This Brief explores the motivations behind and impacts of sexual femicide. Femicide is a human rights violation and a crime against women. It is defined as the intentional killing of a woman by her partner, ex-partner, family member or acquaintance. Femicide also harms communities and society as a whole. Gender expectations and gender-based violence alone impact the activities, choices and concerns of all women. The prospect or possibility of violence against women is a real loss affecting every woman, and can limit their opportunities and hinder their potential.

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