

PRESS RELEASE

8 March 2026 – International Women’s Day

Nearly One Woman Killed Every Day in Germany: Feminizidmap Releases Comprehensive 2023 Femi(ni)cide Report

On the occasion of International Women’s Day, Feminizidmap – Monitoringstelle für Femi(ni)zide in Deutschland e.V. – publishes its comprehensive *Feminizidmap Report 2023*, presenting new data showing that lethal violence against women in Germany follows clear structural and gender-specific patterns.

The findings are alarming: According to the German Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA), 360 women were victims of completed homicide offences in 2023. Feminizidmap’s independent database documents 194 of these cases, representing 54% of all officially recorded female homicide victims. Of these documented cases, 92% involved a male primary perpetrator. Based on internationally recognized definitions and structural gender analysis, 87% of all recorded killings in this analysis and 95% of cases with male perpetrators can be classified as femi(ni)cides.

Feminizidmap defines Femi(ni)zide as killings of women by male perpetrators with gender-specific dynamics and dimensions, including intimate partner killings, family-related killings, sexualized violence-related killings, and cases shaped by patriarchal control, misogyny, or structural gender inequality.

Key Findings of the Feminizidmap Report 2023

1. Intimate Partner Femi(ni)cides Remain the Largest Category

63% of all documented femi(ni)cides in 2023 were “Intimate Femi(ni)zide” cases in which the perpetrator was the current or former (spouse) partner. Separation was the most frequently cited motive, followed by conflict and relationship disputes. In 71% of intimate femi(ni)cides, the woman was killed in the shared home or in her own residence. Nearly half of these women were stabbed to death; firearms, strangulation, and blunt force trauma followed in frequency.

2. Family-Related Femi(ni)cides: Sons as the Largest Perpetrator Group

17% of femi(ni)cides were classified as family-related femi(ni)cides, in which the perpetrator was a male relative other than a partner. 80% of victims are women aged 50 years or older. In 75% of these cases, the perpetrator was the victim’s son or stepson. 25% of the perpetrators included fathers, brothers, grandsons as well as former sons-in-law and grandsons-in-law.

3. Non-Intimate Femi(ni)cides: Disproportionate Impact on Younger Women

16% of cases involved perpetrators from the victim’s social environment (e.g., acquaintances, neighbors, colleagues) and from previously unknown men, often with a sexual motive. This category shows a comparatively higher proportion of younger victims: 37% were under the age of 30.

4. Older Women Are Systematically Underrepresented in Media Reporting

26% of all femi(ni)cide victims in the database were aged 60 or older. Comparison with official police data suggests that the real proportion may be closer to about 30%. The oldest victim documented in 2023 was 100 years old. Older women are disproportionately killed by partners (45%) and sons (over 21%), and most killings occur in the shared home and therefore behind closed doors. These cases receive significantly less media coverage, contributing to structural invisibility.

5. Violence Often Preceded the Killing — But Data Remain Incomplete

In intimate femi(ni)cides, prior violence was known in at least 27% of cases within the database. However, reliable information on prior abuse was available in only approximately one third of documented cases, due to limited reporting in media sources. Where information was available, several victims had previously contacted police, sought refuge in women's shelters, or were under restraining orders. The documented share therefore reflects only cases with confirmed data and likely underestimates the true extent of prior abuse.

6. Report Reveals Conviction Patterns of Femi(ni)cides

As a court verdict is documented for 70% of the cases, this report marks one of the first systematic quantitative analyses of conviction patterns in femi(ni)cide cases in Germany. Overall, less than half of convicted perpetrators in the database were convicted of murder ("Mord"), with a substantial proportion classified as manslaughter or resulting in findings of criminal incapacity. In family-related femi(ni)cides, 42% of the concluded court cases resulted in a verdict of criminal incapacity ("Schuldunfähigkeit"), raising important questions about the intersection of mental health, lethal violence and gendered dynamics and the legal and psychiatric handling of such cases.

7. Children Affected by Femi(ni)cide

The analysis of verdicts and conviction patterns shows that public and legal debates often concentrate primarily on perpetrators and judicial outcomes. However, the social consequences of femi(ni)cide extend far beyond the courtroom.

Within the documented 194 cases in the Feminizidmap database, 95 children lost their mothers. As the database covers 54% of officially recorded female homicide victims, the actual number of children affected by femicide in Germany in 2023 is likely higher. These children are frequently direct or indirect witnesses of lethal violence. Yet there is no systematic national data collection on the long-term protection, psychosocial support, guardianship arrangements, or residence status of children affected by femi(ni)cide.

Discussions about femi(ni)cide must therefore not focus solely on perpetrators and verdicts. We must also speak about the children who witness these killings and who continue to live with their long-term psychological and social consequences.

Structural Dimension: Beyond Individual Crimes

Feminizidmap emphasizes that femi(ni)cide is not merely an individual criminal act but a structural manifestation of gender inequality and patriarchal violence. Globally, 81% of homicide victims are men; however, 82% of victims killed by intimate partners are women. This asymmetry highlights that lethal violence is gendered in its forms and that killings of

women in private and relational contexts reflect broader structural patterns of violence against women globally. The report adopts the term “femi(ni)cide” to recognize the academic and activist work developed across different regional contexts, to underscore the systemic character of these killings, and to emphasize state responsibility in relation to prevention, failures of protection, and institutional responses.

Call for Political Action

Feminizidmap calls for:

- Improved national data collection on femi(ni)cides
- Recognition of femi(ni)cide as a distinct and structural category of lethal violence
- Systematic risk assessment tools in cases of intimate partner violence
- Strengthening and financing of women’s shelters
- Mandatory training for law enforcement and judiciary on gender-based violence
- Transparent evaluation of conviction patterns in gender-based killings
- Coordinated institutional protection frameworks for children affected by femi(ni)cide, including psychosocial support and secure residence status where relevant
- the recognition of children as victims of intimate partner violence and the resulting restrictions on the perpetrator's (typically the father's) right of contact (‘Umgangsrecht’) in the interests of child protection

International Women’s Day must not remain symbolic. The data show that women in Germany continue to be killed at an alarming rate, most often by men they know.

Data Methodology and Scope

Feminizidmap has documented killings of women and girls in Germany since 2019. The database is built primarily on media reports and systematically updated until final court verdicts. Each case undergoes a six-eyes verification principle to ensure high data quality. The database currently contains information on more than 1,000 completed killings and several hundred attempted killings since monitoring began.

The 2023 report is published simultaneously with the updated interactive map on www.feminizidmap.org. Raw data for scientific research purposes can be made available via API upon request.

About Feminizidmap

Feminizidmap – Monitoringstelle für Femi(ni)zide in Deutschland e.V. – is an independent civil society monitoring and research initiative documenting killings of women and girls in Germany. The organization combines data analysis, research, advocacy, and public education to strengthen prevention and policy reform against gender-based lethal violence.

Media Contact

Feminizidmap – Monitoringstelle für Femi(ni)zide in Deutschland e.V.

Email: info@feminizidmap.org

Website, Database & Interactive Map: <https://feminizidmap.org>

Feminizidmap is present on [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#).

Interview requests and additional data materials are available upon request.