

EU contribution on the intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: gender stereotypes and negative social norms

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Introduction

The European Union expresses its appreciation to the Un Secretary General for the call for contributions to the upcoming report on “Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: gender stereotypes and negative social norms”, pertaining to the General Assembly resolutions [A/RES/75/161](#) and [A/RES/77/193](#). The contribution from the European Union is comprised of both EU internal and EU external actions and policies. We also refer to all actions and contributions by our EU Member States.

Policies/Frameworks

In its internal and external sphere, the EU is committed to ambitious gender equality policies, and promotes gender mainstreaming and targeted action. On 5 March 2020, the European Commission published "A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025". In the external sphere, notably through the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (2020- 2027), the EU Gender Action Plan III (2021- 2027¹), and the EU Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2019-2024), the EU also commits to tackling sexual and gender-based violence, again with intersectionality being at the core of these policy frameworks. The EU has taken ambitious view of mainstreaming gender and addressing sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and been vocal about this position in multilateral fora such as the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

External sphere

Combating gender-based violence is a priority for the EU in most partner countries, where many targeted interventions have been adopted or are under preparation to promote legal and policy reforms, changes in social norms and support for survivors. According to the EU's own tool Country Level Implementation Plans (CLIPs) to engage with partner countries through EU delegations, in over 100 partner countries gender-based violence is identified as a priority. Targeted actions are implemented in Bangladesh, Bolivia, the Central African Republic, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Sierra Leone and Uganda.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_23_5858

In a 2023 report on the state of funding on gender-based violence, UN Women reported that, in 2022, less than 1 per cent of overseas development assistance spending targeted gender-based violenceⁱ. Against this trend, the EU is committed to combating gender-based violence in its external action and has increased its financial commitments towards this goal on an annual basis in recent years, with EUR 282 million being allocated in 2022 compared to EUR 60 million in 2021. In addition, EUR 41.3 million have been spent on gender-based violence in humanitarian responses in 2022 (compared to EUR 33.1 million in 2021)ⁱⁱ.

The EU kept supporting the prevention, mitigation and response to sexual and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, through funding and advocacy activities. In addition to the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, the EU's humanitarian aid budget supported targeted actions to prevent, mitigate and respond to gender-based violence with a budget of EUR 48 million. For example, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the EU funded 15 partners to provide services to survivors of gender-based violence, including women, girls, men and boys – often through health services and directly with and through communities. The EU has also supported a national NGO working in Ituri, North Kivu, to provide holistic response services for women and girls who have experienced sexual violence, either at the hands of armed groups or members of their communities. Survivors can seek confidential medical and psychological support, and get access to legal advice and support should they want to try to bring their perpetrators to justice.

The EU pursued its efforts to ensure that its humanitarian aid and crisis responses were gender-responsive, for instance by dedicating budget to gender-sensitive assistance under the 2023 Humanitarian Implementation Plans (HIP) and promoting equitable partnerships with women-led and women's rights organisations, who are often frontline responders to gender-based violence.

On sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), the EU continues its efforts on a global scale, by supporting and protecting survivors, as well as by holding perpetrators accountable. Importantly, the EU strives to address the root causes of violence while strengthening legal frameworks and institutions as well as education, improve services for survivors and access to justice for victims, support women's rights organisations and civil society organisation. The EU has also used restrictive measures as a tool in its gender equality policy toolbox in order to enhance accountability.

The EU, its delegations across the globe as well as CSDP missions and operations continues to mark prominently the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November, as well as the ensuing 16 Days of Activism campaign. Under the 2023 global theme 'UNITE! Invest to prevent violence against women and girls', the EU organised various public events, including a discussion on gender-based violence. The EU also promoted communication campaigns on its

media platforms to raise awareness of violence against women and of its efforts to prevent violence and protect women in the EU and across the world.

In the case of Ukraine, the EU has supported in various ways the work to ensure full accountability for sexual and gender-based crimes including with a gender-responsive, survivor-centred and trauma-sensitive approach in all efforts to respond to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, and its impact on women and girls.

The EU liaises closely with the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict to implement the Framework on cooperation between the Government of Ukraine and the UN on prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). The EU also provides support to local civil society organisations and first responders and to specialised investigation teams led by the office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine.

The integrated support mechanism for Ukraine to address CRSV amounted to total of 6 million Euros as part of its crisis response support. It is allocating EUR 6 million in funding to support victims of conflict-related sexual violence and to improve access to education with partners Ukrainian Women's Fund, Global Rights Compliance and the office of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence.

On 19 June 2023, the EU Ambassador for Gender and Diversity paid a visit to Ukraine in the context of the International day on the elimination of sexual violence in conflict to discuss policies and approaches to addressing CRSV in context of the Russia's war of aggression, as well as EU support in enabling accountability. In her engagements with senior government interlocutors, and in support of the recovery and relief pillar of the WPS agenda she also engaged on the importance of mainstreaming gender equality considerations across governmental policies, including in Ukraine's reconstruction and recovery process.

Early 2024, a new action in Ukraine deploys women protection advisors in relevant Ukrainian ministries to enhance government capacity on CRSV. In addition, support is ongoing for victims of CRSV through strengthening local Ukrainian women's organizations' capacities in acting as first responders to victims of CRSV in Ukraine as well as the capacities of the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine to apply victim sensitive approaches to investigations of cases of CRSV are strengthened via the deployment of mobile justice teams.

The EU continued to support the Global Survivors Fund with EUR 2 million in funding. The fund is a mechanism to facilitate access globally to reparations and other forms of redress to victims and survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. In the three pilot countries (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea and Iraq), it has so far benefitted 2 612 survivors with interim reparative measures. EU-funded allocations have been

directed to Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Iraq, Nigeria, and in Türkiye, for Syrian survivors.

Considering the EU's robust policy framework on Women, Peace and Security, the EU has backed up its financial support to end violence against women with political actions, engaging on WPS both as part of bilateral human rights dialogues as well as political dialogues.

Preventing and combating sexual and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, remains an EU priority in its Common Security and Defence Policy as well, with victim-centred approaches supporting better accountability and the integration of survivors. Based on their mandates, CSDP Missions and Operations contribute to address SGBV (including CRSV) and enhancing responses.

Ending discrimination and violence against women is a priority in the EU's programming efforts worldwide through regional and bilateral programmes. For example, the regional programme in the Eastern Neighbourhood, 'EU4Gender Equality: Together against Gender Stereotypes and Gender-Based Violence', implemented jointly by UN Women and the UN Population Fund, which ended last year, provided many best practices in view of combatting GBV. This programme challenged gender stereotypes and managed to take tangible steps to prevent gender-based violence.

Another notable project, 'Empowering women change-makers in Colombia', receives EUR 6,340,000 in funding (2019-2024). It supports women's rights, participation in society, and post-conflict transformation in Colombia, focusing on addressing GBV. The project supports women in enjoying their rights, participating effectively and equally in society, and to be recognised and valued in the ongoing post-conflict transformation in Colombia. Targeted groups include 3,000 people in the Putumayo province of Colombia (90% of whom are women and their families; 25% young women) who are part of women's organisations, including women, victims of sexual and gender-based violence, peasant women, small producers and young entrepreneurs.

In the Southern Neighbourhood, two EU projects in Lebanon (EUR 7 million, EUR 6 million) support gender-responsive reforms in security institutions, legislative reform process and measures to protect women from all forms of violence.

In Asia, the EU supported a number of gender equality projects and initiatives, including in Indonesia and Myanmar. The EU is the largest contributor to Indonesia's Women's Rights Commission (Komnas Perempuan). Following the adoption of a landmark Sexual Crime Law in April 2022, the EU scaled up its financial support to Komnas Perempuan in 2023. In a context of increasingⁱⁱⁱ gender-based violence rates and low trust in state-administered health services in Myanmar, the EU kept a focus on supporting gender-based violence response and access to services for women and

girls. During the second phase of the Women and Girls First programme (2019-2023), over 120,000 persons accessed such services thanks to EU funding.

The EU has increased its efforts to assist partner countries in building gender-responsive education systems and eliminating persistent gender gaps in enrolment, retention and learning. It has set up major education-sector support programmes in over 60 partner countries, which focus on planning and resourcing of girls' education; teachers training including gender responsive pedagogy, tackling school related gender-based violence and comprehensive sexuality education, and investments in safe and healthy learning environments; including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities.

The global WYDE – Women and Youth for Democracy programme (EUR 40 million) supports women and youth-led initiatives, ranging from civic engagement and democratic activism to political representation in addressing the legal, societal and economic barriers to equal participation, including online gender-based violence.

In Bolivia, the EU also has implemented a EUR 3.5 million programme “Fight against gender-based violence”. In parallel, efforts for gender mainstreaming across all external policies and sectors were strengthened, including in the humanitarian sphere.

The joint EU-Council of Europe Partnership for Good Governance Programme supports the Eastern Partnership countries in the implementation of domestic reforms to advance equality, non-discrimination and women's access to justice and combat violence against women, in line with European standards.

The European Union has used restrictive measures (sanctions) as a tool in its gender equality policy toolbox in order to enhance accountability and increases pressure to prevent further violations. Designations for e.g. sexual and gender-based violence were adopted under a number of EU sanctions regimes, most recently under the EU's Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime (EUGHRSR).

On 7 March 2023, ahead of International Women's Day, the EU imposed sanctions under its EUGHRSR for serious human rights violations related to violence against women and girls^{iv}. These restrictive measures targeted nine individuals and three entities, including high-ranking members of the Russian armed forces, whose units systematically participated in acts of sexual and gender-based violence in Ukraine in March-April 2022.

In addition, a further six individuals responsible for gender-based violence^v were designated on 20 July 2023. These include the acting Taliban Ministers of Education and Justice and the acting Taliban Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Afghanistan because of their role in depriving Afghan girls and women of their right to education, access to justice and equal treatment between men and women. The measures also target a senior officer of the South Sudanese armed forces, a leading figure of the

Popular Front for the Rebirth of Central African Republic, and a commander of the 30th Motorized Rifle Brigade of the Russian armed forces because they committed widespread attacks against the civilian population in the countries where they operated, which systematically included sexual and gender-based violence, including as a means to terrorise the population.

On 12 April 2024, the EU listed three entities for sexual and gender-based violence under the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime in view of their responsibilities in the brutal and indiscriminate terrorist attacks that occurred across Israel on 7 October 2023.^{vi}

The EU has championed global efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of gender-based violence in its roles as co-leader of the Generation Equality Forum's Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence; as initiator and chair of the growing Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls, which remains an important initiative for the EU in the UN framework; as active member of the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies and a major partner of the UN.

Beyond the European Commission's co-leadership of the Generation Equality Action Coalition on GBV, the EU worked in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Third Committee in October 2022 for a strong resolution on the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, clarifying State responsibilities for eliminating violence against women (including femicide) and rejecting any exemptions based on tradition or religious custom.

During the 68th Session of the Un Commission on the Status of Women, the EU was spoke at the side-event 'Survivor-centred approach to preventing and responding to conflict-related sexual violence: Ukraine-UN experience and the crucial role of Women's NGOs' with the participation of UN SRSG-SVC Pramila Patten. The EU remained a vocal advocate for women's and girls' full enjoyment of all human rights in UN multilateral fora, also co-sponsoring several resolutions on the elimination of discrimination and violence against women and girls.

On 21 June 2023, the EU Delegation in New York hosted an Action Coalition strategic dialogue, marking the anniversary of the ILO Convention No. 190 on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work; in September 2023, the Council of the EU reached agreement to invite Member States to accede to this Convention.

With the EU's framework programme for Research and Innovation (Horizon Europe), which is open to the world, the integration of a gender dimension is a mandatory requirement in EU-funded research. Tackling gender-based violence more specifically in the Research and Innovation system is also a key objective.^{vii}

The Global Gateway flagship modernisation of the N'Djamena-Douala route, which was implemented by the European Investment Bank and the World Bank and supported by EFSD+, will comply with Chadian legislation that promotes the employment of at least 30% of women and will encourage positions being open to women at all levels. It is also expected to increase micro/small business and trading activity that has traditionally been carried out by women. Gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse and harassment (SEAH) are addressed as a priority through risk assessments, contractual obligations for investment and implementing partners, and targeted measures.

In countries that are part of the Enlargement process, the EU has supported the adoption and implementation of comprehensive evidence-based laws in line with EU *acquis* and international standards. The EU assists candidate countries and potential candidates in their efforts to deliver on their gender equality commitments, including by supporting the adoption and implementation of comprehensive, evidence-based laws, aligned with international commitments. The EU follows up on these efforts with all partners, and at all stages of the EU accession process, by monitoring the transposition, implementation and enforcement of relevant legislation. A relevant project in this area is the regional programme 'Implementing Norms, Changing Minds, aimed at ending gender-based discrimination and violence against women in the Western Balkans and Türkiye, and which focuses on the most disadvantaged groups of women.

Women and girls make up around half of all refugee, internally displaced or stateless population. The EU seeks to ensure that migration-management programmes are gender-responsive (for instance, in Central Asia, Africa and Latin America) through protection and prevention measures to address the risks for women and girls of gender-based violence, human-trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation is also a form of gender-based violence, which predominantly affects women and girls within the EU. The EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings (2021-2025) takes a comprehensive approach, from prevention through protection of victims to prosecution and conviction of traffickers, and recognises the gender dimension of trafficking in human beings. EU action aims at increasing prosecution of perpetrators including those involved in human trafficking by strengthening a victim-centred approach by the law-enforcement bodies, and at supporting access to psycho-social support services and participation in economic and social life of victims of gender-based violence and victims of trafficking in human beings.

EU-UN Spotlight Initiative

The EU-UN Spotlight Initiative is a key commitment to prevent and end sexual and gender-based violence, targeting women and girls facing multiple forms of discrimination and those in most vulnerable situations. The Spotlight Initiative has provided valuable information about heightened vulnerabilities and risks across the globe and continues to target women and girls in most vulnerable and marginalised situations. The Initiative has focused on strengthening laws and policies and implementing school-based and data-driven interventions to ensure a more effective response to addressing online violence against women and girls.

For example, in Argentina, the Initiative developed a Digital Gender Violence virtual course including on online violence against women and girls as part of the broader work on comprehensive sexuality education for educators. In Zimbabwe, through the Initiative's advocacy, support in drafting and parliamentary consultations, the Data Protection Act was enacted in December 2021. It is the most comprehensive legal frameworks in the southern African region addressing online violence against women and girls. The Act criminalizes the use of information and digital technology to commit online violence, including non-consensual image-based abuse and online child sexual exploitation and abuse. Comprehensive amendments have been made to the criminal law that acknowledges the increased risk of online violence against women and children.

The EU-UN Spotlight Initiative provides a valuable understanding of different manifestations of gender-based violence. Similar to other forms of violence against women and girls, online violence is rooted in gender inequality, discrimination, and power imbalances. It occurs as part of a continuum that is often connected to offline violence and in turn, reinforces other forms of violence, such as domestic abuse, stalking, and physical aggression. The internet and social media technology facilitate and amplify verbal or graphical sexual violence. Women and girls are exposed to higher levels of violence through mobile phones and smartphones, the internet, social media platforms, and email than men. Its impact can be as harmful with negative effects on the health and wellbeing of women and girls as well as serious economic, social, and political impacts. To prevent gender-based violence, including online, Spotlight engages in a combination of promoting gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, addressing violence against women and girls in education settings and by engaging men and boys.

The feminist movement is the single most critical factor to drive policy change in ending violence against women globally and in domestic policy making. In the context of a rise in anti-rights movements, shrinking civic spaces and backlash against women's rights, there is more evidence than ever before that violence against women and girls is preventable. Research has also shown that violence against women and girls can be dramatically reduced when governments and civil society work together, and women's rights movements coordinate intensive advocacy efforts to push for access

to justice and comprehensive services as well as to raise awareness of women's rights.

Global emergencies, crises, and conflict have intensified the drivers and risk factors of violence against women and girls. Digitalization has also exacerbated existing forms of violence and led to the surge of new types of gender-based violence. Growing violence and abuse in digital spaces and the lack of regulation of digital spaces is a key challenge that women's movements face.

This is why, in September 2023, Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen and Women Executive Director Sima Bahous signed the new programme "ACT – Advocacy, Coalition Building and Transformative Feminist Action to End Violence against Women", one of our key commitments as co-leaders of the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence under the Generation Equality Process.

ACT aims to accelerate efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, with two overarching objectives:

- To strengthen coalition building, networking, leadership and resilience of global and regional feminist women's rights movements
- To increase and enhance advocacy, campaigning, and policymaking on ending violence against women and girls through multi-stakeholder partnerships and coalitions.

The ACT programme will achieve its results through direct investments in feminist women's rights organizations to strengthen their institutional capacities, to facilitate networking and the establishment of intersectional and intersectoral alliances and to enhance their access to global and regional advocacy spaces. It will also coordinate and amplify a shared advocacy agenda designed in collaboration with women's rights organizations, bringing on board multi-stakeholder partners and new actors to accelerate efforts to end violence against women and girls. The programme provides direct and flexible funding to women's rights and feminist organizations, critical to strengthen resilience and enable feminist movements to adapt to a new context where digital activism and digital organization will be key strategies for achieving advocacy objectives and policy change. The programme provides spaces for knowledge sharing and collaboration, to ensure that GBV is positioned and prioritized across different policy areas including digital rights. It will also strengthen cross-sectoral alliances between CSOs working in the digital rights sector and the GBV sector to enable the development of strengthened capacities across the two sectors to undertake effective advocacy, policy, and programmatic work on online and technology-facilitated violence against women and girls. It will support work with academic and research institutions to conduct research on key emerging issues impacting on GBV including digitalization amongst others, to strengthen data for advocacy.

These examples highlight the EU's commitment to eliminate violence against women and girls through funding allocations, and specific projects aimed at addressing and eliminating GBV globally.

Internal sphere

Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence

In March 2022 the European Commission adopted a **proposal for a directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence**. With this proposal, the Commission followed up on one of its key policy priorities and on the Commission President's promise, in her political guidelines, to ensure the EU does everything it can to combat violence against women and domestic violence, protect victims and punish offenders.

In the Spring of 2024, the co-legislators adopted the Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence. The Directive will enter into force in June 2024. Member States will have three years to implement it into national law and policies.

The overall objectives of the Directive are i) to ensure that the rights of victims of violence against women and domestic violence are strengthened and properly safeguarded and to ii) reduce the prevalence of this type of violence across the Union. This is the first Union instrument to introduce a comprehensive set of measures to ensure these goals. The Directive, implements the standards of the Istanbul Convention in EU law, in areas of EU competence.

The Directive includes EU-level definitions of crimes in the area of sexual exploitation of women and children and computer crime.

This Directive puts a strong focus on cyberviolence. Not only does it define crimes at EU level, including minimum penalties, it also provides specific measures to combat cyberviolence. For example, Member States will have to make it possible to promptly remove or disable access to illegal content online.

It also establishes targeted measures in the areas of prevention of violence, protection and support of victims, access to justice and coordination and cooperation between relevant authorities. These measures will benefit not only victims of the crimes defined at EU level in the Directive, but also victims of any form of violence against women or domestic violence, as defined in the Directive, as soon as the conduct is criminalised under Union law (e.g. victims of trafficking in human beings or of child sexual abuse) or national law (e.g. victims of rape or sexual harassment offline).

Key elements of the proposal include:

1. *Criminalisation of forced marriage, female genital mutilation, and cyber violence*

The Directive defines the following offences across the EU: (i) forced marriage; (ii) Female Genital Mutilation ('FGM'); (iii) cyber stalking; (iv) non-consensual sharing of intimate images, including deepfakes and threatening to share intimate images; (v) cyber harassment, including doxing and cyberflashing; and (vi) cyber incitement to hatred or violence based on gender ('misogynous hate speech').

The Directive complements the Digital Services Act (DSA) by including minimum rules for offences of cyber violence, thereby defining illegal online content, and allowing victims to see relevant online content removed quickly.

2. *Safe reporting and risk assessment procedures*

The Directive tackles the underreporting of violence against women that still exists today. It introduces new ways to report acts of violence, which are gender-sensitive, safer, easier, more accessible - including online, at least as regards cyberviolence - and child-friendly. Confidentiality regimes will not hinder certain professionals, such as healthcare professionals, to report reasonable suspicions of an imminent risk of physical harm to the victim. Authorities will be required to conduct an individual assessment of the victim's protection needs, in light of the risk posed by the offender. Such assessment will need to be initiated upon the first contact of the victim with the authorities, or as soon as possible after such first contact, so that immediate (or longer term) protection measures are provided (e.g. emergency barring, restraining or protection orders).

3. *Respect for victims' privacy in judicial proceedings and right to compensation*

Evidence relating to the victims' private life relating to the victim's past sexual conduct, can only be used when it is relevant and necessary. Victims have the right to claim, in accordance with national law, full compensation from offenders for damages resulting from offences of violence against women and domestic violence. They will also be able to obtain compensation in the course of criminal proceedings, where appropriate.

4. *Support for victims*

To address the very specific needs of victims of sexual violence, the Directive includes an obligation for Member States to provide dedicated services including rape crisis centres. Victims experiencing intersectional discrimination, and who are therefore at an increased risk of violence, including women fleeing armed conflict, will receive targeted support from Member States. National helpline to support victims of violence against women and domestic violence will be made available 24/7[365], and be free of charge. When the victim is a child, authorities will have to provide age-appropriate support in the best interests of the child. Victims of cyber violence will also be entitled to receive adequate support, including advice on how to document the cybercrime and information on judicial remedies and remedies on how to remove online content related to the crime. In Member States where sexual harassment at work is a crime counselling services will have to be made available for victims and employers.

5. *Better coordination and cooperation*

Member States will have to take actions to facilitate cooperation between each other and at Union level, including by exchanging best practices and, where necessary, consult each other in individual cases, including via Eurojust and the European Judicial Network in Criminal Matters. To track progress and monitor the situation in all Member States, Member States will have to collect certain types of data on violence against women and domestic violence.

Other initiatives

On 1 June 2023, the Council of Ministers approved the EU's accession to the **Council of Europe's Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence** (Istanbul Convention). The EU acceded the 'Istanbul Convention' on 28 June 2023 and the Convention entered into force for the EU on 1 October 2023.

The Convention creates a legal framework to protect women against violence. It covers a broad range of measures, from data collection and awareness raising to legal measures on criminalising different forms of violence against women. It includes measures for the protection of victims and the provision of support services, and addresses the gender-based violence dimension in matters of asylum and migration.

In its Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, the Commission announced that it will facilitate the development of a new voluntary framework for cooperation between internet platforms to protect women's safety online and better tackle gendered online content. This cooperation is being established and will put in place detailed arrangements that cover both illegal and harmful online content.

The Commission also supports data collection on violence against women and domestic violence. Eurostat collects regularly data on several forms of violence against women and girls and domestic violence, through the EU survey on gender-based violence against women and other forms of inter-personal violence. The European Institute for Gender Equality is currently working on establishing a framework to help Member States collect data on cyberviolence.

The EU also facilitates finding common solutions among EU countries by organising exchanges of good practices on gender equality topics. For example, the Mutual Learning Programme in Gender Equality has facilitated seminars on various aspects of ending violence against women and domestic violence. The Prevention Network brings together Member States and stakeholders to exchange good practice on prevention gender-based violence and domestic violence, where the engagement of men and boys is a key focus. The network meets twice-yearly and consist of Member State officials and stakeholders.

ⁱ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/feature-story/2023/11/less-than-1-per-cent-of-aid-spending-targets-gender-based-violence-according-to-new-reports>

ⁱⁱ Joint Mid-Term Implementation Report on the Implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP III), p. 9.

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://indonesia.un.org/en/177437-united-nations-indonesia-welcomes-indonesian-parliament%E2%80%99s-approval-sexual-violence-crime>

^{iv} <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/03/07/violence-against-women-and-girls-eu-sanctions-nine-individuals-and-three-entities-under-its-global-human-rights-sanctions-regime/>

^v <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/03/07/violence-against-women-and-girls-eu-sanctions-nine-individuals-and-three-entities-under-its-global-human-rights-sanctions-regime/> and <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/07/20/human-rights-violations-eu-lists-18-individuals-and-five-entities-responsible-for-gender-based-violence-and-linked-to-the-navalny-and-karamurza-cases/>

^{vi} [7 October 2023 terrorist attacks in Israel: Council sanctions three entities over sexual and gender-based violence](#)

^{vii} In this context, the EU aims at coordinated action worldwide towards definitions, terminology and a corresponding legal basis: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-08/ec_rtd_report-gender-equality-inclusiveness-workshop.pdf).

