



Ministry of Employment  
Gender Equality Division

## Sweden's response to the letter from the Special Rapporteur on femicide

**1. On additional steps taken to create a national femicide watch and/or femicide observatory and/or observatory on violence against women with a femicide watch role; observatories at Ombudspersons' office or Equality Bodies; academic institutions and/or NGOs, or any plans to create one, as applicable.**

Please see answer to question 2.

**2. On new measures taken including research and studies undertaken to analyse femicide or gender related killings of women and girls, or homicides of women by intimate partners or family members and other femicides. If available, please share a copy of such studies.**

- **Lethal violence in Sweden (2019)**
  - This study describes the characteristics of, and trends in, lethal violence in Sweden during the period 1990-2017. Among other things, it shows that lethal violence against women and men takes place in completely different contexts, on the basis of different motives, and using different methods of violence. The final section of the report describes the work that is already underway in this area, and further steps that can be taken to prevent lethal violence.  
Source: [Lethal violence in Sweden 1990-2017 \(bra.se\)](#)
  
- **Homicide and mental illness (2020)**

- The results show that during the period 2006–2017, four out of ten homicide perpetrators had been in contact with psychiatric services at least once during the year prior to the crime – i.e., had received inpatient or outpatient psychiatric care and/or medication for mental ill health. It is particularly common for the perpetrator to have had prior contact with the psychiatric services in cases where the homicide targets someone in the family. In total, 45 percent of perpetrators in these cases had been in contact with care services and/or received medication during the year prior to the offence.

Among female perpetrators, this was the case mainly in the context of partner homicides, while among male perpetrators there were clearer elements of mental disorders in cases involving homicides against other types of family member. The men in these cases were also more likely to have more serious psychiatric conditions, such as psychoses. In 14 per cent of the family-related cases studied (corresponding to 144 incidents), both the perpetrator and the victim had a history of mental illness in the year prior to the crime. A high proportion of these incidents – over a third – involved partner homicides.

Source: [Homicide and mental illness - Brottsförebyggande rådet \(bra.se\)](https://www.brottsforebyggande.raadet.se/rapporter/homicide-and-mental-illness)

- **The National Board of Health and Welfare (NBHW)** – The National Board of Health and Welfare (NBHW) is commissioned to routinely carry out reviews of fatalities and injuries caused by gross domestic violence and abuse with the aim to provide the Government with a basis for decisions on further measures of preventing such violence and abuse. The legal framework regulating these reviews was revised in 2018. By including certain cases of nonmortal violence and abuse as well as access to data on the perpetrator, the framework now enables the NBHW to analyse and draw conclusions from a much broader material than was previously possible. Initially delayed due to Covid-19, the agency is expected to submit its first report on reviews in accordance with the new regulations no later than the 31th of January 2022.

Sources:

1. [Lag \(2007:606\) om utredningar för att förebygga vissa skador och](#)

[dödsfall Svensk författningssamling 2007:2007:606 t.o.m. SFS 2018:1375 - Riksdagen](#)

2. [Regeringen föreslår effektivare lag för att förhindra skador och dödsfall på grund av våld av närstående - Regeringen.se](#)

### **3. On recent developments related to good practices and challenges in implementing an evidence-based response to the prevention of femicide.**

In June 2021, the Swedish Government presented a package of measures to stop men's violence against women in order to intensify this work. The package includes 40 measures to prevent the use of violence, support and protection to those affected as well as stricter legislation regarding prosecuting those who subject their partner or former partner to violence. It includes measures to help achieve all four of the objectives in the national strategy to prevent and combat men's violence against women. The first objective in the national strategy is increased and effective preventive work to combat violence. The fourth objective in the national strategy is improved knowledge and methodological development. In order to strengthen the preventative efforts to combat violence against women, the Government has announced that a national violence prevention program will take form.

Source: <https://www.government.se/press-releases/2021/06/the-government-presents-package-of-measures-to-stop-mens-violence-against-women/>

### **4. On recent jurisprudence or case law on femicide.**

The penalty for murder is imprisonment for a fixed term of at least ten and at most eighteen years, or for life. The provision was amended through legislation that entered into force on 1 January 2020 with the intention to increase the use of life imprisonment sentences. As grounds for life imprisonment, particular consideration should be given to whether the act was preceded by careful planning, was characterised by particular cunning, aimed to promote or conceal other offences, involved severe suffering for the victim or was otherwise particularly ruthless.

An act can be considered particularly ruthless if it, for example, was committed against a family member, in the victim’s home or in the presence of relatives to the victim, such as the victim’s children.

In July 2021 the Supreme Court of Sweden convicted a perpetrator of murder, committed against his wife, and sentenced him to life imprisonment. According to the Supreme Court the act was particularly ruthless due to the facts that it was directed against the perpetrators wife, prompted by her wish to divorce him and committed in their shared residence with an imminent risk for their children to perceive what happened.

Source: [2021-07-14 B 6852-20 Dom \(domstol.se\)](https://domstol.se/2021-07-14-B-6852-20-Dom)

**5. On data, if available, on:**

**a) Intimate-partner femicides/homicides of women**

**b) Family-related femicides/homicides of women**

**c) Other femicides/gender-related homicides of women**

Table 1. Confirmed cases of lethal violence against women and girls (reported cases of lethal violence where lethal violence is highly likely to be the cause of death). 18 years or older, under the age of 18, total, by former/present intimate partner.

	Women (18 years or older)	Girls (under the age of 18 years)	Total (women and girls)	By former/present intimate partner
2018	29	4	33	22
2019	23	2	25	16
2020	23	2	25	13

The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention is an agency under the auspices of the Ministry of Justice and a knowledge centre for the criminal justice system. The agency's mandate is to contribute to the development of knowledge within the criminal justice system and the criminal policy area, as well as to promote crime prevention work. The agency is responsible for the official criminal statistics and other statistics, which includes producing, following, analysing, and reporting on criminality and the criminal justice

system's responses to crime.

Sources:

1. Confirmed cases of lethal violence (The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention) [Murder and manslaughter - Brottsförebyggande rådet \(bra.se\)](#)
2. <https://bra.se/publikationer/arkiv/publikationer/2021-03-30-konstaterade-fall-av-dodligt-vald.html?lang=sv>
3. <https://bra.se/publikationer/arkiv/publikationer/2020-03-31-konstaterade-fall-av-dodligt-vald.html?lang=sv>
5. <https://bra.se/publikationer/arkiv/publikationer/2019-03-28-konstaterade-fall-av-dodligt-vald.html?lang=sv>