



**67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women
Side Event**

Breaking the silence on femicide:

Ending gender-based violence against women and girls

Thursday, March 9th, 2023, 8:15 – 9:30 AM EST, UNHQ Conference Room 8

Gender-related killings (femicide/feminicide) are the most brutal and extreme manifestation of violence against women and girls. It is rooted in gender inequality, stereotyped gender roles, discrimination towards women and girls and harmful social norms. Femicide takes place in all regions and countries around the world. Globally, an estimated 81,100 women and girls were killed intentionally in 2021. This means that more than five women or girls were killed every hour by their partner or someone in their own family. While these numbers are alarmingly high, the true scale is much higher as women and girls are also victims of homicides because of their gender in the public sphere. Women human rights defenders, for example, are common targets of harassment and violence, very often perpetrated online and facilitated by other technologies. Too often this violence culminates in their killing.

Globally the overall number of female homicides has remained largely unchanged over the past decade, demonstrating that societies are failing women and girls. Femicides, however, are not inevitable. We know where and by whom the majority of femicides are perpetrated, and that, as good practices demonstrate, they can and must be prevented through early intervention, risk assessment, access to survivor-centred protection and support as well as by tackling the root causes, including gender inequality and discrimination, harmful social norms and unequal power relations between men and women.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the UN together with the Permanent Mission of Malta, UN Women and UNODC are hosting this side event with the following objectives:

- To present the most recent global estimates of gender-related killings of women and girls in the private sphere, and to draw attention to the persisting data gaps;
- To discuss ways to strengthen responses to gender-related killings and other forms of gender-based violence against women and girls on a local, national and international level;
- To share and exchange policies and response strategies adopted in different regions to respond to this human rights violation;
- To galvanize and promote the adoption of effective policy strategies to prevent and respond to femicide/feminicide including through strengthened support to women's rights organisations.

The event will be conducted in a panel format comprised by UN Member States, Civil Society Organizations and UN agencies.

For in person attendance, please register your participation [here](#) by **7 March 2023** (for UN Badge holders only). The event will be webcasted on UN Web TV and can be viewed live and on demand through the link [here](#).

PROGRAM

08:15 – 08:25	Welcome Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hon. Rebecca Buttigieg, <i>Parliamentary Secretary for Reform and Equality, Malta</i>• Ms. Josie Christodoulou, <i>Commissioner for Gender Equality, Cyprus (pre-recorded message)</i>
08:25 – 08:45	Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Global estimates of gender-related killings of women and girls in the private sphere <i>Ms. Delphine Schantz, Representative, New York Liaison Office, UNODC</i>• Femicide as the most extreme form of gender-based violence against women and girls: Policy implications <i>Ms. Kalliopi Mingeirou, Chief, Ending Violence Against Women Section, UN Women</i>• The EhtesabApp: How technology can contribute to increase safety and reduce violence against women in Afghanistan <i>Ms. Sara Wahedi, CEO/Founder of Ehtesab</i>
08:45 – 09:05	Interventions by interested Member States and Participants
09:05 – 09:25	Q&A and discussion
09:25 – 09:30	Closing Remarks <i>Ms. Kalliopi Mingeirou</i> <i>Chief, Ending Violence Against Women Section, UN Women</i>
Moderator:	Ms. Delphine Schantz <i>Representative, New York Liaison Office, UNODC</i>