

Information related to best practices, and other relevant information related to investigation and prosecution of gender-related killing of women and girls in accordance with the resolution of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice entitled "Taking action against gender-related killings of women and girls" - SLOVENIA

Manslaughter and murder are crimes under articles 115 and 116 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Slovenia. Article 115 on manslaughter stipulates a prison sentence of up to 15 years for whoever takes the life of another human being. Article 116 dealing with murder prescribes in its paragraph 3 at least 15 years' imprisonment to whoever murders another human being by taking his life because of violation of equality (which includes gender-related murder).

The Criminal Procedure Act does not include any specifics for the prosecution of gender-related manslaughter or murder. These are both liable to prosecution *ex officio*, i.e. the public prosecutor is bound to institute criminal prosecution if there is reasonable suspicion that a criminal offence has been committed. Pursuant to the Criminal Procedure Act, the state prosecutor provides evidence against the accused.

Thus far, no gender-related murders have been prosecuted in Slovenia; therefore we cannot speak about investigation specifics, with the exception of investigations of family violence.

Police data on cases of family violence, which has been a criminal offence since 1 November 2008, indicate not only a great number of cases investigated, but also a high percentage of those where victims are female. In 92% of cases investigated by the police by mid-2013, the victims were female. Annually, the police investigate about 2,100 cases of family violence, peaking in 2009. The number of cases has been slowly decreasing since.

The following table includes statistical data on investigated cases of family violence.

Family Violence, Article 191 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Slovenia						
<i>Year of investigation</i>	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013*
<i>Number of cases</i>	120	2,478	2,344	1,917	1,702	783
<i>Number of cases involving female victims</i>	108	2,252	2,155	1,770	1,568	721

* Until 30 June 2013

Data on cases of neglect and maltreatment of a child, which is a crime pursuant to Article 192 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Slovenia, shows that since 2008 about 370 cases were investigated annually, with the share of female victims accounting to 55%.

The data on crimes of murder and manslaughter committed within the family show that the victims are predominately female.

The following table shows the number of victims of (attempted) murder and manslaughter within the family by gender:

<i>Victims of murder/manslaughter (within the family)</i>	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013*
<i>Male</i>	6	9	5	7	5	0
<i>Female</i>	7	10	9	8	8	3
<i>TOTAL</i>	13	19	14	15	13	3

* Until 30 June 2013

For reference, see the table below on all victims of (attempted) murder and manslaughter:

<i>Victims of murder/manslaughter</i>	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013*
<i>Male</i>	21	36	28	39	32	21
<i>Female</i>	9	15	17	14	12	9
<i>TOTAL</i>	30	51	45	53	44	30

* Until 30 June 2013

The above data shows a close interrelation between female victims of murder and manslaughter and cases of family violence.

The police can protect the victim of violence by issuing a restraining order against the perpetrator, as stipulated in the 2012 amendments to the Police Tasks and Powers Act (link: <http://www.uradni-list.si/1/content?id=111944>).

Data on orders issued also shows that the victims were mostly female (76%).

The table below shows statistical data on the number of victims in cases of issued restraining order under Article 60 of the Police Tasks and Powers Act between 2008 and 2012:

Year	TOTAL	Male victims	Female victims
2008	889	218	671
2009	1749	393	1356
2010	1700	422	1278
2011	1728	437	1291
2012	1552	374	1178
TOTAL	7618	1844	5774

It is a known fact that it takes an average five years before a victim of family violence in Slovenia calls for or seeks help. Usually, the victim is not familiar with the police procedure, but expects professional and high-quality treatment from police officers; thus, the police make increased efforts to raise awareness of victims, professionals and the public at large and to implement violence prevention measures and activities.

The 2008 Family Violence Prevention Act stipulates types of family violence, the tasks and cooperation of state authorities and NGOs in dealing with family violence and protection measures for victims of family violence. It also provides for permanent professional education of all those dealing with violence and a multidisciplinary approach in the treatment of victims. Pursuant to this Act, individual bodies have adopted implementing regulations and rules on treatment of violence and on mutual cooperation. Thus, in 2010 the Police adopted the Rules on cooperation between the police and other authorities in the detection and prevention of family violence.

Pursuant to the Family Violence Prevention Act, the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Resolution on the National Programme of Family Violence Prevention, a strategic document stipulating the objectives, measures and bodies in charge of policies for the prevention and reduction of family violence in the Republic of Slovenia for the period 2009–2014. The document attempts to integrate the measures of different ministries, effectively curbing family violence with activities aimed at its identification and prevention. Specific tasks and activities for the implementation of objectives and measures are stipulated in biennial action plans.

The police are carrying out a country-wide training project for police officers and criminal investigators based on the train-the-trainer principle. The project involves training of police officers, criminal investigators and senior police officers to enhance the quality of treatment of family violence and raise public awareness of the police procedure in cases of family violence.

The main project is carried out by highly-qualified police officers and criminal investigators (having completed an additional train-the-trainer course) with years of experience in the field and vast knowledge of the police procedure and family violence dynamics. They also possess extensive knowledge on the work of governmental and non-governmental institutions, the ability to transfer

knowledge and to motivate, and especially the desire to train less experienced police officers, with the aim of enhancing the quality of response in such cases.

The project also includes two sub-projects: (1) training of police officers in operation and communication centres (for professional and appropriate answering of emergency calls of family violence victims, appropriate response and feedback); (2) information concerning the police procedure in cases of family violence (comprehensive information for the wider public assessed by the media as highly relevant).

The project has been entered in the European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA) contest organised in the framework of the European Crime Prevention Network.

The www.policija.si website provides extensive information on the police procedure in cases of family violence (<http://www.policija.si/index.php/preventiva-/preventiva/67685-nasilje-v-druini-informacije-o-postopku-na-policiji>). An anonymous report on family violence may be filed directly on the website, which also contains other useful information for victims of violence. A recently updated booklet on sexual violence is available at: http://www.policija.si/images/stories/Publikacije/PDF/Spolno_nasilje.pdf. Information for crime victims and a booklet entitled When I Become a Victim of Crime are available at: <http://www.policija.si/index.php/preventiva-/preventiva/418-projekt-policije-za-rtve-kaznivih-dejanj>.