

Defend the game: end violence against women in sports

Standing together on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women to raise awareness on violence against women in sport

The SUPPORTER Project is working with 8 sports universities in Central and Eastern Europe to create Gender Equality Plans that are inclusive, innovative, Intersectional and impactful. These plans focus on tackling gender-based violence and sexual harassment in sports.

Violence against women remains one of the most pervasive human rights challenges worldwide, with 1 in 3 women becoming victims of violence (WHO, 2024). In sports, women face high risks, combined with ineffective or inexistant prevention and response mechanisms (UNESCO,2023)

In line with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (25 November), SUPPORTER is raising awareness about the urgent need to protect women from violence in sports.

Understanding different types of violence

- Physical violence: Acts of kicking, beating, pushing, slapping, and hitting.
- Sexual violence: Unwanted sexual acts, harassment, or assaults, both online and offline.
- Psychological violence: Abusive behaviors such as controlling, coercion, verbal abuse, and blackmail.
- Economic violence: Acts that cause financial harm, including restricting access to resources or opportunities.
- **Sexual harassment**: Unwanted behaviors of a sexual nature, such as touching, comments, stalking, or sharing sexual content.
- Online violence: Cyberbullying, cyberstalking, and the non-consensual sharing of sexual images or text.



21%

of women in sports experienced sexual abuse as children, nearly double the rate of male athletes

(World Players Association , 2021)

31.8%

of female athletes reported being subjected to excessive physical training as punishment.

(World Players Association, 2021)

87%

of abusive posts during the 2020 Tokyo
Olympics targeted female athletes,
with most being sexualised

(World Athletics, 2021)

29.7%

of female respondents (compared with 6.1% of male respondents) said that they had been looked at in a way that made them feel uncomfortable

(World Players Association, 2021)

SPREAD THE FACTS, CREATE AN IMPACT!





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