Crime news reported by all medias register more and more facts with the same plot: a man who after an argument with his girlfriend, his wife, his partner or his ex, led by anger, kills her. How many times has this kind of violence been justified or normalized? This can’t become normality, these facts must be told as they are: unjustifiable murders!

Domestic violence, femicides, rapes are the type of physical violence against women that hits the headlines, whose news resound on first pages of local and national newspapers, unfortunately the media coverage isn’t destined all those cases of verbal and psychological violence that can deeply hurt the victim leading her to suicide.

In the last few days we have heard news of removal of Turin’s kindergarten teacher after the unauthorized diffusion, from her ex-boyfriend, of a video that portrayed her during a sexual intercourse: this fact has a name, it is called “revenge porn” and it is a crime! This woman was violated in her intimacy and used like an object and what did people do? Instead of sticking up for her and supporting her, they demanded her resignation! She is the victim of a crime that was committed by her ex-boyfriend but yet she is treated like she was the guilty one!

Unfortunately not even universities are immune to these facts. As reported in a research carried out by Perugia’s university in 2019 (Silvia Fornari, Dipartimento di Filosofia, Scienze Sociali, Umane e della Formazione dell’Ateneo di Perugia), the 21% of girl students taken as a sample admit to have suffered gender violence, while the 12% answer to not knowing, maybe because the harassment was underestimated or because there isn’t enough education about it. These data are alarming and make us understand how much is still necessary and fundamental to raise awareness on the theme of violence against women also, and specially, in places of knowledge. Abuse and harassment of any kind are acts to denounce and not stay indifferent!

One of the many pathologies affecting our society has been brought to light during the first lockdown: domestic violence. These acts were amplified by the fact that the woman, already forced to live with a boyfriend, a husband, or -generally- a violent member of family, hasn’t the possibility to have any moments of freedom away from the man to ask for help for the physical, and not, violence suffered. These facts, yet present before the first lockdown have been partially forgotten because of the sanitary emergency, making it more difficult to help, support and protect women in difficulty.
November 25, 2020

International day for the elimination of violence against women

So why doesn’t a woman who suffers violence go immediately to report the fact, why doesn’t she call the police? The answer is simply: she’s afraid. Yes, the victim is afraid because she feels alone, she feels that no one will be able to protect her when she goes back home to the man, even after the precautionary measures that will be (eventually, but not always) applied. Not to mention that often victims have an emotional bond with their abuser and they end up in a “toxic” relationship from which it’s too difficult to get out alone.

Despite normative and social changes, there’s still a strong patriarchal component in our society; to overcome this it’s necessary a revolution of the stereotyped image of men and women that’ll take to affirm the culture of gender equality. Unfortunately such a radical change of society isn’t immediate, for this reason there are services created to help, protect and support women victims of violence and harassment.

If you are a victim of domestic violence, stalking, psychological violence and revenge porn you can get help by calling:

anti violence number: **1522**

If you are a victim of discrimination, harassment, mobbing, sexual harassment, moral and psychological harassment you can ask for advice by writing to:

consiglieradifiducia@polimi.it

Remember that you are not alone, together we can really change things!