



'The figures are alarming: one in three women in the EU has experienced some form of gender-based violence in their lives.'

European Commission, Joint Statement

Online Module: Executive Summary

Gender-based violence (GBV) is violence that is directed against a person because of that person's gender, gender identity or gender expression, or that affects persons of a particular gender disproportionately.

GBV is sometimes incorrectly assumed to be the same thing as violence against women. However, although women are the victims in the majority of cases of GBV, men can also be the target.

GBV takes multiple forms. The most common form is intimate-partner violence (IPV) – acts of violence committed between former or current spouses or partners. This includes violence of different types – psychological, physical, sexual and economic. From Chapter 4 onwards, the module focuses on IPV. Other forms of GBV include sexual harassment, rape, human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation or for forced or sham marriages, stalking and female genital mutilation.

The module targets law enforcement officers and other practitioners who can come in contact with victims of GBV or who work on the prevention or investigation of GBV. It is also designed for trainers and instructors of law enforcement officers and personnel.

The module presents the most up-to-date legal standards and instruments in the field of GBV and good practices in addressing incidents. It also provides general guidelines on:

- **Police first response and investigation** – including recognising cases and identifying risk factors, and outlining how to interact with victims of GBV and address their specific needs;
- **Prevention activities** usually carried out by police, such as awareness-raising campaigns.

The module consists of an introduction, seven topic chapters and a glossary of GBV-related terms and abbreviations. In the My Progress section, users can assess their levels of understanding of each of the topics by considering a selection of true/false statements.

The individual chapters are:

1. **Introduction**
2. **Forms of GBV:** This chapter describes the most common forms of GBV, including IPV, and also the overlap with domestic violence.
3. **The EU Framework and Approaches to GBV:** The chapter presents the most relevant legal standards and instruments used in the fight against GBV (the Istanbul Convention and the Victims' Rights Directive). It also covers the most common approaches to address GBV: a gender-sensitive approach, a victim-centred approach, a human rights-based approach and an interdisciplinary-cooperation approach.
4. **Police First Response:** This chapter presents the main obligations and principles of GBV first response: immediate response, risk assessment, emergency barring orders and victims' rights respected.
5. **Protective Measures:** This chapter examines issues relating to the protection of the victims of GBV, and especially of IPV. It explains the concept of protection, the protection measures that can be implemented and the possibility to liaise with other relevant services as necessary.
6. **Investigation:** This chapter offers guidelines for improving the investigation of GBV cases, focusing especially on IPV cases.
7. **Preventive Measures:** The prevention of GBV is a priority for police. This chapter presents the obligations and principles in the prevention of GBV (especially IPV), and describes the main forms of preventive measures.
8. **Vulnerable Groups:** This chapter looks in detail at three groups that are particularly vulnerable to GBV: women with disabilities, women migrants and asylum seekers, and minors and young people.