



# The weight of numbers: feminicides in Italy



## Introduction and objectives

In the drafting of this work, we followed the “A synthesis of evidence on the collection and use of administrative data on violence against women” (2018–2022) by UN Women / World Health Organization. Starting from the Istanbul Convention (2013), which defines violence against women as “any violence directed against a woman as such, or that disproportionately affects women,” the Guidelines underline how the available data is only partial, as they measure the episodes reported by women accessing services (for example, law enforcement, healthcare, and social services), therefore, they don't consider the episodes in which women do not access these services or belong to vulnerable groups, such as ethnic minorities, migrants, refugees, persons with disabilities, or sex workers. The reality could therefore be worse than what is described.

## Methodology

The achievement of the 5th Goal of the 2030 Agenda is measured by a set of indicators such as the proportion of women victims of violence, the unpaid time dedicated to domestic and caregiving work, the female employment rate, the proportion of women in leadership positions, and so on. In the last decade we have seen a reduction in the number of femicides in Italy although the number of female homicides in domestic contexts remains high. Furthermore, there is still a strong asymmetry in domestic work and integration into the labor market.

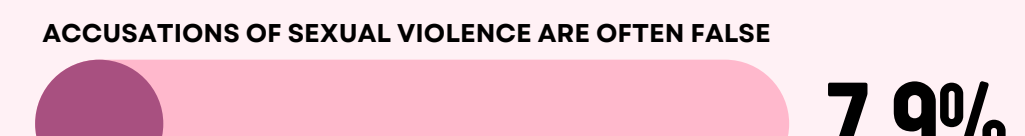
This research aims to describe the Italian situation regarding the achievement of the 5th Goal. Therefore it investigates the link between economic autonomy and femicides. It also intends to determine whether the persistence of these crimes undermines trust in the Institutions of our country.



### Opinions on Gender Stereotypes: “it is partly her fault” (Percentage values per 100 people, 2023)

IF A WOMAN AFTER A PARTY ACCEPTS AN INVITATION FROM A MAN AND IS RAPED IT'S PARTLY HER FAULT

% of people who agree with the statement



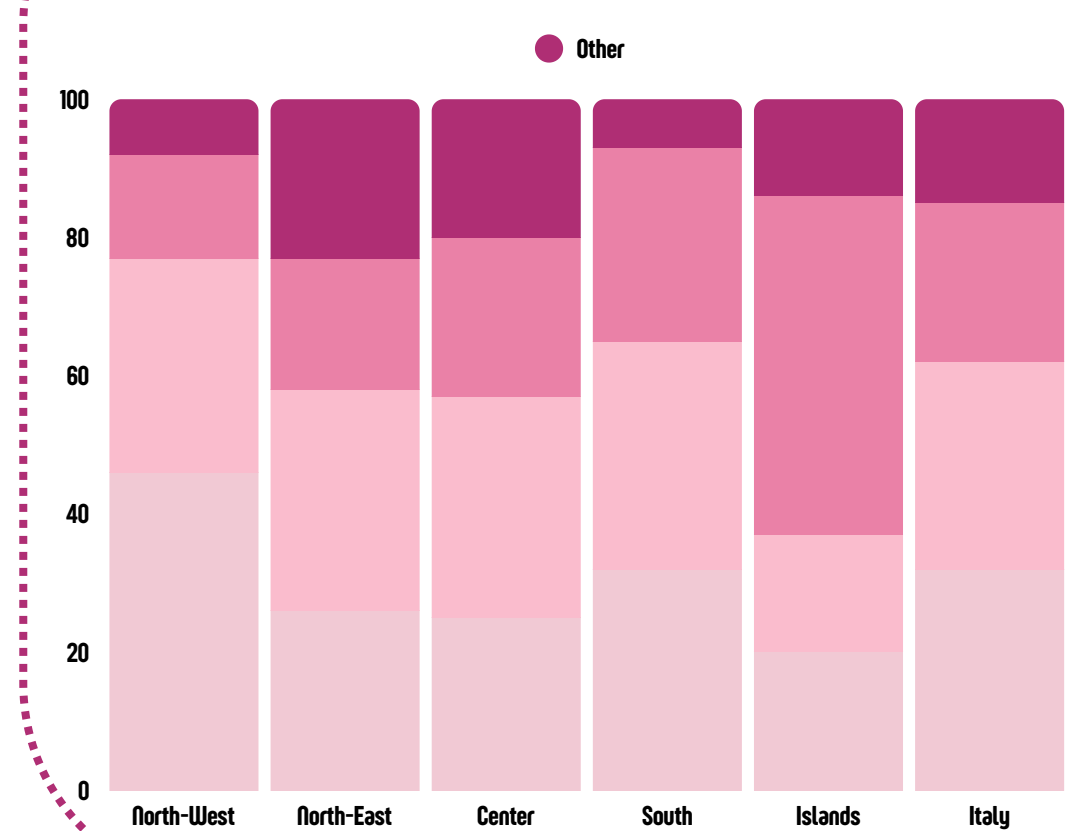
IF A WOMAN SUFFERS SEXUAL VIOLENCE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL SHE IS AT LEAST PARTLY RESPONSIBLE



It is observed that nearly 10% of the population, with slightly more significant peaks among less educated individuals, agrees with stereotypes that blame victims of violence, suggesting they are partly responsible due to drug or alcohol use.

### Women Housed in Shelters (Percentage values, 2022)

Anti-Violence Centers Territorial Social Services Police Authorities



It is observed that in 2022, most shelter placements for women victims of violence occurred directly through Anti-Violence Centers or Territorial Social Services.

The lower incidence of Police Authorities is due to their not being the subjects immediately responsible for the placements.

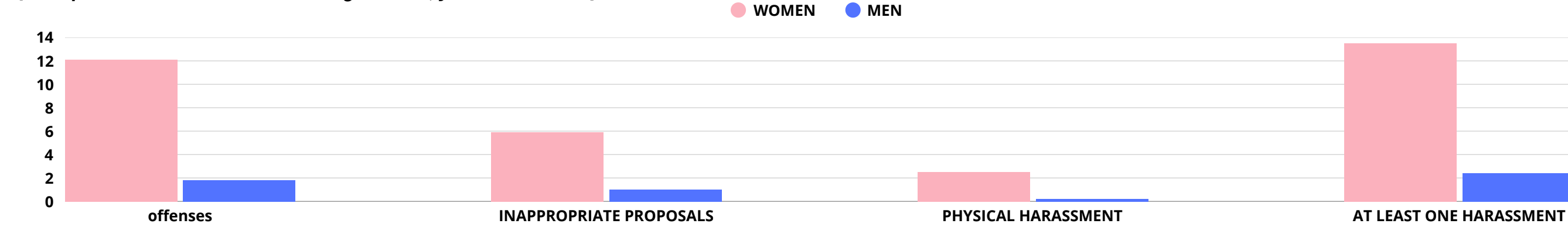


## Focus on Italy



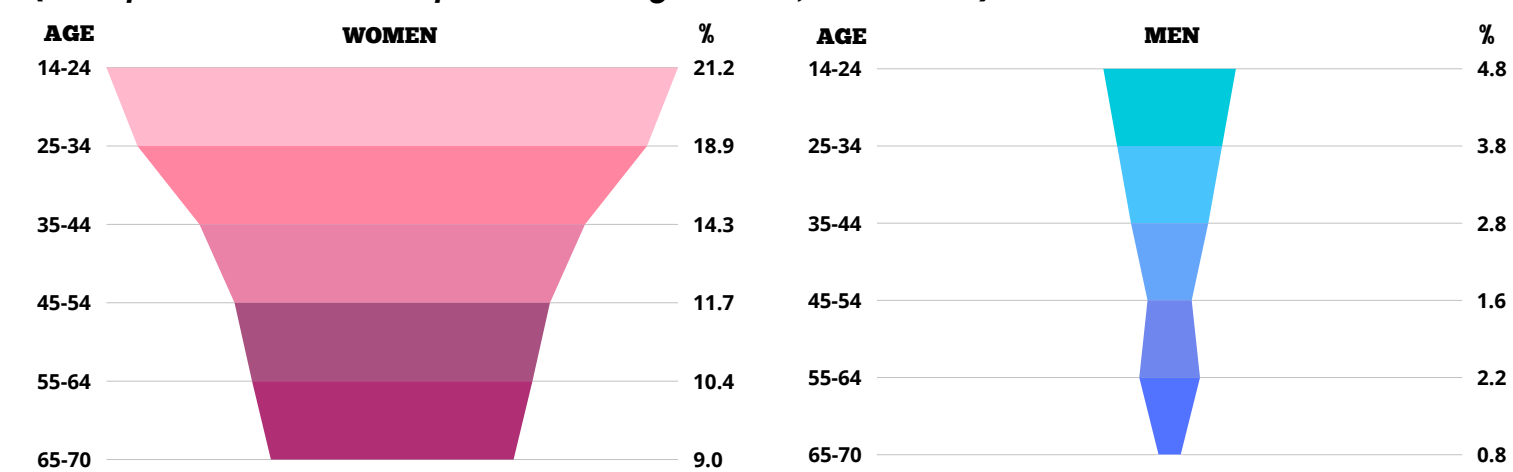
## Harassment at Work: A Bad Way to Start

Percentages of women and men who have suffered harassment in the workplace by type and sex  
(Data per 100 women and 100 men aged 15-70, years 2022-2023)



Harassment at work affects 13.5% of women, but only 2.4% of men, with strong disparities also regarding OFFENSES, inappropriate proposals and physical harassment. It is necessary to guarantee calmer and safer working environments.

Percentages of women and men who have experienced harassment in the workplace by gender and age  
(Data per 100 women and per 100 men aged 15-70, 2022-2023)



The data highlight a significant gender gap among victims of harassment: women are more affected than men in every age group. In particular, in the 14-24 age group, as much as 21.2% of women have experienced at least one incident of harassment, compared to only 4.8% of men. Harassment decreases with age although it remains more frequent among women.

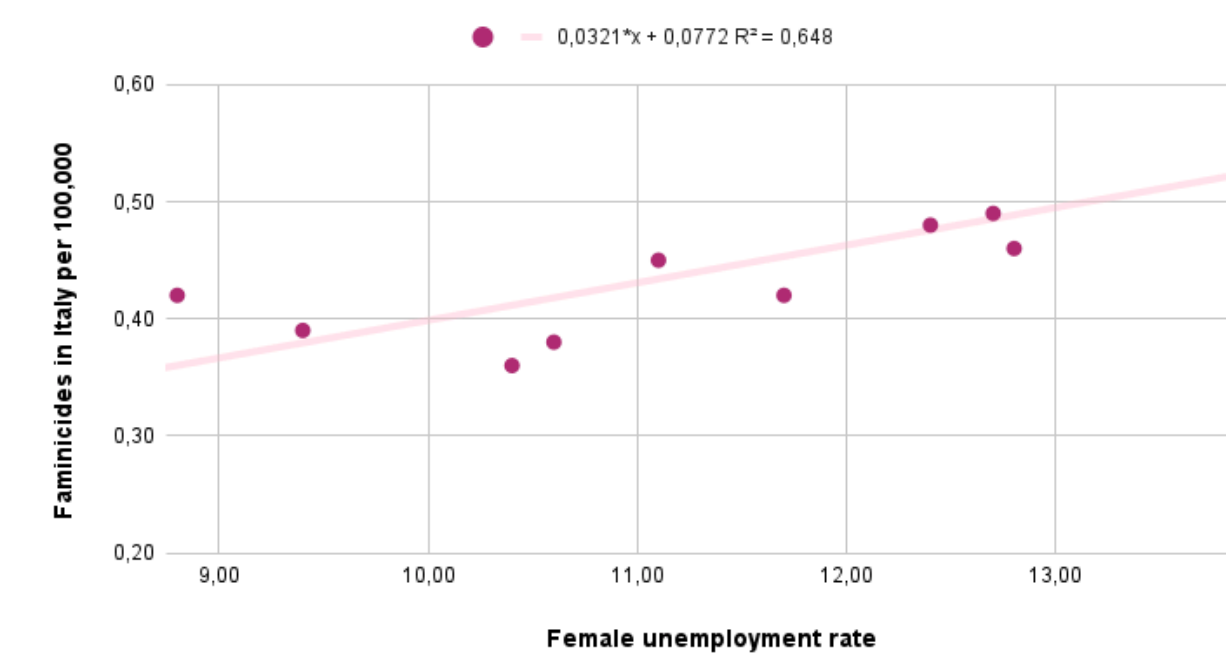
This reduction could stem from a lower level of social exposure among adult women, while the high incidence among young women might be linked to greater use of social media and a lower awareness or willingness to report incidents.



## A Double Fracture in Society

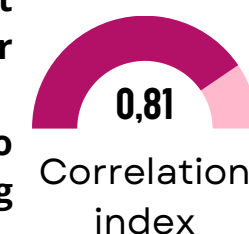


### Correlation Between Female Unemployment Rate and Number of Femicides (2013-2022)

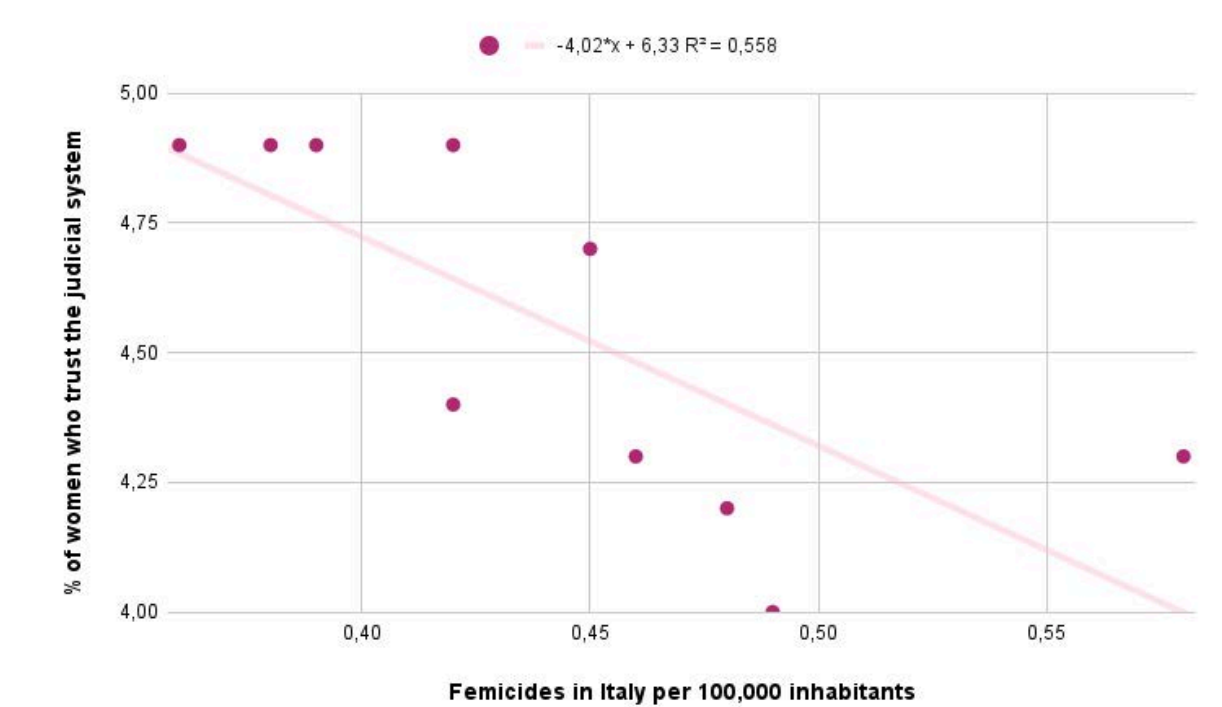


Analysis reveals a strong positive correlation (0.81) between female unemployment and femicides in Italy, indicating that women's lack of financial independence is a structural factor contributing to gender-based violence.

This highlights the need for economic and social policies to counteract female unemployment as a means of preventing femicides.

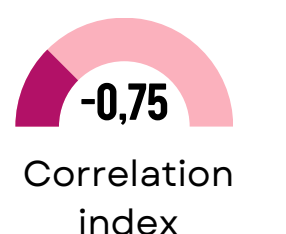


### Correlation Between Number of Femicides in Italy and Percentage of Women Trusting the Judicial System (2013 - 2022)



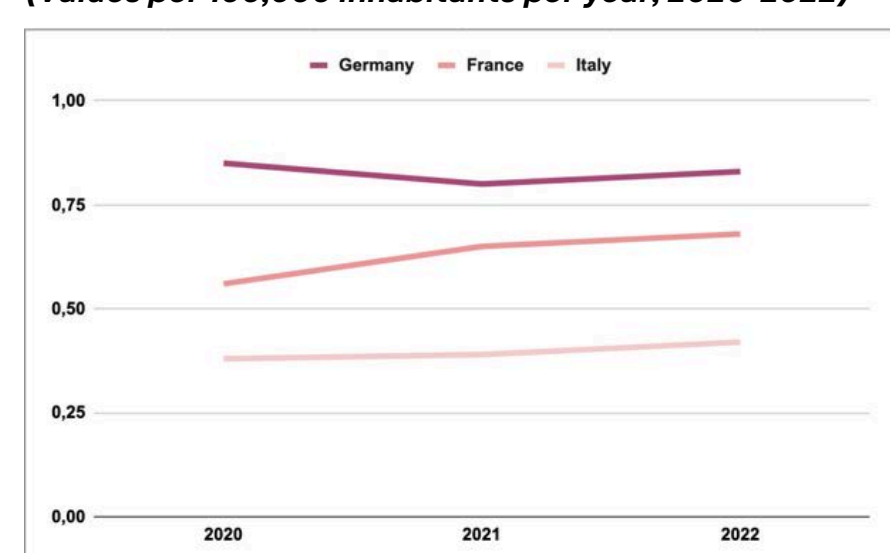
The data shows a significant negative correlation (-0.75) between femicides and women's trust in the Italian judicial system.

Gender violence often results in a deep social fracture, understood as the loss of trust in institutions by female victims of such acts.



## Femicide in Italy: improving, but not enough

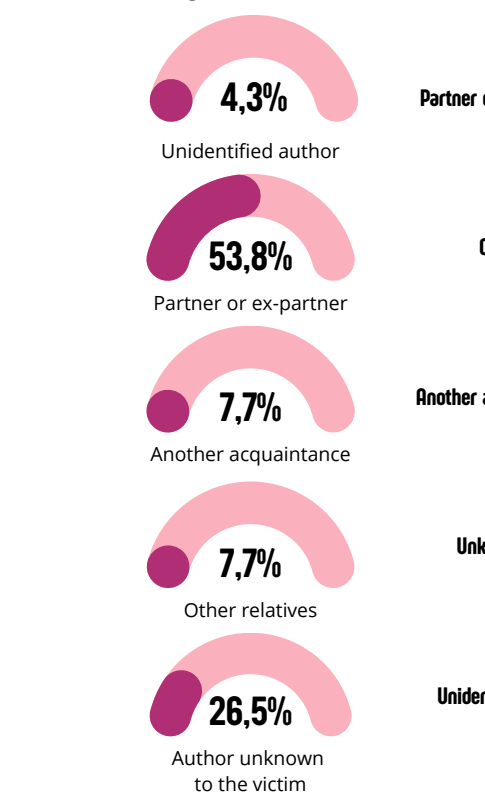
Number of femicides in the countries considered  
(Values per 100,000 inhabitants per year, 2020-2022)



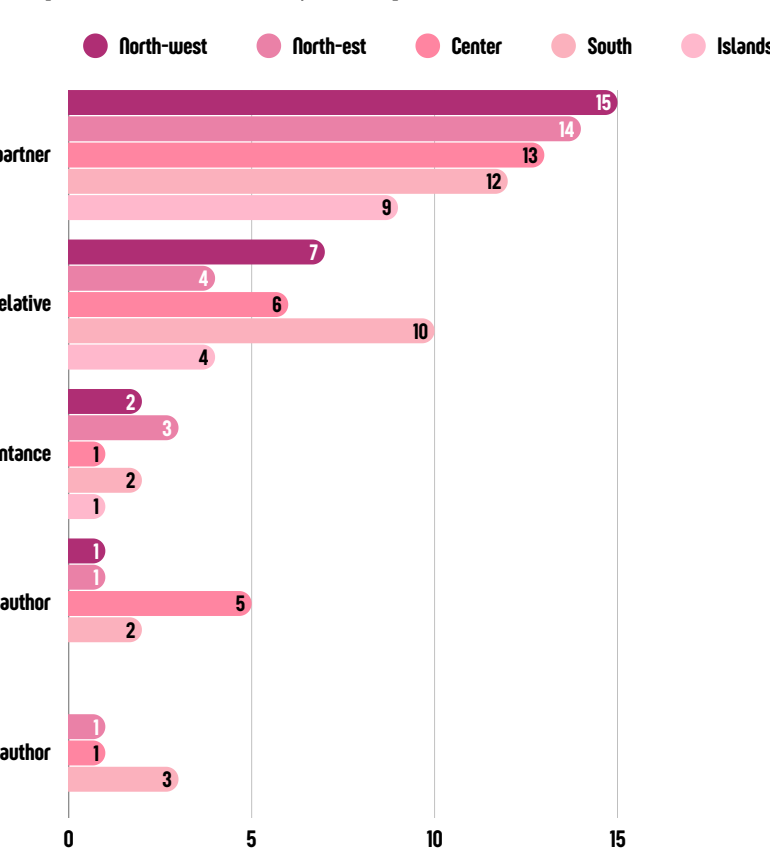
Over the last three years we have a slight increase in the number of femicides in all the main European countries analyzed.

The situation in Italy appears better than in the other European states considered, although not yet satisfying.

Female victims by relationship with the murderer in Italy  
(Percentage values, 2023)



Femicides according to the relationship with the murderer, by region  
(Absolute values, 2023)



The data shows that over 50% of femicides occur at the hands of a partner or ex-partner, a sign that the main cause of such violence is dissatisfaction with a romantic relationship that is still in existence or has ended.

At a geographical level, there are no significant differences between macro-regions, therefore female violence can be rightly considered a national emergency not linked to specific territorial contexts.

## Conclusions

This research highlights that Italy is still far from achieving Goal 5 of the 2030 Agenda for gender equality.

The number of women experiencing harassment at work is four times higher than that of men, while femicides, often perpetrated by partners or ex-partners, remain at unacceptable levels.

Stereotypes that blame victims of violence are still widely shared.

The analysis identifies the lack of female economic autonomy (high female unemployment rates) as a significant cause, reflecting the economic fracture (difficulty finding or keeping jobs) that triggers gender violence and femicides.

Furthermore, the trust fracture (observed in women's loss of confidence in the judicial system) creates severe consequences: women often do not report violence, or the burden of caring for children and the elderly may prevent them from escaping abusive situations. Women often/ usually take care of children's education and they could consequently convey to them this lack of confidence in Italian institutions.

In conclusion, the research demonstrates that failing to achieve Goal 5 on gender equality is not just an individual problem but a collective one, with significant repercussions in the economic and social realms.

