

WHAT IS FEMICIDE?

Femicide is a term that recognizes that women and girls are killed because of their gender. Femicide happens in Canada and around the world. It is the most violent manifestation of misogyny against women. It is the ultimate control of women's and girls' bodies, to control their fate and, ultimately, their death. It is a hate crime against women, girls, and feminine-presenting peoples.

The Canadian government has still not officially recognized the term Femicide. The Canadian Observatory for Justice and Accountability (CFOJA) is currently the only Canadian initiative responding to the UN call to establish national observatories to document the gender-related killings of women/girls.

The CFOJA says, "It is extremely important to recognize the gender-related aspects of killings of women and girls and highlight the stark differences in their characteristics and contexts compared to the killings of men and boys."

CFOJA has stressed the importance of using **sex/gender-related motives/indicators (SGRMIs)** in recognizing instances of femicide. These indicators help determine whether the killing was rooted in misogynistic beliefs and behaviours.

The 5 most common SGRMIs are:

- Misogyny - hatred toward women, sexism, seeing women as property of men/inferior/submissive, etc.
- Sexual Violence
- Coercive-Controlling Behaviours
- Separation of Woman from her Partner
- Overkill - using excessive violence, mutilation, torture

Sources: Aura Freedom, Kokkoros, M. (2020). Relentless Resilience - A Beijing +25 Parallel Report. Retrieved from https://aurafreedom.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/AF_RelentlessResilience_Beijing25_Cdn_ParallelRpt_Feb2020.pdf
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"The Montreal Massacre, the Toronto Van Attack, and the Nova Scotia Mass Shooting were not the result of the actions of 'madmen'. Oh, no.

These massacres were calculated acts of misogyny deeply rooted in patriarchy and gender inequality. They specifically targeted and brutalized women because they were women and each of the killers had a history of violence against women and hatred toward them. We must recognize these murders as femicides and as hate crimes if we are to end them."

Marissa Kokkoros, author of Relentless Resilience

Femicide is real. It's happening in Canada. Ignoring this does more harm than good.

Disconnecting misogyny from the murders of women and girls is problematic and troubling. Recognizing Femicide as an extreme form of gender-based violence is the first step forward to addressing it.

For more info and resources on GBV, including survivor support available in Canada, visit the Relentless Resilience microsite at: aurafreedom.org/relentless-resilience



GRASSROOTS ACCOUNTS FROM THE FRONTLINE

In 2003, Deborah Sinclair was appointed to the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee of the Chief Coroner's office in Ontario.

"There is no question in my mind that intimate femicide is a gendered crime," says Deborah. More than 90% of the victims murdered were female and more than 90% of the killers were male. When children were killed in this context, it was often as a retaliation or punishment towards the mother. The worst and deepest way to hurt a mother is to harm her child. Most intimate murders of women and children are both predictable and preventable. In more than 70% of the cases we reviewed, there were a minimum of seven risk factors."

Deborah Sinclair was interviewed on the subject of Femicide by Marissa Kokkoros, author of Relentless Resilience. Read the full report at aurafreedom.org

WE'RE NOT WAITING ANYMORE.