

# Risk Factor Checklist for cases of violence against older women

This Checklist was established within the Coordinated Multi-Agency Response to Violence against Older Women European project (MARVOW 2.0). Its aim is to support frontline professionals in assessing age-specific risk factors in cases of violence against older women (60+). It is to be used alongside pre-existing domestic violence risk assessment tools. Please note that it is not suitable for individuals with severe cognitive impairment or psychiatric conditions.

## ■ STEP 1. COMPLETE YOUR USUAL RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL

The first step is screening for violence with pre-existing specifically designed tools, e.g. your usual risk assessment tool.

If a high risk case is identified in Step 1, proceed directly to Step 3.

## ■ STEP 2. COMPLETE THE MARVOW 2.0 RISK FACTOR CHECKLIST

Name and capacity of frontline professional completing the checklist:

Identification of the woman (name, age, situation, any relevant details, in line with Data protection):

Name of the pre-existing risk assessment tool used:

Date and place of completing the MARVOW2.0 Risk Factor Checklist:

Timeframe:

RISK FACTOR	AREAS TO EXPLORE	YES	NO	no information available	not assessed - N/A	Comment on what risk factor(s) has been observed by you as a frontline professional	Comment on what risk factor(s) has been reported by the older woman	Comment on what risk factor(s) has been reported by another person and whom	Comment on whether there is an increase in frequency and/or severity of risk factors observed or reported
<b>PSYCHOLOGICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AGE-RELATED</b>	<b>AREAS TO EXPLORE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Psychiatric treatment, medications</li> <li>Changes in sleep, appetite, concentration, memory problems or difficulty communicating</li> </ul>								
<b>FUNCTIONAL DEPENDENCY/ DISABILITY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor mobility</li> <li>Physical impairment, needs for special medical equipment (wheelchair, walker, etc.) or medical products</li> <li>Changes in vision</li> <li>Changes in hearing</li> </ul>								
<b>MEDICAL ISSUES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Illness</li> <li>Lack of medical treatment</li> <li>Limited access to medical examination</li> <li>Perpetrator/carer not reporting serious symptoms or changes in condition</li> </ul>								
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tensed atmosphere in the home</li> <li>Damaged objects in the victim's home/room</li> </ul>								
<b>HYGIENE AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of physical and chemical restraint</li> </ul>								
<b>FINANCIAL DEPENDENCY<sup>1</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Victim does not have access or not able to manage her finances, e.g. pension, other source of income, property rights</li> <li>Lack of adequate income or finances</li> </ul>								



1 "Financial independence requires financial ability, reflecting financial literacy and self-efficacy, combined with financial resources (financial capability) and decision-making power and control over those resources. Financial independence is noted to provide individuals with the resources, opportunities and agency to lead fulfilling lives, irrespective of their background or identity," cf. [https://eige.europa.eu/newsroom/news/whats-gender-equality-got-do-financial-independence?language\\_content\\_entity=en](https://eige.europa.eu/newsroom/news/whats-gender-equality-got-do-financial-independence?language_content_entity=en) p.20

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<b>FINANCIAL ABUSE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disappearance of valuable items from the home (jewellery, objects...)</li> <li>Unpaid bills</li> </ul>								
<b>LACK OF SOCIAL/ FORMAL SUPPORT FOR THE VICTIM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None or low involvement in social services</li> <li>Controlled access to phone and electronic devices</li> <li>Erosion of bonds between generations in the family</li> <li>Not close to her children or siblings</li> <li>Family (especially children) does not identify, minimises or justifies the abuse, does not support the older woman in related needs and / or is allied with the perpetrator</li> </ul>								
<b>INAPPROPRIATE/ INCONVENIENT HOUSEHOLD LIVING ARRANGEMENTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shared housing with perpetrator, other family members (no privacy, safety)</li> <li>Inappropriate conditions (accessibility, special needs)</li> </ul>								
<b>ADHERENCE TO TRADITIONAL SOCIAL GENDER NORMS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Victim does not recognise/identify the violent behaviour</li> <li>Victim minimises violence or justifies it as normal</li> <li>Victim unaware of the situation because it has been going on for a long time</li> <li>Victim unwilling to change anything</li> </ul>								



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<b>CHANGES IN RELATIONSHIPS</b>	<p><b>AREAS TO EXPLORE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sudden appearance of a distant relative she vaguely knows who wants to take care of her, live in her home</li> <li>Sudden appearance of a new friend or romantic interest – this usually happens with the recent death of a spouse/partner</li> </ul>								
<b>PERPETRATOR – Can be the partner/husband/younger perpetrator (e.g. sons), member of the family, please specify:</b>									
<b>DIFFICULTIES / STRESS / ADJUSTING TO AGE RELATED CHANGES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stress and/or frustration related to (new) role as care giver (inadequate caring and/or coping skills, etc.)</li> <li>Distress related with dependence, illness, cognitive impairment, etc.</li> <li>Frustration of not being able to cope</li> <li>Distress and or frustration related to retirement (loss of social role, prestige, occupation, etc.)</li> <li>Being at home full time</li> <li>Loss of driving licence</li> </ul>								
<b>ONGOING HISTORY OF PERPETRATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Previous criminal charges/convictions</li> <li>Chronicity of the abuse</li> </ul>								
<b>LACK OF SOCIAL/ FORMAL SUPPORT FOR THE PERPETRATOR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No social network (family, friends)</li> <li>None or low involvement in social services (home visits by social workers, regular check-ups, senior care)</li> </ul>								
<b>ADDITIONAL RISK</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weapons or guns in the home</li> <li>Death threats</li> </ul>								

### STEP 3. MANAGE RISK

- If high or extreme immediate risk is identified (i.e. possession of weapons or guns, death threats), take immediate action for the protection of the older women, including calling the police and/or relevant services in your context.

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- If the risk factors identified in the MARVOW 2.0 checklist (in combination with the result of the standard risk assessment from pre-existing tools) indicate a level of risk, proceed with the MARVOW 2.0 case management tool.

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- Ensure that all cases are closely monitored through the multi-agency protocol and therefore the case management tool.

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- Follow-up assessments should be carried out to monitor fluctuations in risk – as risk is dynamic and can change rapidly.

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Deliverable 2.2: MARVOW 2.0 Risk Assessment Methodology and Risk Assessment Development Tool

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