



Press release

Femicides in French written media: time is running out
French feminist collective #NousToutes publishes the first large-scale study
media coverage of femicides between 2017 and 2022

Since 2017, which marked the beginning of President Macron's first term, over 1,000 femicides have been recorded, a grim figure that remains consistently high year after year. Today, the print press is the primary source of information on femicides, and coverage has increased significantly. But is the reporting more accurate, and are all femicides treated equally in the media?

A few weeks after the racist instrumentalization of the femicide of Philippine Le Noir de Carlan (which occurred on September 23rd, 2024) by public figures typically silent on gender-based violence, **#NousToutes has released the first major study on femicide coverage in the print press from 2017 to 2022.**

Since 2022, #NousToutes has published its own record of femicides with the support of Inter Orga Féminicides. A team of volunteers works daily to identify cases of women murdered because they are women, both within intimate relationships and beyond. This record is primarily conducted through media monitoring and a daily review of articles. This effort led to the development of this study. **Over 4,000 articles were analyzed by 58 volunteers over two years** to produce qualitative and quantitative data that had never before been studied or published.

The stakes are high. Words give social facts their existence. The way the media speaks about femicides impacts how society perceives them and can contribute to reducing femicidal violence. Feminist organizations like #NousToutes and the media must work together to eradicate femicides and gender-based violence through awareness-raising efforts.

Here are the conclusions of our study:

- The concept of "femicide" has seen a true breakthrough in media over the past five years: **in 2022, there were 28 times more articles using the term "femicide" than in 2017.**

- Overall, **media coverage has evolved in the right direction, with a reduction in the use of sexist biases**: there is less victim-blaming, less dehumanization of victims, less emphasis on their motherly roles, less romanticization of femicide, and less glorification of the perpetrator.
- **These biases tend to foster social acceptance of femicides in the collective imagination**. As a feminist organization fighting against femicides, we view this shift in media treatment as progress, as it can lead to greater awareness of the mechanisms of violence, protection of potential victims, and a shift in societal expectations towards public authorities.
- **In 2022, the press increasingly views femicides as a systemic social issue** rather than merely isolated incidents, thanks in large part to the commitment of female and/or queer journalists in newsrooms, especially in regional daily press outlets.

However:

- **Media attention is primarily focused on cases of intimate partner femicides**, whose coverage has seen an improvement. Despite significant visibility efforts by feminist organizations, the proportion of articles on non-partner femicides dropped from 47% in 2017 to 11%, obscuring nearly a quarter of femicides occurring in family settings, workplaces, public spaces, etc.
- This **lack of visibility particularly affects marginalized groups of victims**, such as sex workers, trans women, migrants, women of color, women with disabilities, elderly women, rural residents, women living with HIV, and economically precarious individuals.
- Finally, our study highlights an alarming trend of **"femonationalist" manipulation of the concept of femicide**, as seen in the case of Philippine Le Noir de Carlan, aimed at co-opting feminist discourse to racist and xenophobic ends, exemplified by the emergence of the term "francocide".

The study is fleshed out by analyses from six experts (journalists **Laurène Daycard** and **Jennifer Chainay**; activists **Sylvaine Grévin** and **Mimi Aum Neko**; and academics **Christelle Taraud** and **Margot Giacinti**). The study concludes with eight recommendations for improvement based on our findings, aiming at a media treatment that encourages society-wide commitment against femicides.

The press kit, along with the full and detailed report, is available in French [on our website](#).

Press contact: Clémentine Choubrac, +33 7 51 62 38 12