



FEMICIDE WATCH 2017

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



WOMEN'S AID

Listening. Believing. Supporting.

Dedication

There is no greater violation of a woman's human rights than the right to life itself. As we publish this report we remember and reflect on those women killed by men. Women killed by current or ex boyfriends, partners or husbands, acquaintances, brothers, sons, neighbours and in some cases, strangers. Each woman murdered is an outrage. An absolute tragic loss of life and potential resulting in utter heartache for her loved ones left behind. This report is dedicated to the women included in this report whose voice in court, police statements and newspaper reports is silenced as the perpetrator writes the story of her death.

Women's Aid stands in solidarity with families, friends and communities of women murdered and with women currently living with abuse. We remember those women murdered but where no perpetrator has been charged and the other cases yet to come to trial. Our thoughts are with their families who are waiting for justice. And we will continue this work to bring to light the extent and impact of men's fatal violence against women in Irish society.

Note on data collected

This information has been compiled using newspaper and online news records. These records include the Irish Times, the Irish Independent, Irish Examiner and other news sources such as the RTE news and Journal.ie websites and Sunday broadsheets. Women's Aid has taken every measure to ensure that the information is accurate according to media reports available to us. Where the information is reprinted or republished the printer/publisher is solely responsible for the information and for any inaccuracies contained within.



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KEY FINDINGS

- 8 women have died violently in 2017.¹
- 216 women have died violently 1996-2017. 171 cases (79%) have been resolved², 9 cases (4%) are awaiting trial and 36 cases (17%) remain unresolved.
- This is an average of 10 women per year.
- Women of any age can be victims of homicide with women under the age of 35 making up 49% of cases in Ireland.
- 16 children were killed alongside their mothers with 14 of these children killed during an incident of intimate partner femicide.
- Women are more likely to be killed at home than any other location (63% of cases).
- The most common method of killing was stabbing with knives or other sharp objects (38%).
- 88% of women knew their killers.
- 1 in every 2 femicide victims is killed by a current or former male intimate partner (56% of resolved cases).³
- In almost all murder-suicide cases (21 out of 22), the killer was the woman's partner or ex-partner.
- In the 20 cases where a woman has been killed by a male relative, 16 were killed by their sons (80%).
- On average, current or former intimate partners convicted of manslaughter are sentenced to 2.8 years less than other men convicted of manslaughter of women.

¹ Recorded up to 13th November 2017.

² Either through the criminal justice system or where there has been a case of murder-suicide.

³ Current or former male intimate partner is defined as a man the victim was or had been in an intimate relationship with including a casual, hidden, dating, partnered or married relationship.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

“It was really sad because he’d never leave my mother alone and he’d always pick on her. He’d threaten her and say everything was ‘your fault’. He would say ‘I’d kill you’. One day, I walked in and he held the hammer and was threatening her. I was so scared that me and my sister were trying to protect her.”

–testimony from Brigid Maguire’s young son at the trial of her ex-partner for her murder.¹

When women call Women’s Aid and tell us they are afraid for their lives, we believe them. We know just how dangerous domestic abuse can be. **This year, eight women have died violently in the Republic of Ireland. Six women** were killed in their **own homes**. Since we started monitoring Femicide in Ireland over 20 years ago, **216 women have had their lives stolen** – an average of 10 women per year. Women and children are beaten, controlled and threatened by men in hundreds of thousands of homes across Ireland. The horrendous catalogue of abuse that women disclose to us on our 24hr National Freephone Helpline is just the tip of the iceberg. In 2016, **19,115** contacts were made with Women’s Aid during which **16,946** disclosures of **domestic violence against women** and **3,823 disclosures of child abuse** were made.² Domestic violence kills women. It kills children too and the **types of abuse and behaviour that precedes intimate partner Femicide mirrors what we hear from women each day** on our Helpline and in our one to one support services.³

Jessica, a woman who we supported through her journey to safety, recently spoke to us as part of our Testimonies Project.⁴ She told us:

*“I was out with friends that night and when I got home he was hiding in the garden, waiting.... I lost consciousness after the first punch, and again later in the attack. My eyes, face and skull were fractured that night, and I have permanent scarring and nerve damage. It was merciless, **I thought he was going to kill me**. Any time he’d ever hit me my head or face was always the first place he’d aim for. My daughter’s third birthday was the following day, and I discharged myself from hospital to help her blow out her candles. I was readmitted on Christmas Eve for reconstructive surgery on my face. He got a three-and-a-half year prison sentence, with the last year suspended.”*

Jessica’s story helps illustrate what we mean when we talk about the gravity of domestic violence and how life threatening that abuse can be. It also shows the impact on women’s lives and their children’s

1 **“He’d never leave my mother alone – boy testifies in murder trial.”** – *The Irish Times*, 5th October 2017, <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/crime-and-law/courts/criminal-court/he-d-never-leave-my-mother-alone-boy-testifies-in-murder-trial-1.3245733> (accessed 1.11.17). Brigid Maguire (43) was strangled to death in November 2015. She had set up a new home with her two children just one month before she was murdered. Danny Keena, her ex-partner, was found guilty and jailed for life in October 2017. His trial heard evidence that Keena inflicted serious physical and emotional abuse on Brigid during their relationship.

2 **Impact Report 2016**, Women’s Aid, May 2017 https://www.womensaid.ie/download/pdf/womens_aid_impact_report_2016.pdf.

3 *Such as physical violence and threats, separation, forced sex, jealousy, abuse during pregnancy, stalking, controlling, and isolating behaviour. Taken from Preventing and Eradicating Femicide WAVE Thematic Paper, February 2017*, http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/Thematic_Paper_Femicide_15Febr2017.pdf (accessed 1.11.17)

4 **The Women’s Aid Testimony Project** began in 2015 and aims to amplify women’s voices to build better awareness and understanding of the complexities of domestic violence. As part of this project, Women’s Aid launched a ‘Women’s Voices’ video and a photo essay series as part of the 16 Days of Action. This project is ongoing.

lives. Not only the physical injuries but also the fear and intimidation they experience during and in the wake of assaults. For every woman whose life is taken so cruelly there are thousands of women like Jessica across Ireland who are living on a knife's edge of fear. In 2016, our Helpline support workers heard **646 disclosures where the man has told the woman he will kill her, the children, a family member or himself**. We noted **522 disclosures** where a man had **choked, smothered, beaten or threatened to beat his partner with a weapon**. We heard **352 disclosures** of **stalking** – online and in person – and **195 reports of assault during pregnancy**.

Ending the relationship does not always end the abuse with **26% of women** in contact with us in 2016 experiencing abuse from a **former male intimate partner**. This report shows that **14% of women were killed by someone with whom they had a previous intimate relationship**. Separation is considered a risk factor for repeated and escalating domestic violence and for Femicide. A recent UK report found that 76% of separated women killed by their ex-partner or ex-spouse were killed within the first year that followed their separation and a third were killed within a month.⁵ Similar findings in the most recent Domestic Violence Death Review Annual Report in New South Wales indicate that separation (actual or intended) was a factor in over half of all intimate partner homicides with domestic violence context.⁶

INTIMATE PARTNER FEMICIDE – THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

“Rather than being a new form of violence, gender-related killings are the extreme manifestation of existing forms of violence against women. Such killings are not isolated incidents that arise suddenly and unexpectedly, but are rather the ultimate act of violence which is experienced in a continuum of violence.”⁷

According to the Global Study on Homicide by the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (2013), women are much more likely to be killed by people who should care for them, their intimate partners and family members.⁸ Moreover, while men are at higher risk from homicide generally (79% of victims and 95% of perpetrators), **women are at much higher risk from family and intimate partner homicide**. Two thirds of victims of intimate partner/family homicide worldwide are women and in Europe, partners or family members kill more than half of all femicide victims. In Ireland, this figure stands at 68%.⁹ According to this Global Study, almost half (47%) of all femicide victims in 2012 were killed by their intimate partners or family members compared to less than 6% of male homicide victims. The trend worldwide for intimate and family homicide is stable but in the context of a decreasing rate of overall homicide. In Europe, male homicide has sharply decreased while for women the rate has remained stable. The study highlights **the fact that the slow decrease of female intimate partner homicide is linked to the prevalence of and the difficulty in eradicating violence against women**.

A review of Femicide by the World Health Organisation (WHO), found that an intimate partner commits more than 35% of murders of women worldwide. In comparison, the same study estimates that an intimate partner commits about 5% of all murders of men. The same report also showed that women killing their male intimate partners was often an act of self-defence following ongoing violence and intimidation.¹⁰

5 **Redefining an Isolated Incident: Femicide Census 2009-2015**, *Women's Aid and NIA, 2016*
<https://1q7dqy2unor827bqjls0c4rn-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/The-Femicide-Census-Jan-2017.pdf>

6 **NSW Domestic Violence Death Review Team Annual Report 2015-2017**, P. 149, *NSW Government*, p.149, http://www.coroners.justice.nsw.gov.au/Documents/2015-2017_FINAL%20with%20proper%20cover_311017.pdf.

7 *Former UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women Rashida Manjoo quoted in Report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women – its causes and consequences, (May 2012), p.4.*

8 **Global Study on Homicide**, *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2013.*

9 *In this report, we show that 56% of perpetrators were current or former intimate partners and 12% were male family members. See page 15.*

10 **Femicide**, *World Health Organisation (2012)*

INTIMATE PARTNER FEMICIDE AND CHILDREN

“The gendered patterns of retaliatory filicides are similar to those found in intimate partner homicide: they are predominantly perpetrated by men seeking to hurt their intimate partners. Both these types of killings occur when the female partner attempts to leave the relationship.”¹¹

In Ireland, Women’s Aid has calculated that in total **14 children were killed alongside their mothers in intimate partner Femicide cases with a further 120 children being left without their mothers**. Many women killed by their intimate partner have children, who then have to cope with the death of their mother at the hands of their father (or stepfather). In the UK 106 women killed by their partner following separation (in a 7 years period) had one or more children.¹² The Australian study **Just to Say Goodbye** (2013) which examined filicide in the context of separation, found that **children are at particular risk at time of separation**, especially in relation to **‘retaliatory filicide’** where children are killed by abusive fathers as an act of revenge against the mother after separation.¹³ In these cases, there was violence and controlling behaviour towards the mother before and after separation, anger at her leaving and a desire for revenge. The same study notes that in most of the cases the parent who killed the children had previous contact with services and concludes that risk to the safety of a parent should be linked to risk to the safety of the children (even when there was no previous child abuse). **Risk assessment of the mother therefore needs to include risk to children**, especially in the context of separation.

Similarly, a Review of findings from DHRs looking at children killed in the context of domestic violence found that child risk assessment in families where there is domestic violence is under developed and under used, and that often harm and risks to children from domestic violence are overlooked.¹⁴ In the absence of more research, the Review suggests that if a mother is considered at risk of domestic violence, the children should also be considered at risk and therefore should be included in risk assessment and safety planning.¹⁵ Women’s Aid agrees and given the heightened risk at separation, child risk assessment is particularly important when a woman leaves or obtains a barring order and when she is negotiating the family law system regarding child related matters such as custody and access. This must be addressed in the current Domestic Violence Bill.¹⁶

DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEWS AND RISK ASSESSMENT – LEARNING FROM FEMICIDE

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) or similar tribunals have been established in the UK, New Zealand and in many jurisdictions in Canada, Australia and the United States. They aim to **learn from domestic homicides in order to improve systemic and service responses** and better understand the dynamics of domestic violence. The final goal of DHRs is to reduce further domestic killings and domestic violence more generally. They operate with different structures, remits, definitions and

11 **Just to Say Goodbye: Parents Who Kill Their Children in the Context of Separation**, *Discussion Paper, January 2013, Domestic Violence Resource Centre of Victoria*. [http://www.dvrcv.org.au/sites/default/files/%E2%80%98Just%20Say%20Goodbye%E2%80%99%20\(January%202013%20online%20edition\).pdf](http://www.dvrcv.org.au/sites/default/files/%E2%80%98Just%20Say%20Goodbye%E2%80%99%20(January%202013%20online%20edition).pdf)

12 *Op cit*, **Femicide Census**, *Women’s Aid and NIA*

13 *Op cit*, **Just to Say Goodbye: Parents Who Kill Their Children in the Context of Separation**.

14 ‘Children Killed in the Context of Domestic Violence: International Perspectives from Death Review Committees’, Jaffe, Peter (et al.), in **Domestic Homicides and Death Reviews, An International Perspective**, (ed. Dawson, Myrna), Palgrave, 2017.

15 *Ibid*.

16 *This issue and detailed recommendations are outlined in the Women’s Aid Submission on the Domestic Violence Bill 2017*, found at https://www.womensaid.ie/download/pdf/submission_on_the_domestic_violence_bill_2017.pdf.

powers to make and monitor recommendations. Typically, DHRs carry out the following:

- Review individual cases of domestic homicide;
- Examine the context in which the deaths occurred and any risk factors;
- Identify patterns in domestic violence related deaths;
- Examine current systemic responses to domestic violence including gaps and how to address them;
- Formulate recommendations to improve responses to domestic violence and
- Collect and maintain a database on domestic homicide and carry out research functions

A DHR can for example shed light on type of violence experienced prior to abuse, criminal offending by the abuser towards victim and/or previous partners, protection orders and any breaches, substance abuse and so on.¹⁷ Some DHRs, for example, in Ontario include the death of children in the DHR scope if the child has been killed in retaliatory filicide or as ‘corollary damage’. Some DHRs include children who survived but were impacted by the killing of their mother by witnessing it and/or losing her. Some also include deaths by suicide in the context of domestic violence.

Very importantly, DHR teams are a multi-disciplinary team, generally convened by a government agency. However, the **participation** of both **specialist domestic violence support services** and of **family of the victim** is considered valuable and necessary. Last year, the Analysis Unit of An Garda Síochána announced it would conduct an analysis of domestic related homicides over the period 2007 to 2016 to identify any trends and patterns that may exist. While this is a welcome development, Women’s Aid believes that this analysis cannot substitute for a well resourced, multi-agency and ongoing Domestic Homicide Review process.

DHRs have played an important part in **identifying risk factors for domestic violence homicide**. A number of assessment tools for detecting risk of lethality and escalating violence for domestic violence have been developed and are now in use in many jurisdictions. Risks include:

- History of violence;
- Prior physical violence and threats;
- Separation from an abusive partner after cohabitation;
- A woman having a child by a previous partner living in the home;
- Forced sex;
- Possession of firearms;
- Jealousy of an abusive partner;
- Abuse during pregnancy;
- Stalking;
- Controlling behaviour and isolation;
- Precarious financial situation/unemployment;
- Substance abuse, drugs and/or alcohol.¹⁸

The combined impact of the Istanbul Convention and the Victims of Crime Act 2017 should see risk and individual needs assessment for victims becoming routine in Ireland. However, risk assessment and management in relation to victims of domestic violence must be introduced as soon as possible by relevant authorities such as An Garda Síochána and Health Service Executive and in

¹⁷ For example, see Chapter 5 of the NSW Domestic Violence Death Review Team Annual Report 2015-2017.

¹⁸ *Op cit*, WAVE Thematic Paper on Femicide.

collaboration with specialist domestic violence support services. This new process should include **risk assessment and management for children** too.

A MATTER OF AGGRAVATION

When we examine the charges, verdicts and sentencing in the Femicide cases, which have gone through the Irish criminal justice system, our data, would suggest that **the system is less severe for men accused of killing their current or former partners**.¹⁹ When we look at charges against intimate partners, 5% were charged with manslaughter but this figure rose to 25% on conviction, with a resulting decrease from 95% to 75% of men charged and convicted of murder. In addition, when we look at **sentencing for intimate partners found guilty of manslaughter the average is 7.8 years compared to 10.6 years for other men**. Article 46 of the Istanbul Convention requires that committing an offence against a current or former partner or spouse can be considered an aggravating circumstance when sentencing certain offences such as psychological, physical violence (including violence that causes death), sexual violence and stalking.²⁰

Therefore, Women's Aid believes **the fact that the perpetrator is a current or former intimate partner** of the woman **should be an aggravating factor rather than a mitigating one** when it comes to sentencing. This would acknowledge the unique position the killer was in including the fact that they had intimate knowledge of and access to their victim and so brutally betrayed that trust.

WHY WOMEN COUNT

As it stands, we know a current or former male intimate partner kills one in every two women murdered in Ireland. **This cannot remain an accepted 'fact of life' for women**. Internationally and in Ireland, the links between Femicide and domestic violence are well established and it is clear that a strategy to reduce Femicide should address domestic violence and other forms of violence against women. When Women's Aid began our Femicide Watch in 1996, we knew we needed to record these killings to illustrate the danger posed to women and to build a better understanding to increase protection for women and children. Today, Women's Aid will continue the difficult and sensitive work of counting the lives lost to men's violence against women in the hope to prevent further loss of life.

Margaret Martin

Director, Women's Aid
November 2017

¹⁹ See page 21 of this report.

²⁰ Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, Council of Europe, 2011, <https://rm.coe.int/168046031c>.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT

Women's Aid recommends:

1. That **the State set up a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) mechanism with a statutory basis, a multi-agency composition** including specialist domestic violence services and families. These DHRs should have powers to make and monitor recommendations to improve overall response to intimate partner violence.
2. That **risk assessment and management in relation to victims of domestic violence is introduced** in the Republic of Ireland as soon as possible by relevant authorities such as An Garda Síochána and the Health Service Executive, in collaboration with specialist domestic violence services.
3. That **any risk assessment and management system always includes children**, especially during separation, and that research is carried out to identify specific risk factors for children.
4. That the **Domestic Violence Bill** includes a provision by which, when granting a Barring Order, **the court should consider the safety and well-being of any children** of the relationship and take interim measures, as necessary, for their protection.
5. That the **Domestic Violence Bill includes provisions for experts being made available to the Court to assess the risk the perpetrator poses to the children**. These experts should also assess the impact that the direct abuse and witnessing abuse has on the children.
6. That when offences including physical violence (including resulting in death), psychological and sexual violence and stalking are carried out by a current or former partner or spouse **the intimate relationship should be considered an aggravating factor when it comes to sentencing**.
7. That the Government should **provide funding to Women's Aid to continue and develop the Femicide Watch** for the Republic of Ireland.
8. That the **Government should improve data collection and publication** in all areas of violence against women, including Femicide.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE MEDIA REPORTING OF INTIMATE PARTNER FEMICIDE

For 21 years, Women's Aid has been monitoring female homicide as reported in the public domain through media reports and archives. Through this experience and expertise, we believe that the following can improve media reporting on intimate partner femicide.

While we believe further and more in depth research on this and the wider reporting of violence against women is needed, **Women's Aid observes and recommends that:**

- 1 Efforts should be made to report on the woman's life and her loss not just the manner of her death.
- 2 Women killed should not be presented and their lives valued only by their relationship with their killer or their families. Stereotypes and myths about domestic violence should be avoided.
- 3 The victim's voice is often lost in the reporting of the incident and of any subsequent court case. The story reported is usually the story the perpetrator presents in defence. The media should not be unduly sympathetic to the perpetrator nor report the story in any way which would seem to explain or present his actions as understandable or inevitable. The media should be careful not to victim blame in cases of femicide.
- 4 There exists a hierarchy of female homicide victims and the amount of media coverage given to certain cases is often based on socio-economic and ethnic background of the woman and the perpetrator, the age of the victim, the part of the country where the killing took place or where the details of the killing lend itself to salacious reporting. This must end.
- 5 As 1 in every 2 women murdered in Ireland are killed by a man with whom they had a current or former intimate relationship with, the 'once off' incident narrative must be challenged. Efforts should be made to report fatal domestic violence within the broader issue of violence against women in Irish society.
- 6 The media should understand that when reporting on a story involving the murder of women and in some cases their children they are approaching a family and a community in the midst of deep trauma. Media personnel must not add to or exacerbate that trauma in pursuit of the story. The privacy and dignity of families and communities should be respected at all times.
- 7 When reporting on intimate partner femicide or domestic violence stories in general, we recommend that the Women's Aid 24hr National Freephone Helpline is listed as a source of support.

- 8 There is a tendency to report on murder-suicide cases solely as a mental health story with the appropriate suicide helplines offered. However, in 21 of the 22 murder-suicide cases where a woman has been murdered, the killer has been her partner or ex. The reporting of these cases will impact on women affected by domestic violence. The 24hr Women's Aid National Freephone Helpline should also be listed with reports on murder suicide cases.
- 9 Journalists should build their understanding of the wider national and international issue of violence against women and receive training on the dynamics and impact of such abuse.

SECTION 1: FEMICIDE WATCH 2017

- 8 women have died violently in Ireland in 2017.²¹
- 6 of these women have been killed in their own homes.
- Charges have been made in 5 cases. In each of those cases, a man has been charged.
- 17 children have had their mothers taken from them in violent circumstances in 2017.

1.1 WOMEN WHO HAVE DIED VIOLENTLY IN 2017

- 1 Nicola Collins**, aged 39, was found with head injuries at her flat in Cork on 27th March. Nicola was a mother of three originally from Co. Kerry. A man (44) has been charged with Nicola's murder.
- 2 Samantha Walsh**, aged 31, was found dead in her apartment in Waterford city on 28th April. Samantha had been assaulted before she died. She was a mother of four children. A man, aged 29, has been charged with Samantha's murder.
- 3 Amy McCarthy**, aged 22, was found dead in a squat in Cork City on 30th April. She is believed to have been assaulted. Amy was a mother of one. No one has been charged.
- 4 Rita Apine**, aged 29, was found with serious head injuries in her home in Kilkenny on 14th May. Her husband (31) has been charged with her murder. Rita was a mother of one.
- 5 Patricia O'Connor**, aged 61, is believed to have been killed in her home in Dublin between 29th and 30th May. She was reported missing on 2nd June. Patricia was a mother of two and also a grandmother. Patricia's remains were discovered scattered in the Wicklow mountains on 10th June. A 32 year old man has been charged with her murder.
- 6 Linda Evans Christian**, aged 29 was reported missing on 29th June. She was last seen at Connolly Hospital. Her body was found in woods in Dublin on 17th July. It is believed Linda was murdered.
- 7 Antoinette Corbally**, aged 48, was shot dead outside her Dublin home during an attack on the afternoon of 17th August. She was a mother of six children.
- 8 Anne Colomines**, aged 37, was found stabbed to death at her Dublin home late in the evening on 24th October. Anne was originally from France. Her husband was taken to hospital with injuries. Gardai described the killing as a 'domestic incident'. Anne's husband (35) has been charged with her murder.

²¹ As at 13th November 2017.

1.2 TRIALS AND CONVICTIONS IN 2017

MARCH

Anne Shortall was 47 and from Co. Wicklow. She was a mother of three children. Roy Webster (40) was found guilty of her murder. Anne was beaten to death in April 2015 in the garage of Webster's home. They had previously had an intimate history, described in court, as a one night stand. Speaking in court, Anne's daughter described the impact of her mother's loss *"I lost my Mam, my best friend, my confidant. My life changed forever for the worst. I will never have my mother for when my first child is born, or she won't be here for my wedding day. There is a void in my life that can never be filled"*. Webster was sentenced to life in prison.

APRIL

Anna Finnegan, from Dublin, was 25 years old when she was stabbed to death in her own home. Her brother Karl was injured in the attack in September 2012. Anna was the mother of two young children and was described by her sister *"as a wonderful, loving, kind, selfless soul. An amazing mother and the best sister and friend"*. In April this year a Central Criminal Court jury found her former partner Vesel Jahiri (36) guilty of the murder. The court heard evidence of a serious history of domestic violence during the relationship and afterwards with Anna and her children previously seeking refuge. Jahiri was sentenced to life in prison. Anna's sister encouraged anyone experiencing domestic violence to *"seek help before it's too late."*

MAY

Sonia Blount was 31 years old when she was murdered in February 2014. She was a mother to a 3 year old child. Sonia's sister described her as an adventurous and happy woman who was happy with her life with her little son. In May this year her ex-partner Eric Locke was convicted of murder. The court heard evidence of Locke's controlling behaviour towards Sonia during the relationship and a campaign of harassment after the relationship ended. He set himself up with an elaborate fake profile on social media to make contact with and arrange to meet Sonia. He strangled her to death in a Dublin hotel room. Locke was sentenced to life in prison.

JUNE

Olivia Dunlea O'Brien was killed in Co. Cork in February 2013. Olivia had been stabbed six times before her home was set alight. Olivia was a mother of three children. Her ex-boyfriend, Darren Murphy (40) went on trial in June 2017 charged with her murder. He had previously been convicted of murder in 2014 but this was overturned on appeal. In May this year Murphy plead guilty to manslaughter. However, the jury failed to reach a verdict. Murphy is remanded in prison and a new trial date will be set. Olivia was described as *"very well liked and passionate about her community"*.

JULY

Natalie McGuinness was 23 when she was strangled to death in her boyfriend's home in Sligo in October 2015. Her mother described Natalie as *"a bubbly, caring girl who loved life and had a special way of communicating with children"*. She said she was *"innocent and saw the good in everyone and never believed she would come to any harm"*. In July, her boyfriend Oisín Conroy (34) was found not guilty due to insanity. He was committed to the Central Mental Hospital.

OCTOBER

Brigid Maguire had just moved into her new home in Co. Westmeath to start a fresh life a month before she was murdered. She was 43 years old. Her ex-partner Danny Keena (55) had abused her throughout their relationship. Brigid was described in court by her daughter Jade as having a beautiful smile and as *"full of life"* and a *"kind, caring, religious person, who put the needs of others before herself"*. After Keena was convicted of murder and sentence to life in prison Jade asked anyone *"who is suffering from domestic abuse, not to be afraid to seek help as soon as possible so you won't end up like my mother."*

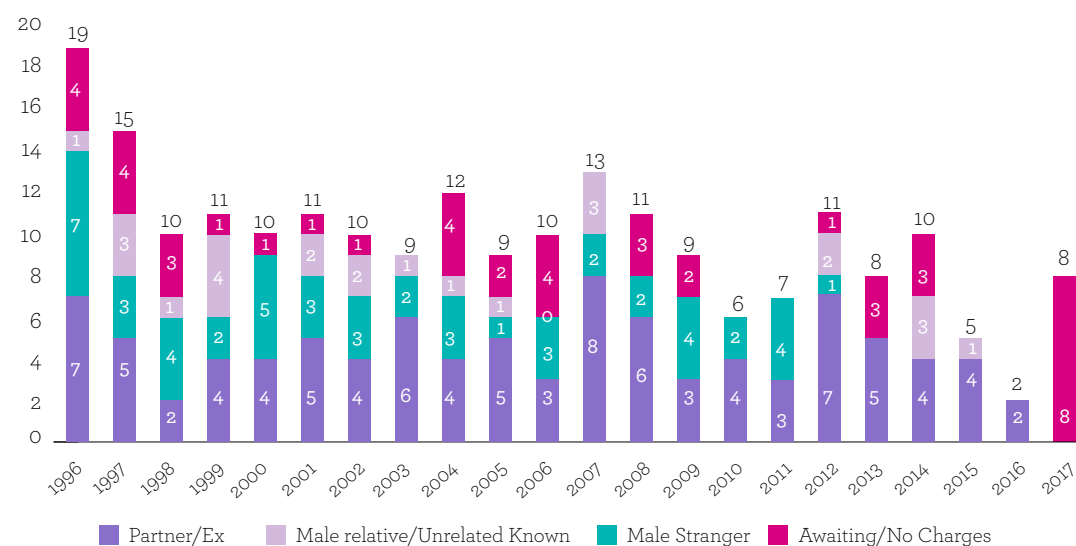
SECTION 2: KEY FINDINGS 1996-2017²²

2.1 SUMMARY

Since Women’s Aid records began, **216 women have died violently in the Republic of Ireland.**

- **137 women (63%)** were killed in their **own homes.**
- **171 cases (79%) have been resolved** including 149 cases through the criminal justice system and 22 cases of murder-suicide.
- 9 cases (4%) are awaiting trial. 36 cases (17%) remain unresolved.

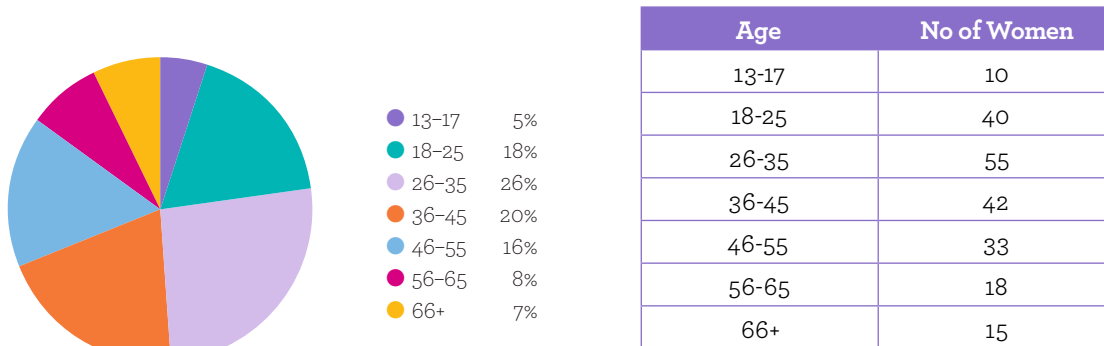
Chart 1: Women killed by year and by perpetrator.



2.2 AGE PROFILES OF WOMEN KILLED

Of the 216 women, ages have been recorded in 213 cases. This breaks down as follows.

Chart 2: Age profiles of women killed

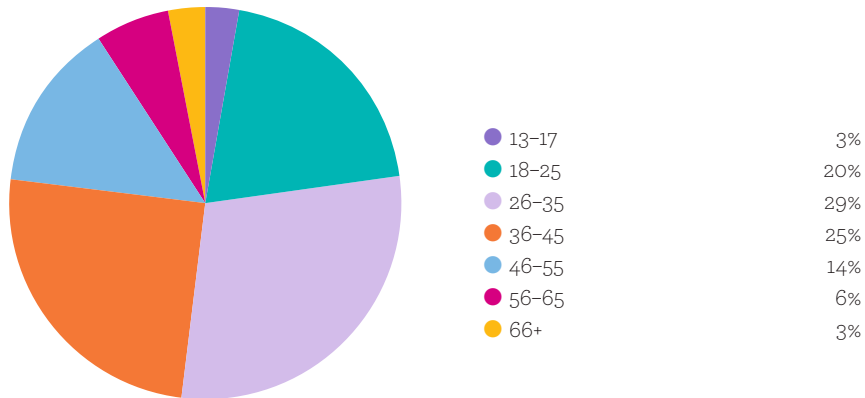


22 Based on data collected between 1.1.1996 and 13.11.2017.

2.3 AGE PROFILES OF PERPETRATORS

We have recorded the age of the perpetrator in the **171 resolved cases**. This breaks down as:

Chart 3: Age profiles of perpetrators



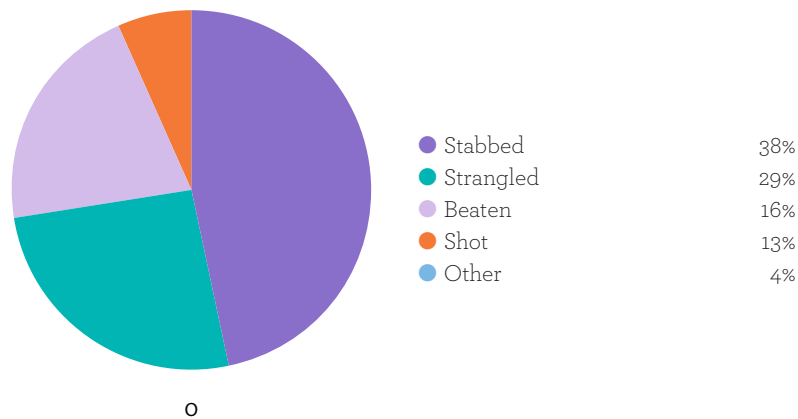
Age	No of Men
13-17	5
18-25	34
26-35	50
36-45	43
46-55	24
56-65	10
66+	5

2.4 METHOD OF KILLING

67 women were stabbed, 54 women were strangled, 49 women were beaten, 27 women were shot and 19 women were killed by other means. We have noted the primary cause of death but many women suffered multiple forms of violence during the fatal assault.

In 118 cases (55%) weapons were used, primarily knives and other sharp objects.

Chart 4: Method of killing

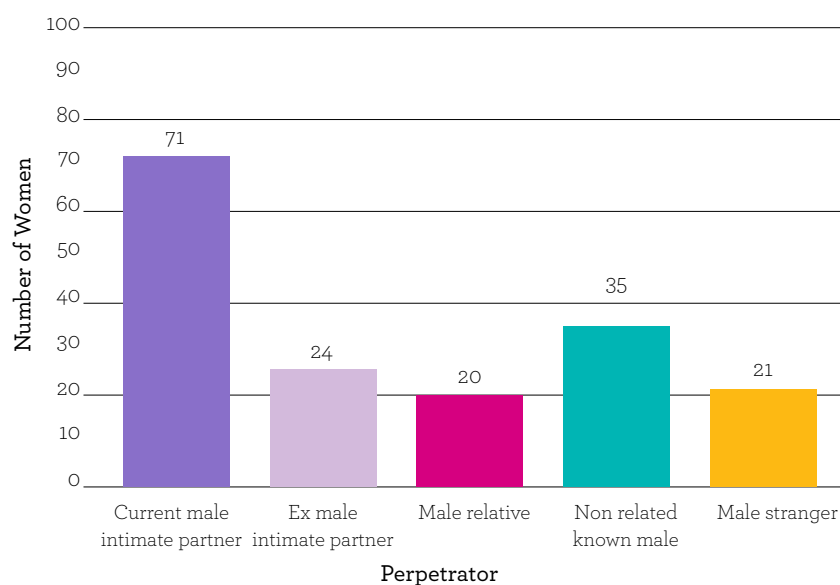


2.5 RELATIONSHIP CONTEXT

The **relationship between the woman and the perpetrator** is noted in the 171 resolved cases.

- **71 killers (42%) were current male intimate partners** while **24 killers (14%) were former male intimate partners**. 56% in total.
- In a further **20 cases (12%)**, women were killed by a **male relative** and in **35 cases (20%)** women were killed by a **non-related known male**.
- Thus, **150 women were killed by a man known to them (88%)**.
- **21 women (12%)** were killed by a **stranger**.

Chart 5: Relationship context



Women are more likely to be killed by a current or former intimate partner (56% of cases).

20% of women were killed by non-related known male. 17 women were killed by a male friend/family friend or friend of a friend (47%). 11 women (31%) were killed by men who were neighbours or who lived locally.

In the **20 cases where a woman was killed by a male relative, 16 women were killed by their sons (80%)**. 3 women were killed by their brothers. 1 woman was killed by her grandson.

In the 21 cases where women were killed by a stranger, **16 women were killed during the process of another crime. 8 of these crimes were rape/sexual assault (50%)**. 29% of women killed by a stranger were over the age of 66.

2.6 COUNTY AND PERPETRATORS

County where women was killed	Number of women killed	Partner or ex-partner	Male relative/ Unknown Related Male	Male Stranger	Remains unsolved
Carlow	3	3	0	0	0
Cavan	7	2	2	0	3
Clare	6	5	1	0	0
Cork	20	8	5	3	4
Donegal	3	1	1	1	0
Dublin	67	31	9	7	20
Galway	12	3	4	4	1
Kerry	6	2	3	0	1
Kildare	8	3	2	1	2
Kilkenny	7	3	3	0	1
Laois	4	3	1	0	0
Limerick	10	4	5	1	0
Longford	1	0	0	1	0
Louth	7	5	0	0	2
Mayo	6	2	3	0	1
Meath	6	2	1	1	2
Monaghan	1	0	0	1	0
Offaly	1	1	0	0	0
Roscommon	5	3	2	0	0
Sligo	5	3	2	0	0
Tipperary	6	3	2	1	0
Waterford	11	2	4	0	5
Westmeath	5	2	2	0	1
Wexford	3	2	1	0	0
Wicklow	4	2	2	0	0
Not known	2	Na	Na	Na	2

The category 'partner/ex-partner' includes current and former boyfriends, partners, husbands and intimate acquaintances.

2.7 RATE OF FEMALE HOMICIDE PER 100,000²³

In 2017, Ireland had a female homicide rate of **0.3 per 100,000 of the female population**.

2.8 CHILDREN

There have been **8 cases where children were killed alongside their mothers. 7 of these cases were intimate partner femicides**.

In total, 16 children have been killed by the perpetrator who also killed their mother. This includes 9 boys and 7 girls. The children killed were aged between 5 months and 13 years old.

2.9 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

An element of **sexual violence/rape** was reported in **23 cases**.

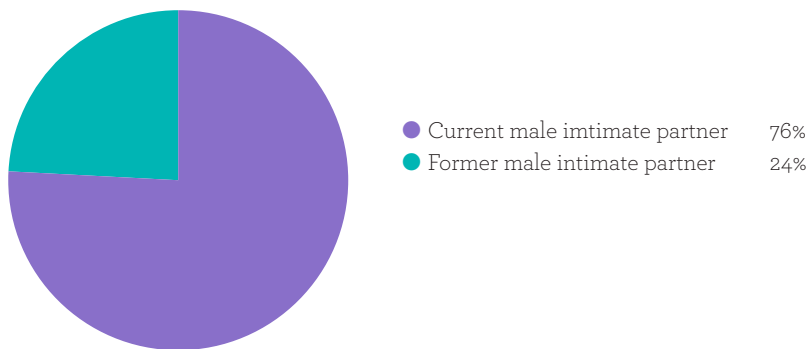
There are **22 cases** where in addition to the woman, **others have been either killed or injured** including children, friends, sisters, brothers, neighbours, mothers and husbands.

²³ Rate is worked out as number of female homicide victims (as at 13.11.17) divided by the female population multiplied by 100,000. Population figures taken from Census 2016 (8 women/2,407,437 x 100,000).

SECTION 3: INTIMATE PARTNER FEMICIDE ANALYSIS

3.1 SUMMARY

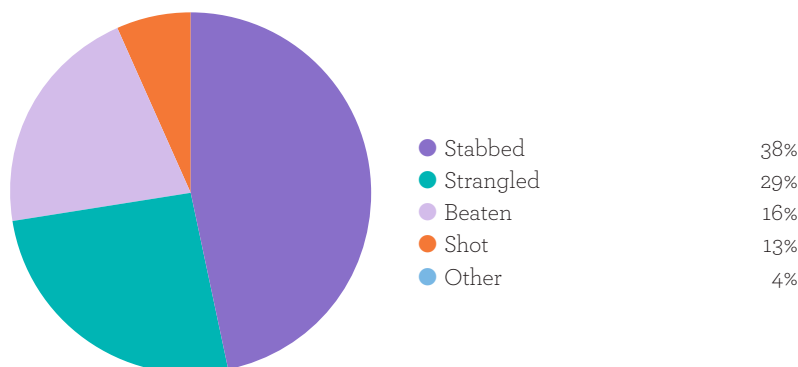
Where the cases have been resolved either through the courts or in cases of murder-suicide, **95 women (56%) have been killed by a current or former male intimate partner**. 70 women were killed by a current male intimate partner and 25 women were killed by an ex male intimate partner.



- **72% of women** were **killed** in their **own homes (68 women)**.
- Previous known history of domestic violence was brought out in the court or newspaper reports in 32 cases (33%).
- In 15 cases, it was specifically reported that the victim was talking about or in the process of leaving the relationship.²⁴

3.2 METHOD OF KILLING

Where the killer was a current or former male intimate partner, the primary method of killing was noted as being:

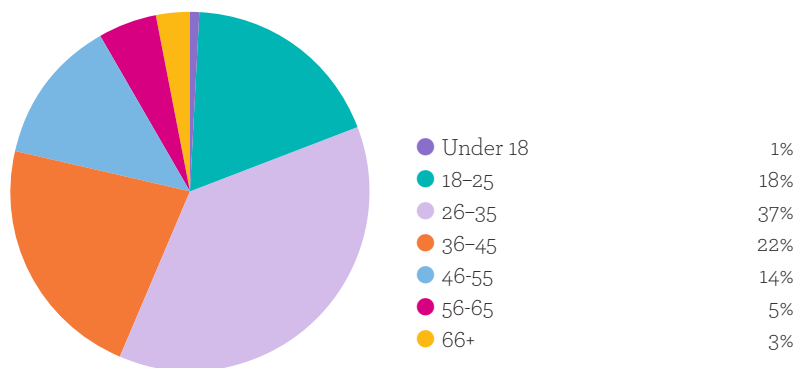


In **61 cases (64%) weapons were used**, usually knives and other sharp object.

²⁴ It is important to remember that the woman may never have disclosed her experience of domestic violence, especially emotional abuse and coercive control, when she was alive and often this facet of the relationship may often not make it into the public domain.

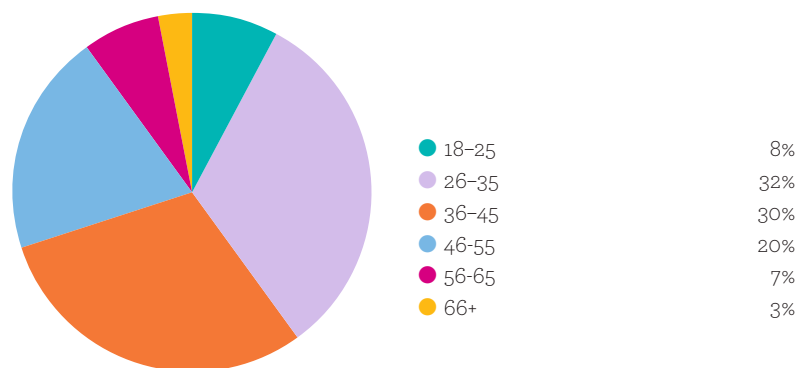
3.3 INTIMATE PARTNER FEMICIDE AGE PROFILE OF WOMEN

Women of any age can be victims of intimate partner femicide with women under the age of 35 making up 56% of cases in Ireland. 17 women (18%) killed by a current or former male intimate partner were aged between 18-25 years of age. 37% of women were aged 26-35.



3.4 INTIMATE PARTNER FEMICIDE PERPETRATOR AGE PROFILE

32% of perpetrators of intimate partner femicide were aged between 26-35 years of age while 30% of killers were aged 36-45. 20% were aged 46-55 and 8% of men were aged 18-25. 10% were over the age of 56.



3.5 IMPACT OF INTIMATE PARTNER FEMICIDES ON CHILDREN

In addition to the 95 women killed by an intimate partner a total of **14 children were killed alongside their mothers** by the perpetrator and **120 children were left without their mother**.

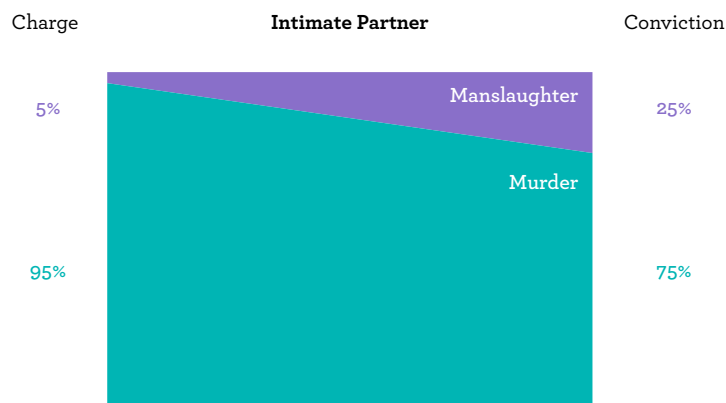
SECTION 4: MURDER SUICIDE

There have been **22 murder suicide cases since 1996** where the perpetrator has murdered a woman and then taken his own life. In 21 cases (95%), the **perpetrator was a partner or ex-partner**. In the other case, the perpetrator was the woman's son.

4 cases have included the murder of the woman and her children.

SECTION 5: CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM ANALYSIS – CHARGES, CONVICTIONS AND CONVICTIONS

When we examine the **149 cases resolved through the criminal justice system** we can see some interesting patterns in relation to convictions and sentencing for current or former male intimate partners convicted of manslaughter compared with all other categories of male perpetrators. 95% of intimate partners were charged with murder. 5% were charged with manslaughter. However, the manslaughter conviction rate for intimate partners was 25% and 75% for murder.²⁵



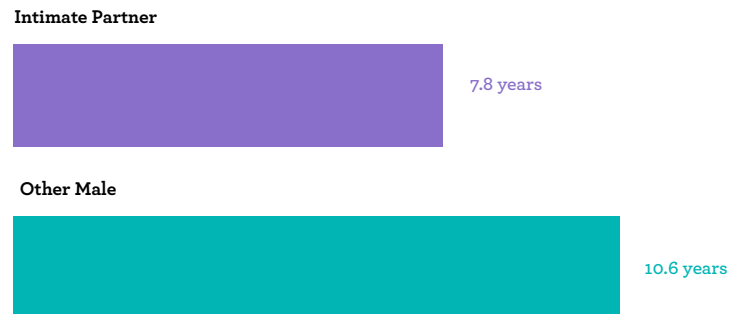
Looking at the other male categories²⁶, 91% of perpetrators are charged with murder and 9% with manslaughter. The conviction rate for murder is 84% and 16% manslaughter.



²⁵ Those convicted of murder receive a mandatory life sentence.

²⁶ Other male categories include male relative, unrelated known male and male stranger.

When we look at **sentencing in cases of manslaughter for intimate partners the average is 7.8 years compared to 10.6 years for other male perpetrators.**²⁷ This would suggest that the criminal justice system is less severe for intimate partners for this most lethal form of violence. It also shows that **current or former intimate partners** charged with murder **are more likely to see a conviction for manslaughter and receive a lighter sentence** than perpetrators who did not have an intimate relationship with the victim.



In addition, in 13 cases, the juries returned a verdict of **guilty/not guilty due to reason of insanity**. In **8 of these cases (61%), women were killed by their sons** and 1 woman was killed by her grandson. 2 women were killed by a current or former male intimate partner. 2 women were killed by other non-related men known to them.

²⁷ These figures are based sentencing for 17 manslaughter convictions for current or former intimate partners and 9 manslaughter convictions for other males.

APPENDIX: IN MEMORIAM 1996 – 2017

Name	Age	Date	County	Perpetrator
Marilyn Rynn	41	Jan-96	Dublin	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Joyce Quinn	44	Jan-96	Kildare	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Mary Molumby	86	Mar-96	Tipperary	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Sandra Tobin	35	Mar-96	Waterford	Ex-partner
Noeleen Cawley	37	Apr-96	Sligo	Ex-partner
Alison White	13	Apr-96	Donegal	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Anne-Marie Duffin	39	Apr-96	Kerry	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Martina Halligan	33	May-96	Dublin	Ex-partner
Angela Collins	49	May-96	Limerick	Partner
Patti Bainbridge	61	May-96	Laois	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Patricia Murphy	33	May-96	Dublin	Partner
Veronica Guerin	37	Jun-96	Dublin	Stranger
Margaret O Sullivan	40	Aug-96	Kerry	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Maura McKinney	58	Aug-96	Dublin	Partner
Shirley Cline		Sep-96		No one held responsible
Janet Mooney	29	Sep-96	Dublin	Partner
Geraldine Diver	42	Dec-96	Dublin	No one held responsible
Sophie Toscan du Plantier	37	Dec-96	Cork	No one held responsible
Belinda Pereira	26	Dec-96	Dublin	No one held responsible
Miriam O'Donohue	42	Jan-97	Dublin	No one held responsible
Mary Callinan	61	Mar-97	Dublin	Stranger
Sylvia Sheilds	58	Mar-97	Dublin	Stranger
Bernie Sherry	44	Apr-97	Laoise	Ex-partner
Kitty Gubbins	70	May-97	Limerick	Partner
Mandy Wong	28	Jun-97	Dublin	No one held responsible
Elizabeth Troy	60	Jul-97	Limerick	Partner
Catherine Doyle	26	Aug-97	Roscommon	Male relative/Unrelated known male

Margaret Murphy	73	Aug-97	Cork	Stranger
Sheila McDonagh	26	Sep-97	Louth	Partner
Maura Shah	39	Sep-97	Dublin	No one held responsible
Gillian Thornton	20	Oct-97	Mayo	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Mary Cully	54	Nov-97	West Meath	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Mary Kelehan	49	Nov-97	Galway	Partner
Eileen Costello O'Shaughnessy	47	Dec-97	Galway	No one held responsible
Mandy Smyth	26	Jan-98	Dublin	Ex-partner
Joan McCarthy	47	Apr-98	Dublin	No one held responsible
Georgina O'Donnell	21	May-98	Limerick	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Sinead Kelly	21	Jun-98	Dublin	No one held responsible
Chantal Bergeron	41	Aug-98	Tipperary	Partner
Theresa Doherty	49	Sep-98	Tipperary	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Christina Hackett	31	Oct-98	Cork	No one held responsible
Marie Dillon	72	Nov-98	Dublin	Stranger
Siobhan Hynes	17	Dec-98	Galway	Stranger
Sheila Lynch	44	Dec-98	Cavan	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Catherine Hegarty	33	Feb-99	Cork	Partner
Layla Brennan	25	Mar-99	Dublin	Stranger
Marie Hennessy	31	May-99	Kilkenny	Partner
Bente Carroll	45	May-99	Dublin	Partner
Gertrude Dolan	56	Jun-99	Dublin	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Eileen Coyne	82	Jul-99	Galway	Stranger
Bridget McFadden	76	Jul-99	Galway	Stranger
Margaret Concannon	72	Jul-99	Galway	Stranger
Charlene McAulliffe	19	Sep-99	Cork	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Raonaid Murray	17	Sep-99	Dublin	No one held responsible
Catherine Mullins	43	Oct-99	Dublin	Partner
Rachel Sandeman	17	Feb-00	Cork	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Nancy Nolan	80	Feb-00	Galway	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Jennifer Donnan	42	Apr-00	Limerick	Male relative/Unrelated known male

Maeve Byrne	37	Sep-00	Kilkenny	Partner
Children:				
Alan	10			
Shane	6			
Rachel Kiely	22	Oct-00	Cork	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Dearbhla Keating	28	Nov-00	Waterford	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Jennifer Wilkinson	24	Dec-00	Dublin	Ex-partner
Susan Prakash	28	Dec-00	Louth	Partner
Sandra Collins	29	Dec-00	Mayo	No one held responsible
Jean Reilly	34	Dec-00	Meath	Partner
Mary Whelan	27	Mar-01	Dublin	Partner
Lui Quing	19	Mar-01	Dublin	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Teresa Joyce		May-01		No one held responsible
Debbie Fox	30	Jul-01	West Meath	Partner
Children:				
Trevor	9			
Cillian	7			
Margaret Fahy	78	Sept-01	Galway	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Linda Dunne	24	Sep-01	Dublin	Partner
Bettina Poeschel	28	Sep-01	Meath	Stranger
Geraldine Kissane	23	Oct-01	Clare	Ex-partner
Lorraine O'Connor	19	Oct-01	Clare	Partner
Lisa Bell	22	Dec-01	Dublin	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Sr Philomena Lyons	68	Dec-01	Monaghan	Stranger
Grainne Dillon	24	Jan-02	Limerick	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Joan Power	43	Mar-02	Waterford	Partner
Rosie Collinson	51	Mar-02	Tipperary	Ex-partner
Nichola Sweeney	20	Apr-02	Cork	Stranger
Niamh Murphy	17	May-02	Dublin	Partner
Nora Kiely	46	Jul-02	Cork	Stranger
Carmel Coyne	38	Aug-02	Kildare	Ex-partner
Mook Ah Mooi	49	Aug-02	Dublin	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Sasha Pimosieje		Dec-02	Dublin	No one held responsible

Christine Quinn	36	Dec-02	Kilkenny	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Jean Scanlon	33	Jan-03	Cork	Partner
Marie Bridgeman	56	Jan-03	Meath	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Cliona Manger	19	Feb-03	Cork	Partner
Natasha Gray	25	Feb-03	Dublin	Partner
Lindita Kukaj	23	Feb-03	Sligo	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Georgina Eager	29	May-03	Dublin	Partner
Xiang Yi Wang	21	Jul-03	Wicklow	Partner
Ann Flynn	58	Dec-03	Roscommon	Partner
Attracta Harron	65	Dec-03	Donegal	Stranger
Dolores McCrea	39	Jan-04	Donegal	Ex-partner
Joan Casey	65	Apr-04	Dublin	Stranger
Janet Chaney	47	Apr-04	Louth	Partner
Lorraine Crowley	36	May-04	Waterford	No one held responsible
Ms Jamie Farrelly Maughan	13	Jul-04	Cavan	No one held responsible
Paiche Onyemaechi	25	Jul-04	Waterford	No one held responsible
Lynette McKeown	19	Aug-04	Kildare	No one held responsible
Mary Walsh	54	Sep-04	Waterford	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Elizabeth McCarthy	32	Sep-04	Kerry	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Rachel O'Reilly	31	Oct-04	Dublin	Partner
Margeurite O'Dwyer	17	Nov-04	Clare	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Colleen Mulder	41	Dec-04	Meath	Partner
Celia Bailey	54	Mar-05	Sligo	Partner
Mary Hannon	59	Apr-05	Dublin	Partner
Irene White	44	Apr-05	Louth	Awaiting Trial
Emer O'Loughlin	23	Apr-05	Clare	No one held responsible
Catherine McEnergy	35	Jul-05	Galway	Partner
Frances Ralph	46	Aug-05	Kildare	Stranger
Ann Walsh	23	Aug-05	Clare	Ex-partner
Rosemary Dowling	49	Oct-05	Dublin	Partner
Regina O'Connor	48	Nov-05	Dublin	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Amy Farrell	21	Jan-06	Cavan	Male relative/Unrelated known male

Rebecca Kinsella	19	Jan-06	Kildare	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Siobhan Kearney	38	Feb-06	Dublin	Partner
Donna Cleary	22	Mar-06	Dublin	No one held responsible
Karen Guinee	23	Jun-06	Galway	Partner
Sheola Keaney	19	Jul-06	Cork	Ex-partner
Breda Ryan	20	Aug-06	Louth	No one held responsible
Melissa Mahon	14	Sep-06	Sligo	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Meg Walsh	35	Oct-06	Waterford	No one held responsible
Baiba Saulite	28	Nov-06	Dublin	No one held responsible
Rose Patterson	30	Apr-07	Cork	Ex-partner
Ciara Dunne	24	Apr-07	Wexford	Partner
Children:				
Leanne	5			
Shania	2			
Anne Marie O'Neill	50	Apr-07	Tipperary	Stranger
Sara Neligan	31	Jun-07	Dublin	Partner
Mary Sleator	82	Jul-07	Wicklow	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Jean Gilbert	46	Aug-07	Dublin	Partner
Sharon Coughlan	37	Sep-07	Longford	Stranger
Amanda Jenkins	27	Oct-07	Dublin	Partner
Manuela Riedo	17	Oct-07	Galway	Stranger
Joanne Mangan	20	Oct-07	Tipperary	Partner
Marion O'Leary	53	Oct-07	Cork	Partner
Ciara Ní Chathmhaoil	22	Nov-07	Carlow	Ex-partner
Sylvia Roche Kelly	33	Dec-07	Limerick	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Marioara Rostas	19	Jan-08	Dublin	No one held responsible
Lorraine Flood	38	Apr-08	Wexford	Partner
Children:				
Mark	6			
Julie	5			
Lillian Scanlon	45	May-08	Westmeath	Awaiting trial
Nicola Vonkova	19	Jul-08	Galway	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Kezia Gomes Rosa	26	Aug-08	Roscommon	Partner

Yvonne O'Shea	40	Nov-08	Dublin	No one held responsible
Carmel Breen	57	Nov-08	Dublin	Partner
Noeleen Brennan	38	Nov-08	Dublin	Partner
Celine Cawley	46	Dec-08	Dublin	Partner
Rebecca Hoban	28	Dec-08	Dublin	Partner
Sharon Whelan	30	Dec-08	Kilkenny	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Children:				
Zsara	7			
Nadia	2			
Anne Corcoran	60	Jan-09	Cork	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Joan Vickers	43	Apr-09	Dublin	Partner
Tracey O'Brien	31	Jun-09	Dublin	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Carmel Marrinan	61	Jul-09	Mayo	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Eugenia Bratis	35	Aug-09	Dublin	No one held responsible
Brenda Ahern	30	Sep-09	Waterford	No one held responsible
Lisa Doyle	24	Sep-09	Carlow	Partner
Rebecca French	30	Oct-09	Wexford	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Joselita De Silva	33	Oct-09	Offaly	Partner
Loradena Pricajan	36	Jan-10	Dublin	Ex-partner
Catherine Smart	57	Apr-10	Cork	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Breda Cummins	31	May-10	Kildare	Ex-partner
Helen Donegan	30	May-10	Kildare	Partner
Sarah Hines	25	Nov-10	Limerick	Ex-partner
Children:				
Reece	3			
Amy	5 months			
Alicia Brough	20	Nov-10	Limerick	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Breda Waters	28	Jan-11	Limerick	Stranger
Marie Greene	37	Feb-11	Westmeath	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Katarzyna Barowiak	25	Mar-11	Kerry	Partner
Noreen Kelly Eadon	46	Mar-11	Mayo	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Deirdre McCarthy	43	Mar-11	Clare	Partner
Diane Burroughs	30	Apr-11	Laois	Ex-partner

Ann Henry	49	Sep-11	Roscommon	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Rudo Mawere	26	Jan-12	Dublin	Partner
Veronica Vollrath	83	Jan-12	Waterford	Male relative
Melanie McCarthy McNamara	16	Feb-12	Dublin	Stranger
Sarah Regan	30	Feb-12	Roscommon	Ex-partner
Mary Ryan	37	May-12	Dublin	Partner
Siobhan Stapleton	51	May-12	Kilkenny	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Jacqueline McDonagh	34	Aug-12	Louth	Partner
Elaine O'Hara	36	Aug-12	Dublin	Partner
Elizabeth Duff	47	Aug-12	Kildare	No one held responsible
Anna Finnegan	26	Sep-12	Dublin	Ex-partner
Aoife Phelan	30	Oct-12	Laois	Partner
Olivia Dunlea O'Brien	36	Feb-13	Cork	Partner
Deirdre Keenan	51	Feb-13	Carlow	Partner
Jolanta Lubiene	27	Jun-13	Kerry	Partner
Children:				
Enrika	8			
Aleksandra Sarzynska	32	Aug-13	Meath	Awaiting trial
Patricia Kierans	54	Sep-13	Cavan	Ex-partner
Brigid Bernadette Cash	20	Oct-13	Dublin	No one held responsible
Susan Dunne	53	Nov-13	Kerry	Awaiting trial
Sara Staunton	28	Dec-13	Mayo	Partner
Sonia Blount	31	Feb-14	Dublin	Ex-partner
Marie Carroll	58	Mar-14	Dublin	Awaiting trial
Mary Dargan	66	Mar-14	Dublin	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Mairead Moran	26	May-14	Kilkenny	Ex-partner
Lynn Cassidy	50	Jun-14	Wicklow	Male relative/Unrelated known male
Antra Ozolina	49	Jun-14	Cavan	No one held responsible
Carol McAuley	54	Aug-14	Dublin	No one held responsible
Marie O'Brien	55	Sep-14	Waterford	Male relative/ Unrelated known male
Angelique Belling	27	Dec-14	Clare	Partner
Valerie Greaney	49	Dec-14	Cork	Partner

Jane Braidwood	65	Jan-15	Dublin	Male relative
Anne Shortall	47	Apr-15	Wicklow	Ex-partner
Marie Quigley	68	Jul-15	Louth	Partner
Natalie McGuinness	23	Oct-15	Sligo	Ex-partner
Brigid Maguire	43	Nov-15	Westmeath	Ex-Partner
Clodagh Hawe	39	Aug-16	Cavan	Partner
Children:				
Liam	14			
Niall	11			
Ryan	6			
Kitty Fitzgerald	72	Nov-16	Mayo	Partner
Nicola Collins	39	Mar-17	Cork	Awaiting Trial
Samantha Walsh	31	Apr-17	Waterford	Awaiting Trial
Amy McCarthy	22	Apr-17	Cork	No one held responsible
Rita Apine	29	May-17	Kilkenny	Awaiting Trial
Patricia O'Connor	61	May-17	Dublin	Awaiting Trial
Linda Evans Christian	29	June-17	Dublin	No one held responsible
Antoinette Corbally	48	Aug-17	Dublin	No one held responsible
Anne Colomines	37	Oct-17	Dublin	Awaiting Trial

The Artist Regards the Murdered Woman

*You will have to go outside for this one.
The night is bitter cold
but you must go out,
you could not invent this.
You can make a quick sketch
and later, in your studio,
mix the colours, the purple,
the eerie green of her bruises,
the garish crimson of her broken mouth.*

*For consolation there's the line
her spine makes as it remembers
its beginnings, as if at the very end
she turned foetal and knew again
the roar of her mother's blood in her ears,
the drum of her mother's heart
before she drowned in the seventh wave
beyond pain, or your pity.*

*Your hand will steady as you draw the cobbles.
They impose a discipline, the comfort of habit,
as does the symmetry of brick walls
which define the alley and whose very height
cut off the light and hid
the beast who maimed her.*

* * *

*You hold her as a white feather
on the palm of your hand,
so light it moves in your very breath.*

*You hold her as a raindrop
on the palm of your hand
beaded mirror to the wounded world.*

*You hold her as a small pink shell
on the palm of your hand,
a token the sea cast up on the strand.*

*You hold her as a robin's blue egg
on the palm of your hand,
the sky blue yonder of her eyes.*

*You hold her as a fallen leaf
on the palm of your hand,
stopped in its drift to the ground.*

*You hold her forever in memory
on the palm of your hand,
between heart line and life line*

*between heaven and earth
between then and now
between once and never
between here and there.*

*between heart line and life line
between heart line and life line.*

Paula Meehan

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