

Dear XEN Ελλάδας,

Women, young women, and girls have the power to transform their lives and the world for the better. For women, young women, and girls to enjoy the full range of their rights and fulfill their potential, we must end violence against women and girls. This violence represents the largest human rights violation globally – it affects every country, regardless of age, background, or context, and can occur in homes, schools, workplaces, and public spaces. UN Women reports showcase that globally, nearly 89,000 women and girls were killed intentionally in 2022, the highest yearly number recorded in the past two decades.¹ It is a crisis of epidemic proportions, and every YWCA around the world is involved in the fight to address and end it. Young women of the World YWCA movement globally engage in this struggle and speak up about femicides and their implications.²

Historically, XEN Ελλάδας has led the work on femicide in the World YWCA movement. YWCA Greece was pivotal in bringing the term "femicide" into focus by presenting a motion to recognise and adopt it at the World YWCA 29th World Council in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2019. Through this, XEN Ελλάδας underscored the critical importance of language in shaping understanding, as well as the need to confront the root causes of gender-based violence.³

The XEN Ελλάδας initiative in leading a multi-year campaign, in Greece, raising awareness to the crime of femicide is also global, with the YWCA movement of millions of women following the lead of XEN Ελλάδας. The World YWCA, along with the entire global YWCA movement, stands in solidarity with the YWCA of Greece in addressing femicide and dismantling its root causes embedded in power structures. This is a central part of our collective journey toward achieving Goal 2035: *empowering "100 million young women and girls to transform power structures, foster justice, gender equality, and create a world free from violence and war, while leading a sustainable and inclusive YWCA movement for all"* and we thank the YWCA of Greece for your leadership to the YWCA movement.

Sincerely,

World YWCA



¹ UN Women and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: Gender-Related Killings of Women and Girls (Femicide/Feminicide) Global estimates of female intimate partner/family-related homicides in 2022, Approved March 2023.

² Adaeze Muonyelu: Young Women Speak About Femicide, published 10 December 2021.

³ Virpi from the European YWCA: The term "Femicide" at the 29th World YWCA Council was adopted after a motion by YWCA of Greece, published 20 December 2019.