

# Gender-Based Violence Country Profile

# GUATEMALA



# Contents

---

INTRODUCTION	3
PREVALENCE OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: PRE- AND POST-COVID	4
POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK	7
GBV RESPONSE MECHANISMS AND SERVICES	10
APPENDIX 1 – INSTITUTIONS/SERVICES INVOLVED IN CASES OF VAW	12
APPENDIX 2 – UN WOMEN: MEASURES AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (GUATEMALA)	16
GLOSSARY	17
REFERENCES	18

---

# INTRODUCTION

With a population of approximately 18.2 million people, Guatemala is the most populous country in Central America. Guatemala is considered a lower-middle-income country, with a gross domestic product (GDP) of approximately \$ 85.9 billion in 2021. Moreover, the country's economy is primarily driven by agriculture, which employs over a quarter of the labor force, and the service sector. However, poverty and inequality remain significant challenges, with over half the population living below the poverty line.<sup>1</sup>

**Guatemala has one of the highest rates of femicide in the world, with violent deaths of women increasing from 1.3 per 100,000 women in 2020 to 1.6 per 100,000 women in 2021, resulting in 527 femicides reported in 2021 and 534 in 2022, and 69 femicides reported by March 2023.**<sup>2 3</sup> Adult women continue to exhibit the highest rate of violence against women; however, young women aged 18-24 were the primary victims of lethal violence in 2021. Moreover, in 2021, there was a rise in the number of women victims of all ages, particularly girls aged 0-14.<sup>4</sup>

High-risk groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination include young and adolescent girls, indigenous women, those who have experienced adolescent pregnancies, early unions or marriages, women and girls living with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ groups. In 40% of femicides, there was already a complaint of violence against women by the victims in the two years prior to their murder.<sup>5</sup> Crimes against women and children are the most reported crimes, with violence against women representing 13% of the most reported crimes in 2021. Child marriage is mostly driven by tradition, poverty, discriminatory gender norms, and a lack of access to education.<sup>6</sup>

In order to address violence and discrimination against women and girls in Guatemala, various initiatives and policies have been implemented by the government and civil society organizations. However, much work remains to be done to effectively address the root causes of these issues and ensure the safety and well-being of all women and girls in the country.

---

<sup>1</sup> The World Bank. (n.d.). *The World Bank Data. The World Bank Data.* <https://data.worldbank.org/country/guatemala>

<sup>2</sup> Ministerio Público de Guatemala. (n.d.). *Portal Estadístico Observatorio de las Mujeres del Ministerio Público. Observatorio De Las Mujeres Del Ministerio Público De Guatemala.* <https://observatorio.mp.gob.gt/portal-estadistico/>

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>5</sup> Centro de Investigaciones Económicas & Centro Internacional para la Empresa Privada. (2022). *Los Delitos contra la Mujer en Guatemala con énfasis en el Delito de Femicidio.* Centro De Investigaciones Económicas. <https://cien.org.gt/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Documento-Violencia-contra-la-Mujer-y-Femicidio-mayo-2022-vf.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Ministerio Público de Guatemala. (n.d.). *Portal Estadístico Observatorio de las Mujeres del Ministerio Público. Observatorio De Las Mujeres Del Ministerio Público De Guatemala.* <https://observatorio.mp.gob.gt/portal-estadistico/>

# PREVALENCE OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: PRE- AND POST-COVID

UN Women Prevalence Data on Different Forms of Violence against Women<sup>7</sup>:

- Lifetime Physical and/or Sexual Intimate Partner Violence: 21.2 %
- Physical and/or Sexual Intimate Partner Violence in the last 12 months: 8.5 %
- Lifetime Non-Partner Sexual Violence: Official National Statistics Not Available
- Child Marriage: 29.5 %

Guatemala's Gender Inequality Index Rank is 121 out of 170 countries by 2021, while in the Global Gender Gap Index Guatemala ranks 113 by 2022.

Guatemala has one of the highest rate of femicide in the world.<sup>8</sup> By 2021, violent deaths of women increased by 1.6 deaths per 100,000 women compared to 2020 (1.3 deaths per 100,000 women) and according to official statistics by the end of 2021, 527 femicides were reported.<sup>9</sup> As for 2022,

the Statistical Portal of the Women Observatory reported 534 femicides and by March 2023 there are already 69 femicides reported.<sup>10</sup>

In 2021, at least one woman or girl died violently every day in Guatemala. The violent death rate of women and girls in 2021 was 4.8 per 100, 000 women, the highest compared to 2020; however, this is lower than pre – pandemic levels. Of these victims, young women ages 18 – 24 were the primary victims of lethal violence. Accordingly, the Public Ministry typified 38.9% of these homicides as femicides as compared to the last six years.

Despite the fact that adult women continue to exhibit the highest rate of violence against women, 2028 young and adolescent girls entered the cycle of the continuum of Violence Against Women.<sup>11</sup> In 2020, there were 1,012 recorded cases of domestic/ intrafamily violence and 8,767 cases of sexual violence in Guatemala.<sup>12</sup> High-risk groups that face multiple

<sup>7</sup> UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women. (n.d.). Guatemala. <https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/americas/guatemala>

<sup>8</sup> Intentional homicides, female (per 100,000 female) - Guatemala Data. (n.d.). <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/VC.IHR.PSRC.FE.P5?locations=GT>

<sup>9</sup> Ministerio Público de Guatemala. (n.d.). Portal Estadístico Observatorio de las Mujeres del Ministerio Público. Observatorio De Las Mujeres Del Ministerio Público De Guatemala. <https://observatorio.mp.gob.gt/portal-estadistico/>

<sup>10</sup> Ibid

<sup>11</sup> Ibid

<sup>12</sup> InfoSegura. (2020). Central America and the Dominican Republic: Violence against women throughout the life cycle. <https://infosegura.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/VCM-REGIONAL-2020-ENG.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> Ibid

and intersecting forms of discrimination include young and adolescent girls, indigenous women, those who have experienced adolescent pregnancies, those in early unions or marriages, women and girls living with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ groups. Moreover, in 2021 as compared to the previous year, there was a rise in the number women victim of all ages, particularly of girls ages 0 – 14 (23%).<sup>13</sup>

Furthermore, The Centro de Investigaciones Económicas (CIEN) stated in a research that the crime of femicide was legally established by Guatemala in 2008 and since then 2,168 cases of murders of women or femicides have been registered. In the same period 630 men were convicted for the crime of femicide, which is equivalent to 29% of the total number of homicides, meaning that 71% of the murders of women in the Central American nation remain unpunished. In addition, in 40 percent of femicides there was already a complaint of violence against women by the victims in the two years prior to their murder.<sup>14</sup>

**Human trafficking and child marriage also remain serious issues, the child marriage rate of girls is 18%.**

Regarding Authorities opened investigations into 386 criminal complaints involving suspected trafficking crimes (71 involving sex trafficking, 182 involving forced

labor, and 133 not specified) opening investigations into 164 suspected trafficking cases (38 involving sex trafficking, 85 involving forced labor, and 41 not specified). In comparison, the government investigated 165 trafficking complaints in 2020 and 211 in 2019.<sup>15</sup>

**Furthermore, regarding child marriage, in 2015, 777 cases of child marriage under 15 years of age were registered, and 20,321 marriages involving adolescent girls and young women between 15 and 19 years of age.**<sup>16</sup> The National Survey on Maternal and Child Health (ENSMI 2014-2015) estimates that early unions affect 14% of the adolescent girls and young women between 15 and 19 years of age. However, other specialized studies indicate that 28% of the adolescent girls have gotten married and 54% have had partners before reaching 18 years of age.<sup>17</sup> The fertility rate for adolescent girls and young women aged 15-19 is 92 annual births per one thousand women, in contrast with the Latin American average of 64. Finally, 21.2% of indigenous adolescent girls indicated they were already mothers, 4.4% were pregnant with their first child and 16.8% were pregnant at least once before, vis a vis 20.2%, 4.6% and 15.6% of their non-indigenous peers.<sup>18</sup>

**Child marriage in Guatemala is mostly driven by tradition, poverty, discriminatory gender norms, and a lack of access to education. In addition,**

---

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>14</sup> Centro de Investigaciones Económicas & Centro Internacional para la Empresa Privada. (2022). *Los Delitos contra la Mujer en Guatemala con énfasis en el Delito de Femicidio*. Centro De Investigaciones Económicas. <https://ciem.org.gt/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Documento-Violencia-contra-la-Mujer-y-Femicidio-mayo-2022-vf.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> 2022 Trafficking in Persons Report. (2022). Department of State of the United States of America. <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/20221020-2022-TIP-Report.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> In 2017, a new law that prohibits marriage before 18 years of age with no exceptions was enacted.

<sup>17</sup> Spotlight Initiative. (2018). Country Programme Document: Guatemala.

<sup>18</sup> *ibid*

**gender norms define what girls can and cannot do, both before and after entering a union.**<sup>19</sup> Girls are expected to perform domestic tasks from a young age, while boys and men are not. Moreover, adolescent pregnancy, sexual violence and early unions are closely related, and are often causes and consequences of each other. Adolescents often enter unions because of unintended pregnancy and girls in Guatemala state they are aware of different methods of contraception, but felt too ashamed to go to health care facilities to ask for them<sup>20</sup>. Adolescent pregnancy is associated with increased health risks – including obstetric fistula – and higher rates of infant mortality and unsafe abortion.<sup>21</sup> Girls who are currently in a union are more likely to live in rural areas, belong to Mayan ethnic groups, live in low-income households and have less access to education. However, although one of the key structural drivers is inequality, Child marriage also occurs in urban areas and among members of the middle and upper classes.<sup>22</sup>

**In 2020, police reports for domestic violence saw a considerable increase during the period of confinement.** The rise was observed as of February 2020, and by June, the number of complaints had almost doubled compared to 2019. In total, the number

of documented complaints until August of 2020 indicated an increase of 26%. (This trend is contrary to what was observed in terms of homicidal violence and injuries, which saw a decrease.)<sup>23</sup> Confinement measures due to COVID-19 and mobility limitations were a risk factor for different forms of violence against women, girls, and older adults, both distancing them from existing support networks, protection services, and complaint mechanisms and making them more vulnerable to multiple manifestations of violence against them (psychological, economic, sexual, among others).

**Furthermore, crimes against children and women are the most reported crimes in 2021.** Of the 92,833 crimes against women, children and adolescents, violence against women represents 13% of the most reported crimes in 2021 with a number of 58,897 survivors registered. Of this figure, 1,817 cases belong to economic violence, 24,148 to physical violence (5%) and 36,833 to psychological violence (6%). Likewise, sexual assault represents 1% of the most reported crimes with 4,743 survivors, rape represents 3% of the most reported crimes with 9,283 survivors of the crime.<sup>24</sup>

---

<sup>19</sup> Girls Not Brides. (2022). *Child, Early and Forced Marriage and Unions in Guatemala*. In *Girls Not Brides*. [https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/documents/1776/CE-FMU\\_in\\_Guatemala.pdf](https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/documents/1776/CE-FMU_in_Guatemala.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>21</sup> Blum, R. W., Unfpa, Gates, W. H., & United Nations Population Fund. (2015b). *Girlhood, Not Motherhood (English): Preventing Adolescent Pregnancy*. United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

<sup>22</sup> Ministerio de Salud Pública y Asistencia Social (MSPAS), Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE), and ICF International, 2017, *Encuesta nacional de salud materno infantil 2014-2015. Informe final*. Guatemala.

<sup>23</sup> Diálogos. (2020). *Violencia en Tiempos de Pandemia*. <https://dialogos.org.gt/sites/default/files/2020-10/Violencia%20en%20tiempos%20de%20pandemia%20Fin.pdf>

<sup>24</sup> Ministerio Público de Guatemala. (n.d.). *Portal Estadístico Observatorio de las Mujeres del Ministerio Público*. Observatorio De Las Mujeres Del Ministerio Público De Guatemala. <https://observatorio.mp.gob.gt/portal-estadistico/>

The violence prevention campaign **#NadaJustifica** (“Nothing Justifies It”) was launched in 2020 in response to the high rates of violence against women.<sup>25</sup> The campaign was launched by Government institutions, two municipalities, and five local NGOs in coordination with UNDP and USAID in Guatemala and supported by the UNDP-RBLAC InfoSegura project (which gathers data on citizen security in Central American countries). This campaign places special emphasis on informing and sensitizing the general public, key actors, and especially men who are considered in the framework of the campaign as potential agents of change, on violence against women and promoting the establishment of relationships which are healthy and free from violence.

As for 2023, the campaign is still ongoing and has moved from social networks to the territory with an action plan called “Transmit ideas, educate your

community and recognize the signs because Nothing justifies violence against women”. This phase has involved 10 prioritized municipalities, which have been awarded a symbolic sign as “Municipalities Committed to the Right of Women and Girls to Live Free of Violence”. The campaign has coordinated with 10 local governments and their Municipal Women’s Directorates, implementing various actions such as youth contests, workshops for mural construction and participatory workshops with men and women to sensitize them on violence against women. The campaign has involved the participation of approximately 250 sensitized women, 65 sensitized men, 110 informed young women and men, 155 sensitized and informed children, and 375 people of all ages and both sexes in family recreational activities. Additionally, a series of materials have been developed such as puzzles, memories, lotteries, and radio spots.<sup>26</sup>

## POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

**Gender equality in the legal framework:** With regards to overall gender equality in the legal framework, according to the World Bank’s “Women, Business and the Law” 2023 study, Guatemala scores 703.8 out of 100 (over 8 indicators). The country does well when it comes to constraints on freedom of movement, gender differences in property and inheritance, and

laws affecting the size of a woman’s pension. However, when it comes to laws affecting women’s decisions to work, laws affecting women’s pay, constraints related to marriage, laws affecting women’s work after having children, and constraints on women starting and running a business, Guatemala could consider reforms to improve legal equality for women.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>25</sup> “#NadaJustifica violence against women, Guatemala presents Campaign for the Prevention of Violence against women.” (2020). InfoSegura. <https://infosegura.org/2020/11/13/nadajustifica-la-violencia-contra-las-mujeres-guatemala-presenta-campana-de-prevencion-de-violencia-contra-la-mujer/>

<sup>26</sup> 8M #NadaJustifica la Violencia contra las Mujeres. Infosegura. (2023, March 10). <https://infosegura.org/2023/03/10/8m-nadajustifica-la-violencia-contra-las-mujeres/>

<sup>27</sup> World Bank (2023). Women, Business and the Law 2021: Guatemala. <https://wbl.worldbank.org/content/dam/documents/wbl/2023/snapshots/Guatemala.pdf>

**The following data points illustrate various other gender aspects in Guatemala's legal framework:<sup>28</sup>**

a) In 2017, the minimum legal age for marriage was increased to 18 for both males and female from 16 and 14 respectively. However, the prevalence of child marriage remains high, with nearly one in three girls are married off before the age of 18 (as compared to one in five in the LAC region), and there is no specific legal provision which prohibits forced marriage; b) The Civil Code establishes that either spouse can initiate divorce. Nonetheless, certain articles related to divorce still differentiate between women and men; for example, women will have the right to alimony only if they observe "good conduct" and remain unmarried; c) The law criminalizes rape (including spousal rape); d) Abortion can be legally performed only if the mother's life is in danger. A woman who causes her abortion, or consents to another person to cause it, is punishable with imprisonment from one to three years; e) With regards to civil liberties and political voice, women and men have the same legal rights to vote and stand for election. Nonetheless, the non-participation rate among uneducated women is extremely high (64% urban, 70% rural), and women continue to be underrepresented politically, though Guatemala has tried unsuccessfully to introduce gender quotas.

**International treaties on GBV:** Guatemala is a member of several international treaties that guarantee equality, non-discrimination, and freedom from violence for women, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against

Women (CEDAW), the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women "Convention of Belem Do Para," the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

**Since 2014, Guatemala has made important progress in the recognition of gender equality in the constitution, with important recent progress in the legal frameworks and public policies to address VAWG.** Key examples include: legislation that prohibits marriage before 18 years of age with no exceptions (2017); the establishment of the Institute for the Attention and Protection of Victims of Violence (2016); and the establishment of the Specific Cabinet for Women (Gabinete Específico de la Mujer [GEM]) which aims to coordinate, articulate, and promote inter-institutional actions for the implementation of public policies, plans, programs focused on in the integral development of Guatemalan women (2014).

National response to GBV: Legislative and policy responses to protect women against violence include<sup>29</sup>:

- **Law against Femicide and Violence against Women (2008).** The law recognizes domestic violence as a punishable crime, and the definition of domestic violence covers psychological, physical and economic violence.
- **Law against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons (2009)** reforms the Criminal Code and aims to prevent, suppress, punish,

<sup>28</sup> OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index. (2019). <https://www.genderindex.org/wp-content/uploads/files/datasheets/2019/GT.pdf>

<sup>29</sup> OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index. (2019). <https://www.genderindex.org/wp-content/uploads/files/datasheets/2019/GT.pdf>



and eliminate sexual violence, exploitation, and trafficking-in-persons and to ensure that survivors receive care, protection, and compensation for harm.

- **National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women (PLANONI 2020-2029)** Public policy instrument designed by the Guatemalan State to comply with national and international human rights commitments, with the aim of guaranteeing women the right to a life free from violence. Additionally, the Planoni 2020-2029 introduces an intersectional approach to reflect the complexity of the issue and contribute to understanding the link between other structural determinants of inequality and violence against women.
- **National Policy for the Promotion and Comprehensive Development of Women (PNPDIM 2008 – 2023)** called for combatting all forms of discrimination and violence against women and set specific goals with allocated budgets.
- **Decree 13-2017:** which establishes the prohibition of marriage for persons under 18 years of age. This as a result of the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child made by the State of Guatemala, through Decree 27-90 of May 23, 1990 and in order to avoid various risk factors that directly affect children and adolescents in the country.

**The legal framework is complemented by several government entities working on combatting and preventing violence against women<sup>30 31</sup>:** the National Coordination Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women (CONAPREVI); Secretariat against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons (SVET); the Office for the Defense of Indigenous Women (DEMI); Program for the Prevention and Eradication of Domestic Violence (PROPEVI) which provides initiatives to prevent, treat and eradicate domestic violence; Coordinator for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women (CONAPREVI) which serves as the domestic violence interagency coordinator and includes several civil society organizations; the Presidential Secretariat for Women (SEPREM); the Ombudsman's office for the defense of women; Institute of Public Criminal Defense, which provides free legal, medical, and psychological assistance to survivors of domestic violence; Gender Units in each of the Ministries; Vice-President's Special Cabinet for Women (GEM). Furthermore, the government also established lower and courts for femicide offences and other forms of violence against women in 11 of Guatemala's departments and 26 first instance courts specializing in femicide cases. To that end, judicial facilities were rearranged to allow hearings using oral proceedings and the possibility of video conferences to avoid direct contact between aggressors and their victims.

<sup>30</sup> UN Women. (2021). Guatemala. Retrieved from <https://lac.unwomen.org/en/donde-estamos/guatemala>

<sup>31</sup> OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index. (2019). <https://www.genderindex.org/wp-content/uploads/files/datasheets/2019/GT.pdf>

# GBV RESPONSE MECHANISMS AND SERVICES

The following services are available for survivors of violence in Guatemala (full list of institutions, functions and how to approach them in Appendix 1):<sup>32</sup>

— **The National Coordinator for the Prevention of Intrafamily Violence and Against Women (CONAPREVI)** is an institutional mechanism for coordinating, advising, and promoting public policies for the prevention, punishment, and eradication of intrafamily violence and violence against women. Within its functions, it advises, informs, and trains public officials. It is also responsible for monitoring the Comprehensive Support Centers for Women Survivors of Violence (CAIMUS) and providing support and advice to the organizations that administer them. It has also provided support in the elaboration of protocols of attention and access to the justice, health, and education sector. With regards to intrafamily violence and violence against women, it has the National Plan for the prevention and eradication of violence: Intrafamily Violence and Violence against Women (PLANNOVI) 2004-2014.

— **The Program for the Prevention and Eradication of Intrafamily Violence (PROPEVI)**, attached to the Presidential Secretariat for Women (SEPREM), has a school for parents and a 24/7 intrafamily violence hotline. Services are also available for children and adolescents with disabilities and victims of sexual and commercial exploitation.

**According to a 2016 report from the US Department of State, police had minimal training or capacity to investigate sexual crimes or assist survivors of such crimes and that impunity for perpetrators remained very high.** Police often fail to respond to requests for assistance related to domestic violence, and women's rights advocates reported that few officers received training on how to deal with domestic violence cases or to assist survivors. Research shows that police, prosecutors, and judges often do not take cases of violence against women seriously because they believe that men have the right to use violence against their partners to control them.<sup>33</sup>

**The establishment of specialized investigation and criminal prosecution units aims to address violence against women and stop impunity.** Nonetheless,

<sup>32</sup> UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women. (n.d.). Guatemala. <https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/americas/guatemala>

<sup>33</sup> OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index. (2019). <https://www.genderindex.org/wp-content/uploads/files/datasheets/2019/GT.pdf>

these courts still have limited coverage.<sup>34</sup> Furthermore, despite the comprehensive legal framework and specialized courts, many prosecutors do not consider domestic violence as a serious matter that warrants attention. There is also a pattern of prosecutors and judges urging conciliation of conflicts, rather than seeking to protect survivors of domestic violence. In addition, Article 106 of the Penal Code allows the victim to pardon the perpetrator, including cases of rape and other sexual crime, making victims vulnerable to pressure not to file complaints.<sup>35</sup>

**During COVID-19, there was an expansion of an interactive platform “CuentaNos” which provides critical information on services.** The International

Rescue Committee (IRC) operates a multi-platform information hub “CuentaNos” with two-way messaging, where users in Guatemala (as well as Honduras and El Salvador) can seek information and service providers for essential services such as health and education. The IRC expanded the functionality of this existing web-based resource to address increases in intimate partner violence (IPV) and other needs related to COVID-19. The platform includes a database of IPV protection service providers and allows users to contact IRC moderators via WhatsApp for support concerning IPV and other issues. CuentaNos data as of May 2020 reveals drastic increases in searches and requests for help due to gender-based violence since the onset of the pandemic. More information on the service [here](#).<sup>36</sup>

### Examples of Notable Interventions to Address GBV

#### **Translation of campaigns on prevention of violence against women into indigenous languages and joint Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women within indigenous communities and the justice sector.**

Due to the multi-ethnic composition of the country, the campaigns and public policies that introduce prevention measures adopted an ethnic and intercultural approach that allowed for the recognition of the four dominant ethnicities in Guatemala: Xinca, Garífuna, Mestiza, and Maya. All the campaigns were translated into appropriate languages for each group; for example, the Presidential Secretariat for Women (SEPREM) produced a video that addressed the rights of victims which was translated in the three Mayan languages—Kakchiquel, Mam and K’ekchí—and provided the projection equipment and video to the local district prosecutors to ensure its distribution.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>34</sup> UN Women. (n.d.). “Guatemala.” <https://lac.unwomen.org/en/donde-estamos/guatemala>

<sup>35</sup> OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index. (2019). <https://www.genderindex.org/wp-content/uploads/files/datasheets/2019/GT.pdf>

<sup>36</sup> IRC. (2020, June 9). IRC data shows an increase in reports of gender-based violence across Latin America. <https://reliefweb.int/report/el-salvador/irc-data-shows-increase-reports-gender-based-violence-across-latin-america>

<sup>37</sup> UNDP. (2017). *From commitment to action: Policies to end violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean*. <https://www.undp.org/latin-america/publications/commitment-action-policies-end-violence-against-women-latin-america-and-caribbean>

# APPENDIX 1 – INSTITUTIONS/ SERVICES INVOLVED IN CASES OF VAW

## Institution/ Services

## Function

### [Hotline 1572](#)

The 1572 is an exclusive line for women who suffer of physical, psychological and sexual violence. Attention 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

### Isabel-Claudina Alert

When a woman goes missing or is in danger, the Alerta Isabel Claudina system is activated, and various government agencies and civil society organizations work together to locate and protect the woman. The system has helped to save the lives of many women in Guatemala and has become a model for other countries in the region.

More information on how to report, the data that must be provided, documentation on: [How to report a missing woman?](#)

### [Isabel-Claudina Alert Portal](#)

This portal displays missing women's bulletins. You can take actions on each bulletin that include performing an enlarged view to see the bulletin information in more detail, downloading the bulletin, reporting if you have seen the missing woman from the bulletin.

### Panic Button

Panic Button is our application for Android systems that you can download and use in times of emergency. There is a coordination with the National Civil Police that sends a patrol to the place from where the Panic Button is activated. More information on how it works [here](#). For downloading the app click [here](#).

### RENAS Registro Nacional de Agresores Sexuales which translates to National Registry of Sexual Offenders in English

Database maintained by the Guatemalan government that contains the personal information and criminal records of individuals who have been convicted of sexual crimes. The registry is used by law enforcement agencies and other authorized parties to prevent sexual violence and protect potential victims by identifying individuals with a history of sexual offenses. More information about RENAS [here](#).

### Secretariat Against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons

Entity responsible for ensuring compliance with the Law against sexual violence, exploitation and trafficking in persons, with the primary purpose of advising the State institutions responsible in this area, to prevent, care for and protect, promoting effective strategies to improve the quality of life of children, adolescents and women.

---

**Inter-institutional Coordinator against Labor Exploitation and Child Labor**

Addresses the phenomenon of human trafficking in the modalities of labor exploitation, forced labor and child labor. The lines of action are: a) detection, b) attention to victims and c) referral of victims. The main actions implemented are: a) Inter-institutional route for the detection and attention of cases; (b) Platform for the online management and receipt of complaints; c) Dissemination campaigns in the media and social networks to encourage denunciation through the portal: I join; (d) Protocol for the comprehensive care of victims of the crime of trafficking in persons; (e) Operations to verify working conditions and rescue abused minors.

---

**Gabinete Específico de la Mujer (GEM) Specific Office for Women in English**

Has its legal basis in Governmental Agreements 264-2012 and 259-2013, and aims to coordinate, articulate and promote inter-institutional actions for the implementation of public policies, plans, programs and projects focused on the integral development of Guatemalan women.

The GEM elaborates and implements the strategy to be developed starting in 2014, whose main objective is to favor women in all stages of their lives through five axes:

- Institutionalization of Women's Rights
- The Girl-Adolescent
- Addressing Violence Against Women
- Economic Empowerment
- New Masculinities

---

**Courts and Tribunals for Femicide and Human Trafficking Crimes**

The Supreme Court of Justice began the process of creating specialized bodies for the specific treatment of violence against women, Criminal Courts of First Instance and Sentencing Courts for Crimes of Femicide and other Forms of Violence and Trafficking in Persons, the Chamber of the Court of Appeals for Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons in 2012, the Mobile Peace Court and the Duty Court of First Instance for Crimes of Femicide and other forms of Violence against Women and Sexual Violence were created.

---

**Ley Alba Keneth y Coordinadora Nacional del Sistema de Alerta Alba Keneth**

Created with the aim of designing an operational coordination system that allows for an immediate and adequate response to the abductions and disappearances of children and adolescents, ensuring their prompt location and protection. The law regulates the functioning of the Alba-Keneth Alert System for the immediate location and protection of abducted or missing children. The Alba-Keneth Alert System is the set of coordinated and articulated actions among public institutions, which allow speeding up and achieving the location and safeguarding of the child or adolescent who has been abducted or is missing and the recovery and safeguarding of the child or adolescent. All public institutions have the obligation to immediately and urgently carry out the actions required of them within the framework of this Law. The National Coordinator of the ALBA-KENETH Alert System is hereby created, with the purpose of coordinating, promoting and executing all actions aimed at the search, location and immediate protection of the child or adolescent who has been abducted or is missing.

---

---

**Juzgados de Primera Instancia Penal y Tribunales de Sentencia de Delitos de Femicidio y otras formas de Violencia contra la Mujer**

The creation of these jurisdictional bodies proposes a new justice system, which contemplates attending to the special needs that the survivor of violence requires, as well as avoiding re-victimization. Located in: Guatemala, Quetzaltenango, Chiquimula, Alta Verapaz, Huehuetenango, Escuintla, and Izabal. Additionally, the departments of Huehuetenango, Quetzaltenango, Alta Verapaz and Izabal own an interpreter according to the languages of each region.

These bodies are composed of trained and sensitized Judges, Judges and judicial and administrative auxiliary personnel, which ensures the population an accessible specialized justice, which recognizes the particularities of cases of violence against women, promoting and respecting women's human rights.

The Courts and Tribunals for Crimes of Femicide and other forms of violence against women have an Integral Attention System composed of psychologists and social workers, and have a child care service, while the mothers are carrying out the procedures within the specialized jurisdictional bodies.

---

**The Commission on Femicide**

The Commission on Femicide was formally established on 8 March 2006. It is made up of delegates from the legislative, executive and judicial branches and representatives of human rights and security institutions and the Public Prosecutor's Office. Its coordination was delegated to the Presidential Secretariat for Women (SEPREM). Its main objective is to promote appropriate action to ensure that the State of Guatemala has a strategy and proposals for action that will enable it to tackle femicide in a comprehensive and coordinated manner through the three branches of government and with the participation of civil society.

---

**Victims' Assistance Coordinating Department**

In order to improve the services provided to crime victims, the Public Prosecutor's Office established the Victims' Assistance Coordinating Department in late 2006. After analysing the assistance provided by the different units of the Public Prosecutor's Office, where victims seek help, the Department drew up a draft policy on victims' assistance, which was approved by the Attorney General of the Republic in March 2007. The Public Prosecutor's Office fulfilled its commitment to design internal victims' assistance policies to ensure comprehensive, swift, effective and humane response to the injury suffered by victims. The areas of the proposed policy are: (1) drafting of protocols; (2) effective intra- and inter-institutional coordination; (3) strengthening of the victims' assistance Offices (OAV); and (4) strengthening of referral networks.

---

**National Coordinator for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women**

The National Coordinator for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women (CONAPREVI, Agreement 831-2000), is an institutional mechanism for coordination and advisory and promotion of public policies for the prevention, punishment and eradication of domestic violence and violence against women. It is integrated by the public and private sectors. Among its functions, it advises, informs and trains public officials, a process that is carried out in coordination with the institutions that are part of it. It is also responsible for monitoring the Comprehensive Support Centers for Women Survivors of Violence -CAIMUS- providing support and advice to the organizations that manage them.

---

---

**Presidential Secretariat for Women**

The Presidential Secretariat for Women (SEPREM), through the Program for the Prevention and Eradication of Domestic Violence (PROPEVI), implements projects and actions for the prevention, care and referral of cases of Domestic Violence (VIF), with the following units: Social, Legal, Psychological, Pedagogical and the help line 1515 (24 hours).

---

**Ombudsman for Indigenous Women**

Specific instance for the prevention, defense and eradication of all forms of violence and discrimination against indigenous women. It carries out community work and training for indigenous women leaders; meetings with communicators on the approach to violence against women (VAW); and handles and refers cases of violence against women.

---

**Agencies of the Women's Prosecutor's Office and Specialized Prosecutor's Office against Trafficking in Persons**

The Public Prosecutor's Office adopted measures for the creation of Women's Prosecutor's Offices and Specialized Prosecutor's Offices against Trafficking in Persons, as well as referral offices and victim assistance offices.

---

**Public Criminal Defence Institute**

The Public Criminal Defence Institute, in accordance with article 19, paragraph 3 of the Act against Femicide, established a national office to coordinate legal aid for women who have been the victims of any form of violence and for affected family members. The office has specialized lawyers to provide legal assistance, as well as psychologists and social workers to provide further assistance.

---

**Vice-Ministry of Violence and Crime Prevention**

The Vice Ministry of Prevention provides technical support to the country's political, technical and tactical operational authorities in the implementation and monitoring of the Policy's actions in order to meet the main objective: To lay the foundations for a culture of prevention of violence and crime through conviction, aimed at the participation of the population in the framework of citizen security and peaceful coexistence, which has an impact on the objective reduction of violence and crime, as well as on people's fear of becoming victims of violence.

---

# APPENDIX 2 – UN WOMEN: MEASURES AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (GUATEMALA)<sup>38</sup>



<https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/americas/guatemala>

<sup>38</sup> UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women. (n.d.). Guatemala. <https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/americas/guatemala>



# GLOSSARY

---

<b>Gender</b>	Roles that are determined socially, behaviours, activities, and attributes that a society considers appropriate for men and women. These roles are contextual and influenced by a society's culture and traditions, as well as by prevailing religious beliefs.
<b>Gender-Based Violence (GBV)</b>	Any act of violence that results in, or the nature of which causes, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to someone because of his or her sex. This including threats through similar acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether in public or private life (UN, 1993).
<b>Sex</b>	Refers to the biological and physiological characteristics which differentiate men and women.
<b>Sexual Exploitation</b>	Any real or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, power differential, or relationship of confidence for a sexual purpose, including, but not limited to, taking financial, social, or political advantage of another through sexual means.
<b>Sexual Abuse</b>	Real or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether it be by force or under unequal or coercive conditions.
<b>Sexual Harassment</b>	Unwelcomed sexual advances, demand for sexual favors, or any other verbal or physical behavior of a sexual nature. In the workplace, submission to these advances or behaviors may made either implicitly or explicitly a condition of continued employment, promotion, or other decisions affecting a person's employment.

# REFERENCES

- #NadaJustifica violence against women, Guatemala presents Campaign for the Prevention of Violence against women. (2020). InfoSegura. <https://infosegura.org/2020/11/13/nadajustifica-la-violencia-contra-las-mujeres-guatemala-presenta-campana-de-prevencion-de-violencia-contra-la-mujer/>
- Citizen security in Guatemala. (2019). InfoSegura. <https://infosegura.org/seccion/guatemala/>
- 2022 Trafficking in Persons Report. (2022). Department of State of the United States of America. <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/20221020-2022-TIP-Report.pdf>
- 8M #NadaJustifica la Violencia contra las Mujeres | Infosegura. (2023, March 10). <https://infosegura.org/2023/03/10/8m-nadajustifica-la-violencia-contra-las-mujeres/>
- Allan, A. (2019, Sept. 16). How businesses can take the lead in combatting gender-based violence. Stanford Social Innovation Review. [https://ssir.org/articles/entry/how\\_businesses\\_can\\_take\\_the\\_lead\\_in\\_combatting\\_gender\\_based\\_violence#](https://ssir.org/articles/entry/how_businesses_can_take_the_lead_in_combatting_gender_based_violence#)
- Blum, R. W., Unfpa, Gates, W. H., & United Nations Population Fund. (2015). Girlhood, Not Motherhood (English): Preventing Adolescent Pregnancy. United Nations Fund for Population Activities.
- Business Fights Poverty. (2019). How business can tackle gender-based violence in the world of work: A toolkit for action. <https://businessfightspoverty.org/report/how-can-business-tackle-gender-based-violence-in-the-world-of-work-a-toolkit-for-action/>
- Centro de Investigaciones Económicas & Centro Internacional para la Empresa Privada. (2022). Los Delitos contra la Mujer en Guatemala con énfasis en el Delito de Femicidio. Centro De Investigaciones Económicas. <https://cien.org.gt/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Documento-Violencia-contra-la-Mujer-y-Femicidio-mayo-2022-vf.pdf>
- Diálogos. (2020). Violencia en Tiempos de Pandemia. <https://dialogos.org.gt/sites/default/files/2020-10/Violencia%20en%20tiempos%20de%20pandemia%20Fin.pdf>
- Girls Not Brides. (2022). Child, Early and Forced Marriage and Unions in Guatemala. In Girls Not Brides. [https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/documents/1776/CEFMU\\_in\\_Guatemala.pdf](https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/documents/1776/CEFMU_in_Guatemala.pdf)

- InfoSegura. (2020). Central America and the Dominican Republic: Violence against women throughout the life cycle. <https://infosegura.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/VCM-REGIONAL-2020-ENG.pdf>
- InfoSegura. (2020). Guatemala: Violence against women throughout the life cycle. <https://infosegura.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/VCM-GUATEMALA-2020-ENG.pdf>
- Intentional homicides, female (per 100,000 female) - Guatemala Data. (n.d.). <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/VC.IHR.PSRC.FE.P5?locations=GT>
- International Training Centre. (n.d.). The business benefits of addressing gender-based violence. [https://gbv.itcilo.org/index.php/briefing/show\\_paragraph/id/78.html](https://gbv.itcilo.org/index.php/briefing/show_paragraph/id/78.html)
- IRC. (2020, June 9). IRC data shows an increase in reports of gender-based violence across Latin America. <https://reliefweb.int/report/el-salvador/irc-data-shows-increase-reports-gender-based-violence-across-latin-america>
- Kerr-Wilson, A.; Gibbs, A.; McAslan Fraser E.; Ramsoomar, L.; Parke, A.; Khuwaja, HMA.; and Rachel Jewkes (2020). A rigorous global evidence review of interventions to prevent violence against women and girls, What Works to prevent violence among women and girls global Programme, Pretoria, South Africa. <https://www.whatworks.co.za/resources/evidence-reviews/item/693-a-rigorous-global-evidence-review-of-interventions-to-prevent-violence-against-women-and-girls>
- Ministerio Público de Guatemala. (n.d.). Portal Estadístico Observatorio de las Mujeres del Ministerio Público. Observatorio De Las Mujeres Del Ministerio Público De Guatemala. <https://observatorio.mp.gob.gt/portal-estadistico/>
- OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index. (2019). <https://www.genderindex.org/wp-content/uploads/files/datasheets/2019/GT.pdf>
- Spotlight Initiative. (2018). Country Programme Document: Guatemala.
- U.S. Department of State. (2021). Trafficking in Persons Report. <https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-trafficking-in-persons-report/guatemala/>
- UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women. (n.d.). Guatemala. <https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/americas/guatemala>

- UN Women. (2020). Gender dimensions of the COVID-19 crisis in Guatemala. <https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20americas/documentos/publicaciones/2020/04/brief%20guatemala%20covid19.pdf?la=es&-vs=809>
- UN Women. (n.d.). "Guatemala." <https://lac.unwomen.org/en/donde-estamos/guatemala>
- UNDP. (2017). From commitment to action: Policies to end violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean. <https://www.undp.org/latin-america/publications/commitment-action-policies-end-violence-against-women-latin-america-and-caribbean>
- World Bank (2021). Women, Business and the Law 2021: Guatemala. <https://wbl.worldbank.org/content/dam/documents/wbl/2021/snapshots/Guatemala.pdf>
- World Bank. (2015). Intention homicides, female (per 100,000 female). [https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/VC.IHR.PSRC.FE.P5?most\\_recent\\_value\\_desc=true](https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/VC.IHR.PSRC.FE.P5?most_recent_value_desc=true)

