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**Contribution of the Republic of Slovenia**

**to the Questionnaire on the issue of femicide**

**Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes**

**and consequences**

19 April 2021

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| **Questionnaire of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences on the issue of femicide**    **Contribution of the Republic of Slovenia** |

**1. On the existence, or progress in the creation, of a national femicide watch and/or femicide observatory and/or observatory on violence against women with a femicide watch role:**

In order to co-ordinate, implement, monitor and evaluate the policies and measures which Slovenia has devised to prevent all forms of violence, including femicide, covered by the Istanbul Convention, an inter-ministerial group was set up in April 2016.  The four tasks which the group is mandated to undertake aim at ensuring that the various measures in implementation of the Convention are well coordinated and lead to a concerted effort of all agencies and sectors of government. Moreover, they aim at ensuring the actual implementation of any new policies and measures.

**2. On other measures including research and studies undertaken to analyse femicide or gender related killings of women and girls or homicides of women by intimate partners or family members or other femicides:**

Data not available.

**3. On the results of analysis of femicide cases including the review of previous court cases and recommendations and actions undertaken in this respect:**

The Police analyses each case of homicide and violence against women with special emphasis on discovering motives and causes for such criminal offence. The analysis is conducted in order to upgrade existing measures that aim to prevent occurrence of such events.

In 2013, a first national research on the violence against women and intimate partner homicides of women in Slovenia was conducted by analysing criminal court files. The research showed that there are significant gender-specific differences in dynamics, causes and inducements, which indicate that these crimes should be understood in the context of the unequal distribution of power between men and women in society.

Statistical data for Slovenia thus coincide with findings of international studies that the type of homicide in which gender-specific differences have great significance occurs between partners (former or current) in heterosexual intimate relationships. This suggests that women are significantly more likely than men to be victims of such homicide as this is the leading cause of violent death for women globally. In the majority of intimate partner homicides or attempted homicides, female partners have experienced prior domestic violence. Therefore, (pre-existing) intimate partner violence is understood as the major risk factor for intimate partner homicide.

**4. On concrete measures taken to improve support to victims of violence and to prevent femicide:**

Regarding measures taken to support victims and prevent attacks or protect victims, the Republic of Slovenia implemented Directive 2012/29 / EU on setting minimum standards in the field of rights, support and protection of victims of crime in the Criminal Procedure Act. According to the adopted changes, the police immediately started performing new or additional tasks. Thus, it is newly determined that the victim must be informed of all the rights he/she has at the first contact with the competent authorities in pre-trial and criminal proceedings. A leaflet “Rights of victims of crime” was made, which brings together in one place the rights and necessary information for victims of crime. It is also available on the Police website. The victim now has the right to be informed about the release and escape of the suspect or defendant from house arrest or detention. The Criminal Procedure Act also stipulates that the competent authority in pre-trial or criminal proceedings assesses (as soon as possible upon the first contact with the injured party and as far as possible) the victim's exposure to secondary and re-victimization, intimidation and revenge in order to establish the existence of special needs for protection. For this purpose, a formular was prepared, which is filled out when the victim is treated.

**5. On good practices and challenges in implementing an evidence-based response to the prevention of femicide:**

The possibility that the suspect could be banned from approaching proved to be a good practice. Another good solution for the victim is the possibility to go to a safe house if the victim wishes to do so.

During the Coronavirus pandemic, we intensified preventive activities in order to raise citizens' awareness. We published content on the police website and on social networks such as Facebook and Instagram in which we called for tolerance in mutual relations. We appealed to neighbors and relatives of the victims to report any perceived violence, so that they do not remain mere silent witnesses to the violence. Above all, we have always pointed out that the Police, despite the restrictions, still respond to any call for help, go to the scene and do everything necessary to protect the victim and take appropriate legal action against the perpetrator.

**6. On data on femicides or intimate-partner and family-related homicides of women and men in the past 3 years including during the COVID-19 pandemic (indicating the time period e.g. since March 2020 until end of December 2020) and its comparison with such data before the C-19 pandemic:**

Statistical data are kept by the Slovenian Police according to "gender" and "relationship between the victim and the perpetrator". Thus, we sorted victims by gender and relationship with the perpetrator (ex-spouse or intimate partner, intimate partner, child, parent and spouse) for the statistical presentation of the requested data.

Table1: Number of criminal acts divided by the gender of victim

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Number of criminal acts** | | | **Year** |  |  |
| **Classification** | **Description of**  **classification** | **Gender** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** |
| **115** | **Manslaughter** | M | 3 | 1 | 0 |
|  |  | F | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| **116** | **Murder** | M | 0 | 0 | 1 |
|  |  | F | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| **Sum** | | | **11** | **7** | **14** |

Table 2: Number of criminal acts divided by the gender of victim from March until end of December

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Number of criminal acts** | | | **Year** |  |  |
| **Classification** | **Description of**  **classification** | **Gender** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** |
| **115** | **Manslaughter** | M | 2 | 0 | 0 |
|  |  | F | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| **116** | **Murder** | M | 0 | 0 | 1 |
|  |  | F | 4 | 2 | 5 |
| **Sum** | | | **10** | **5** | **12** |

Table3: Number of criminal acts divided by the gender of victim and the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Number of criminal acts** | | | | **Year** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | **2018** | | **2019** | | **2020** | | **Sum** |
| **Class** | **Description of classification** | **Relationship** | **G** | **Suspect** | **Victim** | **Suspect** | **Victim** | **Suspect** | **Victim** |  |
| **115** | **Manslaughter** | Ex-spouse or intimate partner | M | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
|  |  |  | F | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
|  |  | Intimate partner | M | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
|  |  |  | F | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
|  |  | Child | M | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
|  |  |  | F | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
|  |  | Parent | M | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
|  |  |  | F | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
|  |  | Spouse | M | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 7 |
|  |  |  | F | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 7 |
| **116** | **Murder** | Ex-spouse or intimate partner | M | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
|  |  |  | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
|  |  | Intimate partner | M | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
|  |  |  | F | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
|  |  | Child | M | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
|  |  |  | F | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
|  |  | Parent | M | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
|  |  |  | F | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
|  |  | Spouse | M | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 7 |
|  |  |  | F | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| **Sum** |  |  |  | **11** | **11** | **7** | **7** | **14** | **14** | **32** |