

Gender-Based Violence, Femicide and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

A Global Overview of Data

This research provides a synthesis of the most recent and cross-verified data on femicides and gender-based violence leading to death, as well as on the prevalence and consequences of female genital mutilation (FGM). The information presented reflects global trends up to 2025 and is drawn primarily from reports by the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, **UN Women**, the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, and **UNICEF**.

Introduction

Gender-based violence constitutes one of the most pervasive and systematic violations of human rights worldwide. Femicides, together with harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, affect millions of women and girls, resulting in thousands of deaths and long-term physical and psychological trauma.

Understanding the scale, patterns and trends of these forms of violence is essential for the development of effective prevention strategies and public policies.

1. Femicide

In most cases, femicides—defined as the killing of women because of their gender—are perpetrated by intimate partners or family members. In practice, femicide represents the most extreme manifestation of gender-based violence and reflects structural power relations and inequalities between genders.

1.1 Global Overview

(Latest complete available data: 2024, published 2025)

Indicator	Estimate
Total killings of women (all causes)	~83,000
Killings by partner or family member	~50,000
Percentage of total	~60%
Daily average	~137 women per day

Indicator	Estimate
Global rate	~1.3 per 100,000 women

Conclusion: A woman is killed because of her gender approximately **every ten minutes**, most often by someone within her close social or family environment.

1.2 By Continent – Estimated Deaths from Gender-Based Violence

Region	Estimated Deaths	Rate per 100,000 women
Africa	~22,600	~2.9
Americas	tens of thousands	~1.6
Oceania	thousands	~1.5
Asia	thousands	~0.8
Europe	thousands	~0.5

Africa presents proportionally the **highest risk levels** globally.

1.3 Europe

Within the European Union, there is no fully unified methodology for recording femicides, resulting in the absence of precise comparable statistics. Many killings of women are not officially classified as femicides.

Indicator	Number
Intimate partner femicides (2023)	~4.1 per 1,000,000 women
Estimated femicides in Europe (2024)	2,800–3,000

1.4 Greece

In Greece, femicide is **not recognised as a distinct category of homicide in the Criminal Code**. As a result, available data are mainly compiled through **journalistic databases, women’s rights organisations and research initiatives**.

According to the **Diotima Centre for Gender Rights and Equality**, between **2010 and 2023 a total of 202 women were killed in Greece**.

Recorded cases by year

Year Femicides

2010	10
2011	12
2012	6
2013	13
2014	12
2015	11
2016	13
2017	10
2018	13
2019	17
2020	19
2021	31
2022	24
2023	10
2024	15
2025	19

In **2025, 19 femicides were recorded**, representing an increase compared with 2024 and highlighting the lack of effective policies addressing gender-based violence.

This conclusion is reinforced by the **increase in domestic violence cases**, with **more than 22,000 incidents recorded in 2024**, according to data from the Hellenic Police.

2. Mass Femicides and Gender-Based Killings

2.1 Gender-Based Mass Attacks

The Montreal Massacre (Canada, 1989).

On 6 December 1989, a gunman entered the École Polytechnique in Montreal and murdered **14 women**, targeting them explicitly because they were women and allegedly “taking jobs away from men.” The attack is widely recognised as one of the most prominent cases of misogynistic mass murder.

2.2 Mass Killings of Women in Other Regions

Ciudad Juárez (Mexico) – often referred to as “*the city of murdered women.*”

Since the 1990s, **hundreds to thousands of women have been killed**, many cases involving sexual violence. The phenomenon has been associated with **organised crime, trafficking networks and systemic impunity**.

2.3 Disappearances of Women and Girls

In **Peru**, during the COVID-19 lockdown period, **more than 900 women and girls were reported missing within a few months**. Many of these cases are associated with **domestic violence, trafficking or homicide**.

2.4 Abductions by Extremist Organisations

In **Nigeria**, Islamist groups such as **Boko Haram** have abducted hundreds of women.

Victims are frequently subjected to:

- sexual slavery
 - forced marriages
 - recruitment by extremist groups.
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2.5 Global Data for 2024

According to the most recent international assessment, approximately **83,000 women and girls were intentionally killed worldwide in 2024**, with **60% of these deaths committed by intimate partners or other family members** (UNODC & UN Women).

This corresponds to **one death approximately every ten minutes, or around 137 per day**.

The data indicate that **the home remains the most dangerous environment for women**, with domestic violence being the primary factor behind these deaths.

2.6 Regional Differences

Statistical estimates suggest that the **highest numbers occur in Africa**, followed by the **Americas, Asia and Oceania**, while **Europe shows lower overall rates** but also significant gaps in prevention policies and support services.

2.7 Pakistan – “Honor Killings”

So-called **honor killings**, in which women are murdered by relatives for allegedly “dishonouring” the family, illustrate the diverse forms of gender-related killings.

Women and girls may be killed for reasons such as:

- speaking with a man
- entering relationships considered socially unacceptable
- being perceived as having brought shame to the family.

In **2025 alone**, approximately **110 honor killings** were recorded in the province of **Sindh**.

Across **South Asia**, deaths related to **dowry disputes** remain high, exceeding **2,000 annually**.

2.8 Femicides in India

According to the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**:

- In **2023**, more than **428,000 crimes against women** were recorded, representing an **11% increase** compared with the previous year.
- In **2022**, more than **20,000 women were murdered**, nearly **8,000 of which were linked to dowry-related violence**.
- In **2023**, **6,156 dowry deaths** were officially recorded.

Domestic violence remains the most common category of abuse:

- “**Cruelty by husband or relatives**” accounted for **133,676 cases in 2023**.
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2.9 Honor Killings in India

Officially recorded cases of honor killings remain relatively limited but are widely considered **significantly underreported**.

Recorded cases include:

- **2020:** 25 cases
- **2021:** 33 cases
- **2022:** 18 cases

Some analyses estimate that **hundreds or even thousands of such killings may occur annually**, although many are not officially documented.

A 2025 analysis estimated **approximately 179 honor-related femicides across India**, particularly concentrated in northern regions.

2.10 Acid Attacks

Acid attacks constitute one of the most extreme forms of gender-based violence. Women represent **approximately 80–91% of victims**.

These attacks occur primarily in **South Asia**, especially in **India, Pakistan and Bangladesh**, and are often linked to:

- rejection of marriage proposals
- dowry disputes
- social conflicts
- revenge for perceived “disobedience” or romantic rejection.

The consequences frequently include **severe burns, permanent disfigurement, blindness and, in some cases, death**.

2.11 Deaths by Stoning

Several documented cases involve women being sentenced to death by stoning, typically in relation to accusations of adultery or violations of social norms.

Notable cases have been reported in **Afghanistan, Somalia, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria and Pakistan**, illustrating extreme manifestations of gender-based violence within particular legal or cultural contexts.

2.12 Trends for 2025

Despite increased awareness and advocacy initiatives, **United Nations statistics indicate limited progress in the prevention of femicides**, with numbers remaining consistently high or even increasing in certain regions.

3. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

3.1 Global Data

Female genital mutilation remains a widespread violation of human rights.

Globally:

- **More than 230 million women and girls have undergone FGM.**
- **More than 4 million girls each year remain at risk of undergoing the practice,** usually before the age of 15.

The practice is most prevalent in **Africa, Asia and the Middle East.**

3.2 Health and Long-Term Consequences

A recent **World Health Organization** study indicates that survivors of FGM face significantly higher risks of:

- childbirth complications
- severe scarring
- sexual dysfunction
- psychological trauma
- depression and post-traumatic stress disorder.

An additional concern is the **medicalisation of FGM**, whereby the procedure is performed by health professionals in an attempt to make it appear “safer,” potentially contributing to the persistence of the practice.

3.3 Prospects for 2030

Although some countries have achieved reductions in the prevalence of FGM among younger generations, current progress is **insufficient to achieve full elimination by 2030**, as envisaged in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

4. “Missing Girls” – Demographic Disappearance

Beyond killings and harmful practices, demographic data reveal the phenomenon of “**missing girls**”, referring to gender imbalances caused by **sex-selective abortion and systemic neglect**.

These patterns are particularly visible in **China, India and Pakistan**.

Region Estimated Missing Girls

Global ~142 million

India ~45.8 million

China ~50 million

In India alone, it is estimated that **approximately 239,000 girls die annually due to unequal access to nutrition, healthcare and other basic resources**, reflecting deep-rooted gender discrimination.

5. Child and Adolescent Prostitution

Girls involved in **child prostitution and sexual exploitation** represent one of the most vulnerable groups affected by gender-based violence.

Most victims are **between 10 and 17 years old**, particularly in **South Asia**, as well as in parts of **Africa and Latin America**.

Estimated figures include:

Country	Estimated Number of Girls
India	10,000–15,000
Bangladesh	2,000–3,000
Thailand	20,000–40,000
Cambodia	~5,000
Philippines	10,000–15,000

Deaths and severe injuries are common but rarely documented, resulting from:

- physical violence by clients or traffickers
 - sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV/AIDS)
 - severe infections
 - psychological trauma leading to suicide.
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Key Findings

- Approximately **83,000 women are killed worldwide each year.**
 - Around **50,000 are murdered by intimate partners or family members.**
 - Approximately **142 million girls are demographically “missing” due to gender discrimination.**
 - Hundreds of thousands of girls and adolescents have been forced into prostitution or subjected to sexual violence before the age of 18.
 - **230 million women have undergone female genital mutilation.**
 - **Four million girls remain at risk each year.**
 - There are **no comprehensive official statistics on deaths caused by FGM.**
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Conclusion

The widespread and multidimensional phenomenon of gender-based violence, which leads to the deaths of tens of thousands of women each year, has profound consequences not only for the women who directly experience it but also for women collectively. It operates as a mechanism of intimidation and social control, reinforcing structures of gender inequality.

The available data illustrate the **scale and systemic nature of the phenomenon**. Each year, approximately **83,000 women are killed worldwide**, with half of them murdered by individuals within their immediate environment. At the same time, gender discrimination has contributed to the **demographic disappearance of approximately 142 million girls**.

Sexual violence and exploitation affect **hundreds of millions of girls before the age of 18**, while deaths among girls and adolescents forced into prostitution remain largely undocumented.

At the same time, **230 million women worldwide have undergone female genital mutilation**, while **around four million girls remain at risk each year**, despite the absence of reliable global statistics regarding deaths caused by the practice.