



Vilnius, 12.03.2021

EIGE/CS/cf D/2021/192

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Subject: Request for assistance

Reference: **EIGE's study**: Improving legal responses to counter femicide

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) has assigned the task of carrying out the study "Improving legal responses to counter femicide" to a consortium of four institutions: UMAR - **Alternative and Response Women's Association (lead partner)**; **Institute for Empirical Sociological Research** at the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg; **Women's Rights Foundation** and **Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies**, at the Institute of Social and Political Sciences, University of Lisbon.

The killing of women due to their gender is the most extreme form of violence against women and a profound violation of human rights. Despite the efforts of different actors, the phenomenon of femicide is widespread and still persists in the societies.

The study aims to support EU Member States in improving the institutional responses to counter femicide by identifying the gaps within and between law and in practice when providing justice to victims. The study will also provide recommendations on conducting effective investigation, prosecution and delivering justice to victims, including comprehensive reparation to victims of femicide.

To achieve these goals, the outputs expected from the study are:

- Comprehensive overview of legislative and policy frameworks on due diligence and violence against women, specifically femicide in the EU Member States, with a special focus on Portugal, Romania, France, Spain and Germany.
- In-depth qualitative research in these five countries, through interviewing professionals involved in investigating, prosecuting, punishing femicide as well as providing compensation to victims and those from support services. The qualitative research will also involve interviews with victims of femicide (namely orphans or **victims'** representatives). The objective of the in-depth interviews is to gather the views and opinions of practitioners and victims, to assess the implementation of the **victims' rights and role in the investigation and in the criminal proceeding as well as** in claiming compensation through criminal or civil proceedings.
- Assessment of the impact of **COVID-19 on the States'** responses and capacity to provide reparation for femicide victims. The interviews will also shed light on the impact of the COVID-19 in accessing and providing protection and justice to victims.

The activities leading to these outputs include thorough desk research and qualitative interviews, which the consortium will be conducting through a network of National Researchers that will be contacting you to seek support in the data collection process.

The European Institute for Gender Equality will very much appreciate any assistance you can provide to the researcher that may contact you.

Yours sincerely,

Carlien Scheele