LEX FEMINAE INDEX

United Kingdom

2026 Edition

LEX FEMINAE

INDEX

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Kingdom of Spain – 2026 Edition

Data Coverage: 2024

Grade:

C — Partial Accountability

Trend Indicator: → Stable

The Lex Feminae Index evaluates whether legal systems deliver measurable protection against gender-based violence. The assessment is outcome-based. Legislative intent, policy declarations and strategic commitments are not considered. Only documented enforcement performance is examined.

This report presents the 2026 enforcement assessment of Spain using consolidated national data from the 2024 reporting cycle.

Criminal prosecution is conducted through the Public Prosecutor's Office and adjudicated within ordinary criminal courts and specialized Gender Violence Courts (Juzgados de Violencia sobre la Mujer). Judicial outcomes are recorded by the General Council of the Judiciary (CGPJ). Police intake data is published by the Ministry of the Interior. Final conviction data is consolidated by the National Statistics Institute (INE).

The evaluation examines whether statutory criminalization of sexual violence and intimate partner violence translates into operational enforcement in practice. It measures:

- Police-recorded violence
- Judicial intake and case resolution
- Prosecution filtering
- Conviction outcomes
- Sentencing patterns
- Protection order issuance and breach activity
- Public accessibility and consolidation of enforcement data

Prevalence surveys are not used as grading inputs.

The central question is structural:

Does enforcement practice produce measurable protection for women after violence occurs?

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METHODOLOGIC FRAMEWORK

A. Data Scope

This assessment relies exclusively on official statistical publications issued by the Ministry of the Interior, CGPJ, INE, and Ministry of Equality.

No NGO datasets or advocacy projections are used.

B. Administrative Counting Limits

Complaints Filed reflect recorded complaints, not unique offenders.

Convictions reflect final judicial outcomes during the reporting cycle and may correspond to cases initiated in prior years.

C. Police-Justice Interoperability Limits

Police-recorded complaints, judicial proceedings, convictions, and sentencing data are published through separate institutional datasets.

Spain does not publish a unified suspect-to-sentence longitudinal dataset.

D. Conviction Timing Clarification

Convictions represent cases reaching judicial finalization in 2024 and do not represent direct same-year cohort conversion.

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LEGAL

I.   Legal Recognition & Statutory Framework

Spain criminalizes sexual violence and intimate partner violence under the Penal Code.

Gender-based violence within intimate partner relationships is addressed through Organic Law 1/2004 and adjudicated through specialized Gender Violence Courts.

Lethal gender-based killings are prosecuted under general homicide and murder provisions with applicable gender-based aggravating circumstances.

Spain does not codify "feminicide" as a standalone criminal offence within the Penal Code. Statistical classification of intimate partner killings exists for administrative reporting.

ASSESSMENT

The statutory framework provides full criminalization of sexual violence and intimate partner violence.

Specialized courts structurally support case processing.

Standalone feminicide codification is absent, but lethal cases are centrally recorded and publicly consolidated.

The legal framework does not structurally restrict enforcement authority.

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REPORTING

II. Reporting Accessibility & Victim Registration

2024 official data indicate:

- IPV Complaints (reports): 199,094
- Women victims recorded: 183,908
- Sexual offences recorded: 22,846
- Intimate partner femicides: 47

ASSESSMENT

Police intake volume is substantial and nationally consolidated.

Lethal intimate partner killings are centrally recorded and publicly reported.

Reporting transparency is structured and accessible.

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PROSECUTION

III. Prosecution Filtering

Spain does not publish national consolidated data on suspects formally charged or indicted.

No national dataset links denunciation → accused → conviction within a single offence-coded longitudinal chain.

However, judicial activity is measurable through cases adjudicated in Gender Violence Courts.

2024 outcomes include:

- Total rulings in GBV: 62,173
- Condemnatory sentences: 50,078 (80.55%)

ASSESSMENT

Trial-level conviction ratios are high once cases reach adjudication.

However, suspect identification and formal charging stages are not nationally consolidated, limiting full funnel reconstruction.

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IV. Conviction Ratios

Intimate Partner Violence:

- Complaints Filed: 199,094
- Firm male convictions: 39,056

→ Intake-to-conviction conversion: ~19.6%

Sexual Offences:

- Recorded: 22,846
- Adult convictions: 3,936

→ Intake-to-conviction conversion: ~17.2%

ASSESSMENT

Judicial throughput relative to intake is materially above single-digit systems.

Conviction is not rare relative to recorded violence.

However, intake-to-imprisonment exposure cannot be calculated due to sentencing disaggregation limits.

Convictions represent finalized sentences and do not reflect same-year complaint cohorts.

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SENTENCING

V.   Sentencing & Deterrence

Total condemnatory sentences GBV: 50,078

No nationally consolidated breakdown distinguishing immediate custodial imprisonment, suspended imprisonment, or fine-only outcomes for GBV categories.

ASSESSMENT

Sentencing activity is measurable at aggregate level.

However, sanction composition is not disaggregated nationally by GBV category.

Immediate custodial exposure relative to conviction volume cannot be externally quantified due to absence of nationally disaggregated sanction-type data.

PROTECTION

VI. Protection Measures

- Protection orders granted: 33,247 (~67.5% of requests)
- Breach charges: 21,811 [Breach convictions and custodial sanctions for breach are not nationally consolidated.]
- No nationally consolidated arrest or conviction totals for breach.

ASSESSMENT

Protection orders are actively issued and publicly reported.

Breach activity is measurable at charge level.

However, breach-to-arrest and breach-to-conviction enforcement is not nationally consolidated.

Protection reliability cannot be fully quantified across the sanction chain.

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DATA

VII. Data Integrity & Transparency

Spain publishes:

- Police denunciations
- Judicial rulings and conviction ratios
- Final conviction totals
- Protection order requests and grants
- Intimate partner homicide registry
- Breach charge volume

However:

- No suspect-to-charge dataset
- No unified suspect-to-sentence longitudinal dataset
- No custodial vs suspended sentencing breakdown
- No GBV-specific recidivism
- No breach-to-conviction totals

ASSESSMENT

Judicial publication is structured and nationally consolidated.

However, enforcement-chain transparency remains partial.

Sanction composition and longitudinal deterrence cannot be fully externally verified.

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CLIMATE RISK MODIFIER

VIII. Climate Risk Context

Spain experienced significant flooding (Valencia DANA, October 2024), resulting in 237 deaths and displacement.

Official enforcement datasets do not integrate disaster-status or displacement coding within gender-based violence reporting.

No consolidated dataset was published linking 2024 displacement events to GBV enforcement outcomes.

Spain is not classified as a high structural climate-displacement vulnerability jurisdiction.

ASSESSMENT

Climate-displacement-specific enforcement tracking is not consolidated.

No documented enforcement disruption was published.

The Climate Risk Modifier does not alter grade determination.

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STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT

DOES THE LAW PROTECT WOMEN IN PRACTICE?

- Police intake is high and nationally consolidated.
- IPV intake-to-conviction conversion is approximately 19.6%.
- Sexual offence intake-to-conviction conversion is approximately 17.2%.
- Conviction once tried exceeds 80%.
- Protection orders are granted on most requests.

However:

- Custodial exposure cannot be externally quantified.
- Breach enforcement outcomes are not fully consolidated.
- Recidivism data is not published.
- Protection delivery is partially demonstrable but not fully verifiable across the sanction chain.

Enforcement activity is measurable and conviction is not structurally rare relative to intake.

However, absence of sanction-type disaggregation, breach-to-conviction data, and recidivism metrics prevent full verification of custodial exposure and longitudinal deterrence.

Protection is partially demonstrable but not fully auditable across the enforcement chain

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AUDIT GRADE

Under Lex Feminae Index criteria:

Spain does not meet B — Structured Enforcement — because:

- Intake-to-conviction conversion remains below high-throughput threshold
- Custodial exposure composition is not disaggregated
- Breach-to-sanction escalation is not nationally consolidated
- Full suspect-to-sentence traceability is incomplete
- Absence of custodial vs suspended sentencing transparency

Spain does not meet D — Weak Enforcement — because:

- Conviction is not rare relative to recorded intake
- Protection orders are actively issued and measurable
- Lethal intimate partner killings are centrally recorded
- Judicial conviction ratios are strong once cases reach trial

National data publication is consolidated

The enforcement framework is operational.

However, penal depth and longitudinal deterrence transparency remain incomplete.

Spain's 2024 enforcement profile aligns with:

Grade C — Partial Accountability

Trend Indicator: → Stable

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FINAL GRADE

C — Partial Accountability

Trend Indicator:

→ Stagnant*

- Legal and institutional framework operational
- Intake-to-conviction conversion materially above single digit enforcement threshold in IPV and sexual violence categories
- Sentencing composition and protection enforcement traceability are not fully disaggregated within a unified enforcement chain.

* Stagnation reflects structural persistence of enforcement patterns across recent reporting cycles as documented in official statistical continuity