



Italy: Impunity for Femicide and Systemic Discrimination Against Women

To: The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Subject: Complaint Regarding Italy's Failure to Prevent Femicide and Violence Against Women in Italy

Submitted by: [Women's Platform for Action International](#)

1. Introduction

The Women's Platform for Action International respectfully submits this complaint to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) regarding systemic violations of women's human rights in Italy, specifically regarding the rising epidemic of femicide and the persistent failure of the State to prevent violence, ensure justice, and protect women's lives. Despite Italy's ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Istanbul Convention, violence against women, particularly femicide, remains widespread, underreported, and largely unpunished.

2. Impunity for Femicide and Systemic Discrimination Against Women

Italy is experiencing a persistent crisis of femicide, with women routinely murdered by partners of family members. The majority of these victims had previously reported or sought help from the authorities, but in multiple cases women were murdered even after filing police reports or requesting restraining orders.

These femicides are not isolated tragedies but part of a systemic failure of Italian institutions to treat violence against women as a structural and preventable issue. The widespread impunity and delays in judicial response create a climate in which women's lives are devalued.

Recent cases of failure to prevent and punish femicide in Italy, include:

- **Martina Carbonaro (May 2025)¹:** A 14-year old was stabbed to death by her ex-boyfriend in the province of Naples. The perpetrator later confessed, highlighting how intimate partner violence often goes unchecked.
- **Sara Campanella² and Ilaria Sula³ (March-April 2025):** Sara Campanella was stabbed to death at a bus stop in Messina by her stalker, and Ilaria Sula disappeared in March and was later found in a suitcase near Rome. Her ex-boyfriend is under investigation. These killings sparked public outrage and protests.

¹ https://en.ilsole24ore.com/art/murderer-stopped-martina-tragic-epilogue-a-love-story-gone-wrong-AHIQ3uz?refresh_ce=1

² <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx208nn4v3jo>

³ <https://en.ilsole24ore.com/art/killing-ilaria-sula-mum-samson-confesses-i-helped-him-clean-up-AHYC40>



- **Saman Abbas⁴ and Anastasia Trofimova⁵ and Her Infant Daughter (2021 and June 2025):** Saman Abbas, an 18-year old Pakistani migrant woman was murdered in 2021 by her family after rejecting an arranged marriage. An Italian appeals court later upheld life sentences for her parents and two cousins. Anastasia Trofimova, a Russian woman of 28 years old and her 11-month-old daughter were found murdered in Villa Doria Pamphili Park. An American partner, using the alias Rexal Ford, is under investigation and has been extradited from Greece. These cases underscore the vulnerability of migrant women and the intersection of honour killing and xenophobia.

Italy's failure to act violates the following international legal obligations:

- **Right to Life and Physical Integrity:** Failure to prevent intimate partner violence and femicide breaches the State's duty to safeguard women's rights to life and bodily autonomy, as per the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Article 6), and CEDAW Articles 2(c), 5 and 12.
- **Right to Equality Before the Law and Freedom from Discrimination Based on Sex:** The pattern of violence against women and the State's insufficient response reflects systemic discrimination against women, in violation of CEDAW Articles 1, 2 and 15.
- **Right to be Free from Torture and Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment:** Survivors of violence and the families of murdered women suffer serious physical and psychological trauma that goes unaddressed, violating their dignity and rights, in violation of CEDAW provisions and Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- **Right to Access Justice and Effective Legal Remedies:** Legal and institutional responses are often inadequate, slow, or biased, undermining women's access to justice and redress, in violation with CEDAW and Istanbul Convention's obligations.
- **Due Diligence Obligations of the State:** Italy has failed to exercise due diligence in preventing, investigating, and prosecuting femicide and violence against women and girls (CEDAW General Recommendation N. 35).

Recent data highlight that Italy's femicides are not isolated tragedies but reflect deeper structural failures. As per July 8th, 2025, statistics⁶ show that at least 58 femicides occurred by July 2025, many of which involved intimate partners or relatives. Italy's cabinet approved a draft law criminalizing femicide as a standalone offence punishable by life imprisonment, built

⁴ <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/crgg27k10kgo>

⁵ <https://en.ilsole24ore.com/art/the-alleged-villa-pamphili-murderer-refuses-extradition-the-italians-are-mafiosi-AHcfW3JB>

⁶ <https://osservatorionazionale.nonunadimeno.net/anno/2025/>



on the recognition that these murders arise from structural misogyny and discrimination, however women and girls are still grossly unprotected.

3. Our Call to Action

We respectfully urge the Commission on the Status of Women to:

- Call on Italy to strengthen national legislation and enforcement mechanisms related to violence against women and girls, ensuring full protection for at-risk women.
- Recommend the creation of a national independent monitoring body on femicide, with survivor-centered reporting and follow-up systems.
- Urge Italy to implement robust training programs for police, judiciary, and healthcare providers on responding to violence against women.
- Demand transparency and accountability for failures in handling previous cases, particularly where victims had sought help before being murdered.

These tragic and emblematic incidents demonstrate the systemic nature of violence against women in Italy and the State's repeated failure to prevent and prosecute these crimes effectively. This underscores deep-seated discrimination based on sex and illustrates a pressing need for international scrutiny and intervention. We urge the Commission to call for urgent and concrete measures to protect the lives and dignity of women in Italy.

We thank the Commission for considering this submission.

Susannah Sjöberg
Secretary General