

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003420/25  
to the Commission  
Șerban Dimitrie Sturdza (ECR)  
(4 September 2025)**

**Subject:** Combating violence against women and punishing femicide as a clear crime at European level

The statistics on the safety of women in the EU are alarming. Around 31% of women, or over 50 million women, have been victims of physical or sexual violence during their lives.

In 2023, the number of women killed by close partners or family members stood at 4.1 per million inhabitants, a figure almost double that for men (2.2 per million). In Romania, 1 in every 4 women have been assaulted by their partner.

1. What coordinated action is the Commission taking, together with the Member States, to combat violence against women and to promote the punishing of femicide as a clear crime, especially in countries where national legislation does not provide specific definitions for this?
2. Are there any plans at EU level to set binding standards for the collection and reporting of statistics on femicide and other forms of violence against women so that their frequency with which they are actually occurring can be monitored and compared at European level?

Submitted: 4.9.2025

**Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission  
(3 December 2025)**

Freedom from gender-based violence' is the first Principle in the Declaration of Principles for a gender equal society, annexed to the Roadmap for Women's Rights <sup>(1)</sup>.

Upholding this principle includes preventing and combating all forms of violence against women, including femicide. Concrete actions will be set out in the Gender Equality Strategy post-2025.

Under the current Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, the Commission, as coordinating body of the EU, is working on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

In addition, following the adoption of the directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence <sup>(2)</sup>, the Commission is supporting Member States to ensure complete and timely transposition by June 2027.

The measures of prevention, support, protection and access to justice apply to any victim of offences of violence against women and domestic violence, including femicide <sup>(3)</sup>.

The directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence requires Member States to collect data on the annual number of reported offences and convictions, number of killed victims, number and capacity of shelters and number of calls to national helplines, disaggregated by sex, victim's and offender's age group, their relationship and type of offence <sup>(4)</sup>.

The Commission has furthermore created an EU Network on the prevention of gender-based and domestic violence to provide Member States and stakeholders with a space to discuss new issues of violence prevention and exchange good practices <sup>(5)</sup>.

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<sup>(1)</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0097>.

<sup>(2)</sup> Directive (EU) 2024/1385 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on combating violence against women and domestic violence, OJ L, 2024/1385, 24.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1385/oj>, Recital 9.

<sup>(3)</sup> See Article 1(2) and Recital 9.

<sup>(4)</sup> Directive (EU) 2024/1385, Article 44.

<sup>(5)</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-based-violence/ending-gender-based-violence\\_en#:~:text=On%2029%20November%202023%20the%20Commission%20established%20an,and%20consist%20of%20Member%20State%20officials%20and%20stakeholders](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-based-violence/ending-gender-based-violence_en#:~:text=On%2029%20November%202023%20the%20Commission%20established%20an,and%20consist%20of%20Member%20State%20officials%20and%20stakeholders).