



THE PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM TO
THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK



CSW 70 – side event Belgium

Beyond Legislation: Preventing Femicide Through Integrated Policy Action

Tuesday 10 March 2026 – 16.45 – 18:00
United Nations Headquarters - Conference Room 9

RSVP [HERE](#)

Concept note

Introduction

Femicide—the intentional killing of women and girls because of their gender—is a global issue and the most extreme form of gender-based violence. It is rooted in gender inequality, stereotypical gender roles, discrimination, and harmful social norms. Femicide refers not only to the act of killing itself, but to a broader structural phenomenon in which gender-based violence, inequality, and systemic failures create conditions that allow such killings to occur. In 2024, an estimated 83,000 women and girls were intentionally killed worldwide, 60% of them by an intimate partner or family member. This underscores that the home often remains the most dangerous place for women and girls. Femicides are rarely sudden or random; they frequently represent the tragic culmination of prolonged patterns of violence and control. Femicides also occur outside the domestic context, including in organized crime or sexual exploitation.

Several countries have made progress in addressing femicide through targeted legislation and innovative policy measures. In various legal systems, femicide is recognized either as a distinct criminal offense or as an aggravating circumstance in cases of murder or manslaughter. However, while legislation is a necessary foundation, it is rarely sufficient on its own to address femicides effectively. Effective prevention requires, among other things, the practical implementation and enforcement of laws, early risk detection and -management, protection measures, and measures addressing the structural causes of gender-based violence. The nature and dynamics of gender-based violence are also constantly evolving, including technology-facilitated abuse and coercive control, highlighting the need for flexible and integrated strategies.

This side event will bring together policymakers, Member States, experts, and civil society to explore approaches that go beyond legislation, including specialized tools such as femicide and gender-related homicide analyses through Domestic Homicide Review or Femicide Review Committees. By sharing experiences and comparing practices, the discussion aims to identify effective strategies to prevent and respond to femi(ni)cides. The event seeks to draw common lessons, formulate building blocks for policy improvement, and strengthen collaboration among stakeholders, recognizing that coordinated, collective action is essential for sustainable change.

Agenda:

1. Opening remarks (Minister Beenders, Federal Belgian Minister for Consumer Affairs, Social Fraud, Persons with Disabilities and Equal Opportunities – 3min)
2. Introduction of panelists by the Moderator (3 min)
 - Dr. Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou, President of Grevio and Platform of Independent Expert Mechanisms on Discrimination and Violence against Women (EDVAW Platform)
3. Interactive Panel Discussion (40 min)
 - Minister Natalia Plugaru, Minister of labour and social protection, Moldova
 - Dr. James Rowlands, Durham University, Assistant Professor in Sociology
 - Dr. Patsilí Toledo Vásquez, UN CEDAW Committee, co-chair of the Working Group on gender-based violence against women
 - Ms. Leah Tandeter, Policy Specialist on Ending Violence Against Women, UN Women Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean
4. Open Q&A (20 min)
5. Closing remarks (Minister Beenders, Federal Belgian Minister for Consumer Affairs, Social Fraud, Persons with Disabilities and Equal Opportunities – 4 min)