



Analysis of cases of femicides – killings of women – in the Republic of Macedonia

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“Rather than a new form of violence, gender-related killings are the extreme manifestation of existing forms of violence against women. Such killings are not isolated incidents that arise suddenly and unexpectedly, but represent the ultimate act of violence which is experienced in a years-long continuum of violence. “

Rashida Manjoo, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences

Introduction

The term “femicide” generally denotes an intentional killing of a woman because she is a woman, however broader definitions include any killing of women and girls. Femicide differs from other killings in a specific way, i.e. most of the cases of femicide were perpetrated by partners or former partners and include ongoing abuse in the home, threats or intimidation, sexual violence and situations where women have less power or less resources than their partner¹.

Femicide is globally identified as the leading cause of early death in women. It is the most extreme manifestation of male violence against women, and, still, there are limited data on femicides. According to the 2013 Global Study on Homicide of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, “one out of two killed women was killed by her intimate partner or a family member”.

In December 2013, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on femicides², demanding that the member-states take a number of measures to deal with the gender-based killings of women and girls, including the need to improve data collection and analysis. The recent report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women (SRVAW) to the UN General Assembly stresses that the UN and its member-states several times adopted conclusions that comparability and availability of data is of key importance to define and understand femicide and its manifestations, causes and consequences. UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, in her report, indicates the Femicide Census in Great Britain as a good example of best practice in this direction, and recommends the states “*to collect and publish data on femicides and on other forms of violence against women and to establish “Femicide Watch” or observatories on violence against women with such functions*”.³

¹ http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/77421/1/WHO_RHR_12.38_eng.pdf

² https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/Crime_Resolutions/2010-2019/2013/General_Assembly/A-RES-68-191.pdf

³ United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), ‘Report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences’, 2016
http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?m=106

In the Republic of Macedonia, femicide is not recognized as a separate criminal offense in the Criminal Code and is registered as any other homicide. Domestic violence or violence by an intimate partner that preceded the killing is taken as an aggravating circumstance in the judicial procedures and when meting out the sentence for certain crimes (Murder, Article 123, paragraph 2, point 2; Voluntary manslaughter, Article 125; Bodily injury, Article 130, paragraph 2; Serious bodily injury, Article 131, paragraph 2 and 6; Coercion, Article 139, paragraph 2; Unlawful deprivation of liberty, Article 140, paragraph 2; Endangering the safety, Article 144, paragraph 2; Sexual assault against minor younger than 14 years of age, Article 188, paragraph 2; and Facilitating in provision of prostitution, Article 191, paragraph 4). Furthermore, no statistical data are available in the court system about the number of killings of women. There are no national researches and analyses carried out by governmental and nongovernmental organizations focused on this issue in the country.

The National Network to end Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, in the Monitoring Report on the Law on Prevention, Protection and Combating Domestic Violence⁴ indicates that “in the period between 2001 and August 2016, 32 femicides were registered. 15 of those killings took place in the period between 2013 and 2016”. Data are presented according to unofficial statistics on femicides, maintained by non-governmental organizations, based on media reporting, in the absence of adequate state system of registering femicides.

The need to carry out analyses on femicides in Macedonia is evident. It is the first step in raising the issue of “gender-based killings” by initiating a discussion between the relevant stakeholders and decision-makers, which will open the process of harmonization of the national legislation to the recommendations of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) and the UN

⁴ http://www.glasprotivnasilstvo.org.mk/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Monitoring-na-zakon-za-SN_final.pdf

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The main purpose of the analysis is to establish the accurate number of femicides in the Republic of Macedonia in the period between 2008 and 2016, as well as to present the institutional response when a case of violence against woman is reported, as well as the measures taken to protect the victim. The analysis has the purpose of offering specific recommendations to improve and advance the system of protection of women-victims of domestic violence, to decrease the incidence of gender-based violence, to identify cases with high risk of femicide, especially in the first months after the victim has left the perpetrator, and to prevent new femicides.

The results of this analysis will contribute towards strengthening the capacities of the country to comprehend the issue of femicides and to start addressing it more systematically, in line with the standards laid down in the Istanbul Convention and CEDAW recommendations (the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women).

Moreover, the findings from the analysis:

- Will initiate a discussion among the relevant stakeholders on the importance of the Istanbul Convention, recommendations No. 19⁵ and No. 35⁶ from the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)⁷, and their influence on the entire society,
- Will be support to the country in the CEDAW reporting cycle,
- Will advance and strengthen the lobbying efforts to include these types of violence against women within the national criminal system,
- Will provide an opportunity for further discussion on the need of prevention measures,

⁵ <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/recommendations/recomm.htm>

⁶ http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/1_Global/CEDAW_C_GC_35_8267_E.pdf

⁷ <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/econvention.htm>

- At the same time, the analysis will serve as a baseline for future analysis of femicides.

This study is based on the need to understand the seriousness of femicides, as well as the need to prevent and to protect the victims of this type of violence.

The study is structured in three chapters. The first chapter focuses on defining femicides, types of femicides, and national and international legislation. The second chapter contains the results of the research that was carried out and their analysis. Finally, the third chapter presents the conclusions, as well as the recommendations to improve the system of protection from gender-based violence, aiming towards preventing femicides in the Republic of Macedonia.

Chapter I

Defining femicides

Femicides are the most serious form of violence against women and girls and appear in many forms. The reasons are found in the historically unequal distribution of power between men and women, as well as in systemic gender-based discrimination. The inexistence of a legislative framework that promotes gender equality and/or the failure to implement it contributes to unequal access of women and men to education, healthcare, social protection, paid work, acquiring property, finance and many other areas. Unequal opportunities for women and men lead to increased risk for women to become victims of violence.

Whereas in men there is a risk they might experience physical violence or be killed by another man, violence between women does not happen frequently. Also, while men usually experience violence in public spaces, violence against women commonly happens in privacy, i.e. its perpetrators are partners, former partners, husbands or other male members of the immediate and the extended family.

The 2011 UNODC Global Study (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime - UNODC) indicates that the usual manifestation of violence against women globally is intimate partner and domestic violence, which in the most extreme cases ends in killing. The study indicates that “in many cases, the intimate partnership killings are usually femicides, and killings of women are usually a result of this form of violence, as opposed to killings in organized crime which usually affect men. For instance, in 2008, more than one third (35%) of killings of women in the European countries were perpetrated by partners or former partners, and 17% by relatives. Women are victims in 77% of cases of intimate partner and domestic violence in the region. Therefore, the home is a place where a woman faces a greater chance to be killed, as opposed to men, for whom such place is the street... “

The term femicide denotes an intentional killing of a woman because she is a woman. One of the first persons to use the word femicide⁸ is the feminist author Diana E. H. Russell who defines femicide as “killing of a woman by a male individual because she is a woman”.⁹

Other terms used are feminicide, killing in the name of “honour” and crimes of passion. An alternative term is also gendercide, which is, actually, a much more inclusive term. Some feminists believe that the motivation leading to femicide differs greatly from the motivation for homicide. Actually, the focus is not placed on the violence taking place on the street, but on violence taking place in the home or at the hands of the next of kin of the victim.

For a killing to be categorized as femicide there must be a clear motivation, as well as a connection of the crime to the sex of the woman victim (ACUNS, 2013). Thus far, the statistics on cases of femicides on the global scale are rather incomplete, therefore the number of killings of women recognized as femicides constantly varies. Despite the incompleteness of data, the existing statistics of women killed are shocking. In Australia, Canada, Northern Africa, America, between 40% and 70% of the women victims were killed by their intimate partner.

Femicides take place in all countries in the world. Biggest concern stems from the fact that they continue to be invisible, accepted, tolerated or justified as part of the tradition, so the principle of impunity is perpetuated. Therefore, to prevent femicides, the practice of impunity must change, perpetrators must be brought to justice, and work must be done towards changing the individual attitudes of everyone with regards to women and their role in the society.

⁸ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Femicide>

⁹ http://www.dianarusell.com/origin_of_femicide.html

Types of femicides (ACUNS, 2013)

1. Femicide as a consequence of domestic violence and intimate partner violence

Femicides occurring as a consequence of domestic violence are usually also called “intimate partner killings”. It is defined as a woman killed by an intimate partner or a person with whom the victim has close relations, because she is a woman. It includes killing of a woman by a former or present partner or husband, but does not exclude killing of a woman by another male member of the family, such as son or father.

If the domestic violence remains unreported, or the relevant institutions do not offer adequate protection for the victim, there is a greater probability that the violence will escalate in femicide.

2. Murders of women and girls in the name of “honour”

Murders in the name of “honour” are the most extreme form of crimes in the name of “honour” which have the purpose of controlling the behaviour of women. Victims are almost always female, in late teenage years and early adolescence. The family council¹⁰ usually decides if the woman/girl needs to be killed, and if yes – how to be killed. Killings are perpetrated by members of the family, or by hired killer. Killings in the name of “honour” are usually the last resort following other forms of honour-based violence including forced marriage, threats and harassment.

“The mistake” or “the crime” committed by the victim is most commonly related to the choice of a sexual or marital partner, education and employment, way of dressing, behaviour and contacts with the opposite sex, sexuality or, generally, a failure to respect the established family and community standards of “feminine behaviour”. Women - victims of rape are frequently killed in order to “restore the honour of the family”. Namely, what happened has an impact on the family’s honour and the family can restore its honour in the community with the killing. If the family doesn’t kill her, they

¹⁰ Meeting of members of one family (usually men) to solve problems and to decide on matters of mutual interest.

may be subjected to harassment and exclusion by their community, and pressured to commit the killing.

The killing is usually committed in a public place, in order to influence the behaviour of other women in the community. Such killings are prevalent in the Middle East and South Asia, although they appear in most countries of the world. (ACUNS, 2013)

3. Dowry-related femicides

Murders of women on account of property are a special form of femicides that usually takes place in the home. Namely, at the moment when the parents no longer have funds to give to the daughter, i.e. when she will no longer be a source of income in the husband's family, he might decide that she is no longer an adequate wife. The tradition of making gifts to the groom's family changes in time and transforms into pressure and torture against the bride's family members who need to provide money, jewellery, cars, etc., if they want to prevent their daughter/sister from being killed or forced to commit suicide. Studies show that this type of femicide is present in Africa and Southeast Asia, while as practice is encountered in India and Pakistan.

4. Femicides related to organized crime

In the recent decades, there is a new tendency in the drug cartels. An increase in the amount of drugs being trafficked has gone hand in hand with a rise in the killing of women. Femicides related to drug dealing have a symbolic significance, and are related to the "macho" culture. Namely, by killing the enemy's wife, one is actually hurting him and increasing one's own power by taking over/injuring his "property". Drug dealers could use a killing of a woman to send a message to the authorities, for instance to warn them about the policies related to drug dealing.

This leads to a conclusion that in the drug world, women are treated as objects, means to fulfil an objective, and property of the enemy against whom revenge is sought. The very fact that women are used as drug mules, without taking into consideration their health or the possibility that they might be caught and held legally responsible, shows how expendable women are in such circles. These killings are prevalent in Latin America.

5. Targeted killings of women in times of war

The United Nations define such killings as “the intentional, premeditated and deliberate use of lethal force, by States or their agents acting under colour of law, or by an organized armed group in armed conflict, against a specific individual who is not in the physical custody of the perpetrator”.¹¹ Such practice might also occur in times of peace. What distinguishes such killings from other types of killings is that the deadly force is used on a group targeted in advance. In armed conflicts, the women and girls are usually target and are killed as a part of the military strategy, not just to weaken the family of the victim, but also to influence the community as a whole. Namely, women are raped and killed to show dominance and power and to punish the enemy. This form of violence is used as a weapon of war. Best known examples of this type of killings are the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the genocide in Rwanda.

6. Female infanticide and gender-based sex-selective feticide

Such forms of violence and killings are practiced in countries where the value of the male child is greater than the value of the female. Namely, forced termination of pregnancy is done in cases when the sex of the baby is learned already during pregnancy (selective feticide), and if the female child is born, then she is neglected, left to starve until she dies (female infanticide). Causes are linked to greater costs that the family has towards the female child, as well as to a smaller potential to earn in the future.

Female infanticide is mostly present in India and China, while selective feticide occurs in many other countries (such as Montenegro, Albania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia, etc.). Discrepancy in the ratio between male and female children leads to the existence of such phenomenon.

7. Femicides as a consequence of genital mutilation and killings of women due to accusations of witchcraft/sorcery

Female genital mutilation is a harmful traditional practice during which the female genitalia are partly or entirely removed or injured

¹¹ 1 A/HRC/14/24/Add.6, Report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Philip Alston, Fourteenth Session, 28 May 2010

for non-medical reasons. It is usually performed on girls aged 5, and due to the conditions in which it is done, very often results in infections that lead to death. The unavailability of health facilities in the place of residence has an impact on the increased death rate. It is a practice present in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, although there is already a tendency to have it legally regulated and sanctioned. In Europe, it is present in France, Belgium, Norway, and other countries where there are immigrants from African countries. The European Union has adopted policies and directives for protection of girls and women from genital mutilation¹².

Murders of women accused of witchcraft/sorcery are linked to unfounded accusations of individuals from the community who are in conflict with the woman or her family, or who have unresolved property disputes. Although it is considered that young girls are more exposed to this form of femicide, in some parts of the world older women are exposed to greater risk, usually due to their economic dependence on others, or because they own property that the younger family members should inherit. Generally, if the woman is perceived as a threat to a man, or if there could be some financial gain drawn from her, she is labelled a witch, which makes her destruction justified in the eyes of the community. These killings are most present in India and in African countries.

8. Misogynist killing of women

Misogyny is defined as (pathological) hatred or prejudice towards women and girls. As a phenomenon, it becomes dangerous to the life of women when the attitudes transform into violent behaviour. Brutal killings of women and girls, usually accompanied by rape and sexual torture, have strong elements of misogyny. The fact that such murders take place in developing countries, as well as in already developed countries is a reason for concern.

Serial killings of women also fall under this form of femicides. They represent misogyny in its highest extreme.

¹² <http://www.endfgm.eu/female-genital-mutilation/eu-policy-and-legal-framework/>

Other forms of femicides are: killings of women and girls due to their sexual orientation and gender identity; killing of aboriginal and indigenous women and girls due to gender orientation, etc.

The UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women distinguishes between active or direct, and passive or indirect forms. The direct forms include: killings in intimate partner violence, killings related to sorcery/witchcraft, killings in the name of “honour”, killings in armed conflict, dowry-related killings; killings due to gender identity and sexual orientation; and killings related to affiliation to an ethnic community and indigenous women. The indirect forms include: death due to poorly conducted or illegal abortions; maternal mortality; deaths as a result of harmful practices; deaths linked to human trafficking, drug dealing, organized crime; the death of girls or women due to neglect, through starvation or inadequate treatment; and deliberate acts or omissions by the State.¹³

This study focuses on femicides, i.e. killings of women/girls perpetrated by intimate partners or male members of the family.

National legislation

In the Republic of Macedonia, crimes against life and body are placed in Chapter XIV of the Criminal Code¹⁴. When the crime is committed in circumstances of domestic violence, it is sanctioned particularly in relation to the following crimes: Murder, Article 123, paragraph 2, point 2; Bodily injury – Article 130, paragraph 2 and Serious bodily injury – Article 131, paragraph 2. In line with the Criminal Code, a higher prison sentence of a minimum 10 years to life imprisonment is envisaged if the deprivation of life is done in the course of domestic violence, as opposed to the basic form of crime which envisages a sentence of at least 5 years. Also, the same Article 123, paragraph 2, point 6, envisages the same sanction if a female is

¹³ http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/A.HRC.20.16_En.pdf

¹⁴ Baseline study on the harmonization of the Macedonian legislation with the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention), Stojanka Mirceva, Bogdanco Gogov, p. 68, Skopje, 2014

deprived of her life, with the knowledge that she was pregnant or a minor.

Additionally, Article 125 of the Criminal Code sanctions “the person who commits voluntary manslaughter, led without his fault into a state of strong affect, by an assault or by serious insult, or as a consequence of domestic violence committed by the murdered person”. In line with this Article, the envisaged prison sentence is between one and three years.

Republic of Macedonia, in June 2011, signed the Istanbul Convention, which imposes legally mandatory standards on prevention of violence against women, including domestic violence. The Convention also establishes concrete measures for protection of victims of violence and adequate sanctioning of perpetrators. At the moment this analysis was being prepared, the Istanbul Convention was ratified (22 December 2017). What follows is a period of harmonization of the national legislation to the recommendations of the Convention.

International legislation

Even though the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women¹⁵ does not contain a specific article on elimination of violence against women, it still places the focus of general recommendations No. 19 and No. 35 precisely on this problem. They reflect the position of the Committee that violence against women is a form of gender-based discrimination and it is necessary to address it as such. This Convention is an incentive for further regulation of violence against women in other international documents.

According to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women, including domestic violence (Istanbul Convention), “violence against women is understood as violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women and shall mean all acts of gender-based violence that result

¹⁵ <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/cedaw.pdf>

in, 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". Article 35 of the Convention makes recommendations on physical violence and puts an obligation to the "Parties [to] take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the intentional conduct of committing acts of physical violence against another person is criminalised". The Explanatory report¹⁶ further clarifies that any intentional act of physical violence against another person is criminalised, regardless of the context in which it has occurred; and that the notion of "physical violence" is related to a bodily injury, as a result of a direct and unlawful force, also including violence resulting in the death of the victim.

The first United Nations document focusing on gender-based killings, its causes and consequences, is the thematic report¹⁷ of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences, Ms. Rashida Manjoo, presented to the Human Rights Council in May 2012. As a result of the presentation of that report, 64 countries produced a joint statement that all member-states "must practice the principle of due diligence to prevention, investigation, prosecution and sanctioning of perpetrators". In the report, she points out that femicides "are not isolated incidents that arise suddenly and unexpectedly, but represent the ultimate act of violence which is experienced in a years-long continuum of violence. Women subjected to continuous violence and living under conditions of gender-based discrimination and threat are 'always on death row, always in fear of execution'".

The first Symposium on Femicides took place at the UN office in Vienna, in November 2012, in commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. All attendants signed the Vienna Declaration on Femicides¹⁸.

¹⁶ <https://rm.coe.int/16800d383a>

¹⁷ http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/A.HRC.20.16_En.pdf

¹⁸ http://www.genevadeclaration.org/fileadmin/docs/Co-publications/Femicide_A%20Gobal%20Issue%20that%20demands%20Action.pdf

On 17 December 2015, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Resolution A/RES/70/176¹⁹ on taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls, which encourages member-states to promote integrated and comprehensive strategies for prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, including gender-based killings of women and girls. This resolution is preceded by the Resolution 68/191²⁰ dealing with the same set of issues.

In November 2016, organized by the OSCE, the UN, the European Network of Women against Violence (WAVE), ACUNS, UNODC, the second Symposium on Femicides took place. The purpose of the symposium was to present the achievements regarding femicides in the OSCE countries, as well as to identify the priority areas on which the national authorities will work, and aiming at improving, systematizing and analysing the data on femicides in order to improve the mechanisms of prevention and protection.

Violence against women including femicide as the most extreme form of violence against women is also featured in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, more precisely in Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, line 5.2: Elimination of all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private sphere, including trafficking in human beings and sexual and any other type of exploitation, as well as in Goal 16: Promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provision of access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels.

¹⁹ http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/176

²⁰ https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/Crime_Resolutions/2010-2019/2013/General_Assembly/A-RES-68-191.pdf

Risk factors for femicide

The main difference between any homicide and killing by intimate partner is that the second type of killing is usually preceded by a history of continuous violence and abuse by the intimate partner or a close person.

The risk of being killed by intimate partner increases after the woman/girl leaves the marital/extramarital union, especially if the partner exerted high degree of control over the victim or if the victim left them for another partner. The level of risk for femicide increases during the procedure of granting custody for the children in a case of divorce and during visitations of the father to the child/children. Still, the most important factor increasing the risk of femicide is the frequency and seriousness of physical violence perpetrated by the intimate partner. Additional factors at play are use of alcohol, drugs or other psychotropic substances by the male partner, psychological problems, rage, aggression, physical abuse since early age. Taking into consideration the educational background of the victim, the risk of femicide is lower for a victim with a higher educational degree, having in mind that there is a higher probability that she would be informed about the protection and support services to victims of violence.

The risk of femicide significantly increases if the intimate partner possesses or has access to firearms.

Specialized services for support to women victims of violence, i.e. SOS-lines, centres for reporting and sheltering, counselling centres, are of key importance in preventing extreme forms of violence, such as femicide. Namely, professionals who work in such institutions should perform a risk assessment for every reported case, having in mind that the list of risk factors is almost never complete, i.e. it serves just as guidelines on questions that should be examined when

assessing the risk.²¹ The list of risk factors consists of the following guidelines²²:

- History of violence;
- Prior physical violence and threats;
- Separation from the partner after a period of cohabitation;
- Living with a child from a prior marriage/partner;
- Forced sexual intercourse;
- Possession of firearms;
- Possessiveness and jealousy of the partner;
- Violence during pregnancy;
- Stalking;
- Controlling behaviour and isolation;
- Economic dependence;
- Abuse of alcohol, drugs, other substances.

The only remaining connection between the victim and the perpetrator of domestic violence are their children, and while the right of the perpetrator to see the children remains guaranteed, there is a risk of future violence. In that sense, the Istanbul Convention in Article 31 gives recommendations on the safety of the victim when establishing contact with the perpetrator for the purposes of child visitation. The main aim is to ensure the safety of the victim and the children and to prevent a negative outcome.

The Istanbul Convention, in Article 51, makes recommendation on risk assessment and risk management. Namely, the Convention obligates the countries to undertake all legal and other measures necessary to assess the risk of a lethal outcome, the seriousness of the situation and the risk of repeated violence, as well as to provide for adequate support and protection measures. If deemed necessary, such measures should be implemented in coordination by all involved parties.

²¹ http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/Thematic_Paper_Femicide_15Febr2017.pdf

²² This set of risk factors is based on a study carried out by Jacquelyn Campbell et.al (2003), 'Risk Factors for Femicide in Abusive Relationships: Results from a Multisite Case Control Study', *American Journal of Public Health*, vol. 93(7), pp. 1089-1097, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1447915/>

Chapter 2

Methodology

The data collection took place in two stages, in the period September – November 2017. During the first stage, the aim was to obtain the total number of killings of women occurred in the period between 01.01.2008 and 31.12.2016. Requests for public information were sent to Basic Public Prosecutor's Offices and to Basic Courts with extended jurisdiction. The last source to obtain information was the website of the State Statistical Office.

The response received from the Public Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Macedonia was that "the requested information is not information that we have available or that we had created, ... i.e. information that already exist in the requested format, since neither the Public Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Macedonia, nor the Basic Public Prosecutor's Offices in the Republic of Macedonia do not produce this type of statistical analyses."

Regarding the Basic Courts, requests were sent to those with extended jurisdiction, located in Skopje, Tetovo, Gostivar, Kumanovo, Kochani, Strumica, Struga, Bitola, Shtip, Veles, Ohrid and Prilep. Only four responses were received, whereby the courts in Strumica and Kochani reported that they had not processed cases of killings of women. The responses of the Basic Court Skopje 1 and the Basic Court in Shtip provided only summary data about the number of processed cases, but not data about the sex of the perpetrators and the victims.

When examining the available information published on the website of the State Statistical Office, the resulting data indicated that the number of women killed during the analysed period totalled 70.

The table below shows the data received from the State Statistical Office, i.e. the number of women killed per year, as well as the causes of death.

Table 1: Total number of women killed in the period 2012 – 2016 according to the cause of death

Cause of death	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Attempt to inflict bodily injury by hanging, strangulation and suffocation	1	2			1			1	1
Attempt to inflict bodily injury by drowning and submerging			1						
Attempt to inflict bodily injury by a handgun shot			2			1	3		
Attempt to inflict bodily injury by a shot from a gun, short gun and larger firearms		1							
Attempt to inflict bodily injury by a shot from other and unlabelled firearm	1	2	3	1	2	1	5	3	2
Attempt to inflict bodily injury by using physical force							1		
Attempt to inflict serious bodily injury by a sharp object	1	2	1		2	1			1
Attempt to inflict serious bodily injury by a blunt object	1	1	1	2	1			1	1
Other (not mentioned previously)	4	1	5	4	1	3		1	
Total	8	9	13	7	7	6	9	6	5

The second stage consisted of identifying victims in order to have an insight into the court cases. Taking into consideration the previously obtained information that neither the basic courts, nor the public prosecutor's office keep statistics broken down by sex of the perpetrator or the victim, the only possibility to identify the victims was through an overview of the media reports about killings that took place in the period between 01.01.2008 and 31.12.2016. National Network already possessed a list of femicides, and it was to be amended. In this manner, 53 women killed in the period covered by this analysis were identified, out of the total of 70, according to the data from the State Statistical Office.

Comparing the information from several media outlets, more detailed information was received, including information such as first and last name of the victim and the perpetrator or the initial suspect, relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, place and manner of occurrence, and for some of the cases, the motivation for the killing.

From the media reports, information was obtained that in 14 cases the perpetrators committed suicide after the killing. Regarding these cases, request for insight was sent to the competent Basic Public Prosecutor's Offices, while the Inter-municipal centres for social work were also contacted, for any additional information on the history of reporting of domestic violence. Namely, requests were sent to BPO in Tetovo regarding 1 case, BPO Gostivar regarding 1 case, BPO Kumanovo regarding 2 cases (4 victims) and BPO Skopje regarding 6 cases (8 victims), and the inter-municipal centres for social work in the aforementioned cities were also contacted, for verification of prior reports of domestic violence.

Requests for access to information were sent to the competent courts in Veles, Gostivar, Kumanovo, Tetovo, Skopje, Shtip, Kocani, Struga and Ohrid, regarding a total of 30 cases.

The Basic Court in Shtip did not grant access to the three cases it processed. Additionally, two more killings were not reviewed because the cases were before the Supreme Court, additional expertise had been requested in one of the cases, and for two cases, BPO Skopje did not allow access. BPO Kumanovo (in relation to 4

victims) and Basic Court Ohrid (2 victims) did not respond to the request for access to review the documentation.

For three cases, no access was requested due to the fact that there were no indications that they were femicides.

Findings from the analysis

Analyses were carried out for 34 cases of killings of women. While processing the data received, the following were considered: age of the victim/perpetrator; relationship; employed/unemployed status; existence of reports to the local PS and CSW; method of killing; motivation for the killing; location; psychological state of the perpetrator; duration of sentence; duration of the court procedure; and defence of the perpetrator/admission of guilt.

Regarding the age of the perpetrator, the following table presents the findings per age groups.

Table 2: Findings per age groups

Age (years)	Victim	Perpetrator
Younger than 20	1	
21 – 30	4	4
31 – 40	7	6
41 – 50	13	12
51 – 60	4	7
Older than 61	5	1

In terms of status employed/unemployed, in most cases that information is not available regarding the victims, while it is always indicated regarding the perpetrators. In the cases where this information was available, the impression was that there was no significant difference between the number of employed and unemployed. General impression is that most of the perpetrators were employed in low income jobs, or were working in temporary jobs abroad, in the period before the crime. The same impression

applies to the victims, i.e. for the most part, those who were employed had low income jobs.

In most of the processed cases, the victim and the perpetrator were in a close relationship, i.e. they were usually spouses or extramarital partners who have children together, or were in an intimate partner relation, while in fewer cases they were son/mother and father/daughter.

Table 3: Relationship between the victim and the perpetrator

Types of relationships	
Spouses	11
Extramarital partners	3
Intimate partners	5
Former spouses / partners	2
Father / Daughter	1
Son / Mother	2
Brother / Sister	1
Family members of the female partner	3
Acquaintances	2
Unknown	4

Reports on domestic violence were filed with the Inter-municipal centres for social work in four cases, while the Police received reports in six cases. It is important to mention that the reports to the two institutions were one-off, without continuing the procedure, except in one of the cases, where two temporary protection measures were pronounced: prohibition to harass, disturb, telephone, contact or otherwise communicate with a family member, directly or indirectly communicating; and prohibition to threatening to commit domestic violence.

In the other cases, there is no report on domestic violence neither in the police station, nor in the centre for social work. From the insight into court cases in twenty of the cases, the witnesses stated that there were relations of conflict between the partners, as well as violent behaviour. Some of them stated that the victim did not

report the violence due to her inability to leave the home and her economic dependence on the perpetrator.

Table 4: Existence of violence

Psychological violence	5
Threats of killing	4
Psychological violence accompanied with threats of killing	7
Several forms of violence	4

Excluding the cases where firearms were used to perpetrate the crime, in the other cases several methods/weapons were used to achieve the ultimate objective – to deprive the victim of her life.

Table 5: Method of killing

Blunt force trauma	2
Stabbing wound in the neck and face	6
Stabbing wound in the stomach and back	4
Kicks and fist blows	2
Firearms – gun/automatic rifle	15
Strangling	4
Blows with an axe	7

From the table it can be seen that most of the killings were perpetrated by firearms for which, in seven of the cases, the perpetrator did not possess a permit, while in four cases he had a permit to own weapons. For the four cases where the perpetrator committed suicide immediately after the killing, there was no information whether they possessed a permit for the firearm.

The motive for the killing, in most of the cases, was conflicting relations between the partners, regardless of whether their relationship was marital, extramarital or intimate partner. The conflict was usually caused by jealous behaviour and suspicion of the perpetrator that the partner/wife had been unfaithful, even though

there was no proof of such conduct. Termination of the relationship and filing a divorce lawsuit as a motivation were found in seven cases. It is important to mention that among the victims there are also close family members of the victim, especially when the motivation was related to a termination of the relationship or divorce.

Table 6: Motivation for the killing

Conflicting relations between current partners	10
Mental condition / disorder	6
Addiction to alcohol, drugs and other psychotropic substances	4
Divorce / termination of a relationship	7
Financial conflicts	4
Non-harmonized parental attitudes	1
Disapproval of intimate relationship	1

Regarding the crime scene, the killings are usually perpetrated in the family home where the victim and the perpetrator lived together, and if the divorce procedure was initiated, in the home of victim's parents or the new home of the victim. Four of the killings took place in a public space, while three took place at the workplace of the victim.

Table 7: Location of the killing

Family home	14
Public space	4
Victim's home	8
Victim's workplace	3
Home of the parents/other family members of the victim	5

When examining the cases, it was observed that some of the perpetrators have a history of disturbed mental health, although

only in six cases that was taken into account when passing the verdict. Namely, in four of these cases there were serious mental disorders that require long-term treatment, and therefore the sentence was “compulsory psychiatric treatment and placement in an institution.” Only in two of the cases, the mental disorder was taken into consideration as a mitigating circumstance.

In the other cases, a prison sentence between 10 and 40 years was pronounced, and in three cases the sentence was life imprisonment. Although all judgements were appealed by the defendants, only in a small number of cases the prison sentence was reduced. In eight of all the analysed cases of killings of women, the perpetrator committed a suicide immediately after he perpetrated the murder.

The actions of institutions after the killings took place are at a satisfactory level. Namely, due to the seriousness of the crime, all perpetrators spent the period during the judicial procedure in pre-trial detention. Analyses (forensics) were run to gather evidence and to file an indictment. Although most of the killings were perpetrated by the partner, regardless of whether they were in a marital, extramarital or intimate relationship, in all charges for committed criminal act Murder, domestic violence was not considered as an aggravating circumstance.

Table 8: Incriminations cited in the indictment

Article 123 paragraph 1	3
Article 123 paragraph 2 point 1	5
Article 123 paragraph 2 point 2	8
Article 123 paragraph 2 point 3	1
Article 123 paragraph 2 point 4	1
Article 130 paragraph 2	1
Suicide of the perpetrator	8

The duration of the court proceedings pending the first verdict ranged from three to twenty months. Longer court procedures were observed in the cases where the perpetrator had a mental condition

that required an expert opinion regarding its influence at the moment the crime was perpetrated.

Media presentation of cases of femicides in Macedonia

Some researchers believe that the media have the single strongest influence on the opinions and behaviour of individuals, above all other social forces. As a result, the ways in which the media choose to address the social problems can have important consequences, influencing how the audience experiences the dynamics of such problems, as well as their solutions (Richards et al., 2011).

Feminist research points out that the way women are presented in the media indicates the status of women in the society. Such presentations include attitudes and depictions supporting the hierarchical gender roles, positioning women in subordination to men. When violence by an intimate partner is reduced in importance or denied by a victim-blaming language, the media send a clear message to the consumers that violence against women is not a serious crime, that women are responsible (or partially responsible) for their victimization, or both. (Richards et al., 2011)

The issue of representation of women in Macedonian media is no exception from the general rule of “simplification” of the overall societal relations. And not only it is not an exception, but an analysis of this issue can easily and unequivocally establish the crucial role of the media in creating a “desirable” image about all societal, and in particular gender roles. (Korubin, Trickovski, Kostovski, 2014) The media help in shaping the perception of the society about the societal problems, as well as the public opinion about the victims and the perpetrators of violence. On a global scale, there are exhaustive researches dedicated to the portrayal of violence against women in the media, however there are very few researches on the media coverage of femicides.

The Istanbul Convention, in its Article 14 paragraph 2, requires that the parties take all measures to promote non-stereotypical gender roles, mutual respect, non-violent conflict resolution in interpersonal

relations, gender-based violence against women and right to personal integrity – by the media, inter alia.

For the purposes of this study, media articles covering killings of women in the period between 2008 and 2016 were analysed.²³ Regarding the analysed media articles, it can be concluded that factographic language is mainly used, without a more profound analysis of the cases, and without consideration on the need to raise the awareness about the problem of gender-based violence against women and killing of women as one aspect of this type of violence. Generally, brief police statements are used, with basic information about the violence. In the articles, very rarely space is allocated to point to the weaknesses of the system for prevention and dealing with domestic violence.

In most of the articles, gender-sensitive language is not used, and the cases are usually not connected to gender-based violence. Attention-grabbing titles are used, sensationalist, with graphic descriptions and words that point to the way the killing was performed.

“Drama in the Rehabilitation Institute in Kozle”
“A doctor stabbed his [female] director to death”
“A doctor massacred his [female] colleague”²⁴
“The woman’s lover killed the spouses in Preglovo”
“He riddled with bullets his ex-lover and her husband”²⁵
“He beat his mother to death”²⁶
“Selimi strangled with a belt?”²⁷

²³ Articles used are from the archive of www.time.mk (2008 - 2016).

²⁴ <http://www.time.mk/cw/ecb293d3c8/pritvor-i-psihijatrisko-vestacenje-za-doktorot-ubiec.html>

²⁵ <http://www.time.mk/cw/f29035286a/hronika-ljubomoren-gazda-ubi-bracna-dvojka.html>

²⁶ <http://bit.ly/2Btepwl>

²⁷ <http://bit.ly/2zz6vQV>

In addition to this, in many articles there were speculations and unconfirmed information, probably due to the need for rapid media reporting.

“The killer and Verka Krsteska had a love affair!: ...The woman, as the killer admitted, denied that and pushed him away from herself, after which he, outraged, took out the knife and stabbed her 25 times...”²⁸,

“According to initial information, the killing was performed with a modified signal pistol, with a plastic bottle used as a muffler, and it was probably a case of family misunderstandings.”²⁹

In some of the articles, there is an intention to depict the perpetrator of the killing as a “peaceful and withdrawn man” for whom no-one from the community would expect to commit a crime. For instance, “...after revealing the identity of the suspect, some residents of Kichevo received the news with disbelief. – He was a quiet man and all of Kichevo knows him as a withdrawn person that attracted no particular attention. He was poor and worked in a carwash – the residents of Kichevo say... After the arrest, Lazeski confessed to the crime. He could not explain why he reacted in such a cruel way and said that “blackness engulfed him after Verka hit him several times”. According to his statement, in this past year he was meeting her occasionally and they were lovers. The suspect Lazeski is a social welfare recipient, has a wife and one daughter. For some time, he lives in the “lamella” buildings with social housing...”³⁰, “They were considered good neighbours, they were quiet, and you could not hear their voice. We don’t believe that the motive for the killing was a family dispute. Dime himself alone went to look for help in the hospital”, the neighbours say.” It can be observed that there is also an intention to romanticize the violence, which insinuates some kind of justification of the crime committed. The offender is again depicted as some kind of a victim, i.e. “peaceful and withdrawn person” who did the killing because he was forced to, in a way, due to various reasons. For instance, “Unrequited love was the reason

²⁸ <http://bit.ly/2k9s0VD>

²⁹ <https://daily.mk/vesti/po-raspraviija-ja-ubil-soprugata-1>

³⁰ <http://bit.ly/2niiWiD>

for the tragedy in Aerodrom”, “...It is presumed that Petrushevski ... decided to take this step, disappointed because Suzana’s parents did not allow her to marry him, although they were in a relationship for about two years. The boy used the gun he shot the two women with, and shot himself in the temple...”³¹

Following the analysis of more than 100 articles on killings of women just because they were women (femicides), it can be concluded that a continuous education of journalists on the general concepts of gender equality, as well as the use of gender-sensitive language and avoidance of stereotyping gender roles of men and women is needed. Moreover, encouraging investigative journalism for deeper analysis of cases is needed, as a contribution for future prevention and awareness raising in the public.

Great attention needs to be paid to disclosing the structural causes leading to violence and enabling it. Attributing violence as a consequence of a problematic relationship, or calling it a misunderstanding, conflict, quarrel, etc., should be avoided. Furthermore, psychologizing and individualizing the problem, by explaining the violence as a direct consequence of jealousy, abuse of alcohol or narcotics, psychopathological disorder, or some violent nature, should be avoided. Such phrases disguise the true nature of violence and reduce the responsibility of the perpetrator, and what is worse, contribute to the perception of the victim as being partially or completely responsible for finding herself in such situation. (Kenig, 2013)

The media, through self-regulatory mechanisms and through cooperation with civil society organizations, need to warn about, and prevent, the degrading presentation of women in the media, while the journalists need to be adequately trained to identify and recognize such phenomena, and not to convey them, avoiding the amplification of the negative message.³²

³¹ <http://www.time.mk/cw/f0249cdeab/hronika-gi-ubil-vnukata-i-maika-i-a-potoa-i-sebesi.html>

³² MIM (2013), White Paper: Priorities and mechanism to improve cooperation between the civil organizations and media towards efficient protection of human rights

Chapter 3

Conclusions

From the insight into the cases of killings of 34 women, the crime can be classified as a femicide in 28 cases. In four cases where there is a serious mental disorder, the reason for the killing cannot be established with certainty, and in two cases the motivation is unknown.

In more than 60 percent of the analysed cases of killings of women in Macedonia, the crime was committed by current or former marital or extramarital partner with whom they lived in a union. Although in many of the cases violence was not reported to the competent institutions, it still existed and was taking place behind closed doors. Witnesses of earlier violence were most often the children and the immediate family of the victim.

Even in situations where the perpetrator had disturbed mental health and was diagnosed by an expert – psychiatrist, the change in his behaviour was not reported or registered anywhere.

In more than 80 percent of cases, the killing took place in the mutual home, or if divorce proceedings were initiated, in the home of the parents of the victim. This fact brings us to a conclusion that women in Macedonia are most unsafe in their home.

Most commonly used weapon to commit the killing is firearm - handgun. Only a small percentage of the perpetrators possessed a firearm license.

Pronounced and extreme anger is present in most of the cases of femicides. The combined methods/weapons used to take the victim's life point to the perpetrator's determination to finish what he started.

Analysing the motive for killing in the cases covered by the study, we come to a conclusion that disagreements with their demands and attitudes, not meeting their needs, and the perceived fear in the perpetrator that the victim was unfaithful, are key factors in depriving the female partner of her life.

Additionally, the motive for the killing played no significant role in the judicial procedure and in meting out the sentence. The attention is focused on proving guilt if there are no witnesses and the perpetrator does not admit to the crime. In the cases where the perpetrator admitted to the crime, the court concentrates on confirming the statement and meting out the sentence.

Despite the fact that in 24 cases the killing was perpetrated by a marital, extramarital or intimate partner, only in 8 cases the indictment cites the crime of Murder in domestic violence. This finding leads us to the conclusion that there is lack of sensitisation among judges and public prosecutors for femicide as the most severe form of domestic violence.

In a small percentage of analysed cases, the violence was reported to the police and the centre for social work, which points to the distrust of the victims towards the institutions and the existing protection system. Relatives and friends testify to the existence of violence, confirming the victim's fear to report it due to their mistrust of the institutions.

Adequate risk assessment by both the police and the centre for social work is also lacking.

Furthermore, there is a lack of specialized services for victims of violence to help the woman in the initial period after leaving the violent environment and will provide assistance and support in planning the future steps.

Even though, in general, the media coverage of cases of killings of women is sensationalistic and imbued with stereotypes and prejudice, it is still the only source for obtaining information about the killings of women, the context in which they occurred, the victim-perpetrator relationship, as well as the history of violence, if it existed.

General recommendations

1. Improving the existing national legislation, aiming at recognizing gender-based killings of women as a separate crime, and/or as aggravating circumstance, foreseeing higher sentences for the perpetrators;
2. Clear and precise definition of all forms of gender-based killings of women;
3. Adopting and adapting the existing protocols from other countries, on research and documentation of extreme forms of violence against women and girls;
4. Strengthening the capacities of the legal system for protection, investigation, prosecution and sanctioning of perpetrators of gender-based killings of women;
5. Providing human, technical and financial resources for adequate implementation of laws, policies and strategies for prevention of gender-based killings, through the adoption of gender-responsible budgets;
6. Developing a system to collect data, according to the gender, ethnic affiliation, place of residence (urban/rural), motivation behind the killing, circumstances in which the crime happened, relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, connection between the killing and previous exposure to violence, criminal history of the perpetrator;
7. Establishing an Observatory to monitor femicides – Femicide Watch (Femicide Watch);
8. Establishing specialized services for women victims of violence, easily accessible and available to all, regardless of the language spoken by the victim, the place of residence, or any disability;
9. Clearly written guidelines on processing cases of violence against women and domestic violence, as well as regular evaluation of the guidelines, taking into consideration the feedback from women victims;
10. Establishing and training multi-sector special teams that will act in cases of violence against women and domestic violence and continuous upgrading of their expertise;

11. Establishing procedures to identify cases with repeated violence, especially when it comes to serious forms, and practicing individual approach, depending on the specific situation;
12. Developing and continuously improving the system for risk assessment and planning the safety of the victim and her immediate family;
13. Strengthening inter-sectoral cooperation, especially in cases with high risk of violence escalation;
14. Ongoing monitoring of laws, policies, strategies for prevention and response to gender-based killings, as well as evaluation of the effectiveness and the need for improvement;
15. Promoting changes in social norms and attitudes harmful for women, by developing early education programmes and raising awareness in the local community;
16. Encouraging reporting of violence, by developing and promoting strategies for early detection of violent behaviour that could escalate into killing;
17. Preventive activities ranging from preventing recurrence of violence, to preventing violence in general.

Media

18. Practicing high ethical and professional standards of journalism when discussing violence against women;
19. Avoiding presenting violence against women and domestic violence as a private problem;
20. Training and education for journalists to avoid degrading and stereotyping women;
21. Avoiding romanticizing violence and victim-blaming;
22. Stimulating investigative journalism;
23. Raising awareness about the problem of gender-based violence and killings of women in domestic violence in the articles covering such crimes;
24. Attention to the protection of the identity and dignity of women and children victims of these types of violence.

Monitoring killings of women and girls (Femicide Watch)

On 25 November 2015, the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences, Dr. Dubravka Šimonović, called upon the states to focus on prevention of gender-based killing of women by establishing a platform to track femicides - “Femicide Watch”.³³

She stressed, “Shortcomings of national prevention systems, the lack of proper data collection mechanisms, the absence of risk assessment, and the scarcity and poor quality of data on femicide are the main barriers in preventing gender-based killing of women and in developing meaningful prevention strategies. Such gaps result in misidentification, concealment and under-reporting of gender-motivated killings, which perpetuates the impunity for such killings... It is due to such reasons that I call on the states to establish “Femicide Watch” (or “Gender-Related Killing of Women Watch”) and to publish every year on 25 November, the International Day on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the number of femicides or gender-related killing of women, disaggregated by age and sex of the perpetrators, as well as the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim or victims. Information concerning the prosecution and punishment of perpetrators should also be collected and published... Most importantly, each case of gender-related killing should be carefully examined to identify any failure of protection, with a view to improving and further developing preventive measures. In the collection, analysis and publication of such data, States should co-operate with NGOs and independent human rights institutions working in this field, academia, victims’ representatives, as well as relevant international organizations and other stakeholders...”³⁴

In her report to the General Assembly, on 23 September 2016, Ms. Šimonović elaborated in greater detail on the ways to establish the “Femicide Watch” and/or Observatory as an interdisciplinary panel of experts who will collect and analyse data on femicides in order to prevent such cases. She suggested adoption of a flexible

³³ <http://femicide-watch.org/>

³⁴ <http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16796&>

methodology which will be useful for all states in establishing the “Femicide Watch” to track femicides or gender-based killing of women as a special mechanism or mechanisms related to the existing national mechanisms or observatories on violence against women, on the basis of the work and activities undertaken on international, regional, national and local levels... Preventing femicides and other forms of violence against women also fits within the broader context of collecting and analysing data on violence against women foreseen in the Sustainable Development Goals, including, for the first time, the elimination of violence against women as an objective to achieve gender equality and women’s empowerment.³⁵

Prototype of the Platform for femicide monitoring, “Femicide Watch” was presented and started operating in May 2017, at the 26th session of the UN Commission for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (22-26 May 2017), as a joint project of the ACUNS Vienna Femicide Team and UN Studies Association. The aim of the platform is to provide selected, high-quality information and own contextualized content produced on the issue of femicide – gender-related killings of women and girls – for policy and decision-makers at all levels, actors from the criminal justice system, practitioners, civil society activists, academics, and individuals concerned with this phenomenon.³⁶

This platform should provide:

- Direct access to experts and practitioners from around the world and across disciplines
- Key information on femicide (core definitions, facts, figures, statistics)
- Recommendations issued by relevant stakeholders
- Landmark documents issued by key partners/major players
- Interactive knowledge base of good practices in multiple areas.³⁷

³⁵ http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/71/398&Submit=Search&Lang=E
(τ.25-32)

³⁶ <http://femicide-watch.org/content/about-us>

³⁷ <http://www.unstudies.org/node/10>

The editorial team of the platform will review and comment on practices and documents submitted by the experts and stakeholders, with the explicit aim to provide additional context and quality. All contents of the platform are expected to serve as primary models and reference points for action.

In the end, the platform has the purpose to stimulate all interested parties to obtain a more comprehensive overview, to identify gaps and to convey knowledge in various regions, across borders and from various disciplines. They are expected to learn from each other, to undertake joint activities and to improve the (existing) preventive measures.³⁸

The main purpose of the global platform for monitoring of femicides – gender-based killings of women and girls is:

- Awareness raising
- Availability of key information
- Sharing promising practices.

The femicides monitoring platform will amplify, integrate and complement the work of all UN entities and agencies next to that of other relevant organisations that focus on combating and preventing femicide: UN OHCHR, UNODC, UN Women, and the OSCE. The project will develop gradually, however its main objective is to cover this phenomenon on the global level.³⁹

³⁸ Idem.

³⁹ Idem.

“I join millions of women and men in thanking you for exposing femicide, the most widespread and wrongly justified violence on earth. The killing of females because they are females threatens national security by destroying gender balance in some nations, and it has now been proven to be the subject/object, victor/victim paradigm that normalizes violence within and between nations. We can no longer afford gender-neutral language or false divisions into cultural and political that conceal femicide on this fragile Space Ship Earth.”

Gloria Steinem, American feminist, journalist, activist

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National Network to End Violence against Women and Domestic Violence was established in 2010 by twenty civil society organizations working on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. At the moment, the Network has 20 member-organizations.

The mission of the Network is to coordinate the actions of the civil society organizations in order to improve the policies and practices for dealing with the issue of violence against women and domestic violence. The Network strives for recognition of women's human rights and their promotion in the Republic of Macedonia.

Its vision is creation of a society free of violence where women would be able to fully realize their potentials and contribute in a society of equal opportunities.

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