

Femicide

The term femicide defines an event that otherwise would risk remaining invisible, because it refers to gender-related killing of women, or to “women killed because they are women, or because they are not the kind of women society would like them to be”, according to the definition of the Istanbul Convention.

The term is borrowed from criminology and identifies gender-based murders committed by men. It includes the killing of women by current and former intimate partners and the killing of girls by their fathers for refusing arranged marriage or obsessive control of their lives.

“Every time we come across a femicide, we keep wondering if that knife, that gun, those hands could have been stopped; we ask ourselves why we couldn’t stop it, even though we responded to every single plea for help from that poor victim, sometimes even understanding her silence”.

“The only way to tackle femicide is through prevention; merely highlighting the statistical increase in the number of arrests for this crime will hardly have a real impact on this phenomenon”, said Prefect Francesco Messina, head of the Central Anticrime Directorate.