Gender-Based Violence in Israel

Data Collection and Disaggregation in Accordance with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and International Conventions

Position Paper

:Written by

Shirin Batshon, Leah Goeppinger-Levy, Hadass Ben Eliyahu

March 2024

"Gender-based violence (GBV) is the most pervasive yet least visible human rights violation in the world"

-UNICEF-

EU funded project

The document was produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The content of this document is under the sole responsibility of the partners leading the project and does not necessarily reflect the position of the European Union.

Contents

03
Introduction

05
CSO working group

06
SDG No. 5: Achieving Gender Equality and eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls

08
Collection, Disaggregated and Publication of Data on Gender Based Violence

09
The Obligation to Collect Data Based on International Decrees and Conventions

A. The UN General Assembly's 1994 Decision on Eradicating Violence Against Women

B .The UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

C. The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence - the "Istanbul Convention"

14
The Situation in Israel

20
A Comparative Look at Good Practices of Data Collection

A. Great Britain
B. Denemark

25
Summary and Recommendations

Introduction

According to UNICEF, Gender-based violence (GBV) is the most pervasive yet least visible human rights violation in the world. Estimates are that one in three women and girls around the world will experience physical or sexual violence during her life.[1]

"Violence against Women" (VAW) and "Gender-Based Violence" (GBV) are two interchangeable terms used to describe acts of physical, sexual, verbal, psychological and economic violence or threats thereto, coercion and denial of liberties which take place in the private or public spheres (herein: **Gender-based violence and/or violence against women and/or "the phenomenon").**

In recent years, the term "GBV" has grown more common than "VAW", as it includes acts of violence against women, men, and boys but also towards members of additional identity groups due to their sex, gender appearance, or sexual orientation. Experts attribute the phenomenon to power inequality in society and the resulting feelings of supremacy on part of the victimizer, in an effort to make the victim feel inferior or subservient. The source of violence, as noted, is embedded deep in the social and cultural structures, norms, and values in society, which are internalized by a culture and mechanisms of denial and silencing, the primary victims of which are women.[2]

The phenomenon tends to expand and increase at times of violent conflict, national disasters and humanitarian or health emergencies,[3] as demonstrated by the sharp rise in intimate partner violence in the world (and in Israel) during COVID-19.[4]

Professionals around the world, including therapists, legal and judicial professionals, policymakers, decisionmakers, legislators and local and international organizations, are all preoccupied with the issue of GBV, trying to assess its scope and provide victims with assistance and solutions. International organizations claim that it is a widespread social phenomenon, and that the instances reported to the police represent merely the tip of the iceberg compared to the actual prevalence of violence in society.[5] Development of indexes to estimate this widespread social phenomenon, documentation of data received by the authorities and improvement of the reporting tools at the disposal of victims are all issues undertaken by many forums and organizations around the world and in Israel. For the sake of brevity this document does not exhaust the discussion of them all.

The goal of this position paper is to raise awareness of the need for improved collection, disaggregated, and publication of data on GBV in Israel. In parallel, this paper utilizes international frameworks, including the UN's goals for sustainable development, that emphasize the significance of robust data collection and disaggregated, to

1 Gender-based violence in emergencies, UNICEF

2 Gender-Based Violence, European Council Portal, and violence against women and girls, terminology, Global Bank.

3 UNICEF, footnote 1

4 The Shadow Pandemic: Violence against women during COVID-19, UN Women

5 The Role of Data in Addressing Violence against Women and Girls, UNFPA- CSW Book, 2021

increase transparency and informed decision-making in the field – all in order to reduce the scope of violence.

In this position paper we focus on the collection, disaggregated and publication of data regarding cases of violence which have been reported and/or are known to law-enforcement authorities in Israel, first and foremost Israel Police (herein: "Administrative data").

This position paper was written from the perspective of civil society organizations in Israel which deal continuously with the collection of data on gender-based violence, including by repeatedly filing requests for information based on the Freedom of Information Law of 1998. This paper is also based on a comparative study of good practices of data collection employed by different countries.

This position paper does **not** deal with the assessment of the scope of GBV, but rather, as noted, it focuses on methods of collecting administrative data. According to the State Comptroller's Report, the last national survey on the phenomenon in Israel was conducted in 2001. Over two decades later, in 2021, civil society organization "Shitufim" established the "Red Lines" initiative, a multi-sector partnership involving dozens of organizations, including NGOs, private sector organizations, and government ministries, focusing specifically on intimate partner violence (IPV). The initiative focused on the development of tools for measuring, raising awareness of and preventing IPV. This initiative is currently working on developing a measurement tool which shall adhere to international standards that have been adapted to Israel, via the collaboration of dozens of experts, including therapists, investigators, government officials, and feminist organizations, along with the inter-ministry committee for Domestic Violence under the Ministry of Welfare. The tool is currently undergoing testing in collaboration with Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics, which shall subsequently carry out routine measurements of the scope of the phenomenon. This measurement tool is based on another development initiated by Red Lines – an updated, broad and jointly accepted definition of violence between intimate partners, in the present or the past that includes diverse forms of violence, such as: excessive control, physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, financial, and spiritual.[6] In the context of this development process, the "Red Lines" initiative conducted a public opinion survey to explore perceptions of behaviors between intimate partners that include various types of harmful behaviors, and to identify gaps between public perceptions and norms aimed at promoting change to reduce the extent of the phenomenon.[7]

6 Red Lines – Partnership for Prevention of Domestic Violence, Primary Findings, June 2022

7 Public survey regarding attitudes towards domestic violence, primary findings, Red Lines Initiative, June 2022

CSO working group

This position paper was written as part of the initiative "Agenda 2030" led by Itach Maaki معك Women Lawyers for Social Justice, and in partnership with the Heschel Center for Sustainability and Shatil – the New Israel Fund. "Agenda 2030" is an EU-sponsored project aimed at building inter-sectorial collaborations to promote the UN goals for sustainable development (SDGs) - primarily in the fields of gender equality, health, climate, and eradication of poverty – towards increased influence on national and domestic policies.

In 2022, as part of this project, a working group was formed that was comprised primarily of civil society organizations. Its mandate was to study the existing methodologies for collecting, segmenting and publicizing the GBV data that is reported to Israeli authorities. The working group meeting convened with 27 participants. They unanimously agreed on the importance of this issue as well as the need to examine existing knowledge gaps regarding data held by various authorities, the importance of collaboration between organizations and government entities and the need to put these issues on the public agenda. A smaller working group was later formed, which focused on assessing data collected through requests submitted by civil society organizations under the Freedom of Information Law, as well as discussing and learning about collection, disaggregated and publication of data on the phenomenon in Israel and worldwide. In November of 2022, the task force conducted a joint meeting with representatives of the Israeli police. The representatives presented their methods of collecting, disaggregating and publishing data held under their authority.

After these sessions, the organizations put together this position paper which was written from their perspective and based on their ongoing experience in data collection regarding GBV from Israeli authorities, first and foremost the police.

SDG's No. 5: Achieving Gender Equality and eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls

The UN's Goals for Sustainable Development **("SDG")** is a list of 17 goals adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015 in the presence of over 80 leaders from around the world. The goal's aim is to lead to the development of global sustainability by the year 2030. The list of came into effect in January 2016 and all ratifying countries were required from then on to report on their efforts towards achieving these goals.[8]

Goal number 5 pertains to gender equality and it directly addresses the eradication of violence against women in the public and private arenas ("Goal 5.2").

Goal 5: Gender Equality and the Empowerment of all Women and Girls

List of Goals:

5.1. End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

5.2. Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

5.3. Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

5.4. Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.

5.5. Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

5.6. Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

5a. Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.

5b. Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.

5c. Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

8 List of goals, UN Website.

Goal 5.2 contains two indicators that refer to intimate partner violence and violence by other than intimate partner:

5.2.1. Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age.

5.2.2. Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence.

On July 6, 2017, the UN General Assembly adopted the framework containing 247 indicators[9] and in July 2019 the Israeli government approved the decision to implement the UN's sustainability goals in the government's strategic plans, including setting parameters for areas of activity at each ministry.[10]

Since March 2022, the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) in Israel has been publishing indicators based on the sustainable goals. According to a press release in 2022, the State of Israel is close to achieving its goals in the areas of health, education, employment, drinking water and waste, while the indicators of gender equality, poverty and renewable energy show that Israel is still far from achieving the goals.[11]

Also, in a press release from August of 2023, CBS announced again that in terms of the gender equality goal (goal no. 5), Israel has failed to achieve the goal due to discrimination against women, the low number of women serving on the legislative entity (the Knesset) and gender gaps in the rate of women in management positions.[12]

9 Goals, targets, and indexes, UN Website.

10 Announcement of the government's decision to implement sustainability goals in its plans (2019), Ministry for Environmental Protection

11 SDGs in Israel, Central Bureau of Statistics, Press Announcement, March 2022

12 Press release, Central Bureau of Statistics, August 2023

Collection, Disaggregation and publishing Data on Gender Based Violence ("GBV")

The aims of methodical collection of data on GBV are[13]:

- Informed decisions on allocation of resources, policymaking, prevention programs and assistance with changing trends in the scope and nature of GBV.
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of prevention programs and improving the battle against GBV, the solutions provided to victims and survivors, and improving prevention and rehabilitation programs for perpetrators.
- Providing insights from the perspective of intersectional identities to determine which women are the most impacted and providing effective solutions.

Programs for prevention of GBV must rely on comprehensive and credible information about the frequency, reasons for and consequences of the violence. The data is crucial to create interventions and consolidate insights for the development of violence-preventing tools. Also, the methodical collection of data enables the supervision and evaluation of national violence prevention programs and to indicate where additional efforts are needed. Information collected from police stations, courthouses, medical facilities, welfare units and other service providers, in addition to national surveys, could indicate a need for new strategies, if existing strategies have been proven over time to be ineffective.

Segmented data is essential to evaluate the impact on the victims of different social situations and the intersection of identities - including ethnicity, geography (urban vs. rural), nationality, disability, sexual identity, immigration status, and facilitate a more focused process of prevention. Moreover, collecting the data is not enough in and by itself; there is a need for consistent analysis and availability of the data, and its mainstreaming into programs, trainings and policymaking procedures. There is also a need for systems that can segment data to allow precise identification of anyone who is in danger or at high risk of violence.[14]

However, the act of collecting quality data to measure GBV is not free of challenges. When using self-report surveys, the challenges are the result of the victim's need to deal with stigmas, as well as of language and cultural differences, disagreement with the definitions of violence, issues of privacy, information retention, ethics, and more. In comparison, administrative data held by the police and other authorities are more available, but these can also pose challenges, such as inconsistencies and partial definitions of violence, as well as issues of privacy and confidentiality.

Therefore, data collection has remained a significant challenge faced by all countries. This is exacerbated in countries suffering from a humanitarian crisis or countries involved in a violent conflict.

13 The role of gender-based violence data, Equality Insights

14 Due Diligence Framework, State Accountability Framework for Eliminating Violence against Women, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, pages 25-26.

Challenges Faced when Collecting High-Quality Data[15]

- Difficulty in measuring the extent of GBV, as the measurement is based on self-reports of victims dealing with stigma and shame, and in assessing the impact and suitability of existing services to the needs of victims.
- Lack of uniformity in terminology

  and disagreement on definitions of GBV or VAW, without a minimal set of indicators to perform comparisons and intersectional analysis.
- Meeting the minimal customary standards regarding the collection of quality data, including those related to precision and credibility.
- Shortage of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of services, programs and projects in order to achieve insights about best practices.
- Assuring victim's privacy and confidentiality required by various government ministries, such as the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Welfare.

15 Challenges in Collecting Data on GBV. Page 11 in UNFPA- CSW Book, 2021

The Obligation to Collect Data Based on International Conventio:

The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which was adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, does not contain the term "Gender Based Violence" or "Violence Against Women". The Vienna Declaration and the action plan adopted by the Vienna World Conference in 1993 put a special emphasis on Gender-Based Violence, acknowledging it as a fundamental breach of human rights, and calling on all countries to fight it (herein: The Vienna Declaration).[16]

A. The UN General Assembly's 1994 Resolution on Eradicating Violence Against Women:[17]

Subsequent to and under the recommendation of the Vienna Declaration, the UN General Assembly issued a specific and detailed resolution on the eradication of violence against women. This was the first UN resolution that offered a definition of the phenomenon, including a partial list of forms of violence against women, including physical and psychological domestic violence, sexual assault, rape in marriage, female trafficking, forced prostitution, and more. This was a significant decision that emphasized aspects that were very important for the fight against GBV, including the importance of continuous data collection.

The primary points of the decision include:

- Acknowledgement of the urgent need for universal implementation of programs to prevent violence against women due to the gross impact it has on the ability of women to realize gender equality, security, freedom, integrity, and respect. Further, there is a call upon the nations to develop civic and legal systems to punish and compensate for acts of violence, and to develop and finance national programs of violence prevention.
- Acknowledgement of the fact that certain groups of women are more vulnerable to violence, with an emphasis on women belonging to minority groups, including natives, refugees, immigrant women, women living in remote areas or communities, women in poverty, women in institutions or in police custody, children, women with disabilities, elderly women, and women in situations of armed conflict.
- Emphasis on how important it is to recognize the role of civic organizations for women in the country and to collaborate with them on the national and international levels.[18]
- Most importantly, the UN decision highlighted the importance of continuous collection and analysis of individual and statistical information by countries, especially regarding domestic violence and with regard to all types of violence. The decision also determined that research is required as to the causes of GBV, its severity and consequences for women,

16 The Situation of Women's Rights 20 Years after the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights, the Geneva Academy, Academy in brief no. 4, June 2014.

17 UN General Assembly Decision no 104/48 on Eradicating Violence against Women 1994

18 Ibid, footnote 18, page 6

and the effectiveness of means for prevention of violence against women. This information should be made available to the public.[19]

In light of the Vienna Declaration, the role of Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women was established by the UN, and eventually adopted by the CEDAW Committee and added to the optional protocol in 2000.

Further, according to resolution no. 67/144 by the UN General Assembly in 2013, all nations are required to prevent, investigate, prosecute, and punish all perpetrators of violence against women and girls. The nations are also required to guarantee protection, including by satisfactory enforcement by police and judicial institutions, as well as providing victims with protective warrants, criminal sanctions and psychosocial services. The duty of any nation to prevent acts of violence against women and to respond with due procedure has become a rule of thumb for international law. As a derivative of this obligation, the nation is also responsible for the actions of private individuals, if it does not work in time to prevent, investigate and punish actions of violence against women. The obligation to collect information and data regarding GBV is one of the parameters to determine whether a nation is fulfilling its commitment to due diligence, which it is required to uphold without discrimination.[20]

B. The UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

The UN's SDG's emphasize the importance of data collection and the obligation on the national and international levels to create data disaggregated systems based on the categories offered by the UN and other categories relevant to the specific country. In resolution 101/47, the UN Statistics Committee declared that improvement of data collection and disaggregated is fundamental for the full implementation of the SDG indicator framework on the national and international levels.[21]

Further, goal 17.18 explicitly expresses the importance of data availability on all goals and indicators:

Goal 17.18

Goal 17.18 Increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

Additional strengths of the goals are located in the connection between them, and the principle according to which the achievement of certain goals is crucial for the subsequent achievement of others. A close analysis of the goals reveals that they are intertwined, and in order to achieve them by 2030, a large part of the work must focus on the intersecting areas. This requires a holistic and systematic approach that connects processes, alongside an intersectional approach, acknowledging that people have distinct identities, needs, and priorities, and their abilities change over time, in a manner that affects their resilience and ability to cope with various situations and harmful events.

On the need for integrated solutions to promote the achievement of the goals, the UN stated: "Sustainable development

19 Ibid, footnote 18, page 5

20 State of Women's Rights 20 years after Vienna Declaration, Footnote 17, pp 36-37.

21 UN Website.

realizes that the eradication of poverty in all forms, the struggle against inequality within and among nations, protection of the planet, creating prolonged, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and cultivation of social inclusion are all interrelated and interdependent."[22]

As a result, the solutions for violence must be based on a multidimensional and multi systematic view, and on the connection to other goals, such as the concerns about increased GBV in times of climate crises (goal no. 13), the durability of legal institutions and rule of law (goal no. 16), as well as health consequences for victims, including their mental health (goal no. 3).[23]

C. The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence ("Istanbul Convention")

The Istanbul Convention is based on four pillars: prevention, treatment, prosecution, and monitoring. Today, 38 entities (37 nations and the EU) have signed the convention. Like other EU conventions, this too is open to the joining of nations outside the EU.[24]

Besides being the most up-to-date and succinct policy in the field of GBV, the strength of the Istanbul Convention lies in detailed definitions of GBV, emphasizing the importance of cooperation and coordination between various government authorities, acknowledging the importance of civil social organizations' support, and promoting the coordination of monitoring and implementation.[25] The Convention stresses the importance of data collection and research of GBV by the member nations in order to fulfill their obligations to the Convention.

Article 11 of the Istanbul Convention asserts the duty of the state to support research regarding all forms of violence detailed in the Convention. This is to determine its root causes and implications, rates of conviction, as well as the effectiveness of means taken to implement the Convention. Article 11 specifies the obligation to collect relevant statistical or administrative segmented data at regular intervals of time for any types of violence covered by the Convention and, in addition, requires population-based studies to retrieve qualitative data from the field.[26] According to the Article, member nations must ensure that the information and data collected are accessible to the public.[27]

22 The UN, Agenda 2030 Website

23 Monitoring VAW and Agenda 2030, presentation by World Health Organization and UN Agencies.

24 Prof. Ruth Halperin Kedri and Adv. Avishag Ozrad, Rackman Center, Faculty of Law, Bar Ilan University, "EU Council for Preventing and Combating violence against women and domestic violence",

25 Istanbul Convention Summary, Rackman Center.

26 Walby, Sylvia "Ensuring Data Collection and Research on Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence: Article 11 of the Istanbul Convention. A collection of papers on the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence", (2016), p.6.

27 Council of Europe, "Explanatory Report to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence", Council of Europe Treaty Series – No. 210, Istanbul, 11.V.2011, Para. 74-75, P.15

Article 11 of the Istanbul Convention: Data Collection and Research

For the purpose of the implementation of this Convention, Parties shall undertake to:

- Collect disaggregated relevant statistical data at regular intervals on cases of all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention;
- Support research in the field of all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention in order to study its root causes and effects, incidences and conviction rates, as well as the efficacy of measures taken to implement this Convention.
- Parties shall endeavor to conduct population-based surveys at regular intervals to assess the prevalence of and trends in of all forms of violence covered by this Convention.
- Parties shall provide the group of experts, as referred to in Article 66 of this Convention, with the information collected pursuant to this article in order to stimulate international co-operation and enable international benchmarking.
- Parties shall ensure that the information collected pursuant subject to this article is available to the public.

The goals of this article were even more explicitly elaborated upon in the Istanbul Convention's Explanatory Report. In the report, the Council of Europe emphasizes the importance of data collection that is unified and methodical, as defined by protocols, and with consistent parameters. The report addresses the difficulties alongside the importance of these practices in order to enable quality research and policies that reflect reality.[28]

"The categories used in the measurement framework within which data is collected should correspond to the categories in the conceptual framework within which interventions by public agencies are developed."[29]

The Explanatory Report also stresses the need for inter-authority coordination, a task assigned to the state's coordinating entity, in compliance with Article 10 of the Istanbul Convention.[30] In addition, it is mandatory for the state to collect data at regular intervals.[31] The Convention and the Explanatory Report do not determine the frequency of 'regular intervals', but other literature has indicated that administrative data must be collected at least once a year.[32]

The Convention does not address the data items to be collected; it leaves this to the state, but the Explanatory Report refers to the following fields as a minimal start:[33]

- Sex
- Age
- Offence
- Relationship between victim and perpetrator
- Geographic Location
- Additional relevant information, such as disability of victim

To conclude, the Istanbul Convention requires the nations to make data available to the public. Preferably, the data should be published in one central place that is accessible to all (i.e. on a designated website), including decision-makers, professionals, civil society organizations, and the public, and organized by indicators and summaries.[34]

To date, the Istanbul Convention offers the most comprehensive and updated definitions of GBV. Israel has yet to sign the Convention, but it should adhere to the Convention's definitions, which have become the standard for progressive states who wish to combat GBV and adopt means for its prevention. According to the Convention, GBV is described by a vast range of phenomena and events, including physical, sexual, verbal, financial, and psychological violence, with a clear common characteristic: they all address acts of harm almost always against women, girls and children,

28 Council of Europe, "Explanatory Report to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence", Council of Europe Treaty Series – No. 210, Istanbul, 11.V.2011, Para. 74-75, P.15.

29 Walby, p.9.

30 Ibid (Walby), p.10.

31 Ibid (Walby), p. 11.

32 Ibid (Walby), p. 11

33 Council of Europe, Explanatory Report to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, Pars. 80, 82.

34 Walby, p. 11

and originate in gender inequality and the existence of gaps in social power and status between the victim and the perpetrator.

The Istanbul Convention Contains 3 Fundamental Definitions for GBV:[35]

- **"Violence against women"** is understood as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women and shall mean all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life;
- **"Domestic violence"** shall mean all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit or between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim;
- **"Gender-based violence against women"** shall mean violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately.

Also, gender-based violence refers to any kind of harm against a person or group of people because of their perceived or real sexual identity, gender, sexual orientation and/or gender identity.[36]

35 Article 3, definitions, the Istanbul Convention

36 The Europe Council website.

The Situation in Israel

Absence of a joint database for collecting and sharing information among ministries:

In light of the multitude of entities to which incidents of GBV are reported (Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Welfare, Ministry of Home Security and Local Municipalities), in February of 1998, the Israeli government decided to form an inter-ministry committee that would act as a senior task force to improve and coordinate policies, work procedures, collaborations, and sharing of information between all authorities assigned to assist parties involved in domestic violence (victims and perpetrators). The inter-ministry committee recommended, among other things, to form a computerized database, including solutions for collection and cross-referencing of information between government ministries and the various authorities involved in the prevention and processing of violent incidents.[37]

37 Social criticism, "Coping with Intimate Partner Violence", reports on audits of local government, State Comptroller, 2021, pp. 456 and 457.

In a report from 2021, the State Comptroller recommended that the various government ministries (Justice, Homeland Security, Health, Education, Welfare) work together to legislate the transfer/sharing of information between them on the matter of domestic violence, including specific regulation of the legal complexities regarding the transfer/sharing of information between ministries to facilitate improvement in the way Israel responds to domestic violence.[38] In its response to the State Comptroller, the Welfare Ministry wrote that in 2020, two designated inter-ministry committees had been formed to offer practical solutions, including a solution to the legal issues entailed in transferring information and its use for decision-making and treatment. The aforementioned solutions were supposed to emphasize the creation of a joint database for synchronized measurement of GBV and identification of trends, as well as information on those involved in domestic violence for early identification, optimal treatment, and synchronization between the various treating entities.

Despite the inter-ministry committee's recommendation to form a computerized database, which would solve the cross-referencing problem, and despite the State Comptroller's recommendation to legislate, no collective database exists, to date, that houses information on reports of GBV. The current practice is that each ministry collects its own information, uses its own system, and the disaggregated categories it prefers or which are accessible from it.[39] As a result, civil society organizations that appeal to various entities under the Freedom of Information Act encounter varied methods of data collection among the various ministries. Thus, for instance, while Israel Police tends to segment data by gender, the State Attorney did not do so despite the existence of two legal directives (Women's Equality Law of 1951 and the Statistics Directive) that require from any public entity that regularly collects and processes data regarding individuals to segment the data by sex at a statistical level. In 2021, the State Attorney's Office, in collaboration with the Planning, Policy, and Strategy Division of the Ministry of Justice, initiated a public engagement project to examine its policy on sectoral profiling, including the collection of data from various sectors related to suspects, offenders, and crime victims. As part of this process, the State Attorney's Office issued a public call for opinions and responses regarding the policy on sectoral profiling. After receiving feedback from various stakeholders and conducting roundtable discussions, recommendations were submitted to the State Attorney.[40]

Recently, the State Attorney decided to adopt the recommendations presented to it by the established committee, including recommendations for the collection and profiling of data regarding

38 Ibid, footnote 38, page 460

39 Ibid, footnote 38

40 Summary of 2021, State Attorney, Ministry of Justice

offenders, suspects and crime victims based on ethnicity and nationality. This includes profiling based on different population groups (such as Ethiopian immigrants, the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community, and the Arab community), as well as the establishment of a dedicated team to implement these recommendations.[41]

Israeli Police pilot:
In a pilot study held in November of 2022 (see footnote 9), police representatives elaborated on the annual statistical report published by the police, which contains general details on crime in Israel. The reported offenses in the statistical report are classified according to definitions in the Penal Law as property offenses, offenses against human life (murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, and causing death by negligence), offenses against the person (serious bodily harm, assault, and other offenses against the person), sexual offenses (rape, indecent acts, sexual harassment, and more), and others[42]. Violent offenses included in the report encompass physical violence such as assault, serious bodily harm, murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, serious sexual offenses, robbery, as well as offenses involving threats[43].

Also, the Israel Police may obtain any and all information about the victim and the perpetrator that are in the citizen's registry which is managed by the Ministry of the Interior, including the place of birth, nationality, religion, age, sex, address, and any other information included in the registry, but it does not publish this information. There is also information on the location of the offense, the time and the means of murder.

Regarding cases of violence governed by civil legislation, as opposed to criminal legislation, it is not possible to obtain data from the police. An example of this is the violation of a restraining order under the Prevention of Domestic Violence Law 1991[44]. Offenses involving emotional abuse that are not included in the Penal Law (such as child abuse and neglect according to Chapter 10 of the law),[45] as well as details about violent offences that have not been separately defined by the law, such as financial violence, fall into this category. Previous complaints by the victim of violence is also information held by the police that is not publicly disclosed. This information is used internally only. Repeat attempts on the part of civil society organizations to obtain data on previous complaints were met with refusal. This was also true of cases of intimate partner violence, where more than one complaint had been filed by the victim.

We requested clarification on the body responsible for deciding which types of information to release to the public in the context of the pilot, as well as

41 Summary of Process to Examine Policy on Sectoral Profiling, Ministry of Justice

42 Annual Statistical Report, Israel Police, 2021, page 19

43 Ibid, page 46

44 Law for Prevention of Domestic Abuse, 1991

45 Penal Law, 1977

a detailed protocol that explains the police's judgment on this. No response has been received as of the date of this report. The lack of transparent work procedures makes the auditing of police work very difficult. In fact, there is no way to appeal the police's decision to publish existing information – whether voluntarily or under a Freedom of Information Appeal – except for filing an administrative appeal to the court.

Moreover, in September 2014, the police led an initiative designed to improve transparency before the public. The declared goal of the project was to publicize crime rates and police protocols in order to increase public trust. In the context of this project, the police publicize statistical reports on four major types of property offenses (apartment/business burglaries, vehicle break-ins and vehicle theft), traffic tickets and enforcement and accidents in the urban and intra-urban space[46]. It is unclear why the police refrained from publicizing information on violent offenses, in general, and GBV, specifically, and why it does not prioritize this matter.

Absence of Uniform and Binding Definition for all Government Ministries and Public Entities:

Another major challenge in combating GBV is the absence of a binding, uniform definition that applies to all ministries and entities involved in coping with the phenomenon. Thus, for instance, the Ministry of Welfare, which is the main government entity in the field, does not address GBV in all its forms, but acknowledges and deals with domestic violence only. Different authorities publish varying reports, but in the absence of one uniform definition it is unclear what is considered violence and what this includes. The absence of a uniform definition and lack of a single shared information system for all entities involved does not enable a clear and comprehensive picture of the phenomenon, prevents the identification of trends along time, and impedes with the monitoring of perpetrators and victims[47].

Palestinian women living in Israel:

It is even more difficult to obtain information on GBV where the victims are Palestinian women living in Israel than it is to obtain general information on GBV in general. Despite the increase in crime in Palestinian society and despite the increase in murders of Palestinian women (as detailed below), the Israeli police does not publish transparent disaggregated data by nationality and by weapon (firearms or cold weapons). Civil society organizations are required to repeatedly file appeals under the Freedom of Information Act and sometimes appeal to the Courts, in light of the Police's refusal to publish information disaggregated by nationality. According to the latest reports by the Knesset's Research and Information Center, while Palestinian

46 Initiative to increase transparency of police data to civilians, Israel Police

47 Yasmin Cooper, Femicide and Domestic Violence, a Survey on the Israeli System, Shitufim, 2019, pp 16-17.

women comprise 19% of all women aged 18 and up in Israel, their rate among all women murdered in Israel is 58%, and their rate among all incidents involving previous complaints to the police is 73%. Also, their rate among the unsolved cases is 84%[48]. The State Comptroller has also indicated an over-representation of Palestinian women among the women in shelters (40%) and noted that there are only partial solutions offered by the State, such as shortage of places available for Arabic-speaking women in a shelter in Southern Israel[49]. For the purpose of research on the police's handling of Palestinian and Jewish women's murder cases, the organizations, "Women against Violence", the Altufula Center and the Israel Women's Network, appealed to the police and the State Attorney for information under the Freedom of Information Law. These appeals included requests for information on specific cases including the names of victims, the status of the cases (under investigation / had it been referred to the State Attorney and had there been indictments), and whether there had been previous complaints of violence on part of the victim. After two rounds of requests were denied for various reasons, the organizations appealed to the Jerusalem District Court asking for the remedy of routine publication of quantitative statistical data regarding violence against women, including disaggregated according to nationality, religion, and status in Israel. Eventually the parties came to an agreement and the appeal was withdrawn, subject to the provision of information on the cases, excluding information on previous complaints of violence by the victim[50].

Also, the Israel Police Statistical Report for 2021 reveals that between the years 2017-2021, the number of murder cases in Israel increased by 33%, with an increase in the murder of non-Jews. According to the CBS Survey of Personal Security in 2014-2020, only 40% of victims of threatened or actual violence said they had filed a complaint with the police[51].

48 Ido Avgar and Orly Almagor Lotan, "A collection of Data in light of the International Day of Combating Violence against Women: femicide, intimate partner violence, and domestic violence during the corona crisis." Knesset Research and Information Center, 2020.

49 State Comptroller, footnote 38

50 Shirin Batshon, "Israeli police law enforcement of Palestinian Femicide Cases", A Comparative Research conducted by Women Against Violence, Al-Tufula Center, and The Israel Women's Network

51 Roni Herskowitz and Rami Schwartz: on Crime in Israel, Knesset Research and Information Center, February 2023

A Comparative Look at Good Data Collection Practices

The international standards specified below offer a roadmap for states to use for effectively and precisely collecting and publicizing data. The Istanbul Convention has, in recent years, become the leading standard in the fields of data collection; the data collection practices of some of its member states serve as best practices as we shall elaborate on herein. We have chosen to examine two nations – Great Britian and Denmark – that have managed to create and implement an effective data collection system. The summary of our comparative review reveals the primary principles on which their success was built: the choice of which data to collect, and the need for unified data, as well with the intake of police data and their disaggregated prior to publication.

A. Great Britain

Great Britain's ratification of the Istanbul Convention came into effect on November 1, 2022. Before and after this date, the state was building and adjusting its systems in accordance with the Convention's obligations[52]. When a victim reports domestic violence to the police, it is registered as domestic violence (when there is no doubt about the occurrence of domestic violence) or as "needs further inquiry"[53]. On incidents registered as domestic violence, the police collect data in accordance with the British protocol (upon which we shall later elaborate). Once a month, the data is collected from the police by the Home Office Statistics Unit. This Unit collects data from 43 regional police entities in England, Wales, and the British Transit Police. After the data is processed, the final database is sent to the British Statistics Authority[54].

The process of data intake by the British police is subjected to the Home Office Counting Rules for documented crime and the National Crime Recording Standard. In order to improve accuracy when registering crimes based on these standards and to minimize mistakes, the Home Office Data Center uses a system with automated capture of crime data. This means that the data is collected automatically from the complaint or reports written by the law enforcement units without further manual processing, which allows for various disaggregateds – specifically the disaggregated of data by victims and not only by types of complaint (this is important in cases where a victim files more than one complaint, and if we can segment by victim, it is possible to see repeat complaints). Forty out of forty-four police units in England and Wales use this system to file reports[55].

In addition to the type of offense, the police intake collects the following data: victim's age, nationality, name, and sometimes sex. The Ministry of Interior's Data Center adds the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, but that is not collected by the police[56].

52 The United Kingdom ratifies the Istanbul Convention, 2022 published 21 July 2022

53 England Office for National Statistics, Data and analysis from Census 2022, published 25 Nov. 2022, "How domestic abuse data are captured through the criminal justice system"

54 Stripe, Nick (2023) User guide to crime statistics for England and Wales: March 2023. Crime levels and trends in England/Wales with detailed information on datasets used to compile crime statistics. Last revised: 20 Jul 2023.

55 Ibid.

56 European Institute for Gender Equality (2018), Data Collection on intimate partner violence by the police and justice sectors: United Kingdom.

The police are required to collect any event reported by the victim, unless there is significant evidence indicating there has been no violation of the law. Data collection is supervised by the Offense Registrar in each police unit and his superiors.[57]

After collection of the data by the Data Center, they are published by the Office for National Statistics. Appendixes A-D to this position paper are an example of how the data appears upon its presentation to the British public. The images were taken from the data of the year ending in March 2022. A link to the full sample report can be found here. Public accessibility and the ability to perform disaggregated of all the data make the system in Great Britain one worthy of emulation.

B. Denmark

Denmark ratified the Istanbul Convention on April 23, 2014[58]. It has a national database that compiles statistics on criminal offenses and the victim register, including information on domestic violence. The database is called Statistics Denmark. It is a comprehensive system enabling access to national data on cases reported to the police and hospital visits resulting from exposure to domestic violence.[59]

The Danish system makes it possible to locate data by using the individual's personal ID number as well as a specific case number given to each case. The information is based on data collected and reported by the police. This includes: residence (region and town), civil status (married, living together, divorced, single), family status, number of children, education, employment, social pensions, income, and nationality[60]. The police's administrative system, called POLSAS, was established in 2001. It regulates uniform data entry and updates the central body of crime statistics in Statistics Denmark[61]. Later, Statistics Denmark processes and publishes the information[62].

Other than Great Britain and Denmark, there are two international reports from which we may draw recommendations for data collection:

1. A study conducted in 2008 on the Council of Europe member states, found the following practices to be correct based on answers to the study's questionnaire on police data from 27 countries[63]:

- Most countries' police forces record data on domestic violence and in almost all of them it is possible to distinguish domestic violence against women.
- Most police record the victim's age and identity.

57 England Office for National Statistics, Data and analysis from Census 2021, published 20 July 2023, "User guide to crime statistics for England and Wales: March 2023",

58 Council of Europe, Istanbul Convention: Action against violence against women and domestic violence - Denmark, visited 06 Nov 2023.

59 IRS- Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale, European Institute for Gender Equality (2016), Administrative data collection on violence against women: Good practices, p.24-26.

60 Council of Europe, Istanbul Convention: Action against violence against women and domestic violence- Denmark.

61 IRS, p. 24-26

62 European Institute for Gender Equality, Data Collection on intimate partner violence by the police and justice sectors: Denmark.

63 Aromaa, K., Ruuskanen, E. (2008), Administrative data collection on domestic violence in Council of Europe member states, Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs, Council of Europe (Strasbourg), p. 10.

- Most police document the relationship between the victim and perpetrator.
- Use of standardized electronic data systems: For example, in Switzerland the system collects the age and sex of the victim and perpetrator, the relationship between them, the type of violence, and more. In Spain, the police is also required to enter the socio-demographic characteristics of the victim and the perpetrator, the relationship and form of violence, severity of injuries, and the actions undertaken by the police.

While the situation is relatively positive in the countries that participated in the survey, the report notes that there is not enough uniformity in classifications and variables and between various authorities within the nations, and between the nations. Definitions are heterogenous and this limits the ability to make comparisons. For instance, on the question of the relationship between victim and perpetrator, some states note only current relationships while others note former relationships. There were similar challenges when reporting the form of violence: as the exact classification depends on the penal law in the relevant country (i.e. economic violence which is not necessarily defined by penal law). Sometimes there is a definition in the law, sometimes this is lacking, and sometimes the definition exists but is insufficiently clear. Even data based on "Yes/No" answers are sometimes incomparable. For instance, when the police ask to note whether the victim was married, a "yes" answer does not allow for the disaggregated of whether she lived with her partner or not, and this has consequences in analyzing and reporting of data.[64]

2. Analytical study of the results of the fourth round of monitoring the implementation of Recommendation **Rec(2002)5** on the Protection of Women Against Violence in Council of Europe member states[65] [66]suggests the following:

- To note "whether the police are required by law, by regulation or by written instruction to record all reported cases of violence within the family and to investigate such cases."[67]
- Police reports must include the sex and age of the victim and perpetrator, and the relationship between them.
- This information should be made available in a national report.
- Integrated, disaggregated statistical data on all relevant offenses are a uniform way of measuring acts of violence that have been reported and identifying those that occur within some form of relationship in the past. For instance, in Austria, the police notes whether the perpetrator was a member of the family or a relative, someone familiar or a stranger.

64 Ibid.

65 Alessandra Decataldo & Elisabetta Ruspini (2016) Gender-sensitive data: the state of the art in Europe. International Review of Sociology, 26:3, 407-423, DOI: 10.1080/03906701.2016.1244930.

66 Hagemann-White, Carol, Prof i.R., Analytical Study of the result of the 4th round of monitoring the implementation of Recommendation Rec(2002)5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member states, Council of Europe Gender Equality Commission, p. 41-42.

Therefore, the information on domestic violence is anchored in general crime statistics and the same crimes may be compared in different contexts. This requires a high level of training.

- Other states (e.g. Iceland, Luxemburg, Holland, Poland) have separate systems for documenting domestic violence offenses. They do not draw events from the general crime statistics. Incidents of violence with a background of a relationship between victim and perpetrator are marked as "domestic violence" as they come to police attention. Some of these states also present the frequency of various forms of offense.

Summary Table:

Good Global Practices to Adopt for the Collection, Disaggregation and Publication of Data on Gender-Based Violence

- Collecting statistical data, at regular intervals, regarding all forms of violence included in the scope of the Istanbul Convention.
- Conducting population surveys at regular intervals in order to assess the rate of prevalence and the trend of all forms of violence included in the scope of this Convention.
- Support for field research covering all forms of violence included in the scope of the Convention in order to assess the root causes and effects, conviction rates and the effectiveness of measures taken to reduce violence.
- Reorganization of the data intake process by appointed police units so that the data is compatible with reporting needs that meet international standards. This shall include socio-demographic data about the victim and the suspect such as name, age, gender, nationality, marital status, place of residence, the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator and more.
- Employing an automated data capture system for the automatic collection of information from the police complaint forms or reports without additional manual processing in a way that allows for different disaggregateds of data and, in particular, allows for the disaggregated of data by victims and not only by types of complaints.
- Identifying a body responsible for publishing the data on an ongoing basis.
- Making information accessible to the public.
- A national database that consolidates statistics on criminal offenses and a register of victims which includes information on cases of domestic violence. The database allows access to nationwide data on cases reported to the police and on hospital visits resulting from exposure to violence.
- Transferring data to international institutions in order to enable comparisons between countries.

Summary and Recommendations

Israel lacks a consistently effective policy regarding the methodical collection of data on GBV, including everything related to administrative data in the hands of law enforcement entities. The shortage of consistent and orderly data does not allow for the outlining of a more effective policy for combating the phenomenon, does not enable the evaluation of existing prevention programs, and makes it difficult to assess the effectiveness of current solutions for the treatment of victims and perpetrators. The shortage of data also makes it difficult for civil society organizations attempting to help the victims and influence policymaking on the issue. In fact, despite the legislated obligation to collect and publicize data, civil society organizations frequently find themselves exhausting a great deal of resources to obtain data from the various authorities.

In the absence of a central body for collecting data (such as a national authority) and a central database where all reports of GBV to the various authorities is centralized, the implementation of the State's obligation to collect, segment and publish data remains haphazard, inconsistent and non-uniform.

The existing practice, according to which each ministry concentrates data on its own systems, creates different disaggregated categories and enacts different policies with regard to the information published, is a practice that does not allow for the most basic of monitoring actions on the incidents reported to the various entities and the supervision of how these entities respond to them. To this we might add the absence of a uniform definition of the phenomenon, which impedes the state's ability to take preventive measures and to assess the effectiveness of those measures. As a result, this negatively impacts the State's ability to protect women who are threatened and hurt.

The annual reports produced by the Knesset's Research and Information Center indicate that one half of the women murdered by a family member had been in touch with and/or under the care of the welfare services, and one third of them had filed previous complaints about intimate partner violence. This piece of data is grave, as it indicates a very high percentage of women known to the authorities and who were threatened before they were murdered, yet the system was unable to protect them. The number is even worse with regard to Palestinian women living in Israel, as in 73% of the cases in which there had been a previous complaint, the victim had been non-Jewish[67].

In 2016, the Ministry of Welfare issued a Special Director's Circular no. 92, calling to improve the coordination between the Ministry of Welfare and the Police regarding women who were at high risk. According to this procedure, all police stations would compile a list of women who were at risk in light of domestic violence, rated by severity. The list was to be the responsibility of the station commander and would be the basis of individual discussions with welfare representatives in order to ensure the optimal cooperation between the two entities. According to the circular, the instructions were meant to improve collaboration between the

67 Knesset Research and Information Center, Footnote 48

two entities and ensure frequent and orderly monitoring of women who are at high risk with a background of domestic violence[68].

However, despite the existence of said circular, no data has been published on the number of victims saved by this optimization procedure every year, and it is unclear why the percentage of murdered women who were known to the welfare or police continues to be high, despite its existence.

In light of the aforementioned, we recommend:

- That all ministries adopt a binding and uniform definition of GBV, which shall include all events on the spectrum of violence which occur towards women, men, and other populations due to gender and in line with the definitions in the Istanbul Convention, including expanding the definition of GBV in legislation so that it includes all forms of violence.
- Adapting data collection and documentation systems to a uniform definition and establishing a computerized database to collect and cross-reference information between the various government ministries and entities dealing with the prevention and treatment of violence.
- Collection, disaggregated and publication of data enabling the creation of a methodical status picture and identifying trends over time, including disaggregated by gender, nationality (and smaller subgroups within the nationality, e.g. the Haredi or Ethiopian communities), age, status, sexual identity, disability, geographic location, type of violence, means of violence (firearms / cold weapon), and previous complaints filed by victim.
- Define a uniform standard for the police with the details required to report complaints or incidents of violence; to build a system that enables automatic disaggregated by victims and identification of previous complaints.
- Publication of police procedures with regard to publishing information to the public, including non-publication policies.
- Adopting an action plan and establishing a national authority for combating and preventing GBV, which will be responsible for concentrating and budgeting the battle against violence and creating a uniformity in the way various ministries collect, segment and publish data.
- Consulting with civil society organizations that deal with these issues on a regular basis in order to improve data collection and disaggregated mechanisms.

68 Procedure for improvement of coordination between Ministry of Welfare and social services and Israel Police in the field of domestic violence with an emphasis on at-risk women, Ministry of Welfare, 2016

Appendixes A – D: Data after publication in Great Britain

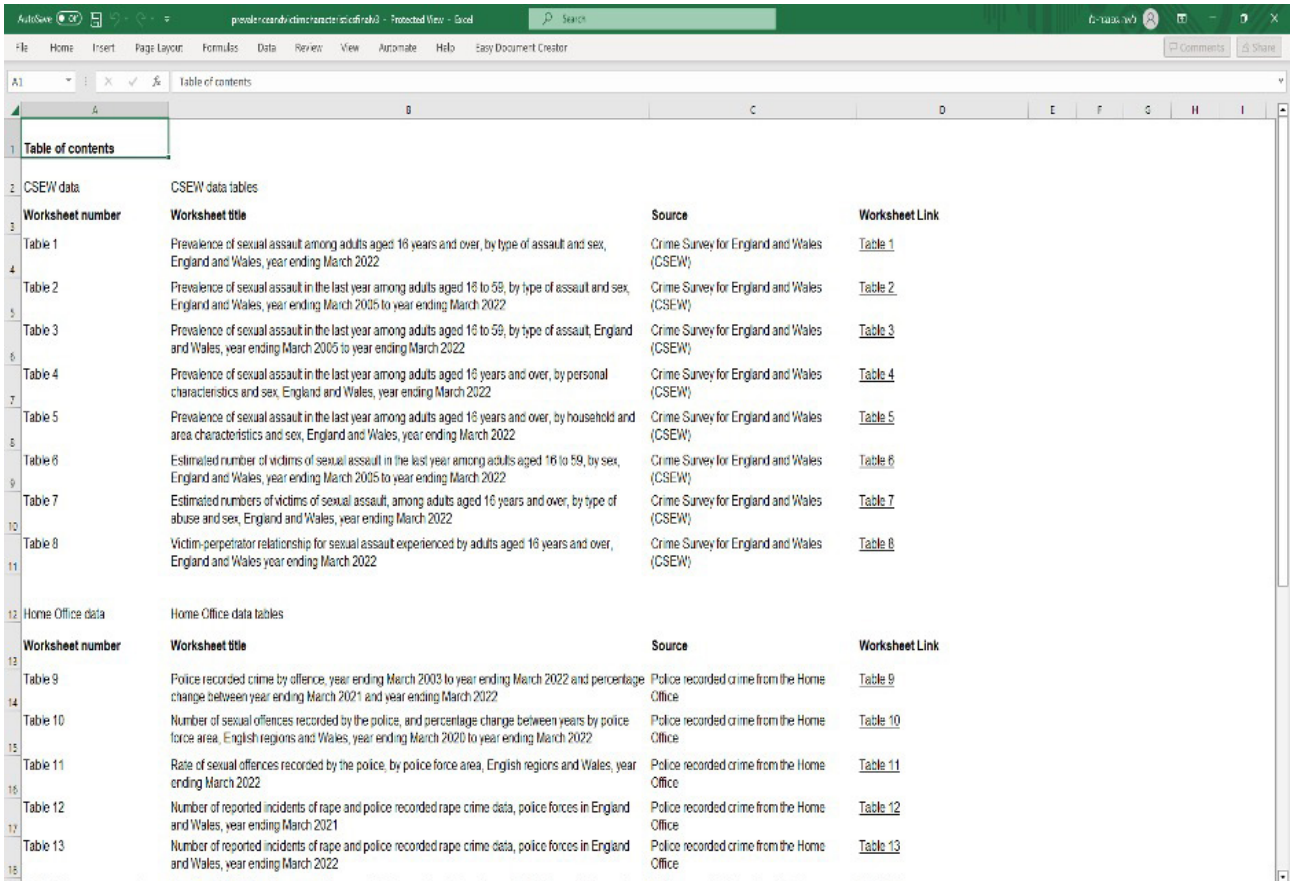

Table of contents

CSEW data	CSEW data tables		
Worksheet number	**Worksheet title**	**Source**	**Worksheet Link**
Table 1	Prevalence of sexual assault among adults aged 16 years and over, by type of assault and sex, England and Wales, year ending March 2022	Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)	Table 1
Table 2	Prevalence of sexual assault in the last year among adults aged 16 to 59, by type of assault and sex, England and Wales, year ending March 2005 to year ending March 2022	Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)	Table 2
Table 3	Prevalence of sexual assault in the last year among adults aged 16 to 59, by type of assault, England and Wales, year ending March 2005 to year ending March 2022	Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)	Table 3
Table 4	Prevalence of sexual assault in the last year among adults aged 16 years and over, by personal characteristics and sex, England and Wales, year ending March 2022	Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)	Table 4
Table 5	Prevalence of sexual assault in the last year among adults aged 16 years and over, by household and area characteristics and sex, England and Wales, year ending March 2022	Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)	Table 5
Table 6	Estimated number of victims of sexual assault in the last year among adults aged 16 to 59, by sex, England and Wales, year ending March 2005 to year ending March 2022	Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)	Table 6
Table 7	Estimated numbers of victims of sexual assault, among adults aged 16 years and over, by type of abuse and sex, England and Wales, year ending March 2022	Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)	Table 7
Table 8	Victim-perpetrator relationship for sexual assault experienced by adults aged 16 years and over, England and Wales year ending March 2022	Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)	Table 8
Home Office data	Home Office data tables		
Worksheet number	**Worksheet title**	**Source**	**Worksheet Link**
Table 9	Police recorded crime by offence, year ending March 2003 to year ending March 2022 and percentage change between year ending March 2021 and year ending March 2022	Police recorded crime from the Home Office	Table 9
Table 10	Number of sexual offences recorded by the police, and percentage change between years by police force area, English regions and Wales, year ending March 2020 to year ending March 2022	Police recorded crime from the Home Office	Table 10
Table 11	Rate of sexual offences recorded by the police, by police force area, English regions and Wales, year ending March 2022	Police recorded crime from the Home Office	Table 11
Table 12	Number of reported incidents of rape and police recorded rape crime data, police forces in England and Wales, year ending March 2021	Police recorded crime from the Home Office	Table 12
Table 13	Number of reported incidents of rape and police recorded rape crime data, police forces in England and Wales, year ending March 2022	Police recorded crime from the Home Office	Table 13

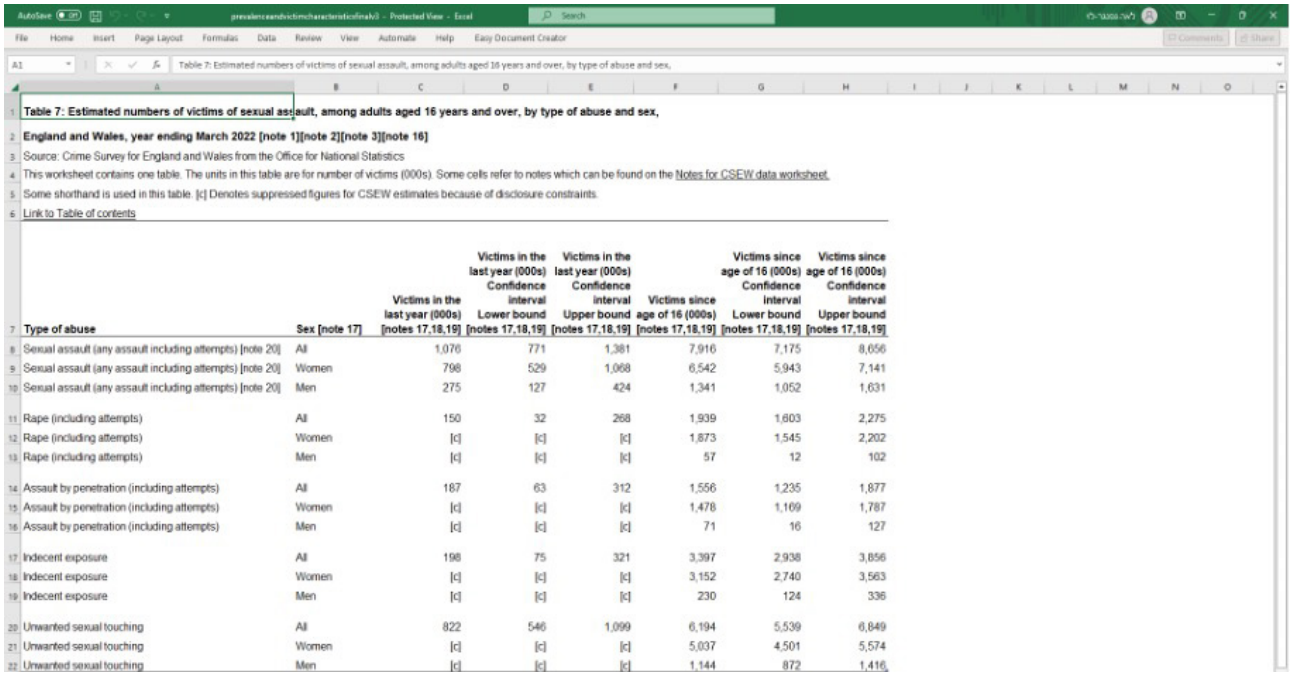

Table 7: Estimated numbers of victims of sexual assault, among adults aged 16 years and over, by type of abuse and sex,

England and Wales, year ending March 2022 [note 1][note 2][note 3][note 16]

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales from the Office for National Statistics

This worksheet contains one table. The units in this table are for number of victims (000s). Some cells refer to notes which can be found on the Notes for CSEW data worksheet.

Some shorthand is used in this table. [c] Denotes suppressed figures for CSEW estimates because of disclosure constraints.

Link to Table of contents

Type of abuse	Sex [note 17]	Victims in the last year (000s) [notes 17,18,19]	Victims in the last year (000s) Confidence interval Lower bound [notes 17,18,19]	Victims in the last year (000s) Confidence interval Upper bound [notes 17,18,19]	Victims since age of 16 (000s) [notes 17,18,19]	Victims since age of 16 (000s) Confidence interval Lower bound [notes 17,18,19]	Victims since age of 16 (000s) Confidence interval Upper bound [notes 17,18,19]
Sexual assault (any assault including attempts) [note 20]	All	1,076	771	1,381	7,916	7,175	8,656
Sexual assault (any assault including attempts) [note 20]	Women	798	529	1,068	6,542	5,943	7,141
Sexual assault (any assault including attempts) [note 20]	Men	275	127	424	1,341	1,052	1,631
Rape (including attempts)	All	150	32	268	1,939	1,603	2,275
Rape (including attempts)	Women	[c]	[c]	[c]	1,873	1,545	2,202
Rape (including attempts)	Men	[c]	[c]	[c]	57	12	102
Assault by penetration (including attempts)	All	187	63	312	1,556	1,235	1,877
Assault by penetration (including attempts)	Women	[c]	[c]	[c]	1,478	1,169	1,787
Assault by penetration (including attempts)	Men	[c]	[c]	[c]	71	16	127
Indecent exposure	All	198	75	321	3,397	2,938	3,856
Indecent exposure	Women	[c]	[c]	[c]	3,152	2,740	3,563
Indecent exposure	Men	[c]	[c]	[c]	230	124	336
Unwanted sexual touching	All	822	546	1,099	6,194	5,539	6,849
Unwanted sexual touching	Women	[c]	[c]	[c]	5,037	4,501	5,574
Unwanted sexual touching	Men	[c]	[c]	[c]	1,144	872	1,416

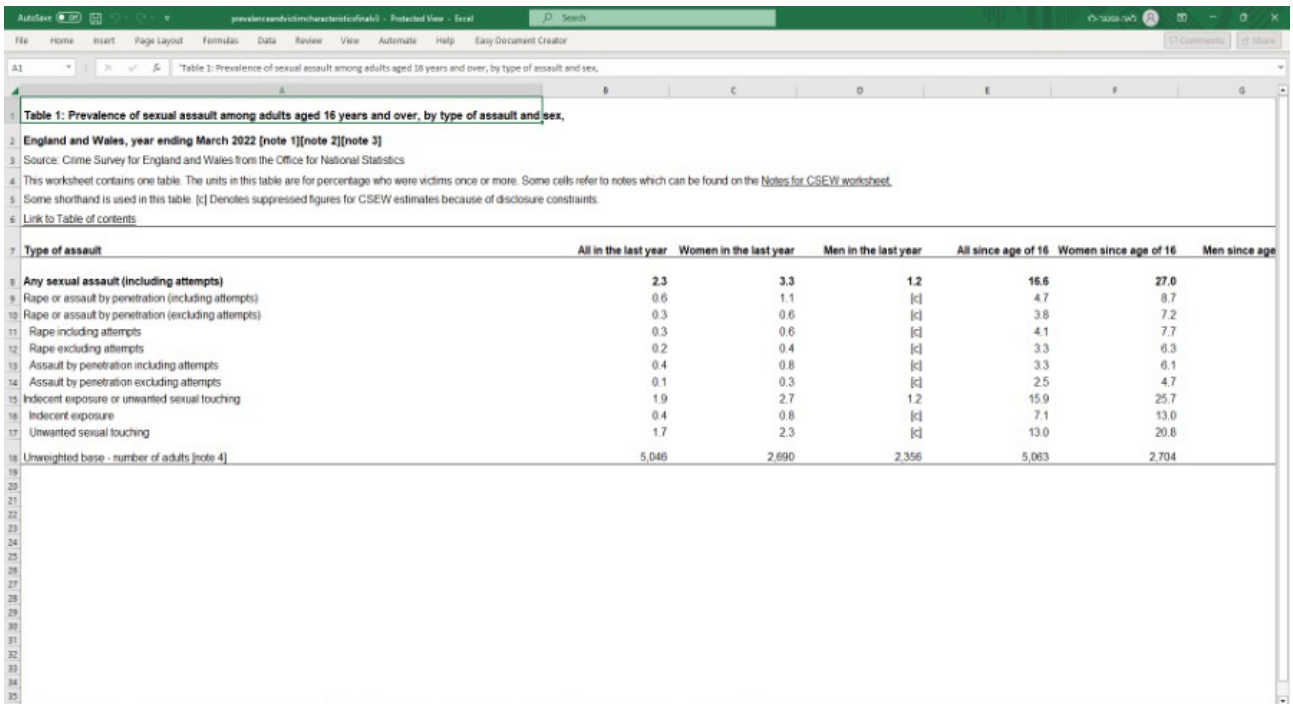

Table 1: Prevalence of sexual assault among adults aged 16 years and over, by type of assault and sex,

England and Wales, year ending March 2022 [note 1][note 2][note 3]

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales from the Office for National Statistics

This worksheet contains one table. The units in this table are for percentage who were victims once or more. Some cells refer to notes which can be found on the Notes for CSEW worksheet.

Some shorthand is used in this table. [c] Denotes suppressed figures for CSEW estimates because of disclosure constraints.

Link to Table of contents

Type of assault	All in the last year	Women in the last year	Men in the last year	All since age of 16	Women since age of 16	Men since age
Any sexual assault (including attempts)	**2.3**	**3.3**	**1.2**	**16.6**	**27.0**	
Rape or assault by penetration (including attempts)	0.6	1.1	[c]	4.7	8.7	
Rape or assault by penetration (excluding attempts)	0.3	0.6	[c]	3.8	7.2	
Rape including attempts	0.3	0.6	[c]	4.1	7.7	
Rape excluding attempts	0.2	0.4	[c]	3.3	6.3	
Assault by penetration including attempts	0.4	0.8	[c]	3.3	6.1	
Assault by penetration excluding attempts	0.1	0.3	[c]	2.5	4.7	
Indecent exposure or unwanted sexual touching	1.9	2.7	1.2	15.9	25.7	
Indecent exposure	0.4	0.8	[c]	7.1	13.0	
Unwanted sexual touching	1.7	2.3	[c]	13.0	20.8	
Unweighted base - number of adults [note 4]	5,046	2,690	2,356	5,063	2,704	

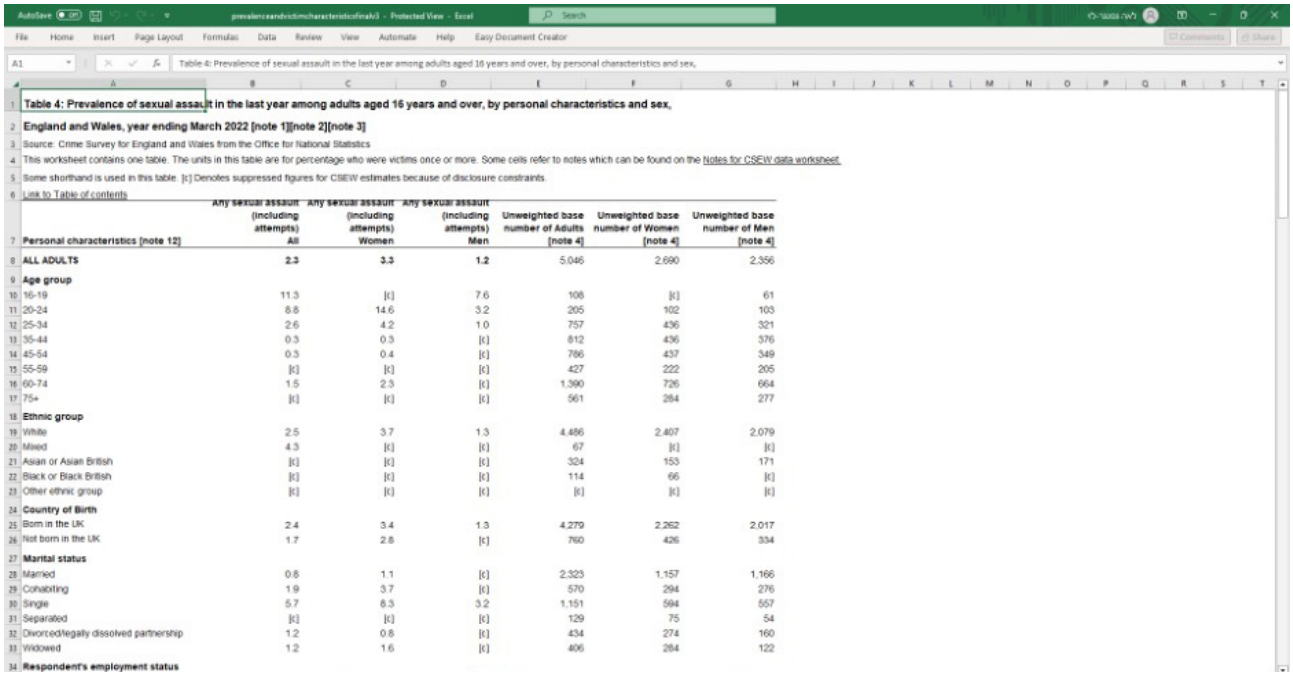

Table 4: Prevalence of sexual assault in the last year among adults aged 16 years and over, by personal characteristics and sex,

England and Wales, year ending March 2022 [note 1][note 2][note 3]

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales from the Office for National Statistics

This worksheet contains one table. The units in this table are for percentage who were victims once or more. Some cells refer to notes which can be found on the Notes for CSEW data worksheet.

Some shorthand is used in this table. [c] Denotes suppressed figures for CSEW estimates because of disclosure constraints.

Link to Table of contents

Personal characteristics [note 12]	Any sexual assault (including attempts) All	Any sexual assault (including attempts) Women	Any sexual assault (including attempts) Men	Unweighted base number of Adults [note 4]	Unweighted base number of Women [note 4]	Unweighted base number of Men [note 4]
ALL ADULTS	**2.3**	**3.3**	**1.2**	5,046	2,690	2,356
Age group						
16-19	11.3	[c]	7.6	108	[c]	61
20-24	8.8	14.6	3.2	205	102	103
25-34	2.6	4.2	1.0	757	436	321
35-44	0.3	0.3	[c]	812	436	376
45-54	0.3	0.4	[c]	786	437	349
55-59	[c]	[c]	[c]	427	222	205
60-74	1.5	2.3	[c]	1,390	726	664
75+	[c]	[c]	[c]	561	284	277
Ethnic group						
White	2.5	3.7	1.3	4,486	2,407	2,079
Mixed	4.3	[c]	[c]	67	[c]	[c]
Asian or Asian British	[c]	[c]	[c]	324	153	171
Black or Black British	[c]	[c]	[c]	114	66	[c]
Other ethnic group	[c]	[c]	[c]	[c]	[c]	[c]
Country of Birth						
Born in the UK	2.4	3.4	1.3	4,279	2,262	2,017
Not born in the UK	1.7	2.8	[c]	760	426	334
Marital status						
Married	0.8	1.1	[c]	2,323	1,157	1,166
Cohabiting	1.9	3.7	[c]	570	294	276
Single	5.7	8.3	3.2	1,151	594	557
Separated	[c]	[c]	[c]	129	75	54
Divorced/legally dissolved partnership	1.2	0.8	[c]	434	274	160
Widowed	1.2	1.6	[c]	406	284	122
Respondent's employment status						