

**Question for written answer E-002584/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Cindy Franssen**

Subject: Rise in domestic violence due to COVID-19 measures

Worldwide, the number of cases of domestic violence is rising very rapidly because of the restrictive measures taken to combat COVID-19. India reports that the number of cases has doubled, and in Australia there are far more online searches for information about support for victims of domestic violence. The trend in the European Union is similar: in France, domestic violence cases have increased by an average of 30% since the country went into lockdown, and the corresponding figure in a major city like Paris is as high as 36%. ¹ According to UN Women, Germany and Spain have likewise reported that the number of cases and the number of requests for emergency accommodation have increased. ²

Is the Commission conducting surveys in order to gain a comprehensive overview of the rising number of cases of domestic violence due to COVID-19, or is it funding such surveys?

What measures has the Commission taken, and is it planning to take, in order, as a matter of urgency, to reduce the increased number of cases of domestic violence due to the COVID-19 measures?

What practical measures will the Commission take in response to calls from the European Parliament to reinforce online legal support and contact services for victims in order to combat domestic and gender-based violence?

¹ <https://www.euronews.com/2020/03/28/domestic-violence-cases-jump-30-during-lockdown-in-france>

² <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/issue-brief-covid-19-and-ending-violence-against-women-and-girls-en.pdf?la=en&vs=5006>