

Contribution of Slovenia

Neglect, violence and abuse

1. In your country, are there specific studies or surveys (from governmental, non-governmental or academic sources) on violence, abuse and neglect experienced by older persons?

The Federation of Pensioners' Associations of Slovenia detected through the programme *Older persons for older persons* conducted in the 2011 – 2015 period 291 cases of possible violence against older persons, 67 % of victims were women. The perpetrators were most family members, mostly men.

There are some research papers published by nurses and social workers, however research on a wider, representative scale has not been conducted in the last decade.

Centres for social work organize each year various expert panels and round tables on the theme of violence in the local environment where they invite a variety of professional services, state institutions and local media. At twelve regional centres for social work, coordinators for the prevention of violence were employed. Their task is to monitor, engage and supplement the system of aid to all those who are victims of violence, with a special focus on the elderly population. Their task is also to maintain and develop the network of public and non-governmental institutions in the area of protection against violence, harmonization of procedures and coordination between the various institutions, training of professionals, sensitize professional and lay public, etc. The National Council organized an expert conference entitled Violence in the family - systemic response to it in 2013.

The line ministry encourages the development of intergenerational centres, which in addition to the active leisure time, provide a variety of other tasks; awareness, education, counselling etc. They are the place where it can be done much on the prevention of violence, on awareness-raise on zero tolerance of violence. Intergenerational centres can also perform tasks of safe points for the victims of violence.

2. (a) What forms of violence, abuse and neglect (e.g. physical, psychological, sexual, financial or other) are registered? What is the setting in which they occur (i.e. residential and non-residential)? Is there information about the type of perpetrators?

The table below shows the Police data of victims (above the age of 65) of selected criminal offences. Discrepancies in the added numbers may occur, as the same person may have been a victim of several criminal offences or there may be several victims of the same criminal offence).

Criminal Offence	2014			2015			2016		
	men	women	together	men	women	together	men	women	together
Grand Larceny	1028	1198	2133	910	997	1829	1092	874	1891
Larceny	1092	1293	2360	792	868	1637	925	777	1675
Fraud	165	173	307	187	105	289	128	72	199
Damaging Another's Object	151	88	238	156	71	226	146	72	215
Domestic Violence	30	110	133	36	95	122	52	98	136
Misappropriation	51	61	112	64	63	125	56	60	115
Bodily Harm	52	33	85	48	31	79	61	29	90
Threatening the Security of Another Person	25	24	45	16	9	24	73	38	106
Business Fraud	19	8	26	42	14	55	24	10	33
Causing Public Danger	18	14	29	18	10	26	25	11	34
Criminal Trespass	8	16	23	12	16	28	15	14	29
Counterfeiting Money	14	13	27	10	7	17	17	9	26
Disloyalty	3	4	7	12	26	35	3	15	18
Abuse of Personal Data	24	7	31	6	2	7	3	4	7
Serious Bodily Harm	10	4	14	6	8	14	7	7	14
Violent Conduct	6	9	13	5	8	13	6	9	14

Failure to Render Aid	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Abuse of Defenceless Person	0	2	2	0	4	4	1	1	2
Violation of Family Obligations	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	2

In 2010 Centres for social work dealt with 1.926 cases of domestic violence; 195 of the victims were persons older than 65 years, 83 % of those were women. Among older persons, 152 were victims of psychological violence, 145 of physical violence, 25 of economic violence, 9 of neglect and 4 of sexual violence.

(b) Does violence, abuse and neglect particularly affect specific groups of older persons? If so, which groups and how?

Certain social parameters can increase the likelihood of violence: poverty, alcoholism, loneliness, dementia, unemployment of adult children, lack of social network, dependence on assistance, intergenerational conflict, overburdening or exhaustion of caretakers and tolerance for violence have proven to contribute to violence against older persons. Older women are more exposed to violence than older men. On the other hand older men are, especially when widowed or divorced, more exposed to neglect or abandonment. Older persons with dementia are more likely to become victims of violence. Older persons are less likely to disclose violence against them due to fear or dependence on caretakers. Most often the perpetrators of violence are partners, children or caretakers. Also those among older persons, who are less educated, widowed, of frail health, multimorbid or have cognitive disorders (such as dementia) are more likely to become victims of violence.

3. Does your country's legislation explicitly address issues of violence, abuse and neglect against older persons? If not, what legislation applies to such issues in the context of older persons? Does this legislation sufficiently address the full range of violence against older persons?

Partial (special) protection against violence, abuse and neglect of older persons is contained in the Criminal Code (i.e. Art 129 on Abandonment of Helpless Person, Art. 134a on Stalking, Art. 193 on Violation of Family Obligations or Art. 172 on Sexual Abuse of a Defenceless Person). In other cases general provisions regarding protection through criminal substantive law are used (for instance: killing of (older) person because the perpetrator wants to be their heir; perpetrator commits criminal offence of murder not manslaughter).

Committing a crime against older person (as a motive) could be taken into account when court is meting the punishment using general rules on punishments – aggravating circumstances etc. in Article 49 of the Criminal Code.

Specific legislation to protect older persons is Family Violence Prevention Act. Family violence denotes any form of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence exerted by one family member against the other, or disregard of any family member regardless of the age, sex or any other personal circumstance of the victim or perpetrator of violence.

Slovenia also adopted Regulation on procedure of mutual exchange of information and providing help by competent organizations in the field of family violence that are rules on the organization and work of multidisciplinary teams. The special attention is given to older people, children and people with disabilities.

The Social Work Centre can refer the perpetrator of violence to corresponding educational, psychosocial and medical care programmes that are provided by the authorities and organizations as well as nongovernmental organizations.

4. What legislation exists to protect older persons specifically against financial abuse, including inheritance abuse?

Older persons are protected against inheritance abuse by the provisions of The Inheritance Act and The Notaries Act (translation of relevant articles is available in the Annex).