



PRESS RELEASE

PROMOTING BEST PRACTICES IN THE FIELD OF DATA COLLECTION ON FEMICIDE AND ESTABLISHING AN ONLINE FEMICIDE WATCH PLATFORM

WAVE in collaboration with ACUNS, UNODC, the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, the OSCE and other stakeholders organised a high-level panel at the 26th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna, May 23 2017

Vienna – 30 May, 2017 The World Health Organisation estimates that up to 70% of women will endure physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner or family member throughout their lifetime. A cycle of systematic violence against women often precedes the final act: murder. It is, thus, not surprising that UNODC estimates that up to half of women who were victims of homicide in 2012 had been killed by their partner or family member. Such gender-related killing of women is considered “femicide”. Throughout that year 43,600 women globally were murdered at the hands of their intimate partner or another family member, amounting to 119 women, on average, killed every single day or one woman murdered every 12 minutes. The Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Yury Fedotov, drew attention to this global problem on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, declaring that “these figures are harrowing and sobering in equal measure. They point to a monstrous global crime perpetrated by partners and family members who should love rather than hate, and who should protect rather than viciously assault.”

Femicide has been defined as the killing of women because of their gender. Rather than being a new form of violence, gender-related killings are the extreme manifestation of existing forms of violence against women. These are not isolated incidents that arise suddenly and unexpectedly, but represent the ultimate act of violence which is experienced in a continuum of violence, occurring in both private and public spaces.

In 2015 Professor Dubravka Šimonović, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences, called for “the establishment of femicide watches or observatories on violence against women which should collect data on gender related killing of women and girls/femicide and analyse, with the assistance of interdisciplinary review panels, all cases including court decisions in order to identify gaps in the intervention system, criminal justice and criminal procedures system, as well as risk factors to prevent and protect women and girls from those killings.”

During the 26th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna, on the 23rd of May, WAVE, together with a range of other stakeholders, co-sponsored a [side-event on the topic of data collection in combatting femicide](#). The side event entitled *Collection of Data on Gender-Related Killings of Women and Girls – Promising Practices* was chaired by H.E. Maria Assunta Accili, Ambassador of Italy to the International Organizations in Vienna. Three members of the WAVE network, [Women’s Aid Ireland](#), the [Women’s Support Centre from Armenia](#) (on behalf of the Coalition to Stop Violence against Women) and [femicidio.net](#) (part of the Otro Tiempo Association) presented methodologies for collecting data on femicide, that have been developed and applied in their respective countries. One of the main conclusions that emanated from the discussions underscored the need to go beyond available data on femicide and violence against women. Up until now data collection efforts addressing this phenomenon have always focused on women, however it is also necessary to look at men and see what are the factors that determine them to become perpetrators of violence against women and femicide. If we wish to implement more effective, better informed policies, we need to collect more comprehensive, accurate data and invest more in gender-sensitive statistical systems for crime.



WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE

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An informal consultation on femicide hosted by UNODC took place on Wednesday, the 24th of May. On that occasion an online [Femicide Watch prototype platform](#) was launched; the initiative, a joint endeavour of ACUNS Vienna Femicide Team and the UN Studies Association, aims to serve as a global knowledge and resource base for key actors in society, such as decision-makers, representatives of the criminal justice system and practitioners. It offers direct access to key information on femicide such as definitions, official data, landmark documents, and best practices developed in various states, including data collection efforts, investigation, legislation, and prevention measures.

AGENDA

Side event: *Collection of Data on Gender-Related Killings of Women and Girls – Promising Practices*

May 23, 2017, Vienna International Center (VIC), Conference Room M3, 1.10 – 2.00 pm

Panellists:

Angela Me, Chief Research and Trend Analysis Branch, UNODC

Anna Alvazzi del Frate, Research Director, Small Arms Survey

Tiziana Zannini, Director for general and social affairs in the Department for gender equality, Prime Minister's Office, Italy

Ani Jilozian, Coalition to stop violence against women, Armenia

Nerea Novo, Spanish civil society observatory feminicidio.net

Margaret Martin, Women's Aid Ireland

Discussant: **Dubravka Šimonović**, UN Special Rapporteur on VAW, its causes and consequences

For any questions, please contact:

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