

Contribution of Hungary to the request of the ‘Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences’ for provision of information on prevention activities, including through the collection of data on femicide or gender-related killings of women

- a) The existence of, or progress in, the creation of a national femicide watch and/or observatory on violence against women, or any plans to do so.
- b) Other measures or research and studies undertaken to prevent femicide or gender-related killings of women, or homicide of women, by intimate partners or family members.

Hungary and the United Nations have the very same goal to provide more effective protection for victims of gender-based violence as well as domestic violence.

The direct consequence of the commonly shared goal is that, in Hungary, one of the strictest Penal Codes in the European Union protects all children, women and all victims of domestic violence since 2012.

This year, under the coordination of the Ministry of Justice, the Family Law Working Group was established, which, in cooperation with 60 NGOs, prepared a 170-page expert opinion. In addition, the Civil Law Working Group on Family Law was set up this year in order to channel civil proposals more effectively into the legislative process. The Working Party on Family Law has issued an expert opinion on the basis of which, after the proposal of the Government, the Parliament has amended the relevant legislation. The principal purpose of this amendment is to provide victims of violent crimes against close relatives with more effective protection than is the case under the previous legal framework. In this context, the most important new elements of the amendment are as follow:

(1) excluding the possibility of parole for the most serious perpetrators in the case of fixed-term imprisonment,

(2) introducing an expedited litigation procedure, which the victim may bring before the court of his or her place of residence, under which the victim will be able to assert his or her claims for damages or (in the case of non-pecuniary damage) damages much more easily,

(3) conducting the expedited litigation primarily through an electronic communications network, thereby helping to spare the plaintiff victim from physical contact with the defendant, which avoids or significantly reduces the victim's so-called secondary victimization.

Also, 2020 is the “Year of Victim Support”, during which the Ministry of Justice, among other things, draws the attention of citizens to a large-scale communication and media campaign that they are not alone when they become victims. To this end, on 29 June 2020, the new victim support website under the www address <https://vansegitseg.hu/> was launched (available only in Hungarian).

In addition, preparations for the development of a new Hungarian victim support strategy have begun. The reform, which also pays great emphasis on victims of domestic and gender-based violence, has the following directions:

- 1) setting up a nation-wide network of victim support centers, i.e. establishing victim support centers in all county capitals within five years, where victims may receive tailored services from a wide range of services. To this end, despite the economic downturn caused by COVID-19, the fourth Victim Support Center was opened at Pécs on 29 June 2020 this year, and two more centers will be handed over at Szeged and Kecskemét soon. The goal of the Victim Support Centres is to support the victims – especially the special groups of victims like victims of gender based violence, domestic violence etc. – whose living conditions have changed as a consequence of having been victimised of a crime or an offence against property, and to provide them with customised psychological support and information required to assert their interests. The goal of the Victim Support Centre is to offer support to victims, to listen to them and to offer appropriate, customised help to restore their balance.*
- 2) developing a unified victim management system for more effective coordination of the various organizations involved in victim support,*
- 3) introducing an opt-out system: i.e., the establishment of a public victim support system based on direct access to victims by public victim support services in order to improve the effectiveness of their access to victims,*
- 4) doing more uniform training and methodological support for state and civil victim support staff, with more focus on the prevention of violence between relatives and the reduction of the harm caused by violence between relatives.*

We believe that, in particular, more uniform training and methodological support for those in charge of victim support will bring real added value in significantly reducing the high latency associated with domestic and gender-based violence. Therefore, we, in this respect, count on the active participation and proactivity of NGOs.

- c) Information on the results of analysis of femicide cases, including the review of previous court cases and actions undertaken in this respect.*
- d) Administrative data (by numbers and percentage) on homicide/femicide or gender-related killings of women for the last 3 years (2018-2020), disaggregated as follows:*
 - The total number of homicides of women and men;*
 - The total number of intimate partner homicides/femicides, (i.e. based on the relationship between the victim and perpetrator, the number of women and number of men killed by their partners/ex-partners, husband/ex-husband etc.);*
 - The number of family-related homicide/femicide of men and women (i.e. based on the family relationship between the victim and perpetrator, the number of women and number of men killed by their family members, but not by intimate partners);*

- Other femicides or killings of women by unrelated perpetrator/s but gender-related or with a sexual motive;

Data if available, disaggregated as above, of femicide during the Covid-19 pandemic (indicating the time period e.g. since March 2020 to the end of October 2020) and its comparison with such data before the Covid-19 pandemic.

Year from to	Total number of homicides of women / men (% included)	Total number of homicide/femicide of women / men killed by intimate partners	Total number of homicide/femicide of women / men killed by a family member	Other gender-related killings of women by unrelated perpetrator
2018	64 (39/61)	8	17	28
2019	78 (46/54)	13	25	20
2020	82 (38/62)	8	21	28
2020.03.01.-10.30.	59 (40/60)	6	16	20

The source of the above data is the list of cases as maintained by the Criminal Investigation Division of the Criminal Investigation Department of the National Police Headquarters, not the unified system of criminal statistics of the investigative authorities and of public prosecution.