

## Organization Domine

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OHCHR

Special Rapporteur on violence against women

**Subject:** - femicide related data and information

Regards,

based on your Call for femicide related data and information, we are sending you information's and data that we know and have:

*1. administrative data on gender related killings of women for 2016-2018*

In 2016. and 2017. Croatia has a trend of **brutalization of violence**, and the transition of violence against women and domestic violence from the field of misdemeanor to the area of criminal law. The increase number of murders of women points to the fact that legal, judicial, media and other educational measures to combat violence against women have not yet yielded the desired results.

*2. the number of women killed by their partners (intimate partner killings) or by family members or other killings by unrelated persons but gender related;*

In Croatia in 2016. and 2017. there are 33 women killed by their family members and intimate partners out of 38 killed women.

*3. number of killings of children, disaggregated by sex, in the contexts of gender related violence against women;*

In Croatia in 2016. and 2017. as criminal offenses of severe murder there were 15 children killed. But unfortunately, we don't have any information about their sexes and we cannot say are those killings connected to gender violence against women. But 70% of people who reports violation of personal rights of their children are mothers, and we can say that it is domestic violence.

*4. information on the existence of or progress in the creation of a national femicide watch and/or observatory on violence against women*

Croatian national legislation has regulations for preventing and processing violence against women and domestic violence. We have Law of social care, Family law, Law for protecting family from domestic violence, the anti - discrimination law, the gender equality law, the Law of life partnership of the same sex, National strategy for children's rights in the republic Croatia from 2014 to 2020, National policy for gender equality 2011. – 2015., Protocol of treatment on violence in the family, Protocol of the treatment of sexual

violence. We also have National strategy for protection against domestic violence from 2017. – 2022.

National Policy for gender equality from 2011. – 2015. aims to eliminate discrimination against women and to establish the real gender equality by equal opportunities policy.

National Policy for gender equality contained seven key areas and one them is the topic for removing all forms of violence against women. In the thematic area „removing violence against women” we implemented removal measures for all other forms of violence against women and improvement of the position of women victims, improvement of the system conducting statistical data, cross - sectoral co - operation and education of competent bodies, and public awareness of the phenomenon and ways of suppressing gender-based violence. The problem is that this policy expired in 2015. and till today a new one isn't adopted!

This year we ratified Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence and the Law on ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on the prevention and combating of violence against women and domestic violence came into force on 1st October 2018.

Ombudsman for gender equality is the only body that really watches on femicide and violence on women. On 22nd September 2017 Ombudsman for gender equality brought the Decision on establishment of observer body and designation of members of body for "Femicide Watch". Establishment of the observatory body aims the monitoring of the occurrence of women's homicide from gender aspect, to collect and analysis data to identify key problems leading to women's murder by their husbands, former and present partners, and generally by men. We don't have detailed reports at this moment, but I am hoping that in 2019. we will have it. The web site for the project „Building more effective protection: transforming the system for combating violence against women” is: <http://vawa.prs.hr/>

We think that things are changing slowly and not good enough despite al laws and international conventions that we adopted.

##### *5. information on related investigations, prosecutions and convictions of all cases of gender related killing*

In 2016. Croatia had the highest number of killings in the last 7 years (15 killed by intimate male partner, out of 19 women killed by the close people).

In 2017. 15 women are killed by their intimate male partner, out of 18 women killed by the close people.

Information's about investigations, prosecutions and convictions for criminal offences, in general, can be found in annual report of State Attorney but there is no gender classification, so we cannot know anything about criminal process for femicide.

Court reports also doesn't have gender classification, so it is very hard, I could say almost impossible, to get information about investigations and judicial proceeding of femicide.

We are conducting research in Domine from 2016. about violence on women and domestic violence in Croatia region called Dalmatia. The aim of the research is to examine the recorded presence of violence against women and domestic violence in Dalmatia and to analyze the data of state institutions, public institutions and non-governmental organizations on the experience of working with women victims of violence and victims of domestic violence. During the analysis, we noticed irregularities and incompleteness between data obtained by police, state attorneys and so many different numbers of reported

violence, number of arrested perpetrators, solved and dismissed cases as well as a number of perpetrators and victims (gender). We noticed that the police and the Ministry of Justice do not have statistics on the number of convicted and finally convicted persons for domestic violence per sex.

From this year 2018., Croatia adopted Regulation on the methods of collecting, processing and delivery of statistical data and reports from the field of the Law on protection from domestic violence, which refers to the police, public prosecution, courts, Centre for social welfare, who are obliged to submit consolidated annual reports from their scope by the end of March of the current year for the previous year, in writing and in electronic form. Accordingly, all competent institutions are obliged to adopt their own protocols to the required form, whose data are important for our future research processes as well.

At this point our research team is out of resources and we want to expand our research in whole Croatia.

Karmela Šegvić, legal adviser