



DISRUPTING THE CONTINUUM OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



WITH FACTS, STORIES AND CAMPAIGNS
A EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY PUBLICATION



Despite progress over the last decades on equality between women and men, there is not a single country in the world where women and girls are free from male violence, and there is not a single area in any woman's life where she is not exposed to the threat or reality of acts of male violence. One in three women in the EU, or 62 million women, has experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15.

Male violence against women knows no geographical boundaries, no age limit, no class, race or cultural distinctions. It is manifested in multiple forms and involves a wide variety of perpetrators from intimate partners and family members, work colleagues and acquaintances, to strangers and institutional actors such as police, health professionals, teachers and soldiers. **All forms of male violence against women are linked and form a continuum of violence**, as conceptualised by Professor Liz Kelly in 1988, and which takes very diverse forms, from obvious violations of women's rights to subtle or distorted forms of control over women's lives, bodies, and sexuality.

Male violence against women is clearly linked to a culture of sexism in our societies, coupled with indirect forms of violence against women such as women's poverty, women's economic dependence, gender pay and pension gaps, women's unequal participation in political life and the lack of parity democracy, women's unequal access to public services and common goods (including health, education, culture, transport, housing, media, etc.), sexist stereotyping in the media, etc.

All forms of violence against women aim to silence women and maintain them in a subordinate place.

This is why ending male violence against women and girls is a prerequisite to achieving real equality between women and men! It is time to listen to the voices of victims and survivors and to end the persistent impunity by bringing all perpetrators to justice, all over Europe!

Putting an end to all forms of violence against women and girls has to be intrinsically linked to the commitment made by the European Union (EU) and all its Member States to achieve gender equality and promote women's rights, a fundamental and founding value of the EU, as stated in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU.

Any action to put an end to male violence against women, at all levels, should consist of a comprehensive policy framework, which addresses male violence directly and also mainstreams the issue and its impact across all policy areas.

'THE MECHANISM OF VIOLENCE IS WHAT DESTROYS WOMEN, CONTROLS WOMEN, DIMINISHES WOMEN AND KEEPS WOMEN IN THEIR SO-CALLED PLACE.'

EVE ENSLER, FOUNDER OF V-DAY

Violence against women and girls is a European issue. It requires a European policy response:

- ⇒ The recognition, by the EU and its Member States, of all forms of male violence against women as part of a continuum of violence against women because they are women;
- ⇒ The ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention by the EU;
- ⇒ The ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention by all EU member states;
- ⇒ An EU strategy and directive criminalising all forms of male violence against women and girls, and providing assistance and support to all women and girls victims;
- ⇒ An EU coordinator to end violence against women and girls, within the umbrella of the European Commission's work on equality between women and men;
- ⇒ Systematic consultation of and sustainable funding for women's organisations providing support to women and girls victims, and developing advocacy and awareness raising campaigns, at EU, national and local levels.

The content of this factsheet is based on the contribution of the experts of the European Women's Lobby (EWL) Observatory on violence against women. This is a unique structure established 20 years ago to bring together 35 women from frontline NGOs, academia, women's organisations, all working at national and European level to end male violence against women and girls. The EWL Observatory on violence against women supports the advocacy work of the European Women's Lobby membership throughout Europe.

You will find here data, campaigns and stories that illustrate the reality of violence against women and girls in Europe today. There are many more inspiring examples of actions to end violence against women and girls, which could not all be included here. To find out more, get in contact and engage with EWL member organisations!

www.womenlobby.org

Facebook: [European Women's Lobby](https://www.facebook.com/EuropeanWomenLobby)

Twitter: [@EuropeanWomen](https://twitter.com/EuropeanWomen)

MALE FAMILY AND PARTNER VIOLENCE

95%

of all acts of violence taking place within the home are male violence against women.

43%

of all women in the EU experience psychological violence by a partner since the age of 15.

50

women each week in Europe are murdered by a partner or ex-partner.

- Studies estimate that **30%** of undocumented migrant women have been victims of domestic violence during the last 12 months in Europe.
- Women with disabilities are **40%** more likely to be the victims of domestic violence than women without disabilities.
- **1 in 4** women over 60 years of age in Europe has experienced abuse or violence in the last 12 months.
- **5 out of 6** women in Austria don't report the most severe acts of domestic violence to the police or another law enforcement agency.



"The good breaks the evil: that to me, is what the Orange House women's shelter in the Netherlands is all about", says Mimi. Mimi lived for many years in an abusive relationship in which she was severely beaten and humiliated by her husband. The breaking point which made her decide to leave her husband was when her oldest son said to her: "Mama, you are so tired. You have always been thinking about others, now you should think about yourself...". She left with her children, not to return again. Her stay at the women's shelter and the counselling she and her children got, motivated and strengthened her both to talk to her ex-husband after some time and stand up for herself. "I was a different person when I was at my own home. Now, at the shelter, I have become once again the Mimi that I have always been. I am free, I have come back. Mimi is back."

IC Change Campaign (UK) wants to give visibility to the reality of male violence against women and girls in the UK, including intimate partner violence. Specifically, the campaign aims at spreading awareness and ensuring that the government follows through on its commitment to make the Istanbul Convention law in the UK. The campaign is run by a grassroots group, made up entirely of volunteers, and supported by many women's organisations across the UK (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales). A very successful advocacy strategy led to the adoption of a bill that requires the UK government to set up a timeline for the ratification of the Istanbul Convention. **More info:** <http://icchange.co.uk/2017/04/28/iclaw/>

In the context of the wider campaign in the UK, **the End Violence Against Women Coalition (EVAW)** has run the "Protecting Women's Services" campaign which highlights the right to specialist support services, which are essential for helping women and girls flee violence and rebuild their lives. While increasing numbers of survivors across the UK are seeking support, women and girls still encounter barriers when trying to access specialist services due to funding cuts and competitive procurement. **More info:** <http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/>



SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ABUSE



Every second woman in the EU has experienced sexual harassment since the age of 15.



In Sweden, **4 in 5** women have experienced sexual harassment since the age of 15.

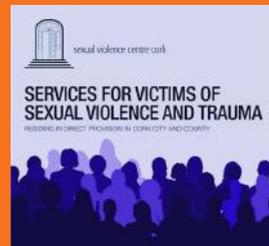


Every **7** minutes a woman is raped in France, that is **205** rapes each day.



Dovilė Masalskienė, EWL Observatory expert from Lithuania, and from the Women's Issues Information Centre, reports: "In Lithuania, sexual violence from intimate partner is a taboo, and in a majority of cases it is not considered as violence, more as a duty of the spouse. When a case of domestic violence is reported, the physical violence might be taken into account but not the sexual violence. Victims of rape are still blamed and that is why they are afraid of reporting rape to the authorities. When women dare to report, they face secondary victimisation during the judicial process. There have been cases where even the judge blames the victim."

- **61%** of persons with disabilities in Europe have experienced sexual harassment since the age of 15.
- **1 in 10** women in the Netherlands has been raped at some point in her life.
- Almost **1 in 2 (47%)** Maltese think that women often make up or exaggerate claims of abuse or rape.
- More than **1 in 2** persons (**55%**) in Romania believe that having sexual intercourse without sexual consent can be justified in certain situations such as being drunk or wearing revealing clothing.
- **85%** of women aged 18-24 in the UK have experienced street harassment and **45%** have experienced it in form of unwanted touching. Studies show that when they object to harassment, women of colour receive a barrage of racism.



The **Sexual Violence Centre in Cork** (Ireland) provides a comprehensive set of services in order to support the daily struggle of women who have been victims of sexual violence and abuse. Recently, the Centre has been campaigning together with a coalition of more than 70 organisations for the improvement of the Irish law on sexual offences. The law has been adopted in 2017 and it defines sexual consent for the first time giving clarity to the legislation. Thanks to the advocacy work of women's organisations, organised through the coalition Turn Off the Red Light, the new legislation also tackles child pornography, incest, child sexual grooming and criminalises the purchase of sexual services. **More info:** <http://www.sexualviolence.ie>

PROSTITUTION

9 out of **10** women in prostitution would like to exit the system of prostitution but feel unable to do so.



68% of persons in prostitution meet the criteria for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in the same range as war veterans and victims of torture.



60 to 90% of prostituted persons have been subjected to sexual abuse and assault in their childhood.



Diverse European studies find that between **60** and **95%** of women in prostitution have been subjected to rape or physical violence.

- Vulnerable and discriminated minorities are found in prostitution more often than the majority population. For example, **98-99%** of prostituted persons in Zurich are Hungarian citizens, of whom **80-85%** are Romani women.
- In France, the human cost borne by prostituted persons is estimated at **252 to 370** million euros per year.
- In France, women in prostitution are **12** times more likely to commit suicide than the general public.
- **54%** of prostitute-users recognised having had aggressive sexual behaviour towards a partner not in prostitution.



Marie Merklinger spent three years in the German sex trade because of financial desperation. "When I wanted to exit, the frontline organisations convinced me to stay and to develop a better marketing strategy to sell myself". She however managed to exit in 2011 after finding work outside prostitution. When she lost her job, she became overwhelmed with trauma and sank into a state of powerlessness, desperation and depression. She searched for help and somebody to talk to but found, largely because of Germany's legalisation structure, that there was nothing and nobody to help her. In a country where prostitution is seen as a viable 'job', support is non-existent. She is now a member of SPACE International, an international network of survivors of the sex trade.

In 2013, 7 French youth organisations came together to create the network "**Youth for the abolition of prostitution**" to bring the perspective of young people into the public debate on prostitution, while a law on the Nordic Model was being discussed. The feminist organisation Osez le féminisme produced a short video fiction, called "Prostitution: a job like any other?" to denounce the normalisation of prostitution as 'sex work'. The youth contribution played a key role towards the adoption of the French abolitionist law in April 2016, which provides for the decriminalisation of and support to persons in prostitution, the criminalisation of all forms of pimping and procuring as well as of the buying of sex, and education programmes on equality and respect.

More info: <https://generationabolition.wordpress.com>



TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN



- Women constitute **85%** of the victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation, and are exploited in prostitution.
- There may be as many as **140,000** sex-trafficking victims in Europe and around a third come from the Balkans.
- A European study interviewing women who have been trafficked found out that nearly all women (**95%**) reported physical or sexual violence while in the trafficking situation, with three-quarters of respondents having been physically hurt, and **90%** reporting having been sexually assaulted.
- A 2014 European study on the demand for sexual services from trafficked women and girls found that the main motivation driving the purchase of sex is 'to have control'.
- **80%** of the Nigerian women who came to Italy by boat in the first half of 2016 were trafficked into prostitution. In 2016, **13,000** unaccompanied minors and more than **5,300** Nigerian women that have arrived in Italy.
- Human trafficking disproportionately affects minorities and disadvantaged groups such as ethnic minorities, migrants, homeless people, members of the LGBTQ population and children with histories of childhood sexual exploitation.

Born in Nigeria, Blessing lost her father and, as the eldest daughter, together with her mother, she had to provide for her three younger brothers. While she was visiting her village of origin, she met a woman who proposed her to go to Italy, where she would find a job. Blessing agreed in order to help her family. Once arrived in Prato, Italy, Blessing was prostituted, as she was told that she had contracted a debt of 30,000 euros, which she had to pay back. She was threatened that her family would be hurt if she did not obey. The other prostituted young women brought Blessing on the road and instructed her on what she should do with the buyers, and how much she had to ask. One day, when Blessing was alone in the apartment, she escaped. By begging money she bought a train ticket to go to Rome where she asked for help at the Cooperative Be Free, a women's association which helps and supports victims of trafficking in Italy.

The new French law on prostitution and trafficking in women, from April 2016, recognises the reality of sex trafficking which brings an overwhelming number of foreign women into prostitution. Therefore, the law permits the grant of a temporary residency permit as a protective measure for foreign victims even if they are not in a position to stand witness against their trafficking or pimping network. This provision is the result of the advocacy work of frontline NGOs which see the realities of prostitution and support victims and survivors in their journey towards a better life. Initiated by the frontline organisation Mouvement du Nid, the French coalition **Abolition2012**, gathering more than 60 NGOs committed to end violence against women, played a key role in bringing the voices of the most vulnerable women and girls in the public debate. **More info:** <http://www.abolition2012.fr>

PORNOGRAPHY

11 years old

is, in Europe, the average age of first exposure to Internet pornography.



2 in 3 women in the porn industry suffer post-traumatic stress syndrome at the same level as war veterans and victims of torture.



EVERY SECOND
the online porn industry makes over
2,700 €

- Studies have shown that areas with higher circulation rates of pornographic magazines have **higher rape rates**.
- Men who watch porn are more likely to express attitudes **supporting violence against women** and engaging in acts of **sexual aggression and purchasing sex** than other men.
- Research has found that after being exposed to pornography, men reported being less satisfied with their partners' physical appearance, sexual performance, and level of affection and express greater desire for sex without emotional involvement.



In the book "Pimp State" (Kat Banyard, 2016), former porn performer Vanessa Belmont speaks out about her experiences of racism and violence in the porn industry: "They told me: "You're lucky you're not working for the Ghetto Gaggers (their black-themed site), we're meaner to the black girls." What a relief! Don't get me wrong, they were still plenty abusive towards me. I won't go into too much detail, but let's just say that after I was done with a shoot, I looked like I had been beaten up. Good thing they didn't cast me for the black site, because if they were meaner to black girls, I can only imagine what I would have looked like after that! If that isn't racism, I don't know what is."

Pornography promotes damaging stereotypes in its portrayal of women and men. To tackle this, the Swedish Women's Lobby together with their member organisations Unizon and Roks developed the campaign **Porrfritt** (Pornfree). The campaign demands a government inquiry to investigate the harmful effects of porn and it demands porn free spaces in society such as porn free schools and workplaces. Seminars on the harmful effects of pornography were held and a manifest was put forward that highlights the normalisation of porn; it also provides proposals of actions for a porn free society.
More info: <http://sverigeskvinnolobby.se/en>

**PORR
FRITT**

SEXISM IN MEDIA, SEXIST ADVERTISING AND CYBER VIOLENCE

9 out of **10** young women in Sweden state that advertisements made them feel bad about their appearance or their weight and made them want to change something about themselves.

24%

In the EU, women account for only 24% of people that we hear or read about in the news.

- Cyber violence is just as damaging to women as physical violence.
- In Europe, **9** million girls have experienced some kind of cyber violence by the time they are 15.
- Online violence is especially more prevalent at the intersection of gender and youth: almost **1** in **5** young women in Slovenia have experienced cyberharassment.
- Only **16%** of photos in European newspaper show women over 45 years of age.



Testimony from the women's shelter in Sigtuna, Sweden: "In April 2017, three people have been jailed for gang raping a woman and broadcasting the horrific attack on Facebook Live. Footage of the rape was posted in a private Facebook group with 60,000 members. The Swedish court heard the prosecuted man had encouraged his friends, and 'laughed' while filming the attack on his phone. All three men pleaded not guilty, two of them claimed that the sex was consensual, and they argued that they were unaware that the victim did not want the images to be posted online. But the prosecutors said that the woman was 'heavily drunk' and 'under the influence of drugs', a situation that the men must have realised. The judge Nils Palbrant said: "It is not possible for a person in such a situation to consent." The three men were also ordered to pay a total of 335,000 kronor (34,500 €) to the victim in damages."

Women European Coalition against media sexism

(WECAMS) is a coalition of three European women's organisations set up with the specific aim of bringing an end to sexism in the media and advertising: DonneinQuota in Italy, Object in the UK and Les Chiennes de garde in France. All three groups have campaigned against sexist, objectifying and dehumanising representations of women in their own countries. This coalition has been established to work together in tackling sexist representations of women at European level and, in doing so, encourage governments to take decisive action so that they adopt legislation regarding the portrayal of women in the media or advertising. The Coalition launched a petition calling on the EU to strengthen its laws against sexism in the media.

More info: <https://wecams.wordpress.com>



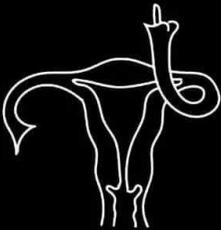
VIOLATIONS OF WOMEN'S SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

- In the 21st century, **not all women in Europe enjoy their full sexual and reproductive rights.** Women's sexual and reproductive health and rights depend on the country they live in and on their migration status.
- The right to terminate a pregnancy is denied or restricted in **4** EU Member States (Malta, Cyprus, Ireland and Poland) and women face obstacles in some other countries.
- **17** European countries still require transgender persons seeking to legally change their gender to be sterilised.
- Roma women, women with disabilities, and transgender persons in Europe, face cases of forced sterilisation, which constitutes a serious violation to bodily integrity, freedom of choice and the entitlement to self-determination of reproductive life.
- In Italy, **70%** of gynaecologists working in public hospitals refuse to carry out abortions on the grounds of conscientious objection, thus the right of women's self-determination regarding pregnancy is hindered.
- Surrogacy is a global trade with children and women that exploit women's bodies and their reproductive organs.



The Roma Rights Centre conveys the words of a survivor: "The moment I knew what happened [sterilisation], I thought it is because I am a Romani woman. We have been told that Romani women should not give birth to children at all, I remember a social worker telling it already to my mother, when I was a little girl. And it was so unfair, because my mother took care of six of us, alone. She has been hard-working all her life".

MY BODY. MY DECISION.



#CzarnyProtest

While the issue of surrogacy is being discussed in several EU countries, feminist organisations are building coalitions at national level to raise awareness of the reality of surrogacy and advocate for the prohibition of all forms. In Sweden, France, Spain, and Italy amongst others, networks are being created and bring the voices of survivors, as well as the values of women's human rights. The Spanish network **Red Estatal contra el alquiler de vientres** gathers more than 60 women's and LGBT organisations, and demonstrated in May 2017 against a surrogacy fair in Madrid.

More info: <http://www.noalquilesvientres.com>

In Poland in 2016 and 2017, women's organisations led the "**Black protests**", mobilising thousands of people all over the country wearing black clothes to show their anger against a bill which would introduce a near-total ban on abortion. Women's organisations from all over Europe mobilised in solidarity with women in Poland in their struggle to ensure their fundamental human right to take decisions over their own lives. To support their demands, a petition and an open letter was launched at EU level calling the Polish authorities to promote a new bill that would finally ensure that women's rights are respected in Poland.

More info: <https://actwemove.eu/campaigns/abortion>

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AT WORK

- In France, **39%** of nurses are frequently exposed to violent events.
- More than half of all women in the UK, and nearly two-thirds of women aged 18 to 24, experienced sexual harassment at work.
- **80%** of women working in large companies in France state being regularly confronted with sexist attitudes or decisions, having an impact on their self-confidence, their well-being and performance.
- Almost **1 in 2** respondents in Hungary think that touching a colleague in an appropriate or unwanted way should not be illegal.
- In Europe, **3 in 4** women in top management positions have experienced sexual harassment.



The project '**Safe at Home, Safe at Work**' of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) draws together evidence collected from interviews carried out as part of 11 detailed country case studies of European-level developments on gender-based violence and harassment at work, including domestic violence at work. The report shows how trade unions and/or social partners have approached the issue in negotiations, collective bargaining, union awareness-raising, training and campaigns, and partnerships with women's organisations working to end gender-based violence.

The report points to good practices in the workplace and shows the added value of trade unions actions, innovations and negotiations to support victims and create workplaces free from violence and harassment. It also aims to raise awareness amongst a wider audience about the need for the systematic inclusion of the gender perspective when dealing with violence and harassment at work, and to make recommendations for national and European-level policy developments, as well as for trade union and/or social partner action and future policy developments.

More info: <https://www.etuc.org>

MALE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN COMMITTED IN THE NAME OF TRADITION, SO-CALLED 'HONOUR' OR RELIGION

- **51** million girls between the ages of 15 and 19 are currently married around the world.
- In the UK, **12** women are killed each year as a result of violence committed in the name of tradition or religion.
- In Europe, **500,000** women and girls live with female genital mutilation (FGM) and another **180,000** women and girls are at risk of being subjected to female genital mutilation each year.
- **1,428** forced marriages were reported in the UK in 2016.
- A national survey in Sweden showed that **5%** of girls, or **70,000** girls, do not feel that they have the ability to choose their partner.
- It is estimated that **3,780** women living in Ireland have been subjected to FGM.
- **1 in 2** Romani women with low education is married by the age of 16.

The Belgian network '**Marriage and Migration**' is a coalition of around 15 NGOs working together to fight all forms of marriage (forced, precocious, arranged, traditional, therapeutic) which can deprive women and men from an essential freedom: to choose their partner. They have launched an information and prevention website about all forms of marriage finalised under constraint, and hold a helpline. The network's existence and visibility supports the implementation of the Belgian law which prohibits forced marriage, and gives a safe space for many women and girls to be heard and seek help.

More info: <http://www.mariagemigration.org/index.php/fr/>

**MON MARIAGE
M'APPARTIENT**



INSTITUTIONAL MALE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN CONFLICT

- In conflict situations, men use violence against women as a strategy or a weapon of war; this results in the objectification of women as symbols of 'conquered territory'.
- In conflict as well as post-conflict settings, girls and women in refugee camps are particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation and sexual violence.
- Many female refugees report that in almost all of the countries they passed through, they experienced physical abuse and financial exploitation, being grouped or pressured to have sex by smugglers, security staff or other refugees.
- **75%** of refugee children have experienced violence and assault by an adult along their migration route.

"A woman was physically assaulted by her father in her country of origin because she married a man from a different religion. Her father was a police officer and she could not protect herself in her own country. Therefore, she decided to leave the country. She arrived in Macedonia and asked for asylum. Her claim was refused by the authorities. Currently her case is in front of the constitutional court. During the decision making process the woman is being accommodated in the Vizbegovo asylum centre in Skopje: a collective facility where women are often exposed to gender-based violence. The facility is not lightened enough, not secure for women. There is limited access to hygiene facilities and to medical help. Other women have complained that they were sexually harassed by police personnel and social workers in the centre. However, these claims never went into procedure due to the fact that women were scared to report in order not to lose the asylum right." EWL #womensvoices report



From 1991 to 2001, a series of conflicts took place on the territory of the Former Yugoslavia. During that time, ethnic, sexual and economic violence against women was rampant and rape was used as a tool for "ethnic cleansing". Neither international nor domestic trials adequately addressed these multiple forms of violence against women, and neither was focused on the interests of the victims. Women's organisations from the region set up a Women's Court in order to develop a feminist approach to justice.

A ground-breaking event, the Court took place in May 2015 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, where women testified publicly about their experiences of ethnic and sexual violence, and about militarism and economic harms throughout the wars that engulfed the region during the 1990s. So far, there have been 7 regional meetings of the witnesses and 17 public presentations of the Women's Court. Other activities include a therapeutic team for supporting the women, solidarity network of the witnesses, alternative history, a documentary and a recently published book. Future aim is to organise local "mini" women's courts to deal with the following issues: ethnic based violence/discrimination, unprocessed war crimes, violation of women workers' rights, militarisation of the state and so on.

More info: <http://www.zenskisud.org/en>

WOMEN IN INSTITUTIONAL CARE, IN PRISONS, IN RETENTION CENTRES, IN RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

EWL members in the Czech Republic report on the situation of the women who face obstetric violence: "During the provision of childbirth care in the Czech Republic, many women face obstetric violence. Probably up to 25 000 women per year experience a perineum cut with no medical justification. Women are often treated with drugs and subject to other interventions without informed and free consent. Separation of babies from their mothers is still the norm in many maternity hospitals. Data on the quality of care provided is not publically available. Competencies are denied to community midwives. There are no midwifery unit led centres in Czech Republic."

- In Europe, women constitute on average **5%** of the total penitentiary population; however, nearly 90% have suffered male violence throughout their lives.
- In the UK, more than **80%** of female prisoners have been locked up for non-violent offences such as shoplifting.
- **53%** of women in UK prisons have experienced childhood abuse.
- **28%** of older women in Europe have experienced violence or abuse in the last 12 months.
- Women with disabilities living in institutions are abused at twice the rate as those living in the community.



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN SURVIVORS AND WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Women human rights defenders are more at risk of being subjected to certain forms of violence and other violations, prejudice, exclusion, and repudiation than their male counterparts.

14%

of women human right's defenders have been subjected to attempted murder but survived.

21%

have been subjected to sexual harassment.

29%

have received death threats in public places.

65%

suffer psychological problems such as insomnia and depression.

19%

have been abused.

10%

have been subjected to sexual violence.

9%

state that they suffer serious psychological problems including suicidal thoughts.



From EWL members in Hungary: "In 2013, the Hungarian government and several other State and media stakeholders started a campaign to attack a group of NGOs dealing with democracy and human rights issues, including women's rights. These NGOs were deceptively accused of being "Soros-hirelings", "leftist fake NGOs", "paid political actors", or "serving foreign interest". In 2014, the Hungarian Women's Lobby (HWL) and 3 of its member organisations were included on a list of 13 NGOs considered problematic to the government. The prime minister ordered an ad hoc Government Control Office audit targeting 55 organisations. In 2015, the HWL faced a tax audit. The attacks on NGOs intensified in 2016, when the government issued controversial and offensive statements accusing those NGOs to support illegal smuggling of migrants. In 2017, a draft bill "on the transparency of organisations receiving foreign funds" has been submitted to the Parliament. The bill requires NGOs receiving foreign funding to register themselves as such at court, and to label themselves as such in their publications and communication. When adopted, women's human rights NGOs will highly likely be affected by this legislation."

Kvinna till Kvinna's campaign Femdefenders highlights the work and stories of the women who continue to challenge patriarchal structures and fight for women's and girl's rights around the world despite the increasing hostility and violence against women human rights defenders. On the Human Rights Defenders Day 2015, Kvinna till Kvinna launched a report where 128 young women human rights defenders answered a survey with questions on their experiences of threats and violence, nationalism, their ability to influence society and the strategies they use to make their voices heard. **More info:** www.kvinnatillkvinna.se

