**Inputs to the UN SR VAW thematic report on femicide**

On 7th May 2019, the Czech Republic adopted the Action plan for the prevention of domestic and gender-based violence for the years 2019 – 2022. It provides 24 concrete measures that should lead to more effective prevention of all forms of violence against women and more accessible assistance to victims of violence. The measures of the Action Plan are divided into three strategic areas: i) prevention, ii) protection and support of persons at risk (including children) and iii) ensuring access to justice. Ensuring the availability of specialized services for people at risk of violence and their children is one of the main priorities of the Action Plan. Other important measures of the Action Plan include support for therapeutic programs for perpetrators of violence. The Action Plan is also intended to contribute to the training of persons who work in professions that most often come into contact with victims. An important part is also the prevention of these forms of violence, through awareness-raising activities or education in schools.

The monitoring body of the Action plan is the Committee for Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women, which is one of the working bodies of the Government Council for Gender Equality. Committee as observatory body on violence against women may play the femicide watch role in the future.

There is no definition of femicide in the Czech Criminal Code. However, this type of offence falls under other provisions of Czech criminal law. The relevant sections to identify femicide cases are, inter alia, Sections 140 - Murder and 141- Manslaughter.

The official administrative data used in the table below regarding female victims of homicide and intimate partner femicide is collected by the Czech Police. The Office of the Government of the Czech Republic has gathered data on homicides and intimate partner femicides from 2019 until 2020. Due to changes in the statistical system of the Czech Police and inconsistencies in data collected between 2016 and 2018, these data are unfortunately unapplicable. Data on intimate partner femicide refers to cases wherein it was possible to identify an intimate relationship between a female victim and a male perpetrator.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Number of female victims of homicide | Number of female victims of intimate partner femicide |
| 2019 | 56 | 13 |
| 2020 | 55 | 19 |

*Source: Police of the Czech Republic.*

Data on femicide during the Covid-19 pandemic indicating the time period since March 2020 to the end of December 2020 are not available.

Justice authorities, social and health services do not collect data on femicide in the Czech Republic. The Institute for the Criminology and Social Prevention of the Ministry of Justice is annually releasing review study on victimization in Czech Republic. However, none of the reports focused on femicide as a separate issue. The Czech NGO proFem, which provides specialised services and assistance to victims of domestic and sexual violence, published a study “Murders in the context of domestic violence” in 2015.[[1]](#footnote-1) It was the first complex study focusing on relationship between domestic violence and murders motivated by personal relationships between the victim and the perpetrator in the Czech Republic. Its goal was to show that domestic violence is a serious society-wide problem that can even culminate in the crime of murder. In its first part, the study focuses on domestic violence and its forms, victims and perpetrators and offers data from domestic statistics and foreign studies. In second part of the study, the researchers investigated how the courts are able to cope with murder in the context of domestic violence in their verdicts and highlighted discrepancies in court practice. The study proposed a typology of partner aggressors that may help increase the effectiveness of work with partner violence. Furthermore, the study points out that if women are the perpetrators of murder in the context of domestic violence, the cause of the murder is usually long-term abuse by their partner and these women commit this crime when their life is in immediate danger to prevent any further aggression from the partner.

1. The study is available only in Czech with English summary via: <http://old.profem.cz/shared/clanky/334/Vrazdy_v%20kontextu%20DN.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)