful gendered online content?

[Multiple choice possible]

- Establish policies on illegal and harmful gendered content and inform users of these policies and the effects of policy breaches;
- Maintain an effective 'notice and action' system to allow users to report this kind of content to the platform for potential removals;
- Employ appropriately trained and resourced content moderation teams to identify illegal gendered content before it is published / verify the illegality of content flagged by users;
- Detect illegal gendered content using automated tools;
- Cooperate with national authorities of EU Member States, including by systematically responding to requests from law enforcement authorities;
- Cooperate with trusted civil society organisations with proven expertise to report illegal gender-based content for fast analysis ("trusted flaggers");
- Cooperate with other online platforms to develop best practices on tackling gendered content;
- Other measures;
- There is no need for any measures.

Please explain [free text].

400 character(s) maximum

44. In your opinion, if online platforms establish specific policies on illegal and harmful gendered content, which elements should these policies contain? The policies should:

[Multiple choice possible]

- Cover gendered content sufficiently broadly;
- Inform users about who can access the information provided by a user and how the user can limit these access rights;
- Inform users of how to seek assistance from the platform and explain what complaint mechanisms are available;
- Inform users of how to seek assistance from national authorities;
- Inform users of how to seek assistance from civil society organisations;
- Contain other elements;
- There is no need for separate policies on illegal and harmful gendered online content.

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

45. In your opinion, if equality bodies in the EU Member States had powers to address illegal gendered online content, which powers should they have?

[Multiple choice possible]

- To provide information and advice to individuals who consider themselves targeted by illegal gender-based online content;
- To provide support to such individuals or direct them to external support services for victims of violence;
- To provide legal advice to victims;
- To represent complainants in court;
- To act as amicus curiae or expert in court cases concerning illegal gendered online content;
- To publish independent reports on the situation in the Member State as regards illegal gendered online content and issue recommendations in this regard;
- To provide training to relevant professionals;
- Other powers;
- No powers.

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

46. Are there other aspects you would like to mention in addressing illegal gendered online content? How could these issues be addressed?

*400 character(s) maximum*

### **C. Harmful practices**

47. Have measures been taken, to your knowledge, to prevent harmful practices targeting women (female genital mutilation, early, child and forced marriages, forced sterilisation and forced abortion, and so-called honour related violence) in your Member State? If yes, what are they?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know.

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

There are reports of older women undergoing surgery that has put their physical integrity at risk. These include cases where older women have suffered genital mutilation on the ageist premise that older women do not have a sexuality anymore. Overall, the widespread societal prejudice that older people do not have a sexual life can put older women at risk of abusive and harmful medical practices.

48. Are you aware of protection or support programmes for victims of harmful practices targeting women in your Member State?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know.

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

49. Do you think the existing preventive, intervention or support measures for victims of harmful practices against women are effective?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know.

Please explain. If no, please explain why not.

[Free text.]

*400 character(s) maximum*

50. Have you or someone in your family or close relationships used the preventive or support measures available for victims of harmful practices as set out above? If so, please explain which measures and their usefulness.

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know.

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

51. To your knowledge, in your Member State, is psychological and gynaecological care, including reconstructive surgery, available to victims of female genital mutilation, forced abortion and forced sterilisation?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know.

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

52. To your knowledge, in your Member State, are there surveys and/or estimations on the prevalence of harmful practices against women and girls? If yes, please explain who collects the data and if estimations on girls and women at risk are included.

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know.

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

#### **D. Trafficking in human beings and sexual exploitation of women and girls**

53. Have measures been taken in your Member State to prevent trafficking in human beings as gender-based violence?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know.

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

54. Are there other aspects of sexual exploitation of women and girls than trafficking that should, in your opinion, be addressed in EU law? If so, which ones are those?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know.

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

## Section V: other aspects related to violence against women and domestic violence

---

55. To your knowledge, in your Member State, is data being regularly collected on gender-based violence against women and domestic violence?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know.

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

56. If data is being collected, to your knowledge, is it disaggregated by at least on following characteristic: sex, age, type of violence, the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim, geographical location, disability, migrant background or something else?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know.

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

Data on violence against women often stops at a certain upper age, as has been the case at EU level. This makes older women invisible in statistics. Moreover, older women living in institutions are also left out of the picture. This is a serious that makes violence against older women invisible and discourages policy action to tackle it.

57. Are there aspects of gender-based violence or domestic violence targeting women with disabilities that, in your opinion, are not addressed by the general measures against domestic violence of your Member State? Which ones?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know.

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

The additional barriers to identify, report and seek protection and support are not always considered. Older women with disabilities experience the intersection between ableism and ageism, yet their realities are not always taken into consideration. There are reports where older women killed by their male partners are considered as accidental deaths without further investigation.

58. Are there specific aspects of inter-generational violence (violence between parents and children, violence against older persons in family settings) that, in your opinion, are not addressed by the general measures against domestic violence of your Member State? Which ones?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know.

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

Lack of public awareness is perpetuated by the limited number of specific public campaigns on elder abuse. Elder abuse often lacks legal recognition as such. Insufficient access and the lack of quality in care and support services put older people at risk: informal carers, most often younger relatives, are often the unintentional offenders in a context of lack of support and training.

59. To your knowledge, in your Member State, have the measures to address psychological violence, including coercive control, been effective?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know  
 I'm not aware of any specific measures.

Please explain. If no, please explain why not [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

60. To your knowledge, in your Member State, have the measures to address economic violence been effective?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know  
 I'm not aware of any specific measures.

Please explain. If no, please explain why not [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

Financial abuse against older people is widespread, and got worse over the COVID-19 pandemic. There have been initiatives to address it, in particular in the digital context. However, more work is needed, in cooperation with financial institutions, to improve levels of digital literacy and fight more efficiently against online scams.

61. To your knowledge, in your Member State, have the measures to tackle sexual violence been effective?

- Yes

- No
- I don't know
- I'm not aware of any specific measures.

Please explain. If no, please explain why not [free text].

400 character(s) maximum

62. To your knowledge, in your Member State, are specialised support services available for victims of sexual violence?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know.

Please explain. If yes, what are they?

[Free text.]

400 character(s) maximum

63. In your opinion, are there regional differences in the availability of preventive, protection and support services regarding gender-based violence against women or domestic violence?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know.

Please explain.

If yes, which differences are there?

[Free text].

400 character(s) maximum

Access to justice and support services for older people are highly unequal between and within EU member states.

64. To your knowledge, do NGOs encounter issues (concerning e.g. the stability of funding, their powers under the national legislation) in their work on gender-based violence and domestic violence?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know.

Please explain [free text].

400 character(s) maximum

Funding issues are permanent for NGOs across the European Union. Organisations of older women often rely on volunteers and struggle to cover the financial needs related with their advocacy work. Regarding the scope of NGO's work, there are reports of difficulties to operate freely in some EU member states.

65. In your view, are there (other) aspects of gender-based violence or domestic violence that are not (fully) covered by the legislation of your Member State? Which ones?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know.

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

66. In your view, what has been the extent of the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on gender-based and domestic violence in your Member State?

- No impact
- Moderate impact
- Severe impact
- I don't know.

Please explain [free text].

*400 character(s) maximum*

The pandemic had a tragic impact on older women living in institutions, whom amount for the greatest number of deaths across the EU. In domestic settings, the risk factors of violence against older women, which include the lack or unavailability of professional care and support services and the proximity with the offender, are likely to have worsened.

If you would like to submit an additional document in support of your submission, please upload your file here.

Thank you for your submission!

---

## Glossary

---

**Asylum-seeking women and girls:** a woman or a girl who has left her country of origin to seek international protection.

**Child:** any person below 18 years of age.

**Child marriage:** any formal marriage or informal union between a child under the age of 18 and an adult or another child.

**Civil society:** all forms of social action carried out by individuals or groups who are not connected to or managed by the state.

**Coercive control:** oppressive conduct that is typically characterised by tactics to intimidate, degrade, isolate and control the victim. Can be combined with physical abuse and sexual coercion.

**Early marriage:** marriage of individuals whose level of physical, emotional, sexual and psychosocial development makes them unable to freely and fully consent to marriage. Includes child marriage.

**Economic violence:** Economic violence can take the form of property damage, restricted access to financial resources, education or the labour market, or not complying with economic responsibilities, such as alimony.

**Family member:** the spouse; a person living with the victim in a committed intimate relationship; a person living with the victim in a joint household on a stable and continuous basis; relatives of the victim in direct line, siblings and dependants of the victim.

**Female genital mutilation (FGM):** procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

**Forced abortion:** intentional termination of a pregnancy without the prior and informed consent of the victim (woman or girl).

**Domestic violence:** all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit, or between former or current spouses or partners, regardless of whether the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim. Domestic violence can target anyone in the family unit and covers for instance women, men, children, the elderly and same-sex partners.

**Gender:** social attributes and opportunities associated with being female and male.

**Gender bias:** prejudiced actions or thoughts based on the perception that women are not equal to men in rights and dignity.

**Gender-based violence against women:** violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman, or that affects women disproportionately.

**Gender stereotype:** a generalised view about attributes or characteristics, or the roles that should be performed by women and men in a given society. A gender stereotype is harmful when it limits women's and men's capacities to develop personal abilities, pursue careers or make other life choices.

**Gender-sensitive:** policies that take into account the particularities pertaining to the lives of both women and men, while aiming to eliminate inequalities and promote gender equality, including an equal distribution of resources, thus taking into account the gender dimension.

**General support services:** help offered by public authorities through for instance social services, health services and employment services. General support services provide long-term help and are not exclusively designed for crime victims, but serve the public at large.

**Re-victimisation, secondary victimisation:** when the victim suffers further harm due to the manner in which institutions and individuals handle the victim. Secondary victimisation may be caused, for instance, by repeated exposure of the victim to the perpetrator, repeated interrogation about the same facts or the use of inappropriate or insensitive language by those who come into contact with the victim.

**So-called “honour crimes”:** acts of violence that are disproportionately, though not exclusively, committed against girls and women, because family members consider that certain suspected, perceived or actual behaviours bring dishonour to the family or community.

**Specialist support services:** support services provided to victims with specific needs, including victims of gender-based and domestic violence. Specialist support services can include social, emotional, psychological and financial support, as well as practical and legal support.

**Trafficking in human beings:** crime, which consists of the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or reception of persons. Control over the victim is attained through the threat of force or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability, or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person. The purpose is the exploitation of the trafficked person. Exploitation includes prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation.

**Victim:** a natural person who has suffered harm, including physical, mental or emotional harm or economic loss, which was directly caused by a criminal offence. The term also covers family members of a person whose death was directly caused by a criminal offence, who have suffered harm because of that person's death.

**Violence against women:** all acts that result or are likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

**Women:** women in all their diversity and girls under the age of 18.

## Contact

Contact Form (</eusurvey/runner/contactform/genderbasedviolence>)

---