

**TITLE/ TÍTULO/ TITRE:**

Femicides – Stop Gender-based Violence!

**ORGANIZATION/ ORGANIZACIÓN/
ORGANISATION:**

Jusos & VSSStÖ

COUNTRY/ PAÍS/ PAYS:

Germany & Austria

- 1 tw: gender-based violence, sexual abuse
- 2 The term "femicide" refers to the killing of individuals perceived as female due to gender-specific
3 reasons. What femicides have in common is that they are committed within a patriarchal context.
4 Whenever FINTA (female, inter, non-binary, trans and agender people) individuals resist structures
5 of domination, escape male control, or oppose their demands, some men believe that something
6 rightfully theirs has been taken away. Some become violent and kill. Even mere existence can be a
7 sufficient reason for such acts.
- 8 The most dangerous place for FINTA individuals remains their own home. Globally, a FINTA
9 person is killed by an (ex-) partner or a relative every ten minutes on average. Abuse happens at
10 an even more frequent rate - also usually within the household.
- 11 After such acts, the media often refers to them as "crimes of passion" or "family tragedies"—a
12 narrative that completely ignores the structural power relations behind these killings. Such
13 trivialization and relativization of violence are not only found in media reports but also in public
14 institutions, discussions, and even in legal rulings. Time and again, killings of FINTA individuals are
15 not recognized as murders but are instead classified as manslaughter or bodily harm resulting in
16 death. This is rooted in patriarchal beliefs and values that still significantly influence law-making
17 around the world.
- 18 However, it is essential to consider not only repressive measures but also preventive ones to
19 better protect individuals perceived as female from violence. The consistent implementation of the
20 Istanbul Convention in Europe and the initiation and ratification of similar instruments in other parts
21 of the world can help initiate appropriate measures.
- 22 Fundamental societal change is needed to prevent gender-based violence against individuals
23 perceived as female. This includes challenging gender stereotypes and roles, raising awareness of
24 the rights and needs of individuals perceived as female, and ensuring more effective prosecution.
25 Femicides must neither be ignored nor downplayed—they must be increasingly brought to public
26 attention.
- 27 Spain offers a best-practice case here. Spain has taken significant steps to combat femicide,
28 including enacting comprehensive legislation, implementing prevention programs, and raising
29 public awareness, with a focus on addressing gender-based violence and ensuring justice for
30 victims. This showcases that with decisive steps, real change can be achieved and better
31 protection for FINTA is possible.
- 32 Change needs to happen around the world and at all levels.



33 Therefore, we demand:

- 34 • increased awareness of the needs and rights of those affected by gender-based violence in
35 order to overcome gender stereotypes and prevent secondary victimization.
- 36 • better training and further education, especially for psychotherapists, healthcare personnel,
37 police, prosecutors, and judiciary personnel.
- 38 • the implementation of awareness-raising education in schools to address the systemical
39 root causes of femicides and gender-based violence.
- 40 • greater sensitivity among investigative authorities, particularly in police press work,
41 ensuring that initial reports and further communication do not contribute to trivializing
42 femicides.
- 43 • appropriate media and public relations work that does not contribute to the trivialization of
44 femicides.
- 45 • the widespread establishment of safer spaces where FINTA can find refuge from abuse.
- 46 • the abolishment of fees in all women's and FINTA shelters and state coverage of costs for
47 all residents.

48 While societal change is the only way forward, this change can and must start within our own
49 organization. IUSY and its member organizations need to commit themselves to creating a safer
50 space for FINTA people. Gender-based violence and harassment have no space in our
51 organization and we need to ensure a safe setting for everyone. We can still become better at
52 protecting FINTA people and at challenging patriarchal values within our own organization(s).
53 Awareness structures and designated teams that support victims and can provide safer spaces are
54 a crucial aspect in this.