

2014-25

FIGHTING ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, FROM THE MOST VISIBLE TO THE MOST INSIDIOUS

Overwhelming figures:

200,000

Over 200,000 women find themselves victims of **domestic violence** every year, 10% of whom press charges.

83,000

Some 83,000 women a year are victims of **rape** or **attempted rape**.

Domestic violence and sexual assault of minors are exacerbated in the overseas departments and territories.

20%

Harassment in the street and verbal aggression is an everyday occurrence for nearly 20% of young girls and women.

61%

The proportion of young women of 18-25 years of age who, when interviewed in 2012, had been subject to **sexual harassment or insults within their academic establishments**. Such unreported violence goes unpunished.

20 %

The percentage of working women claiming to have experienced a situation of **sexist and/or sexual harassment** in the workplace in 2014. Nearly 30% of victims fail to tell anyone about it.

Contemporary forms of slavery still exist in France. The slave drivers, who hail primarily from Africa and the Middle East, are members of the victims' families.

20,000 to 40,000

The number of people who prostitute themselves in France, 85% of whom are women, primarily of foreign origin, with an increase in online **prostitution** also observed.

53,000

The number of women who have undergone some form of **genital mutilation** believed to be living in France. The risk of **forced marriage**, whilst in decline, has not been eliminated.

«63% of female rape cases take place during the woman's childhood or adolescent years.»



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REALITIES BROUGHT TO LIGHT

- **Prevailing and normalised sexism** encourages relationships in which men are dominant over women.
- **The strategy adopted by the abuser** is similar for all types of violence.
- **Psychological violence** is omnipresent and mental abuse is almost always linked to physical effects, regardless of the type of violence in question.
- **Psycho-traumatic disorders** triggered by violence, and sexual violence in particular, are relatively unrecognised and go largely untreated.
- **Sexual abusers are rarely strangers to their victims.** In 83% of situations the victim has a close relationship with their abuser.
- **The lack of attention afforded to childhood violence**, whether from a witness's perspective or as a victim, is evident in terms of the resulting trauma and the increased risk of the witness or victim later being abused or becoming an abuser themselves.
- The health-related, social and economic consequences of violence make it a genuine **public health emergency**.

RAISING AWARENESS, INFORMING AND TRAINING: A CRUCIAL THREE-PRONGED APPROACH TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

- **Preventing sexist behaviour and violence from as young an age as possible**
 - Learning to respect others and value diversity must be part of the basic training provided for all those involved in the academic sphere. At the same time, **observing the principle of secularism within the national education system and indeed all spheres of society is an intangible platform from which to fight sexual violence.**
- **Providing greater training for all those who might come into contact with women who are victims of violence, and for doctors and healthcare professionals in particular**
 - It is particularly important that the treatment of post-traumatic disorder be improved and that vigilance with regards to preventing genital mutilation and forced marriage be maintained.
- **Protecting children**, by means of three fundamental provisions:
 - psychological care
 - a secure place in which the violent parent can exercise their access rights
 - the primacy of the child's interests when it comes to managing parenthood
- **Improving awareness and the handling of violence in the workplace**, which means involving all players, including employers, occupational health services, staff representatives and trade union organisations.
- **Better meeting victims' needs**
 - guiding victims towards the appropriate points of contact, issuing frequent reminders of the help available (free-phone numbers, specialist websites, etc.)
 - simplifying access to law (multidisciplinary platform)
 - protecting and caring for victims with heightened vigilance where the most vulnerable are concerned
 - supporting women who have suffered abuse in their social and professional reintegration
- **Pursuing and punishing abusers - Preventing repeat offences**
 - As far as the delegation is concerned, **the process of ascertaining the seriousness of the act, reprimanding the culprit, sanctioning, providing care and following up would appear to be the most effective way of preventing repeat offences.**

*«There is no such thing as minor violence and it is not inevitable. Dealing with it is a societal and public health emergency. It affects us all, and rather than turning a blind eye, we have a duty to exercise a degree of empathetic vigilance and know where the appropriate help can be found»,
Pascale Vion explains.*