

Response of the Slovak Republic to a request by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women (3 November 2021) , updated information on femicide

Replies by Ministry of Interior of Slovakia

As regards point 2:

The Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic does not have research aimed particularly at the analysis of femicides or gender-related homicides, and homicides of women, girls, or femicides by intimate partners or family relatives at disposal.

The Police Force continuously observes the state and development of individual kinds of criminality, including violent criminality, within which, it also observes the state and development of criminal offences of homicides, and subsequently, on the basis of the criminality development, adopts necessary measures. Statistical data on criminal offences, their offenders and the victims of criminal offences are kept by the Police Force in the information system titled Registration Statistical System of Criminality (hereinafter *the RSSC*). In the RSSC the subject of processed information includes statistical data on victims of criminal offences on the basis of gender or familiar relationship of the offender and victim, where the observed categories are e.g., the offender- husband of the victim, boyfriend of the victim, ex-husband/boyfriend of the victim. The Criminal Police Bureau of the Presidium of the Police Force (hereinafter *the Bureau*) from the position of a methodology unit observes even the cases of particularly serious offences of premeditated murder pursuant to Section 144 of the Criminal Code and murder pursuant to Section 145 of the Criminal Code, on the basis of fulfilling so called information duty in accordance with the internal regulation based on which the Police Force units conducting investigation and expedited investigation are obliged to send the data on selected criminal offences to the Bureau. On the basis of these data the Bureau can, if necessary, react to arising application issues and peculiarities when investigating these criminal offences individually in a particular case by the means of methodological guidelines and these data are the grounds when assessing the inevitability of eventual creation of methods of investigation and expedited investigation of individual types of criminal offences.

As regards point 3:

Having regard to tragic cases of femicides committed by their intimate partner or more precisely homicides as part of domestic violence, the Police Force has taken in recent years several measures in order to secure effective protection of endangered persons. The Police Force is focusing on timely identification of cases of domestic violence, in the initial stages, before the violence can escalate, striving to take timely measures to protect endangered persons. The policemen of the first touch (Civil Order Police members) use in cases of verifying the reports on domestic violence the method to estimate risk of danger of domestic violence the person is faced with in the form of „Questionnaire to estimate risk of danger” (question given to the endangered person). Law enforcement authorities under the auspices of the Police Force (the investigator of the Police Force and the designated Police Force member) when assessing the risk of danger perform individual assessment of the victim pursuant to Act No. 274/2017 Coll. on Victims of Criminal Offences and on Amendment and Supplementation of Certain Acts as Amended, and consequently take

measures for protection against secondary and repeated victimization in accordance with the legislation in force.

Regarding the contemporary measures, in 2021, the provision of Section 27a of Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 171/1993 Coll. on the Police Force as Amended, in force as of November 1 2021, has been amended, the period for which a policeman is entitled to banish a violent person from a common residence has been extended from 10 to 14 days, securing more efficient protection of persons endangered by domestic violence by creating a sufficient timespan for the endangered person to seek professional help without pressure by the violent person. As part of the banishment from the common residence the territorial scope of authority of the restraint order for the violent person has been extended to 50 meters. At the same time the obligation of a Police Force member has been imposed to inform, so called, intervention centers about the banishment once it has been conducted. The intervention centers are being continuously established all over the Slovak Republic and provide gratuitous and comprehensive professional help to the victims of domestic violence even proactively following the act of banishment performed by Police Force members i.e., they themselves address the victim of domestic violence and offer the possibility of professional help.

The Police Force places special emphasis also on raising the public awareness on the issue of violence against women and domestic violence and provides the public with preventive advice and recommendations on how not to become a victim of violence as well as information about possible solutions of occurred crisis situations with the aim to support the willingness of endangered persons or witnesses to report violence to the police.

Police Force members are also regularly reeducated on the issue of violence against women and domestic violence. Education of policemen on this topic is conducted primarily within school educational programs of high schools of the Police Force and of Academy of the Police Force. It is also an obligation of superior officers to reeducate their subordinates on the relevant internal regulations, just like on methodology of procedure in cases of domestic violence in practice. Besides, the Bureau in cooperation with Academy of the Police Force performs a system of essential expertise training and special expertise training of the Police Force members, acting as law enforcement authorities, for working with particularly vulnerable victims. Particularly vulnerable victim protection will increase its effectiveness also by using so called special interrogation rooms the Police Force is establishing and intends to use them to perform procedures of criminal proceedings with particularly vulnerable victims. The purpose of these rooms is the elimination of secondary victimization on one hand, and on the other, repeated victimization by hindering from direct contact between the victim and the offender while performing procedures of criminal proceedings. Momentarily, there is one room established meeting these criteria at Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava serving mainly for educational purposes with the option of usage for practical needs. Other interrogation rooms included in the Bureau projects are being gradually established (altogether two projects are supposed to establish 23 special interrogation rooms).

Regarding point 5:

The Police Force does not have specially processed statistical indicators in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic at disposal. For this reason, we present statistical overviews on the required data,

available from standard statistical outputs of the RSSC we have at disposal for 2018-2020 and for the period of January 1, 2021- October 31, 2021, divided according to gender and also family relationship between the offender and the victim (attachment).

For the purpose of processing the required statistical outputs with regards to absence of the equivalent term to *femicide* in the Slovak Criminal Law, we included, in terms of the request according to which statistical data on the cases of so called *femicides* are required, into statistical outputs data on various criminal offences provided in the first Section of the Title of the Criminal Code- Criminal offences against life. Femicide can be, in accordance with the Criminal Code in force, be prosecuted on the basis of its nature and circumstances as an offence of murder in the first degree (Section 144 of the Criminal Code) or murder (Section 145 of the Criminal Code) in which the intention of the offender is to kill a person. The Criminal Code also contains special constituent elements of infanticide by mother (Section 146 of the Criminal Code). The Criminal Code also defines the term killing, although the Criminal Code defines it differently from the definition in the request, (the request is directed to cases of intentional killing of women). The Criminal Code enshrines constituent elements of criminal offences of killing, in which the offender intends to incur serious health damage to another person (Section 147 of the Criminal Code) or incur health damage to another person (Section 148 of the Criminal Code), whilst the offender causes the death of this person out of negligence. For the stated reason, we have not incorporated criminal offences of killing pursuant to the Criminal Code into the statistical overview, as in these offences the intention of the offender is not directed at killing a person.

The RSSC does not contain any other statistical data regarding the requested issue.

2 December 2021

Victims (homicide, killing)- data on behalf of the Slovak Republic																										
		Identified overall	Victim						Relationship Between the Offender and the Victim																	
			Clarified	In the state of preparation	In the state of attempt	Performed deed	Male Victim	Female Victim	A group of persons	Husband	Wife	Male mate	Female mate	Parent	Child	Brother	Sister	Grandparent	Grandchild	Caregiver	Child in care	Ex-husband	Ex-wife	Male ex-mate	Female ex-mate	Parent of a mutual child
ROK 2018	Murder - first degree (Section 144)	22	9	10		12	14	5	3																	0
	Murder - robbery (Section 145)	1	1		1			1																		0
	Murder - sexual (Section 145)	1	1			1		1																		0
	Murder - personal relationship motivation	23	21		11	12	7	16	2		1	2	1	6	2										1	
	Murder - business relationship motivation																								3	
	Infanticide (Section 146)	1				1	1																		0	
	Murder - others (Section 145)	19	14	1	6	12	14	3	2		1	1												1		
	Racially motivated murder (Section 145)																								0	
	Murder for hire (Section 145)																								0	
	ALTOGETHER 2018	67	46	11	18	38	36	26	5	2	2	2	2	2	6	2	1								4	
ROK 2019	Murder - first degree (Section 144)	16	7	10	2	4	14		2																3	
	Murder - robbery (Section 145)	2	2			2	1	1																	0	
	Murder - sexual (Section 145)																								0	
	Murder - personal relationship motivation	24	23		7	17	15	6	3	4	1	1	3		2	2								1		
	Murder - business relationship motivation	3	1		1	2	2	1																6		
	Infanticide (Section 146)	1	1			1	1																		0	
	Murder - others (Section 145)	27	21		11	16	18	7	2															1		
	Racially motivated murder (Section 145)																								0	
	Murder for hire (Section 145)	3	3			3	3			1															1	
	ALTOGETHER 2019	76	58	10	21	45	54	15	7	4	2	1	3	1	3	3								6		
ROK 2020	Murder - first degree (Section 144)	12	3	5	1	6	8	3	1	1	1	1	1											2		
	Murder - robbery (Section 145)	2	2			2	1	1																	0	
	Murder - sexual (Section 145)																								0	
	Murder - personal relationship motivation	21	20		12	9	7	13	1	4				2	4									5		
	Murder - business relationship motivation																								0	
	Infanticide (Section 146)	2	1			2	2																		0	
	Murder - others (Section 145)	26	24		4	22	15	11	1	2	1	4	1											3		
	Racially motivated murder (Section 145)																								0	
	Murder for hire (Section 145)																								0	
	ALTOGETHER 2020	63	50	5	17	41	33	28	2	6	3	5	8	1										10		
ROK 2021 (jan.- oktob.	Murder - first degree (Section 144)	11	3	4		7	9		2																0	
	Murder - robbery (Section 145)																								0	
	Murder - sexual (Section 145)																								0	
	Murder - personal relationship motivation	19	18		8	11	10	5	4		2	1		6	1									5		
	Murder - business relationship motivation																								0	
	Infanticide (Section 146)	1				1	1																		0	
	Murder - others (Section 145)	13	12		7	6	4	9	2	1														2		
	Racially motivated murder (Section 145)																								0	
	Murder for hire (Section 145)																								0	
	ALTOGETHER 2021 ***	44	33	4	15	25	23	15	6	2	1	2	1	1	1	7	1							7		

* data represent the number of male victims

** data represent the number of female victims

*** data include the period of January 1- October 31 2021

	2018	2019	2020	2021**
Homicides altogether (Sections 144, 145, 146 of the Femicides **	67 26	76 15	63 28	44 15
Femicides by intimate partner (husband, ex- husband, mate, ex-mate)	4	6	10	7
Homicides of men *	36	54	33	23
Homicides of men by intimate partner (wife, ex- wife, mate, ex-mate)	3	5	0	2