



# Violence against women



## Violence against women



## **What is in this book**

Inside this book you will read about:



**Who wrote this book**

**Page 4**



**Laws against hurting women**

**Page 5**



**The survey**

**Page 6**



**What is wrong and what to do about it**

**Page 9**

## Who wrote this book

We are the **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights**.

We wrote this book.



**We are called FRA for short.**

We are an **organisation**.

**An organisation is a group of people working together.**



We help to make sure everyone in the **European Union** can use their **rights**.

**The European Union is a group of 28 countries in Europe.**



**Rights are things that everyone has.**

For example, the right to vote and the right to get married.

## Laws against hurting women

There are rules against hurting women.

One of these rules is called the Istanbul Convention.

It is an important document.

Countries who agree with the Istanbul Convention must follow its rules.



The Istanbul Convention says that countries must have rules that protect women against violence.



The European Union has rules to help women who have been hurt.

One of these rules is called the Victims Rights' Directive.

It lists the rights that victims of crime have.

It says that countries in the European Union must protect these rights.



## The survey



A **survey** means asking a lot of people the same questions.



We asked more than 900 women in every country of the **European Union**.

We asked over 40,000 women in total.



We asked if anyone had been **violent** to them.

There are different types of **violence**.



We asked women if anyone had been **physically violent** to them.



**Physical violence is hurting somebody's body.**

That means things like hitting, pushing or choking them.



We asked women if anyone had **raped** them or tried to rape them.

**Rape means forcing someone to have sex with them.**



We asked if their **partners** had **emotionally abused** them.

**Partners means husbands, wives, boyfriends or girlfriends.**

**Emotional abuse means making someone feel ashamed or afraid.**



We asked if anyone had **stalked** them.

**Being stalked means being followed by someone they do not want to follow them.**

**Stalking can also happen on the internet.**



We asked what they knew about laws to stop anyone hurting them.



The **survey** helps us understand problems with violence against women and what to do about it.



## What is wrong and what to do about it



About one in three women say someone has **hurt them physically**.



Most women don't tell the police when someone hurts them.



We say that we should let doctors and nurses ask patients if someone has hurt them.

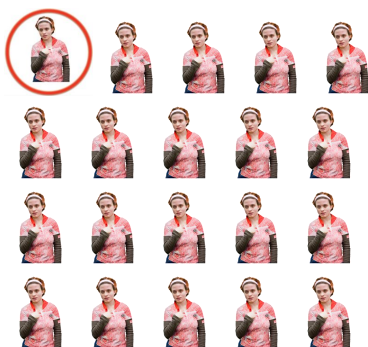


We say the police  
should have special people  
to help women who have been hurt.

These special people know how to help.



We need to find out  
if people are helping women.



About 1 out of 20 women say someone has **raped** them.



More women say someone has tried to rape them.



Most women do not tell the police when someone rapes them or tries to rape them.



We say the police need to know how to help women who have been raped.



We say we need to help women to feel OK about telling people when someone has raped or hurt them or tried to rape or hurt them.



Almost half of women say their partner has **emotionally abused** them.

For example, the partner made the woman feel ashamed or afraid.



People at work need to know when other workers have been emotionally abused.



We say employers should train workers to know about emotional abuse.



We say the police should learn to know when people feel bad because of what their partners are doing.



We need to teach people not to emotionally abuse their partners.





Almost 1 in 5 women say someone has stalked them.



Most women do not tell the police when someone stalks them.



We should help women feel that they can report stalking.



We say countries should keep women safe from stalkers.



We should have people who know how to help women feel better after someone has stalked them.



Half of all women stay away from some places because they are scared.



Women are more likely to be scared if someone has hurt them before.



When a woman looks scared, it would be good to ask her if she needs help.

She may have been hurt.



Most women think people often hurt women.



Almost half of women know a woman who has been hurt.



Only half of women know that there are laws against hurting women.



Sometimes a doctor thinks a woman looks as if she has been hurt.

Most women think the doctor should ask her if anyone has been violent to her.



We say countries should make plans to stop people hurting women.



We say the European Union should give organisations money to help women who have been hurt.

Some people think it is nobody else's business if partners hurt each other.

We say no.



When someone hurts their partner, it is important that this does not remain a secret.

Other people need to know this is happening.



There should be laws against partners hurting each other.





To see if the laws are working,  
we need to know  
what is happening to women.

If we know what is happening  
to women,  
then we can decide what to do about  
it.

We should ask women these  
questions again in the future.

This book was developed thanks to the support of Mencap  
Liverpool.