

**Question for written answer E-003059/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The case of Saman Abbas

The recent disappearance and possible execution of Saman Abbas has again raised big question marks over how best to shield women against the religious choices imposed by their families. Saman, a young Italian of Pakistani origin, seems to have been the victim of retribution from her own family for failing to agree to an arranged marriage, which is an Islamic religious obligation clearly incompatible with our legal tenets.

Unfortunately, this crime is part of a practice that is increasingly common in our societies, and which combines silence over such crimes, which go unreported, with other failings. In Italy a few years ago, for example, another girl, called Sana Cheema, was killed for similar reasons.

Unfortunately, tragic events of this kind (from arranged marriages to families forcing their members to comply with religious diktats), in which young women are the only ones who suffer – often paying with their lives – do not seem to have met with a proper response from the authorities or among the public.

Can the Commission state:

how it views the rise in these phenomena and whether it is monitoring them;

whether it can home in on these issues in its policies on combating religious and gender discrimination, increasing awareness of them and better supporting the victims, in cooperation with the Member States?