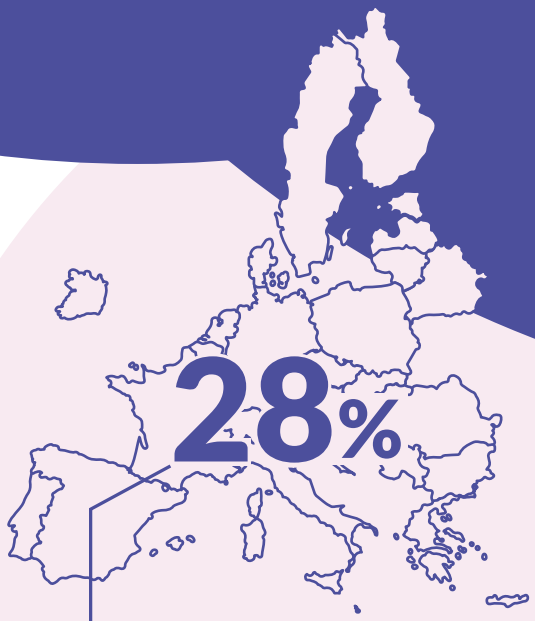
MARVOW 2.0
Coordinated Multi-Agency Response to Violence against Older Women

FACTSHEET I

Violence against older women

...refers to any gender-based act of violence that leads to physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering in women aged 60 years and older. This also includes the threat of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, regardless of whether they occur in the public or private sphere.

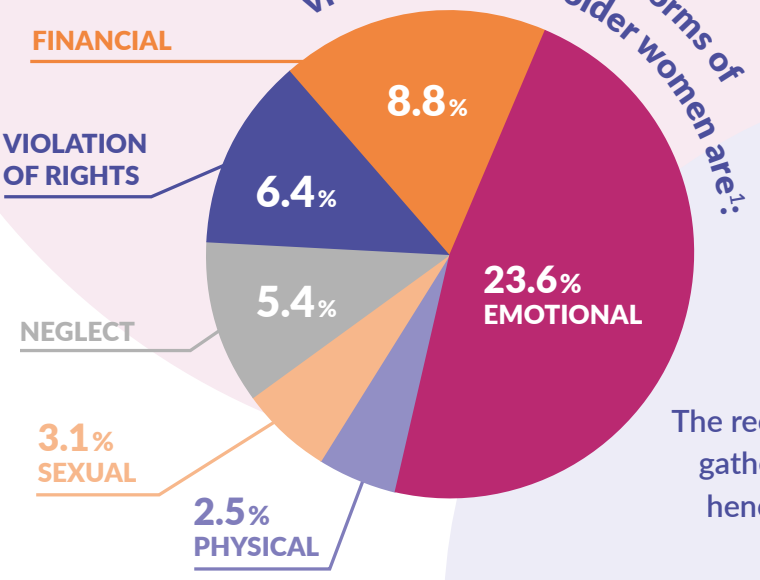


...of older women surveyed had experienced some kind of violence or abuse in the previous 12 months.[1]

31% of all women in the European Union (EU) are over 60 years old. Additionally, life expectancy for women in Europe is increasing, in 2022, it was 84 years.[2]

As Europe ages, the issue of violence against older women becomes more urgent. To date, very few studies have been conducted on violence against older women. This highlights the lack of data, awareness and research in this area.

The most common forms of violence against older women are[1]:



The recent EU gender-based violence survey only gathered data for women up to the age of 74, hence the data below refers to older women from the ages of 65–74:[3]

26.1%
of women experienced violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime

8.1%
of women experienced economic violence by an intimate partner

1 Luoma, M.-L. et al. (2011). Prevalence Study of Abuse and Violence against Older Women. Results of a Multi-cultural Survey in Austria, Belgium, Finland, Lithuania, and Portugal (European Report of the AVOW Project). Finland: National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL).

2 Ageing Europe — looking at the lives of older people in the EU. Eurostat. 2020

3 EUROSTAT, FRA, EIGE: EU gender-based violence survey. 2024

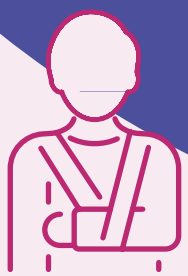
Co-funded by the European Union

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FACTSHEET II

How can we recognize violence against older women?



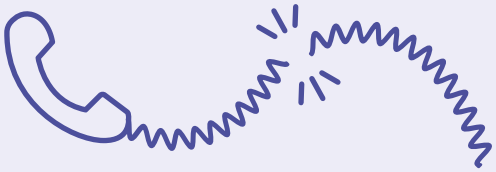
Physical abuse signs

- Unexplained injuries (e.g., bruises, fractures, burns)
- Frequent doctor visits – or complete avoidance of medical help
- Contradictory explanations for injuries



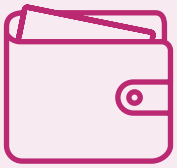
Emotional abuse signs

- Withdrawal, insecurity, or noticeable anxiety – especially in the presence of certain individuals
- Depressive mood, sleep disturbances, lack of motivation
- Exaggerated gratitude or fear of being a burden



Social abuse signs

- Abrupt stop of contact with family or friends
- Isolation – no access to phone, mail, or visitors
- Control by family members or carers



Financial abuse signs

- Lack of overview of personal finances
- Unexplained financial transactions or loss of assets
- Dependence on others on financial matters, despite cognitive capacity

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FACTSHEET III

Call-to-Action: How we can help

Support begins with a conversation – dare to speak up



Show courage
Support affected women with respect and patience.

Educate yourself
Knowledge protects.

Listen.
Ask.
Stay there

Offer trust rather than pressure
Every woman decides for herself what her next steps will be.

Get help
Don't act alone; seek professional support.

Information & Referrals

If you suspect violence, contact counseling services or the helpline

Helplines in European countries

www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/help-lines

marvow.eu/unseen-no-more/

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