



STOP FEMICIDE IN CAMEROON

**HEDECS AND THE WOMEN FOR GENDER TASK FORCE SPEAK UP
ON INCREASING FEMICIDE IN CAMEROON 15 SEPTEMBER 2026**

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE: THE CASE AGAINST FEMICIDE IN CAMEROON; PROMOTION, PROTECTION AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

FEMICIDE is the intentional killing of women and girls on account of her gender.

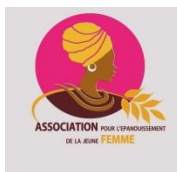
In Cameroon, there is no separate legal article that legally addresses FEMICIDE.

However, the Law No. 96/06 of 18/01/1996 that amended the Constitution of 2nd June 1972 states:

The preamble to the Constitution lays emphasis on equality of rights and has enumerated a couple of human rights declarations and some of which are as follows;

We, the people of Cameroon,

- All persons shall have equal rights and obligations. The State shall provide all its citizens with the conditions necessary for their development;
- Freedom and security shall be guaranteed to each individual, subject to respect for the rights of others and the higher interests of the State;





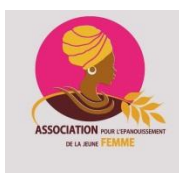
- The Nation shall protect and promote the family which is the natural foundation of human society. It shall protect women, the young, the elderly and the disabled.

The PENAL CODE in Cameroon has two articles that speaks for murder and capital murder thus FEMICIDE

Murder	275	Whoever causes another's death shall be punished. Death caused by FEMICIDE against women is murder. *** Femicide is on the rise in Cameroon	Life imprisonment
Capital murder	276	Whoever commits murder after; - premeditation or - by poisoning or - with a view to trafficking the organs of the victim - in the preparation, facilitation or commission of a felony or misdemeanor or to enable the escape or to procure the impunity of the offender or of an accessory to such felony or misdemeanor shall be punished *** There is also pre meditated FEMICIDE	Death

This notwithstanding, GBV and human rights violations cases are on the rise in Cameroon. Increase in gender based violence and human rights abuses spikes mental health issues and increase in mental health issues pikes gender based violence. An urgent need to address this in an intentional manner is strongly solicited. GBV and FEMICIDE are under reported and not systematically documented. However, reports of murders or killings of women and girls (FEMICIDE) on the social media is on the rise; 2023 reported 50 cases, 2024 reported 67 cases, 2025 had 77 cases and January 2026 to date has 66 cases with 8 reported within a week.

Despite these challenges, addressing GBV and human rights violations through the law is a powerful tool for advancing protection of human rights and sustainable development in Cameroon. There urgent need for urgent action to end violence on women and girls, FEMICIDE and accountability for those responsible for these crimes cannot be over-emphasized.





CALL TO ACTION

PROMOTION: Step up the promotion pillar. Information is power. It helps people take informed decision. It also helps people to speak up so the “culture of silence” is reduced. Cameroon has added the fifth pillar **“PROMOTION”** on its National Action Plan to promote knowledge and understanding of the UNSCR 1325 for Women, Peace and Security which has four pillars; Prevention, Protection, Participation, Recovery.

Promotion is a call for the dissemination, education, and sensitization of the different stakeholders including the population on the five pillars **Promotion, Prevention, Protection, Participation and Recovery.**

ENFORCE EXISTING LAWS: Rape and Femicide should be a national emergency. There is need for stronger accountability mechanisms for GBV / FEMICIDE. Protection of women/girls and access to justice is critical in holding perpetrators accountable.

Improving on the legal frameworks and holding violators accountable will contribute to safeguard dignity and human rights promotion.

Strategic litigation can drive legislative and policy changes, shift social norms, and promote greater accountability for violations. Successful cases can set important precedents and create a deterrent effect encouraging better compliance with existing laws.

Make provision within the judicial chain for the expeditious investigations and hearings of matters of GBV and FEMICIDE.

COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS:

The Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family, the related ministries, civil societies and the partners to the government of Cameroon should invest in information sharing, awareness, education and sensitization on the holistic package of gender based violence including FEMICIDE. National Coordination with international support and collaboration can provide valuable resources and expertise to strengthen local efforts.

