

Press Release

1 in 3 women in the EU has suffered some form of gender-based violence!

A decade after a survey carried out by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), the European Union has this week published updated findings on gender-based violence against women. This is the largest survey ever carried out at EU level that demonstrates shocking evidence of violence against women.

The findings are based on responses from almost 115,000 women across the EU. When faced with an extremely worrying reality where 1 in 3 women experience violence, and only 1 in 8 reports it, we need serious consideration of the systemic problems that prevent change.

Policy makers and those who are on the front line urgently need to support and protect the rights of all survivors of gender-based violence!

The Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights(MFHR) presents some of the "key findings" of the EU Survey.

The first “key” findings of the survey

The report presents selected findings from the broader research of the EU survey on gender-based violence, based on data from the 27 Member States and the experiences of 114,023 women, aged 18-74, who took part in the survey.

The survey focuses on the prevalence of various forms of violence against women at European level and examines a number of themes in the light of experiences of survivors. It is the largest survey ever conducted on violence against women, both in terms of participation and range of topics and targeting. Data were collected from September 2020 to March 2024.

The first chapter covers the experiences of violence that women have had, regardless of the identity of the perpetrator. The results demonstrate that 1 in 3 women in the EU (30.7%) have experienced some form of physical violence (or threats) and/or sexual violence in her lifetime. Of these, only 1 in 5 contacted a health care service and around 1 in 8 (14%) reported the incident to the police. In Greece, the proportion of women who have experienced these forms of violence is 36.5%!

The second chapter analyses the data on violence in the context of intimate partner relationships. In the research, the concept of intimate partner violence includes that perpetrated by a partner from a marriage, civil partnership, or more

generally the person with whom the woman is or has been in a relationship in the past. Almost 1 in 5 women (17.7%) have experienced physical violence (or threats) and/or sexual violence by a partner in her life. The rates are even higher if psychological violence is added. In Greece it appears that 21.7% of women are survivors of physical violence (or threats) and/or sexual violence in the context of a partner relationship, while when psychological violence is added, the figure rises to 41.8%!

The third chapter deals with violence perpetrated by persons other than the partner, such as violence in the workplace, violence by strangers, but also violence by relatives. In this respect, 1 in 5 women (20.2%) who participated in the survey stated that they had experienced physical violence (or threats) and/or sexual violence (or threats) and/or sexual violence outside of a partner relationship, as early as the age of 15. Almost 1 in 8 (12.9%) of these women are survivors of sexual violence (including rape)! In Greece, the percentage of women who reported having suffered any of the above forms of violence is 24,8%!

The fourth and last chapter of the survey deals with sexual harassment at work. 1 in 3 women (30.8%) have experienced sexual harassment in the workplace at some point in their lives by colleagues, by a superior or another person with whom they come into contact at work (e.g. customers, suppliers, etc.). In fact, the rate of sexual harassment of younger women (18-29 years old) is 41.6%! In Greece, the percentage of women who have been sexually harassed in the workplace, regardless of age, is 42.6% (compared to the EU average of 30.8%).

Finally, the report includes an annex summarising the methodology for collecting survey data. These statistics on the prevalence of gender-based violence and its consequences for women will be analysed in detail in the survey report to be published by Eurostat, FRA and EIGE in 2025.

The MFHR would like to thank all the institutions that with their efforts and work have attempted to shed some light on the dark phenomenon of gender violence. We particularly thank all women who participated in the research who with their voice of truth, remind us that violence is present, knows no age, social or other borders, and that it is necessary to intensify all policies and efforts to prevent violence and protection of women. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the women who participated in the research. Their honest voices remind us that violence is a pervasive issue that affects individuals of all ages and social backgrounds. It is essential to strengthen our policies and efforts aimed at preventing violence and ensuring the protection of women.

Let us listen to these women and act!