

Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences

23 February 2021

Dear Prof. Weil,

During my country visit to Israel, in September 2016, I received information on the occurrence of femicides, including the lack of disaggregated data and the shortcomings in ensuring the prosecution and conviction of perpetrators of these crimes. In order to improve the collection of data and the prevention of violence against women, I recommended in my country visit report ([A/HRC/35/30/Add.1](#)) the establishment of a “femicide watch” to collection on femicides, in connection with my call for the establishment of femicide watches, issued in 2015 and further developed in my 2016 report to the General Assembly ([A/71/398](#)).

In that sense, I was most pleased to learn of the launch, on November 2020, of the Israel Observatory on Femicide (www.israelfemicide.org) under your leadership at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. As I was informed, the purpose of the Observatory is to collect and monitor data and narratives about the murder of women, both quantitatively and qualitatively, and provide means for building an ongoing knowledge base in order to eradicate the phenomenon. I also learnt that in addition to compiling yearly data on femicide, the Observatory has been preparing analysis of this phenomenon as it pertains to specific groups, such as older women, and contexts, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The establishment of the Israel Observatory on Femicide based at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem represents an important step towards the implementation of my recommendations, thus providing public institutions and the society at large with tools to prevent femicides and promote justice. Therefore, I would like to express my support for this initiative, which will contribute to promoting further compliance by Israel to the international human rights obligations to prevent and eradicate violence against women.

I remain at your disposal for any queries through the team supporting my mandate at the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights at vaw@ohchr.org.



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Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences

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