Factsheet - 16 days of Activism againstGender-based Violence (Orange the World)

Facts and Figures

In Austria, one in three women [1] has experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15. Furthermore, more than one in four women in this country has experienced sexual harassment in the workplace. [2]
As of the time of writing, 19 suspected femicides had been committed in Austria in 2026. [3]
Across the EU, 8.5 per cent of women have so far been victims of cyberstalking [4]. Studies on deepfakes in connection with sexual violence are still pending.

This issue does not stop at the Vienna University of Technology (TU Wien) either: in recent years, numerous incidents of sexual assault have been reported to the various support services at TU Wien. The findings of an EU-wide study on violence at universities also show that 62 per cent of respondents have experienced some form of gender-based violence since they began studying or working at their institution. [5] **Patriarchal violence is therefore not a problem of a lack of education, but affects people from all social backgrounds.**

We refer to gender-based or patriarchal violence (rather than violence against women) because it is not only women, but also trans, non-binary and intersex people who experience this type of violence.

Furthermore, whilst the term ‘patriarchal’ can seem very off-putting, we have chosen to use it to draw attention to the structural component of this violence.

[1] It is not only women who experience this type of violence; however, most studies and surveys are still conducted using a binary framework, thereby systematically obscuring the lived realities of trans, intersex and non-binary people.
[2] “Geschlechtsspezifische Gewalt gegen Frauen in Österreich”, a prevalence study commissioned by Eurostat and the Federal Chancellery, 2022
[3] Website of the Autonomous Women’s Shelters in Austria
[4] “EU Gender-Based Violence Survey” – FRA, EIGE, Eurostat, 2024

[5] “UniSAFE Survey” – GESIS, 2022

16 Days of Activism campaign

The 16 Days of Activism against Patriarchal Violence is an international campaign launched by feminists around the world to highlight the right to a life free from violence for all. The campaign begins on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November) and ends on International Human Rights Day (10 December). This timing was deliberately chosen to establish a link between gender-based violence and human rights. However, other dates during the campaign also play an important role. These include, for example, 20 November (Trans Day of Remembrance), 1 December (World AIDS Day) and 6 December, which marks the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre. On 6 December 1989, 25-year-old Marc Lépine killed 14 women at the École Polytechnique in Montreal, claiming that he wanted to combat feminism.

Support services

- City of Vienna 24-hour Women’s Emergency Helpline – 01 71 71 9
- Women’s Helpline against Violence – 0800 222 555
- Women’s Counselling Centre Emergency Helpline for Sexual Violence – 01 523 22 22
- Courage (Counselling Centre for Queer Issues) – 01 5856966
- Vienna Men’s Counselling Centre – 01 603 28 28

At TU Wien:

- TU Wien Ombudsman’s Office
- https://www.tuwien.at/studium/student-support/ombudsstelle-fuer-studium-und-lehre
- TU Wien Working Group for Equal Treatment (AKG)

Students can also report cases of discrimination to the HTU reporting office; we document these to collect data and can refer them to support services where necessary, as well as working together to identify possible courses of action. – https://htu.at/anonyme-meldestelle