

VIOLENCE AND RIGHTS ABUSES AGAINST WOMEN FROM UKRAINE – FRA SURVEY

Sciences Po

1 June 2026, Paris

Survey results

- Report published on 24 February 2026, based on the results of survey interviews and qualitative in-depth interviews
- Follows the three bulletins published by FRA since 24 February 2022 regarding the impact of the war on fundamental rights, and the results of the agency's online survey of persons displaced by the war



FRA's 2022 survey on persons displaced by the war in Ukraine

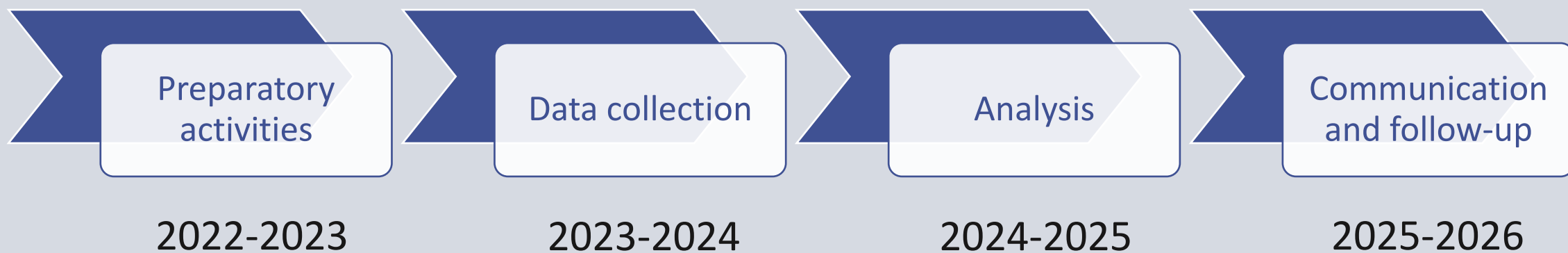
- Open online survey
- 14,685 respondents
- Respondents: 91 % women, average age: 40 years
- In 10 EU Member States
- Data collection: Aug–Sep 2022
- Topics: arriving in the EU, settling in the EU, housing, education, employment & income, health, violence, ...



Survey approach

- Target population
 - Women aged 18-74 who have fled Ukraine since 24 February 2022, and were living in Czechia, Germany or Poland at the time of the survey
- Sample size
 - Some 400 interviews per country (411 in Czechia, 400 in Germany, 412 in Poland), for a total sample of 1,223 interviews. In addition, 10 in-depth interviews were carried in each country with victims of violence.
- Data collection
 - Face-to-face interviews by trained interviewers in Ukrainian and in Russian. Self-administered questionnaire included to ask sensitive questions for added privacy. Fieldwork carried out across the three countries according to the distribution of the target population in each country's territory.

Overview of the project



Survey questionnaire – main reference points

Dedicated surveys on violence against women:

- FRA's 2012 survey on violence against women
- OSCE's 2018 survey on violence against women
- European survey on gender-based violence against women and other interpersonal violence (EU-GBV survey) & FRA-EIGE survey on violence against women (2023)

Also:

- FRA's 2022 survey on persons displaced by the war in Ukraine

Survey topics

- Experience and impact of conflict in women's lives while still in Ukraine
 - Encountering exploitative offers related to transport, housing or work
 - Experiences of physical and/or sexual violence
 - Details of the most serious incident of physical and/or sexual violence 1) in Ukraine or during transit, 2) in the survey country – including reporting to the police and contact with other services
 - Experiences of sexual harassment (incl. cyberharassment)
 - Psychological violence by the current intimate partner (incl. technology-facilitated control)
 - Access to services and challenges encountered – work, housing, healthcare
- + Socio-demographic questions to allow disaggregation of the results

Interviewer safeguarding

- Potential risk that some interviewers experienced violence, abuse and experiences of conflict
- Interviewers must be aware that respondents could mention very strong emotions and experiences, which could affect those with similar personal experiences
- Interviewers in need of support, therefore counselling services were made available to them during the fieldwork period

KEY FINDINGS & FRA OPINIONS

Key results

- One in four women (25 %) have experienced **physical and/or sexual** violence since the start of the current war. Out of the victims, 39 % experienced violence while still in Ukraine, and 9 % during the transit journey. Among them, 34 % indicated that the perpetrator was a member of the Russian military.
- Out of women victims of violence in Ukraine or during transit, 52 % were **injured**, and 9 in 10 experienced **psychological consequences**.
- Around half of the women who were interrogated by Russian forces were **physically humiliated** in the interrogation process, and 29 % were **sexually humiliated**.

FRA opinions

- Special attention should be paid to victims of gender based-violence and cases should be examined under 'compelling humanitarian reasons' clause (Temporary Protection Directive Art. 22(2)).
- Need to consider measures to facilitate women's access to support, report their experiences and sharing of evidence necessary for investigating core international crimes.
- Support organisations should be able to respond to victims experiencing trauma, including trauma related to armed conflict.

Key results

- Among the victims of physical and/or sexual violence since the start of the current war, 62 % experienced it in their **current Member State of residence**.
- 73 % of women avoid certain places or situations due to the fear of being physically or sexually assaulted in the Member State where they now live.
- 54 % of women have been in a situation where somebody has attacked them or otherwise reacted negatively after hearing them **speaking Ukrainian in public**.
- Not reporting physical and/or sexual violence due to **fear of retaliation or intimidation** more often mentioned with respect to incidents taking place in Ukraine or during transit, compared with incidents in the EU.

FRA opinions

- Criminalise all instances of physical, sexual and psychological violence against women
 - FRA-EIGE report based on the EU survey on gender-based violence calls for criminalising sexual violence using consent-based definitions of rape and other sexual violence.
- Law enforcement officers should be trained to recognise and investigate instances of violence against women with a gender-sensitive approach to victims.
- Targeted prevention efforts needed to address the situation of women displaced by the war in Ukraine, including bias-motivated violence.
- Victims should have access to necessary services, and the services should be equipped to meet the needs of victims of conflict-related violence.

Key results

- 23 % of women reported being **sexually harassed online** (e.g. receiving offensive sexually explicit emails and sexually suggestive comments online).
- Among women who had experienced sexual cyber harassment, 85 % indicated that this had resulted in long-term psychological consequences.
- Almost all displaced women from Ukraine (99 %) use social media – to stay in touch with family and friends, find information and contacts in their new place of residence.

FRA opinions

- Prioritise transposition of the Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence (deadline 14 June 2027) to ensure that sexual harassment – including sexual harassment online – is addressed.
- Enforce the obligations imposed on online platforms under the Digital Services Act with respect to risk assessments under Art. 34 and other relevant provisions.

Key results

- 10 % of the women surveyed reported **not feeling safe** in their current accommodation.
- Access to work: almost half of the women surveyed were in **paid employment**. One in five women surveyed from Ukraine (21 %) were able to make ends meet (financially) easily or fairly easily, but most struggle to do so.
- 27 % surveyed women said that they had not been able to see a psychologist, psychotherapist or psychiatrist and 23 % had faced problems with obtaining the reproductive health care they needed.
- In a few instances, women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence perpetrated **by aid workers or medical personnel**.

FRA opinions

- Protection and assistance must be provided in a gender-sensitive manner, taking into account that the majority of people displaced by the war in Ukraine who arrived in the EU are women and girls.
- Safety risk should be taken into account and there should be periodic checks on people's access to rights under the Temporary Protection Directive.
- Need to strengthen the healthcare response.
- Zero tolerance for violence when providing assistance and services to displaced people.

Key results

- Nearly one in four women from Ukraine (24 %) have encountered potentially **exploitative offers** of transport, housing or work.
- Some 5 % of women in the survey had received offers of transport, housing or work where they suspected that there was an **expectation to do something of a sexual nature** or where the person making the offer wanted to **take away the woman's passport or identity documents**.
- Among those women who have been working since arriving in the EU, 36 % indicated that they had to work without a contract or with a contract that did not cover all their working hours, 24 % have been underpaid or not paid at all for work they have done.

FRA opinions

- Labour inspectors should be trained to recognise signs of labour exploitation.
- Labour inspectors should also be trained to recognise and address sexual exploitation that disproportionately impacts women.
- Address the situation of those who want to stay in the EU after the end of the temporary protection but do not fulfil conditions for a residence permit (such as active employment), including those unable to work due to trauma from conflict-related gender-based violence.

Thank you!

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