

Press release

Older women once again invisible in gender-based violence research

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The launch of the new [EU gender-based violence survey](#) (FRA survey) is a major step forward for data-driven efforts to combat gender-based violence, but a critical issue remains unobserved: the **invisibility of older women**.

While the FRA survey considers women up to age 74, the reality is unequivocal: **Europe is ageing** rapidly and well beyond that limit.

With 10% of the population aged 75 years and over, and 6 out of 10 of them women, older women aged 75 or more represent 6% of the total population (Source: Eurostat).

Overlooking a significant 12% of the entire female population, while investigating gender-based violence against women, besides being paradoxical, leaves their unique vulnerabilities and experiences of abuse underexplored.

This omission impedes the development of strategies to appropriately respond to violence against a notable part of population in need of those actions.

Excluding this significant demographic denies them the tailored policies they need, leaving a vital part of the population unprotected.

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of all women, we must include older women in our research and actions.

The [MARVOW 2.0](#) team urges FRA (the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights), Eurostat (the statistical office of the EU), and EIGE (the European Institute for Gender Equality) to outline **strategies and tools to include older women** among the survey's target groups.

It's time to break their statistical invisibility.

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