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Items for discussion and decision: crime and criminal justice statistics

Background document

Available in English only

**Statistical framework for measuring the gender-related killings of women
and girls (also referred to as “femicide/feminicide”)**

Prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Entity
for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Abstract

This document proposes a comprehensive statistical framework for measuring gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide). Besides the statistical definition of such killings, the framework identifies a typology of gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide) and the list of variables that can be used to identify and count the various types of such killings. The proposed definition and typology are aligned to the structure and framework of the *International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS)*, which can therefore be applied independently from the specific national legislation on such crimes. The framework also identifies main data that should be collected for providing information on victims, perpetrators and state response to gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide).

I. Introduction

1. On 18 December 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 68/191: Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls, which expressed a deep international concern about the gender-related killing of women and girls, while recognizing efforts made to address that form of violence in different regions, including in countries where the concept of femicide or feminicide has been incorporated into national legislation.
2. The elimination of violence against women is a key commitment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Member States pledged to make the world a place “in which every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment have been removed”¹. The 2030 Agenda noted that “the achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied its full human rights and opportunities”².
3. Gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide) are the most extreme and brutal manifestation of violence against women and they affect all regions and countries worldwide. However, unlike for other forms of violence against women, there is not yet a global or regional standardized statistical approach to define and produce relevant metrics on such killings of women and girls. For this reason, the United Nations Statistical Commission³ asked the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to develop a “statistical framework on gender-sensitive crime statistics, with a focus on the gender-related killing of women and girls (femicide/feminicide)”. The framework was produced by UNODC jointly with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) in full alignment with the *International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS)*.⁴ This joint project was implemented by the Global Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics (CEGS –

¹ United Nations, “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, para. 8 (A/RES/70/1).

² Ibid. para. 20.

³ United Nations, Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on crime and criminal justice statistics (E/CN.3/2019/19).

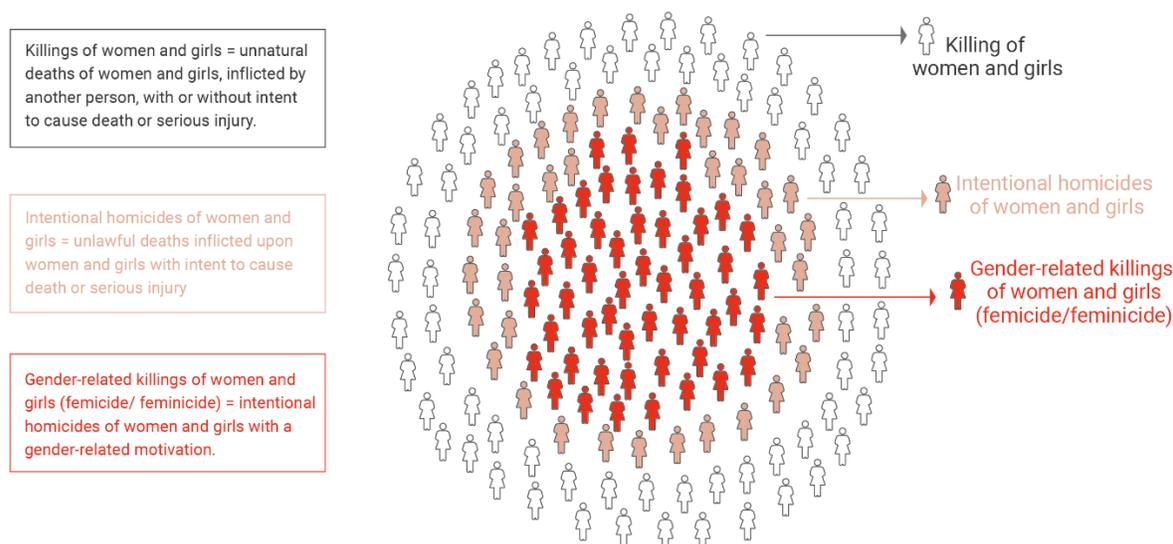
⁴ UNODC, *International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS)* (Vienna, 2015).

UN Women), the UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence in Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice and the UNODC Research and Trend Analysis Branch.

II. Objective

4. The statistical framework is aimed at providing a statistical definition of the gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide) that can clearly identify data and statistics that accurately count such killings. The statistical framework defines a series of characteristics of intentional homicides that can globally operationalize the gender-related motivations of the killings, regardless of the existence of specific national legislations in relation to these criminal offences. Figure 1 places the object of the statistical framework (Gender-related killing of women and girls – femicide/feminicide-) in the broadest context of killings targeting women.⁵

Figure 1: Broad categories of killings of women and girls



5. This framework is aimed at promoting, improving and harmonizing data collection instruments that provide information on gender-related killings, as well as advocating for the collection and recording of characteristics needed for the statistical production and analysis of the phenomenon, both at the national and international levels. This framework will aid national data producers, such as national statistical offices and entities in the criminal justice and public health sector systems, and it offers the opportunity to improve statistical coordination mechanisms between national statistical agencies and all relevant stakeholders, including institutions in the criminal justice and public health systems, mechanisms for the advancement of women and gender equality, civil society organizations and academia.

⁵ The term “Gender-related (intentional) homicides of women and girls” would reflect more accurately the statistical nomenclature used in the ICCS, but the term “Gender-related killings of women and girls” has been maintained due to its widespread utilization.

Gender-related motivation of killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide)

“Gender-related motivation”, the term used to lay the foundation of the statistical definition of gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide), refers to the root causes – such as stereotyped gender roles, discrimination towards women and girls, inequality and unequal power relations between women and men in society – that characterize the specific context in which such killings take place. These factors can trigger violence by perpetrators when a woman’s behaviour is perceived not to be in line with social norms or stereotyped gender roles. In this context, the term “gender-related motivation” does not refer to the subjective intent of the perpetrator to commit the homicide, but to its underlying root causes. The subjective motive of the perpetrator to commit the crime – such as a specific bias against or hatred of women – may be present in some cases alongside the “gender-related motivation”.

III. Background

6. As stated in General recommendation No. 35 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, gender-based violence is one of the fundamental social, political and economic means by which the subordinate position of women with respect to men and their stereotyped roles are perpetuated.⁶ It remains a critical obstacle to achieving substantive equality between women and men, as well as to women’s enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

7. This recommendation urged Member States to regularly collect, analyse and publish statistical data on violence against women, with a special focus on administrative data on the gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide). Yet, as noted by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences, “the different frameworks, definitions and classifications used in the conceptualization of femicide often complicate the collection of data from different sources and could lead to documentation that may not be comparable across communities or regions”.⁷

8. As well as remaining scarce, statistical data on gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide) are not comparable at the international level as many countries rely on local legal definitions or practices that differ greatly from one another. Evidence shows that criminal justice recording and investigating practices vary significantly across countries, leading to possible misinterpretations and underestimations when only data resulting from specific gender-related killings legislation are considered.⁸

⁶ United Nations, General recommendation No. 35 on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19 6 CEDAW/C/GC/35.

⁷ United Nations, “Report of the Special rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo”, para. 105 (A/HRC/20/16).

⁸ UNODC, *Global Study on Homicide 2019*, booklet 5, *Gender-related Killing of Women and Girls* (United Nations publication, 2019).

9. Despite the heterogeneity of national approaches, the need for accurate and timely data collection has garnered ever more relevance, as evidenced in General Assembly resolution 70/176: Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls,⁹ which encouraged Member States to collect, disaggregate, analyse and report data on gender-related killings of women and girls. This resolution led the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences to further underscore the importance of relying on comparable and disaggregated data on the nature and extent of such violence when developing preventive approaches.¹⁰

10. The Special Rapporteur recommended States to systematically collect these data “under two broad categories, which could include subcategories in line with their national realities, namely, intimate partner femicide or family-related femicide, based on a relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, and other femicides”.¹¹

11. Following these recommendations, UNODC and UN Women have undertaken a series of steps to prepare the statistical framework by building upon internationally agreed normative instruments, recognizing the most recent theoretical and conceptual discussions on the subject, and tapping into the expertise of national institutions, the United Nations system and several other international organizations,

12. Two major consultations were held:

- a. An Expert Inter-Agency Meeting in Vienna, Austria, on 20–21 June 2019, with the participation of representatives from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNODC, UN Women, The World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC), the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) and the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI). The meeting built on the solid work undertaken by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences; previous analytical and statistical work conducted at national and international level¹² and the knowledge acquired at regional level by initiatives such as MESECVI and by entities such as EIGE. While recognizing that several manifestations of gender-related killings exist and that the development of a fully comprehensive framework should be seen as a gradual process, the meeting identified the initial building blocks for developing a statistical framework for measuring the gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide).¹³

⁹ United Nations, Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls (A/RES/70/176).

¹⁰ United Nations, “Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences”, para. 5 (A/HRC/32/42).

¹¹ United Nations, “Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences”, para. 83 (b) (A/71/398).

¹² UNODC, *Global Study on Homicide 2019*, booklet 5, *Gender-related Killing of Women and Girls* (United Nations publication, 2019).

¹³ As an outcome of the meeting, UNODC and UN Women produced the inter-agency working document, “Towards a common statistical framework on gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide)”. Available at <https://www.cdeunodc.inegi.org.mx/unodc/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Working-Document.pdf>.

- the gender-related killing of women and girls is a type of killing within the broader category of intentional homicide as defined in the ICCS;
 - the notion of gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide) differs from other types of homicide as it refers to homicides of women and girls that are gender-related;
 - determining what constitutes the “gender-related motivation” of a homicide becomes the paramount aspect in reaching a common approach for statistical purposes, and the most challenging aspect of the measurement of gender-related killings of women and girls.
- b. An online consultation at the global level: as an outcome of the inter-agency meeting, a draft list of characteristics related to homicide victim, perpetrator, modus operandi and situational context was developed in order to operationalize a broad range of gender-related motivations behind the killing of women and girls. This list of variables was the object of a broad consultation among national institutions from all United Nations Member States (such as national statistical offices, law enforcement entities, national prosecutors’ office, judiciary, public health institutions, women’s advancement and gender equality entities), civil society organizations, academia, and other relevant international organizations. The consultation was conducted during the period April–July 2021 and it collected expert feedback on the draft list of characteristics as per the following criteria:
- i. validity in determining the gender-related motivation of crime;
 - ii. relevance for the development of evidence-based prevention policies;
 - iii. feasibility in terms of the technical and operational capacity to produce corresponding data by Member States.

In total, 67 national institutions from 54 countries participated in the consultation and they provided valuable inputs to the building of the statistical framework for measuring gender-related killings of women and girls. Overall, the consultation provided important information in relation to which characteristics should be considered as the most important in terms of their validity in the identification of the gender-related motivation or drivers leading to homicides of women and girls, as well as on the feasibility of producing relevant data by national authorities. An analytical report on the global consultation is provided in the annex to this document.

IV. Key concepts

a. Intentional homicide

13. According to the ICCS, intentional homicide refers to “Unlawful death inflicted upon a person with the intent to cause death or serious injury”. Consequently, an act of killing qualifies as an intentional homicide when it fulfils three basic criteria:
- i. the killing of a person by another person (objective criterion);
 - ii. the intent of the perpetrator to kill or seriously injure the victim (subjective criterion);
 - iii. the unlawfulness of the killing (legal criterion).

14. For statistical purposes, all killings that meet the criteria listed above are to be considered intentional homicides, irrespective of definitions provided by national legislations or practices. Although there are different manifestations, all types of gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide) cover these three minimal criteria and should therefore be considered as a subset of intentional homicides for statistical purposes.

b. Gender-based violence against women and girls (violence against women and girls)

15. According to the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,¹⁴ violence against women and girls refers to “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”.

16. In that context, violence against women and girls is broadly understood to include forms of violence that are rooted in structural and traditionally perpetuated power inequalities between women and men resulting from their socially assigned roles. This is a key element in the identification of the defining characteristics of the crimes addressed in this statistical framework.

17. Gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide) will be outlined within the notion of the gender-based violence against women and girls, which is defined by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women as “violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately”.¹⁵

V. Conceptual framework of gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide)

18. Different approaches to and definitions of gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide) exist at the national and international levels.¹⁶ For example, the 2015 report

¹⁴ United Nations, Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, art. 1 (A/RES/48/104).

¹⁵ United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women General recommendation No. 19, adopted at the Eleventh Session, para. 6 (A/47/38).

¹⁶ For further reference, see United Nations, “Report of the Special rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo”, paras. 14–18 (A/HRC/20/16); UNODC, *Global Study on Homicide 2019: Gender-related killing of women and girls* (Vienna, 2019).

of the United Nations Secretary General on Action against gender-related killing of women and girls referred to this concept as “the intentional murder of women and girls because of their gender”.¹⁷

19. Considering together the definition of intentional homicide provided in the ICCS and the concept of violence against women and girls, it follows that the gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide) should include killings with the following characteristics:

- i. the killing of a woman¹⁸ by another person (objective criterion);
- ii. the intent of the perpetrator to kill or seriously injure the victim (subjective criterion);
- iii. the unlawfulness of the killing (legal criterion);
- iv. the gender-related motivation of the killing.

20. Among the four elements described above, the gender-related motivation is the one that specifically identifies gender-related killings of women and girls. In general terms this relates to killings committed on the grounds of “gender-related factors such as the ideology of men’s entitlement and privilege over women, social norms regarding masculinity, and the need to assert male control or power, enforce gender roles, or prevent, discourage or punish what is considered to be unacceptable female behaviour”.¹⁹

21. Gender-related killings can take place in a wide range of situations within the private and public spheres, and within different contexts of perpetrator–victim relationship. In principle, what defines a gender-related killing is not a specific relationship or type of perpetrator but the fact that one or more of the gender-related motivations identified above have directly or indirectly triggered the homicide of a woman or girl.

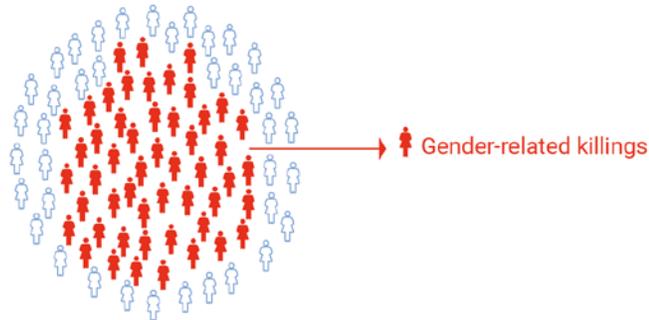
¹⁷ United Nations, Action against gender-related killing of women and girls, Report of the Secretary-General, paragraph. 2 (A/70/93).

¹⁸ This should refer to all victims of intentional homicide who considered themselves as women, irrespective of whether or not they had been able to obtain legal recognition of their gender identity.

¹⁹ United Nations, General recommendation No. 35 on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19, para. 19 (CEDAW/C/GC/35).

Figure 2: Conceptual framework for measuring gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide)

Gender-related killings refer to intentional homicides of women due to gender-related motivations



Gender-related killings are motivated by underlying factors such as the ideology of men's entitlement and privilege over women, social norms regarding masculinity, and the need to assert male control or power, enforce gender roles, or prevent, discourage or punish what is considered to be unacceptable female behaviour.

Gender-related killings can occur within different perpetrator-victim relationships



22. There is ample evidence that the majority of gender-related killings of women and girls are perpetrated by current or former intimate partners or other family members. Homicides of women by intimate partners (current or former intimate partners, husbands, dating partners) are often linked to the need to assert male control or punish what is considered to be unacceptable female behaviour and available evidence indicates that this type of intentional homicide affects women disproportionately. Killings by family members other than intimate partners such as fathers, brothers and uncles are also often embedded in societal and cultural norms, which can include harmful traditional practices such as honour killings and dowry killings. In the context of such harmful practices, both male and female family members can intentionally target the victim.

23. Gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide) may also take place within relationships where there is an unequal power relation between the victim and perpetrator, as in cases where the perpetrator occupies a position of authority or care over the female victim (for example, when the perpetrator is the victim's doctor, nurse, teacher, or when he is a police officer, public official or clergy with a direct relationship with the victim).

24. Finally, killings of women rooted in gender-related motivations are also encountered in the context of other relationships between the perpetrator and the victim, where there was no previous

relationship, or in cases where the perpetrator may remain unknown to responsible national authorities.

VI. Statistical framework for measuring gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide)

a. Translating the conceptual framework into statistics

25. Counting gender-related killings requires a standardized approach in order to extract the subset of killings of women and girls with an underlying gender-related motivation from overall data on female homicides. Operationally, this is quite challenging because statistics on female homicides are not routinely produced according to these characteristics. Therefore, building a statistical framework for measuring gender-related killings in which data can be meaningfully aggregated at the national and global levels, requires the definition of objective characteristics that can be operationalized and recorded for each homicide. To ensure comparability across countries, these characteristics should be clearly indicative of the gender-related motivation of the killing and be defined in a standardized manner.

26. An initial set of eight standard characteristics related to the modus operandi or context of a homicide are considered as indicative of gender-related motivations of killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide):

- i. the homicide victim had a previous record of physical, sexual, or psychological violence/harassment perpetrated by the author of the killing;
- ii. the homicide victim was a victim of forms of illegal exploitation, for example, in relation to trafficking in persons, forced labour or slavery;
- iii. the homicide victim was in a situation where she was abducted or illegally deprived of her liberty;
- iv. the victim was working in the sex industry;
- v. sexual violence against the victim was committed before and/or after the killing;
- vi. the killing was accompanied by mutilation of the body of the victim;
- vii. the body of the victim was disposed of in a public space;
- viii. the killing of the woman or girl constituted a gender-based hate crime, i.e. she was targeted because of a specific bias against women on the part of the perpetrator(s).

Figure 3: Characteristics indicative of gender-related motivations of killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide)



27. These variables could, in principle, be used to identify gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide) among intentional homicides of women and girls, but they are not yet mainstreamed in national statistical systems and data on gender-related killings cannot be readily collated at the national and international levels purely on the basis of these characteristics. Until national statistical systems fully adopt these standard parameters, the first building block in the construction of data on gender-related killings can be approximated on the basis of women and girls killed by intimate partners and family members. Evidence indicates that killings where the perpetrator’s relationship with the victim is that of an intimate partner or other family member are overwhelmingly related to gender roles.²⁰ Data on women and girls killed by partners or other family members is also more readily available because information on the relationship between the homicide perpetrator and victim is already recorded in a significant number of national systems.²¹ While an approximation is made on the grounds of data availability and statistical feasibility, data on women killed by intimate partners and on women killed by other family members can be used as the first building blocks for counting gender-related killings. The other building block for counting gender-related killings lies outside the family sphere where the eight “modi operandi” or contexts remain the only parameters that can operationalize the gender-relevant subset of homicide.

a. Statistical definition of gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide)

28. For the purpose of collecting data and producing statistics, gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide) are defined as intentional homicides of female victims committed by intimate partners, those committed by other family members and those committed by other

²⁰ UNODC, *Global Study on Homicide 2019*, booklet 5, *Gender-related Killing of Women and Girls* (United Nations publication, 2019).

²¹ In the period 2015–2020, data on intentional homicides of women by intimate partners or family members were reported to UNODC at least once by 78 countries.

known or unknown perpetrators with a certain modus operandi or in specific contexts indicative of gender-motivations.

a. Data blocks for counting gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide)

29. The aforementioned conceptual framework is translated into a statistical framework for the purpose of collecting/recording data and producing statistics on gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide). The statistical framework is composed of three main data blocks identified through a series of clearly defined and objective characteristics of a homicide.

i. Women and girls killed by an intimate partner

30. Intentional homicides of women and girls perpetrated by intimate partners. Reference is made to homicides of women committed by a current or former husband, intimate partner, cohabitating partner or dating partner.

ii. Women and girls killed by other family member

31. Intentional homicides of women committed by family members. Such killings cover intentional homicides of women and girls perpetrated by blood relatives (parent, child, sibling, uncles, cousins, etc.), by other relatives by marriage or adoption (adopted children, parent-in-law, sibling-in-law, etc.), irrespective of whether or not they are cohabitating with the victim at the time of the killing, or by other household members.

iii. Women and girls killed by other perpetrators (known or unknown) according to modus operandi or context indicative of gender-related motivations

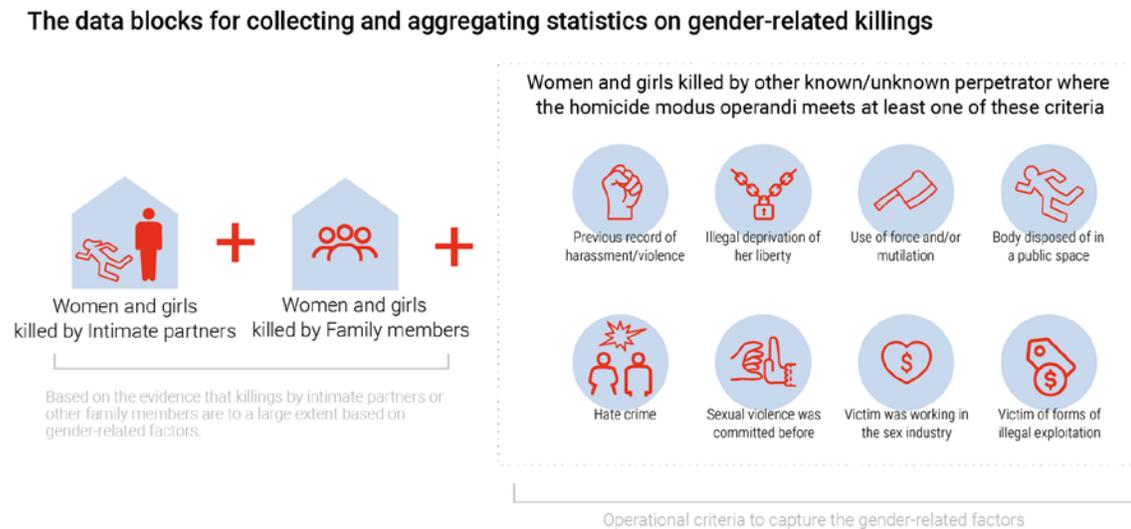
32. This subset of intentional homicides refers to killings by perpetrators outside the family sphere – such as a perpetrator who has a relationship of authority/care with the victim, other perpetrators known to the victim, perpetrators unknown to the victim prior to the killing, or perpetrators that have not been identified by the responsible national authorities – and where the gender-related motivation(s) triggering the killings is/are identified through at least one of the following eight criteria:²²

- i. the homicide victim had a previous record of physical, sexual or psychological violence/harassment perpetrated by the author of the killing;
- ii. the homicide victim was a victim of a form of illegal exploitation, for example, in relation to trafficking in persons, forced labour or slavery;
- iii. the homicide victim was in a situation where she was abducted or illegally deprived of her liberty;
- iv. the victim was working in the sex industry;
- v. sexual violence against the victim was committed before and/or after the killing;

²² The listing of the variables does not imply any ranking or hierarchy.

- vi. the killing was accompanied by mutilation of the body of the victim;
- vii. the body of the victim was disposed of in a public space;
- viii. the killing of the woman or girl constituted a gender-based hate crime, i.e. she was targeted because of a specific bias against women on the part of the perpetrator(s).

Figure 4: Statistical framework for measuring gender-related killing of women and girls (also referred to as “femicide/feminicide”)



33. The variable “previous record of physical, sexual or psychological violence/ harassment” is applicable in instances when the victim previously reported physical, sexual or psychological violence by the alleged perpetrator of the homicide to competent authorities, or when authorities have obtained such evidence through other means, other than directly from the victim, including protection orders and restraining orders solicited by the victim or granted to the victim by relevant authorities.

34. The variable “victim of forms of illegal exploitation” applies in situations when there is evidence that the victim was subjected to trafficking in persons or to other forms of exploitation prior to the killing, such as slavery, forced labour or sexual exploitation. This contextual evidence can be derived from the recording of such conducts as separate offences.

35. The variable “victim was in a situation where she was abducted or illegally deprived of her liberty” is applicable when there is evidence that the victim was unlawfully detained, against her will, or unlawfully taken away, concealed or detained from their legal guardian, prior to the killing. This means that the victim was kidnapped, illegally restrained, hijacked or unlawfully deprived of her liberty through any means.

36. The variable “victim was working in the sex industry” refers to situations when a woman who worked in the sex industry is a victim of an intentional homicide. This variable is applicable in

all situations in which a female homicide victim is known by criminal justice authorities or other authorities to have previously engaged in sex work, irrespective of whether or not sex work is criminalized under that jurisdiction.

37. The variable “sexual violence before and/or after the killing of the victim” applies in situations when a forensic examination of the victim’s body indicates that the victim was subjected to sexual violence before, during or after the killing. In addition to physical evidence of sexual assault on the victim’s body, this may also include the presence of biological material (DNA) foreign to the victim.

38. The variable “killing accompanied by mutilation of the body” is applicable in situations that present body mutilation or, in general, when there are signs of derogative violence on the body that go beyond the amount needed to put an end to the life of the victim. This translates into the use of one or several instruments to inflict physical aggression, for example, blunt-force trauma caused by hands or objects followed by stabbing; the use of blunt force and strangulation; the use of a knife and a gun.²³ One of the following criteria need to be identified after an autopsy, in order to determine whether the killing was accompanied by body mutilation: the body presents limb mutilation/dismemberment; the body presents signs of organ removal; the body presents evidence of degrading treatment; the body presents signs of torture; the body presents other signs of excessive mistreatment.

39. The variable “body was disposed of in a public space” is applicable in instances where the uncovered/exposed/partially clothed or fully clothed body of a female victim was transported from the crime scene and intentionally exposed in an open area, which may include but is not limited to the following: streets, market places, residential areas, public transportation, public institutions such as schools or other institutions, commercial premises, institutional care settings, or other open area.

40. The variable “hate crime” refers to homicides of women committed by perpetrators that are motivated by hatred, which means that the perpetrator intentionally targets a woman because of a bias against this perceived group of people, or misogyny. Such crimes may or may not be committed out of direct animosity towards the victim, but hate crime displays hostility towards the group or community to which the victim belongs.²⁴ The message conveyed by the offender, whether intentionally or not, sends a signal not only to the individual victim, but also to other persons who feel that they are at risk of being labelled and treated like the victim. Signs of a hate crime can be recognizable by the specific modus operandi or context of the homicide. The following situations are illustrative of homicides targeting women that are motivated by hate or bias towards women or specific groups of women: an attack on a woman who was previously engaged in activism in support of women’s rights; an attack on a woman by a perpetrator who

²³ For further information, see Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and UN Women’s Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation and prosecution of gender-related killings of women (femicide/feminicide), chapter 5, p. 73.

²⁴ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, *Hate Crime Laws: A Practical Guide* (2009).

used insults and offensive words towards her for being a woman;²⁵ an attack on a female group/organization; an attack (or series of attacks or killings) that primarily targets women; an attack on a (LGBTI) woman by a perpetrator who used insults and offensive words towards her sexual orientation or gender identity, in written format or in other ways; an attack on a woman by a perpetrator who had used messages of hatred against women, in written format or in other ways; an attack on a woman by someone known to her (such as a colleague or neighbour), in which she is the direct victim of the perpetrator’s animosity, which is underpinned by wider misogyny; an attack on a woman by a perpetrator who belongs to a hate group that specifically targets women.²⁶

c. Core variables/characteristics of homicide statistics for identifying gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide)

41. In order to produce statistics on gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide) it is necessary for national data systems on intentional homicides of female victims to register a series of characteristics connected to the relationship between perpetrator and victim, and in relation to the modus operandi or context of the intentional homicide (see table 1). From the recording and collection of these characteristics, it is possible to identify the three data blocks for counting gender-related killings listed above and produce relevant statistical data.

Table 1: Core variables for identifying gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide)

<i>Data blocks of gender-related killings (femicide/feminicide)</i>	<i>Core variables²⁷</i>
1. Killings of women and girls by intimate partner	I. Relationship between the perpetrator and the victim: intimate partner
2. Killings of women and girls by other family member	II. Relationship between the perpetrator and the victim: other family member (blood relatives or relatives by marriage or adoption)
3. Killings of women and girls by other perpetrator, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perpetrator with a relationship of authority/care with the victim • Friend/acquaintance/work relationship 	III. Modus operandi and context of the intentional homicide: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Previous history of violence 2. Illegal exploitation 3. Abduction or illegal deprivation of liberty 4. Involvement of victim in the sex industry 5. Sexual violence on the body of the victim 6. Excessive mistreatment of the body of the victim

²⁵ McPhail, B.A. and DiNitto, D.M. “Prosecutorial perspectives on gender-bias hate crimes”, *Violence against Women*, vol. 11, No. 9 (2005), pp. 1162–1185.

²⁶ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Gender-based hate crime, factsheet (2021).

²⁷ Tabulations for each variable can be found in the annex to this document.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other perpetrator known to the victim • Perpetrator unknown to the victim • Unknown perpetrator 	<p>7. The body of the victim was disposed of in a public space</p> <p>8. Hate or bias against women</p> <p>NB: all the variables above need to be collected for intentional homicides of female victims and at least one of them has to have occurred for an intentional homicide to be considered a gender-related killing</p>
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d. Disaggregating variables for analytical purposes

42. The following disaggregating variables are not strictly necessary to the identification of gender-related killings (femicide/feminicide), but they are important for conducting comprehensive and detailed analyses of such killings. With additional information of this nature it is possible to produce policy-relevant analyses for identifying drivers and enablers of gender-related killings as well as of factors that could help prevent their occurrence.

d.1 Victim disaggregations

- Age *
- Marital status
- Citizenship *
- Previous record of physical, sexual or psychological violence/harassment
- Intoxication with controlled drugs or other psychoactive substances *
- Economic activity status
- Gender identity
- Sexual orientation
- Pregnancy status
- Disability status
- Ethnicity status

d.2 Perpetrator disaggregations

- Sex *
- Perpetrator–victim relationship
- Age *
- Citizenship *
- Intoxication with controlled drugs or other psychoactive substances *
- Economic activity status *
- Recidivism *
- Being the object of a restraining order by law enforcement/judicial authorities

d.3 Event disaggregations

- Geographical location of the crime *
- Location of the crime *
- Mechanism of killing *
- Date and time *
- Criminal offence according to national legislation (the specific criminal offence according to national legislation, such as intentional homicide, femicide, dowry death, honour killing, etc.)

*: *Standard categories of this variable are listed in the ICCS.*

VII. Implications for national statistical systems

43. The adoption and implementation of the statistical framework for measuring gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide) does not entail any implication about specific criminal legislation on intentional homicides of women or girls. The criteria set out above for defining gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide) are only to be considered as a statistical standard for data collection and harmonization.

44. The variables outlined in the framework are aimed at strengthening current and future data collection by improving recording systems on crime, criminal justice, violence against women, health and other relevant services, particularly those recording data on intentional homicides. Other statistical or research initiatives on gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide), such as those conducted by academia or civil society organizations, may also benefit from adopting the present framework. The proposed framework should be considered as a common and standardized instrument. National authorities can adopt data collection instruments with a broader set of analytical variables if this is considered necessary for national purposes.

45. A number of data sources can produce indicators on gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide) by building on the framework described above. While establishing the number of victims of such homicides can be seen as the first step, other national institutions can collect and produce data that can provide a comprehensive picture not only of the extent of gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide) but also of the overall state response to it.

Table 2: Main types of data topics on gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide), and related data sources

Type of data topics	Source of data
Victims of gender-related killing	Law enforcement, Public health,
Persons arrested/suspected of gender-related killing	Law enforcement, Prosecutor's office
Persons prosecuted for gender-related killing	Prosecutor's office
Persons brought to court for gender-related killing	Judiciary

Persons convicted for gender-related killing	Judiciary
Persons sent to prison for gender-related killing	Judiciary/Prison administration
Persons detained in prison for gender related-killing	Prison administration

46. Table 2 provides an initial list of data topics and relevant national institutions that could be involved in producing a comprehensive statistical picture of gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide) and the state response to them. All data types listed in the table can be disaggregated in relation to the different previously mentioned characteristics of the victim, perpetrator and event, as applicable.

47. These data can be produced by different national institutions, as indicated in the table. To adequately collect all the variables contained in the framework, countries may need to integrate data from various national institutions, highlighting the need for data standardization and sharing. National statistical agencies can play an important role in coordinating and harmonizing the production of such data.

48. Comparative analyses of data types across the various stages of the criminal justice process can also provide important information about the effectiveness of the criminal justice system in relation to gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide). For example, comparing the number of victims of gender-related killings with the number of people arrested, prosecuted and convicted can provide valuable information on the effectiveness of the criminal justice system response to the crime.

49. Besides criminal justice institutions, other entities can produce specific data on gender-related killings of women (femicide/feminicide). Health institutions and social service providers, for instance, can provide data on the victim’s previous history of physical, sexual and psychological violence/ harassment. Civil society organizations and/or research institutions, can also contribute greatly to increasing data availability and quality on this issue by promoting the use of standard statistical definitions and categories.

50. Available data on gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide) should be broadly disseminated. As a minimum, available statistical data should be made publicly available on a yearly basis and countries are also encouraged to produce ad-hoc analytical reports on gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide) at the national and subnational levels.

VIII. Other violent deaths related to gender-related violence

a. Instigated suicide

51. Instigated suicide refers to the unlawful death of a woman inflicted upon herself after incitement by another person. While instigated suicide is outside the definition of gender-related killing – as it does not refer to the intentional killing of a person by another person – it becomes relevant to monitoring lethal gender-based violence against women when there is evidence that

the victim was subject to forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence or harassment prior to the suicide, whether perpetrated within the domestic sphere (by intimate partner or other family members) or outside it, by a known or unknown perpetrator. In certain cases, the victim might have reported previous episodes of violence or harassment to criminal justice authorities prior to the suicide. These unlawful deaths of women may occur in specific sociocultural contexts, for example, in relation to dowry payment.

52. The production of statistics of such cases of instigated suicide would provide a more complete and more accurate picture of gender-based violence against women and girls. Countries are encouraged to provide disaggregated data on the victims and perpetrators of such criminal offences.

IX. Link to the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS)

53. The *International Classification of Crimes for Statistical Purposes (ICCS)*²⁸ is the international standard for the collection of data on crime statistics, both from administrative records and survey-generated data.²⁹ It is therefore a tool for the systematic production of comprehensive and comparable statistical data across different criminal justice institutions and jurisdictions.

54. The statistical framework for measuring gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide) is aligned to the ICCS structure, principles and definitions. It should therefore be considered as a complementary document that broadens the gender perspective of the ICCS.

55. A number of additional disaggregating variables are included in the framework for measuring gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide) and they should be considered an integral part of the ICCS. Such variables are listed in the annex to this document and they will be incorporated in the next edition of the ICCS.

²⁸ Adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) in its forty-sixth session (March 2015) and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) in its twenty-fourth session (May 2015).

²⁹ UNSC, Report on the forty-sixth session (E/2015/24 and E/CN.3/2015/40).

ANNEX 1: Disaggregating variables of the statistical framework for measuring gender-related killings that are additional (or amendments) to those already included in the ICCS

I. Core variables for identifying gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide)

56. The variable related to the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim in the ICCS should be updated with the following categories for intimate partners and family members.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PERPETRATOR AND VICTIM OF INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE			
Intimate partner	Current spouse or intimate partner (cohabitating or non-cohabitating partner or boyfriend/girlfriend)	Current spouse or cohabitating partner	Spouse
			Cohabitating partner
	Former spouse or intimate partner (cohabitating or non-cohabitating partner or boyfriend/girlfriend)	Former spouse or cohabitating partner	Former spouse
			Former cohabitating partner
		Former non-cohabitating partner (boyfriend/ girlfriend/dating partner but not married)	
Family member	Blood relative	Parent	
		Child	
		Sibling	
		Other blood relative	Cohabitating blood relative
	Non-cohabitating blood relative		
Other household member or relative by marriage or adoption (parent-in-law, child-in-law, stepson/stepdaughter, adopted child, other relative by marriage)			

57. Following the structure of the ICCS, all other variables referring to gender-related motivational context should be recorded as follows:³⁰

Criteria	The homicide victim had a previous record of physical, sexual or psychological violence/harassment perpetrated by the author of the killing	The perpetrator was the object of a restraining order by law enforcement/judicial authorities	The victim was working in the sex industry	Sexual violence against the victim was committed before and/or after the killing
Variable	PHV – Previous history of violence	ROP – Restraining order on the perpetrator	OVS – Involvement of victim in the sex industry	SVB – Sexual violence on the body of homicide victim
Categories	1. Violence by the perpetrator was previously reported by the victim to criminal justice authorities 2. Previous records of violence by the perpetrator to the victim were identified through other means 3. No information on previous history of violence by the perpetrator to the victim 3. Not applicable 4. Not known	1. A restraining order was previously enforced by responsible authorities in connection with the perpetrator 2. No restraining order on the perpetrator 3. Not applicable 4. Not known	1. In the sex industry 2. Not in the sex industry 3. Not applicable 4. Not known	1. Sexual violence committed before the killing 2. Sexual violence committed during the killing 3. Sexual violence committed after the killing 4. No sexual violence present on the body 5. Not applicable 6. Not known

³⁰ The listing of the variables does not imply any ranking or hierarchy.

Criteria	The killing was accompanied by mutilation of the body of the victim	The body of the victim was disposed of in a public space	The killing of the woman or girl was motivated by hate or bias against women	
Variable	AMB – Accompanied by mutilation of the body	DPS – Body of the victim disposed of in public space	HBW – Hate or bias against women	
Categories	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The body presents limb mutilation/ dismemberment 2. The body presents organ removal 3. The body presents reproductive organ mutilation 4. The body presents evidence of degrading treatment 5. The body presents signs of torture 6. Other signs of excessive mistreatment or violence 7. Not applicable 8. Not known 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transported from the crime scene and intentionally exposed in an open area 2. Not transported from the crime scene and intentionally exposed in an open area 3. Not applicable 4. Not known 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Killing of women’s rights activist 2. Attack by perpetrator who insulted the woman for being a woman 3. Attack on a female group/organization 4. Attack by perpetrator who used messages of hatred against women 5. Attack on a LGBTI woman by a perpetrator who used insults and/or offensive acts directed at her sexual orientation or gender identity 6. Attack by perpetrator belonging to a hate group targeting women 7. Other 8. Not applicable 9. Not known 	

58. The variables related to sexual violence being committed against the victim before and/or after the killing and the killing being committed through excessive use of force and/or mutilation of the body may be identifiable directly at the crime scene by law enforcement authorities or a forensic medical examiner. These variables should privilege the information obtained from the physical evidence recorded in the forensics records, or from the medical examiner who performs the autopsy on the corpse.

59. The variable related to the homicide victim being a victim of forms of illegal exploitation does not entail a specific set of categories, but rather the capacity of the national administrative records to identify the following criminal offences (as per the ICCS) and link them to the killing of the woman or girl:

- 0203 Slavery and exploitation
- 02031 Slavery
- 02032 Forced labour
- 020321 Forced labour for domestic services
- 020322 Forced labour for industrial services
- 020323 Forced labour for the State or armed forces
- 020329 Other forced labour
- 02039 Other acts of slavery and exploitation
- 0204 Trafficking in persons (TIP)
- 02041 TIP for sexual exploitation
- 02042 TIP for forced labour or services
- 02043 TIP for organ removal
- 02044 TIP for other purposes
- 0302 Sexual exploitation
- 03021 Sexual exploitation of adults
- 03022 Sexual exploitation of children
- 030221 Child pornography
- 030222 Child prostitution
- 030223 Sexual grooming of children
- 030229 Other sexual exploitation of children
- 03029 Other acts of sexual exploitation

60. The variable related to the homicide victim being in a situation where she was abducted or illegally deprived of her liberty does not entail a specific set of categories, but rather the capacity of national administrative records to identify the following criminal offences (as per the ICCS) and link them to the killing of the woman or girl:

- 0202 Acts against liberty
- 02021 Abduction of a minor
- 020211 Parental abduction
- 020212 Abduction by another family member
- 020213 Abduction by a legal guardian
- 020219 Other abduction of a minor
- 02022 Deprivation of liberty
- 020221 Kidnapping
- 020222 Illegal restraint
- 020223 Hijacking
- 020229 Other deprivation of liberty
- 02029 Other acts against liberty
- 020291 Illegal adoption
- 020292 Forced marriage
- 020299 Other acts against liberty

II. Disaggregating variables for analytical purposes

61. The variable related to the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim in the ICCS should be updated with the following categories for all other relationships aside from intimate partners and family members.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PERPETRATOR AND VICTIM OF INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE (continuation)		
Friend/acquaintance	Friend/colleague/peer	
	Acquaintance	
Authority/care relationship	Healthcare provider	Doctor/physician
		Psychologist/psychiatrist
		Nurse
		Other healthcare provider
	Caregivers	Professional caregiver
		Babysitter
		Other caregivers
	Education authority	Teacher
		Other education authority
	Safety and security provider	Police officer
		Firefighter
		Military officer
		Other safety and security provider
	Public official/clergy (non-health, education or security-related)	
Employer/ supervisor		
Other authority/care relationship		
Other perpetrator known to the victim		
Perpetrator unknown to the victim		

62. Following the structure of the ICCS, all other disaggregating variables for analytical purposes should be recorded as follows.

Criteria	Gender identity	Sexual orientation	Pregnancy status
Variable	GIV – Gender identity of the victim	SOV – Sexual orientation of the victim	PSV – Pregnancy status of victim
Categories	1. Male gender 1a. Male cisgender 1b. Male transgender 2. Female gender 2a. Female cisgender 2b. Female transgender 3. Gender diverse 4. Not applicable 5. Not known	1. Heterosexual 2. Homosexual 3. Bisexual 4. Other non-conforming sexual orientation 5. Not applicable 6. Not known	1. Pregnant 2. Not pregnant 3. Not applicable 4. Not known
Criteria	Disability status	Ethnicity status	Marital status
Variable	DV – Type of disability of victim	EV – Ethnicity of victim	MSV – Marital status of victim
Categories	1. Communication 2. Hearing 3. Seeing 4. Self-care	The decision on the disaggregation of data (and its possible categories) based on ethnic characteristics	1. Married 2. De facto married 3. Divorced 4. Widowed

	5. Remembering and concentrating 6. Walking and climbing stairs 7. Multiple disabilities 8. No disability 9. Not applicable 10. Not known	rests with the national authorities and will depend on national circumstances ³¹	5. Not married/not de facto married 6. Not applicable 7. Not known
Criteria	Economic activity status		
Variable	EASV – Economic activity status of victim		
Categories	1. Dependent employment 2. Self-employment (with no dependent employees) 3. Employer (with dependent employees) 4. Unemployed 5. Student/apprentice 6. Housekeeper 7. Retired/disabled 8. Not known		

³¹ OHCHR, *Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation* (2012).

ANNEX 2: Disaggregating variables of the Statistical framework for measuring gender-related killings that are already included in the ICCS

63. The following disaggregating variables for analytical purposes of the Statistical framework for measuring gender-related killings of women and girls are already included and described in the ICCS:

VICTIM DISAGGREGATIONS			
Variable	AV – Age of victim	Cit – Citizenship	Int – Victim was intoxicated with controlled drugs or other psychoactive substances
Categories	1. 0–14 2. 15–29 3. 30–44 4. 45–59 5. 60+ 6. Not known	1. National citizen 2. Foreign citizen 3. Not applicable 4. Not known	1. Alcohol 2. Illicit drugs 3. Both 4. Other 5. Not applicable 6. Not known

PERPETRATOR DISAGGREGATIONS			
Variable	SP – Sex of perpetrator	AP – Age of perpetrator	Cit – Citizenship
Categories	1. Male 2. Female 3. Not applicable 3. Not known	1. 0–14 2. 15–29 3. 30–44 4. 45–59 5. 60+ 6. Not known	1. National citizen 2. Foreign citizen 3. Not applicable 4. Not known
Variable	Int – Perpetrator was intoxicated With drugs or other psychoactive substances	EAST – Economic activity status of perpetrator	Rec – Repeat offender/recidivist
Categories	1. Alcohol 2. Drugs 3. Both 4. Other 5. Not applicable 6. Not known	1. Dependent employment 2. Self-employment (with no dependent employees) 3. Employer (with dependent employees) 4. Unemployed 5. Student/apprentice 6. Housekeeper 7. Retired/disabled 8. Not known	1. Recidivist 2. Non-recidivist 3. Not applicable 4. Not known

EVENT DISAGGREGATIONS			
Variable	Geo – Geographical location of the crime	Lo – Location of the crime	DaT – Date and time
Categories	1. Required geographical division of country (1st, 2nd, etc. levels) 2. Extraterritorial 3. Not applicable 4. Not known	1. Private residential premises 2. Open area, street or public transport 3. Schools or other educational institutions 4. Prisons, penal institutions or correctional institutions 5. Institutional care settings 6. Other commercial or public non-residential premises 7. Other 8. Not known	Date format: dddd/mm/yyyy Time format: 24:00

MECHANISM OF KILLING		
Attack with firearms or explosives	Firearm	Handgun discharge (X93)
		Rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge (X94)
		Other and unspecified firearm discharge (X95)
	Explosives (X96)	
Attack with another weapon	Sharp object (X99)	
	Blunt object (Y00)	
	Other object used as a weapon (including deliberately hitting or running over with a motor vehicle (Y03))	
Attack without a weapon	Hanging, strangulation or suffocation (X91)	
	Drowning or submersion (X92)	
	Pushing from a high place (Y01)	
	Pushing or placing victim before moving object (Y02)	
	Bodily force	Bodily force (hitting or kicking) (Y04) Sexual assault (Y05)
Other	Drugs and chemical substances	Including: Assault with drugs, medicaments and biological substances (X85) Assault with corrosive substance (X86) Assault with pesticides (X87) Assault with gases and vapours (X88) Assault with other specified chemicals and noxious substances (X89) Assault with unspecified chemical or noxious substance (X90)
	Other	Including:

		Fire, flames or smoke (X97) Steam, hot vapours or hot objects (X98) Neglect and abandonment (Y06) Other maltreatment syndromes (Y07) Assault by other specified means (Y08)
Assault by unspecified means (Y09)		