

NWCI MEMBERS MEETING NOVEMBER 2014

EU FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AGENCY 2014 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN SURVEY

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What to expect from me today

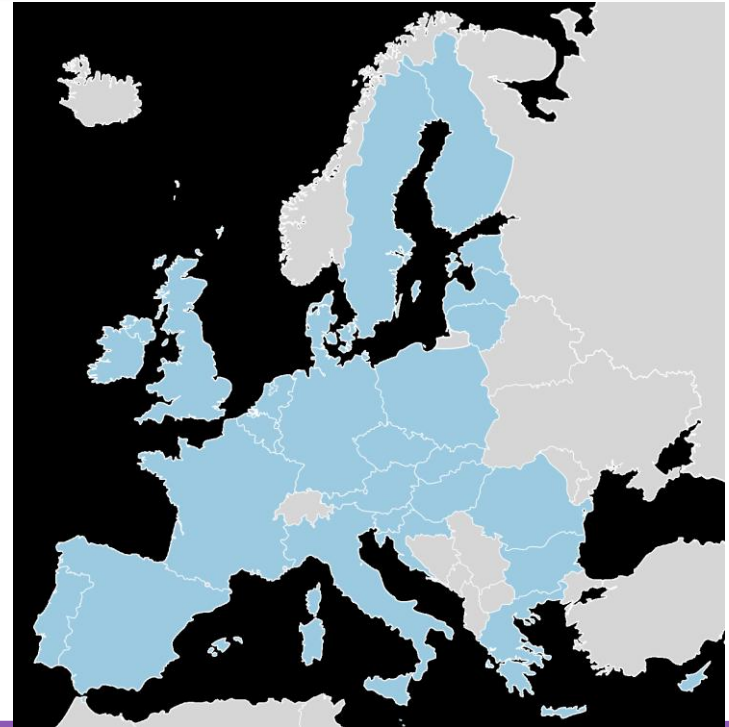
- ❖ What is the FRA and what does it do?
- ❖ The FRA VAW survey
 - What it is
 - Relevance to Ireland
 - How it was carried out
 - What it does
 - What it doesn't do
 - Key findings (Ireland against EU average)
 - Recommendations

The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights

- ❖ Established 2007.
- ❖ Supports the EU, its institutions and its Member States to uphold the Charter of Fundamental Rights.
- ❖ Collects and analyses data.
- ❖ Provides independent, evidence-based advice and expertise on Fundamental Rights.
- ❖ Identifying trends and progress in MS.
- ❖ Contribute to processes at EU level and national level.
- ❖ Communications and awareness-raising.

The FRA survey

- ❖ 28 Member States of the EU
- ❖ 1500 interviewees per state
- ❖ 42,000 women
- ❖ The largest ever survey on VAW
- ❖ Subsequent report on main findings
- ❖ Website with interactive data explorer



Irish relevance

- ❖ In the absence of follow up to 2002 Sexual Abuse and Violence in Ireland (SAVI) report.
- ❖ Women's voices in data collection.
- ❖ Garda Inspectorate report(s).
- ❖ The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention).
- ❖ EU Victims Directive.
- ❖ Irish strategy on violence against women.

How the survey was carried out

- ❖ Developed and piloted over 2 years + 1 year fieldwork.
- ❖ A minimum of 1,500 women per State (Luxembourg 908).
- ❖ Random sample of women aged 18-74 years old.
- ❖ Provides independent, evidence-based advice and expertise on Fundamental Rights.
- ❖ Face-to-face interviews conducted by female interviewers in interviewees' homes.
- ❖ Standardised questionnaire.

What did the survey ask?

- ❖ Experiences of physical, sexual and psychological violence, including incidents of intimate partner violence.
- ❖ The consequences for women who have experienced violence
- ❖ Women's responses to the violence they have experienced.
- ❖ Experiences of stalking and sexual harassment.
- ❖ The role played by new technologies in women's experiences of abuse.
- ❖ Experiences of violence in childhood.

What does the survey do?

- ❖ Presents comparable EU-wide data for the first time on the extent, nature and consequences of VAW.
- ❖ Provides rationale for the need for internationally comparable data, as well as the need for 'victimisation' surveys.
- ❖ Underlines the importance of targeted EU legislation and policies, e.g. the Istanbul Convention, the EU Victims' Directive.
- ❖ Points out a correlation between the level of gender equality in a society and the extent of violence against women (EIGE Index).
- ❖ Act as a credible, if limited, interim source of data, in anticipation of SAVI 2.

What does the survey not do?

- ❖ Cover certain types of violence against women, such as trafficking, FGM and forced marriages.
- ❖ Provide state-specific analysis.
- ❖ Gather information from women living in an EU Member State who did not speak at least one of the country's official languages.
- ❖ Survey women in limited-access institutional settings.
- ❖ Explicitly make the argument for national data collection.
- ❖ Provide recommendations specific to individual Member States.
- ❖ Men were not surveyed.

Key findings – experience of violence

Physical and/or sexual violence at least once since she was 15

Ireland: 1 in 4 women

EU average: 1 in 3 women

Physical violence by a partner or a non-partner since the age of 15

Ireland: 24%

EU average: 31%

Sexual violence by a partner or a non-partner since the age of 15

Ireland: 8%

EU average: 11%

Key findings – experience of violence

Physical and/or sexual violence by a partner since the age of 15

Ireland: 15%

EU average: 22%

Physical and/or sexual violence by a non-partner since the age of 15

Ireland: 19%

EU average: 22%

Across the EU, including in Ireland, the type of *non-partner* perpetrator identified reported most often was by a person known to the woman (69%).

Key findings – consequences of violence

- ❖ The percentage of respondents in Ireland who report specific emotional responses are higher in Ireland.
- ❖ Aggressiveness experienced less by respondents in Ireland (IE: 15% EU: 24%).
- ❖ Loss of self-confidence across EU, but significantly higher rate by respondents in Ireland (IE: 55% EU: 36%).
- ❖ Most commonly reported physical injuries were bruises, scratches, wounds, sprains, burns, fractures, broken bones and broken teeth.
- ❖ Respondents in Ireland, however, report higher levels of each type of injury.

Key findings – women's responses

- ❖ Only 20% of women in Ireland who experienced violence contacted the police.
- ❖ When asked the reasons for *not* contacting the police, women across Europe stated they dealt with it themselves – this rationale notably high in Ireland (IE: 57% EU: 39%).
- ❖ Significantly fewer respondents in Ireland reported that they considered it too minor/ not serious enough/ never occurred to her to contact the police (IE: 13% EU: 30%).
- ❖ The majority of respondents (up to 62%) in Ireland reported that the type of assistance they most needed was someone to talk to.

Key findings – safety and security

- ❖ The rate of worry in Ireland about being assaulted by an individual known to them rate on average at 10%.
- ❖ When asked if respondents avoid places or situations for fear of being assaulted in general, Ireland's rates are notably higher (situations in general 69% to 53%).
- ❖ Avoidance levels for fear of being assaulted notably higher in Ireland compared to EU average with regard to going to certain areas, including, places where there are no other people around and opening the door when alone.

Report's recommendations to MSs

- ❖ Collect data on women's experiences of violence (in addition to administrative and criminal justice data).
- ❖ Promote and fund surveys in a concerted effort to uncover information on the extent and nature of violence experienced by women.
- ❖ Develop specific national action plans on violence against women
 - 'civil society actors working with women who are victims of violence can usefully be involved'.



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