



The ETF 2026 survey gathered responses from



1732 woman transport workers

ACROSS EUROPE

ACROSS ALL TRANSPORT MODES

Abuse is frequent

45,8%

experience violence and harassment at least weekly or more. **Nearly half** experienced it in the last month.

71%



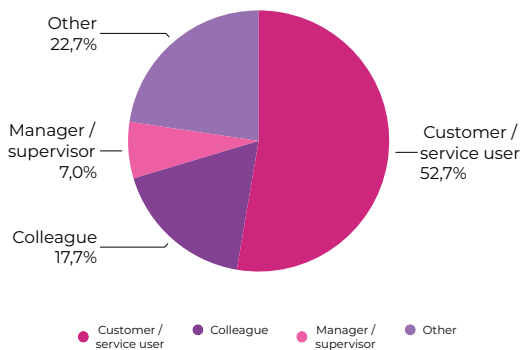
of woman transport workers reported experiencing violence or harassment in their current job.

Violence and harassment is widespread and systemic

Exposure is highest in passenger-facing sectors such as railways, civil aviation, and urban public transport, where constant customer interaction increases risk.



Who are the perpetrators?



More than half of reported incidents (52.7%) are perpetrated by customers / service users, particularly verbal abuse, threats and physical violence.

Colleagues and managers play a larger role in sexualised and power-related forms of harm.

Sexual harassment



6,7%

Physical violence



7,5%

Verbal harassment



75,4%

60,8%

identify gender as the main factor driving exposure

Gender-based violence and harassment has increased and continues to worsen

Gender stereotypes, sexism, male dominated workplace cultures and challenges to women's authority reinforce vulnerability in transport workplaces.

54,4%

of women transport workers **believe workplace safety has worsened in recent years**, due to rising customer aggression, staff shortages, and weak organisational responses.

3 out of 4

women transport workers who experienced violence believe they are targeted more often because they are women.



Reporting systems exist but often fail to deliver meaningful outcomes



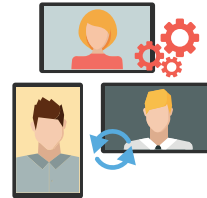
Low reporting rates

About **half** of incidents are formally reported, and **only 26,4%** of reported cases lead to an investigation.



Poor outcomes

15.7% result in **consequences** for the perpetrator and **65%** do not lead to a safer workplaces.



Barriers to reporting

Fear of retaliation and lack of trust drive lack of formal reporting.



Lengthy and difficult procedures

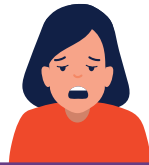
Lack of support leading to limited confidence in organisational responses.

Impact on woman transport workers



Anxiety and stress

Work environments causing constant worry, pressure and mental strain.



Fear and exhaustion

Physical and emotional depletion due to unsafe conditions.



Long-term psychological harm

Cumulative trauma leading to chronic and acute mental health issues.



Workforce retention

65,1% of women transport workers **have considered leaving the sector.**

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THIS RESEARCH



Employers

Integrate violence and harassment into OSH risk prevention systems, strengthen security and staffing in frontline roles, and ensure effective reporting systems and survivor centred worker supports.



Trade unions

Provide confidential support and representation for victims, strengthen awareness and training on gender based violence and harassment, and negotiate stronger protections.



Social partners

Develop sectoral frameworks to prevent all violence and harassment against women to promote gender equality and safe working environments and accountability mechanisms.



Policy makers

Strengthen legislation, enforcement, and investment in safer transport systems, including the full implementation of ILO Convention No. 190 and prevention of violence against transport workers.