



# VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN/GIRLS

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# VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Violence against women (VAF) is the totality of acts of violence that are committed against women. The United Nations declaration on the elimination of violence against women states that:

"Violence against women is a manifestation of the inequality of power relations between men and women" and that "violence against women is a social mechanism by which women are forced to take a subordinate position to man."



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence includes all acts of violence occurring in a family-type relationship between blood relatives, relatives by alliance, spouses or concubines. Regardless of factors such as ethnicity, cultural background of origin, education, skin color, economic condition, women are favorite victims of domestic violence, the phrase being used in current speech to usually refer to the violence of the man against his partner



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence can be manifested by:

physical abuse of any form, from beating to homicide, from female genital mutilation to the murder of the wife after the death of the husband or female infanticide;

sexual abuse — marital rape, forcing one's partner into prostitution;

psychological and emotional abuse — intimidation, threats (including against children or other close relatives), verbal aggression, constant humiliation, use of nicknames, demonstration of objects, hitting domestic animals, confiscation of personal items, ostentatious display of weapons, blackmail, isolation from family, friends;

economic abuse — lack of means of subsistence (food, medicines), refusal to contribute to the support of the family, preventing the woman from going to work or working, forcibly taking by the partner of the money earned by the woman, depriving the woman of any control over the common budget.



# FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN FOR PREVENTION AND COMBATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Verbal violence - addressing through offensive, brutal language, such as the use of insults,

degrading or humiliating threats, words and phrases;

Physical violence - bodily or health injury by hitting, hugging, slamming, firing of hair, pricking, cutting, burning, strangulation, biting, in any form and of any intensity,

including masked as being the result of accidents, by poisoning, intoxication, and other actions with similar effect

Sexual violence - sexual assault, imposition of degrading acts, harassment, intimidation, manipulation, brutality in order to have forced sexual relations, marital rape

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Psychological violence - imposing the will or personal control, provoking states of tension and mental distress in any way and by any means, demonstration violence on objects and animals, through verbal threats, ostentatious display of weapons, neglect, control of personal life, acts of jealousy, constraints of any kind, as well as other actions of similar effect;



# PREJUDICES ABOUT VICTIMS AND AGGRESSORS

Some of the most common prejudices about domestic violence relate to the fact that

that violence is taking place among poor families, among the uneducated, against the background of

alcohol consumption or among ethnic minorities. Most people think these

prejudice because it is easier for them to associate a negative phenomenon, such as violence in

family, with social groups or people who are different from them, precisely to reject

the idea that domestic violence also happens in their case. These prejudices are FALSE.



# PREJUDICES ABOUT VICTIMS AND AGGRESSORS

The statistical data of the Romanian Police show that domestic violence happens both in the environment rural, as well as in urban areas. Cases of domestic violence recorded by organizations that provides counseling services and shelter shows us that the aggressors come both from among those with a low level of education or facing economic problems, as well as among those with higher education, from among public persons or with management positions in public or private institutions. Domestic violence happens in all social environments, both among ethnic minorities, as well as among the majority. Domestic violence also exists in countries where consumption alcohol is prohibited. The main cause of violence against women is the unequal ratio of power between women and men, the way women are considered and treated as inferior to males.



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# WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLENCE?

Whether serious physical and sexual violence is clearly perceived as encroachment on the integrity of people, the other forms of violence, being more subtle, are more difficult to identify, detect and to be proven. Repeating facts - seemingly unimportant when viewed in isolation - generates touch physical integrity of the person. Violence undermines self-confidence, destroys well-being and degrades health. Of it also entails psychological and mental problems such as stress, anxiety, depression, insomnia, headache, stomach or back pain, chronic fatigue, etc.

# HOW CAN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BE COMBATED?

Finding a refuge — finding temporary shelter is essential to create a plan to escape from the path of an abusive person. Also, when creating the plan, make a list of all the important documents you need to take with you when you escape (passports, credit cards, driver's license, car documents, insurance, child documents, etc.). Keep your new shelter a secret.

Collects evidence of domestic violence— in order to obtain restraining orders or divorce the abusive partner, video or audio evidence is highly necessary. In order to record your partner's abusive behavior, you can install spy cameras or spy recorders in secret places in your home. With evidence, he cannot deny it to justice. In addition, with the help of these devices, the other people who still enter the house (accomplices to aggression) and what other things are still happening there can also be recorded.



# HOW CAN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BE COMBATED?

Protect yourself from abusive partner's tracking initiatives — in most cases, these abusers also use various devices to keep an eye on you. Fortunately, there are counterintelligence devices that detect and prevent the frequencies emitted by the spy cameras and microphones installed by the aggressor. However, you need to move quickly because if the aggressor identifies your initiative, they will quickly head to the area where you are to stop.

Escape — whenever there is opportunity, you must motivate yourself to escape from dangerous situations. Also, in the presence of the abusive partner, it is necessary to avoid coming into direct conflict with him.

Getting support — the decision to leave such a situation can be difficult and scary. That's why, if possible, talk to someone you trust (friend or counselor from an organization that specializes in combating domestic abuse) and see together what needs to be done.

Call the authorities — if you have been injured or sexually harassed, it is imperative that you contact the emergency services (hospital, police) or the helpline of non-governmental organizations or the state to speak out and address the risks to which you are subjected.

