GENDER·NET Plus
Promoting gender equality in H2020 and the ERA

**GBV-MIG**
Violence against women migrants and refugees:
analyzing causes and effective policy responses

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# Sociology, Law, Political Science, Psychology

## Overview

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is a major infringement of women's human rights and an obstacle to sustainable development as set out in the SDGs. SGBV against migrant and refugee women is widespread, but often remains invisible and under-analysed both in academic research and policy-making. This research will take an intersectional approach to understand SGBV in the context of migration, analysing the ways in which discriminations and inequalities based on gender, race, nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and age, interact to make certain women more vulnerable to SGBV and less able to access support and services for survivors than others. SGBV may be exacerbated by policies aiming to restrict migration, or to increase control of borders, which can push women into adopting dangerous routes to arrive in their country of destination. Conflict and the risks of migration may also render women vulnerable to trafficking and sexual exploitation. Conditions of reception, and policies for integration in receiving countries may also lead to increased risk of SGBV for migrant and refugee women. But these women are not just "victims", and their strategies and agency should also be explored. In sum, while we know that female migrants and refugees are particularly exposed to violence, we lack a systematic understanding of the underlying dynamics that (re)produce patterns of violence. It is this gap that the research seeks to fill in order to make policy recommendations for reducing these women's vulnerability to SGBV and increasing their access to services.

## Project outcomes

The research teams from all countries completed background reviews of the legal, political, economic, social contexts concerning gender-based violence in the context of migration in each of the case study countries. These background papers have been published on the project website as country reports.

A website has been set up to provide a repository of publications from the project members, as well as all publications coming directly from the project.

An edited book based on the research and with contributions from all researchers, *Gende-based* violence in migration: *Interdiscplinary*, Feminist and Intersectional Approaches, was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2022.

Articles based on the research have been published in academic journals, and more are forthcoming.

Various conference presentations, seminars and policy workshops have been held to present the project results.

## Team members

| | Woman | Man | Other |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Gender balance in the whole consortium** | 20 (100%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) |
| **Presence of women as lead researchers/PIs** | 7 (100%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) |
| **Gender Experts in the team** | 20 (100%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) |
| **Subsequent team members trained (Gender equality and/or IGAR)** | 20 (100%) | 0 (0%) | 0 (0%) |

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## Contribution to the achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

GBV-MIG has contributed to producing new knowledge on gender-based violence against specific groups of women which should help to design policies to prevent this violence and also to improve the health of the women concerned.

## Differences/inequalities between women and men highlighted by the project

GBV-MIG focuses on migrant women and refugees and has highlighted key differences in vulnerabilities of women and men to violence during migration – showing the ways in which women are more vulnerable to violence during migration because of legal, political, economic, and social inequalities. We highlight the situated intersectionality which places migrant and refugee women in vulnerable situations, and provided policy recommendations to prevent this vulnerability.

## Positive impact of the project on gender equality/scientific evidence on gender in the field

We have produced new data and analysis on GBV in the context of migration. This advances knowledge on gender equality in the fields of migration and refugee studies.

## Socio-economic impact; involvement of policy makers/civil society

GBV-MIG aims to have an impact both within and beyond academia. Although there are large existing bodies of research on both SGBV and on migration, these two areas are rarely considered together, both within academia, and by civil society and policy organisations. There is no current systematic comparative analysis of causes of and responses to SGBV against migrant and refugee women. The proposed research brought new knowledge and analysis to both of these spheres of academic research, and to policy-making in the areas of SGBV prevention and response, and immigration and asylum policies, and other relevant policy fields (health, education, welfare). Knowledge exchange occured both between co-investigators in the project, through mutual learning and exchange during the course of the project, and between co-investigators and outside partners, both within and outside of academia.

Furthermore, civil society organisations have been involved in data collection for the project.

We have worked with civil society and policy makers to ensure that the result of our project have maximum impact.