

# **There Are NO Excuses for Violence against Women**

Essay

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## **Abstract**

Violence and violent behavior are a major problem more and more common nowadays. I try to analyze the subject of violence against women and girls in the form of a case study, thus managing to identify the problems of the cause, finding solutions and I try to fulfill a goal: to reduce to 0 domestic violence. The forms of violence are numerous, and they bring consequences on the quality of life of both the victim and those in his immediate environment. Sometimes, women's rights can be ignored by the aggressor, but world organizations are trying their best to protect them. The United Nations is actively involved in this process, with numerous ongoing projects on violence against women and girls (VAWG), contributing to peace, security and prosperity. Victims should also be active and use all the means at their disposal to succeed in leading a normal life.

**peacebuilding   peacekeeping   violence   women   freedom**

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## **2. United Nations contributes to Peace, Security & Prosperity**

What does it mean?

Peace is freedom from war and violence, especially when people live and work together happily without disagreements, security is equal to the quality or state of being secure such as freedom from danger: SAFETY or freedom from fear or anxiety or freedom from the prospect of being laid off (job security) and prosperity means the state of being successful of thriving.

### **3. CASE STUDY: Violence against women**

#### **3.1 A LIFE WITHOUT VIOLENCE IS THE RIGHT OF EVERY WOMAN**

Violence against women is “*any act of gender-based violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological trauma or suffering for women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, committed in public life, either in private life.*”<sup>1</sup>

Violence and violent behaviors are major problems of everyday society that affect all age groups, regardless of age or social status of those involved.

#### **3.2 PURPOSE**

Awareness of violence against women to prevent and stop this phenomenon and improve the quality of life of women, in particular, and society as a whole through various actions of information, education, counseling or change.

#### **3.3 SOLUTION**

Appropriate legislation and legislative practice should be promoted to protect victims of domestic violence. Moreover, should be transmitted a message to the population that states that violence against women, both in the family and in the couple is an undesirable, deviant and abnormal behavior. Young people and women should be actively involved in actions taken to prevent and combat this phenomenon and they should be informed about the institutions and organizations that provide services and counseling on issues of violence against women. Also, society should be aware of human rights, domestic violence and democratic politics.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations General Assembly. (December 1993). Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women .

#### 4. What are the causes that favor the appearance of acts of violence?

Education always plays an important role; also in this case it ranks first. The educational dysfunctions of the family environment, the deficiency of the educational environment, but also the lack of sex education are causes that can determine the appearance of violent behavior among young people and not only. Of course, there may be other factors, such as increased social permissiveness or the incidence of mental disorders.

Forms of violence<sup>2</sup> are followed by consequences and effects, violence against women having many negative effects, long-term and short-term, direct on the victim or indirect on people who witness acts of violence<sup>3</sup>.

**Physical violence** consists in touching or painful physical contact, such as hitting with the palm or foot, the resulting state of health being one that requires more or less medical care, the victim losing all or part of his work capacity or bodily injuries can even causing his death.

Also, **psychological violence** is emotional and verbal violence that consists of insults, threats, intimidation or any kind of emotional blackmail. The mental state of the victim can be described by transient or permanent disorders in the emotional sphere or even depression, phobias, nightmares, insomnia, personality or behavior disorders or even suicide attempts.

Any sexual act unwanted by the partner can be considered rape and falls into the side of **sexual violence**, either when this person does not give his consent, or when the consent cannot be given because the person in question is a child, has a mental disability or is unconscious due to alcohol or drugs. Sexually violent acts can take place in different situations and can include, for example sexual harassment that is contactless forms, such as sexual comments about a person's body parts or appearance, whistling, requests for sexual favors, sexually suggestive looks, or even following and exposing sexual organs to

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<sup>2</sup> United Nations (Department of Public Information). Platform for Action and the Beijing Declaration published in 1996. (Beijing, China, 4-15 September 1995). Fourth World Conference on Women's Issues.

<sup>3</sup> Paunescu, C. (1994). Aggression and the Human Condition. Bucharest. Technical Publishing.

someone. About 15 million teenage girls (aged 15 to 19) around the world have had forced sex at some point in their lives.

Moreover, control over financial resources and access to money, personal items or telephone is part of **economic violence** and is manifested by the prohibition of the aggressor for the victim to engage or keep his job, thereby insufficient income or their absence will create a financial dependence on the aggressor.

Last but not least, **social violence** is the control of the victim and its isolation from family or friends, the gradual isolation being a serious factor on the mind of the victim, thus managing to be easy to manipulate.

## 5. Women's rights

Over time, women's rights have been protected by several laws, such as the 1979 United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, proclaimed in December 1993 by the General Assembly or the declaration of 1999 as the European Year for Combating Gender-Based Violence.

In terms of facts and figures, at least one in three women in the world has been beaten (as in the picture), forced to have sex or abused for life, according to research based on 50 surveys around the world, one-fifth of women say that they were sexually abused before the age of 15, and almost 70% of the victims were killed by their life partners, according to the World Health Organization.



**Figure 1: BRAZIL: Over 12,000 Women Are Daily Victims of Violence<sup>4</sup>**

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<sup>4</sup> Homepage of AMAZONS WATCH. Page Happenings. URL: <https://www.amazonwatchmagazine.com/happenings/brazil-over-12000-women-are-daily-victims-of-violence/>.



## 6. United Nations- What they do?

United Nations protect human rights, maintain international peace and security, deliver humanitarian aid, promote sustainable development and uphold international law, but do people know?

United Nations is trying to understand the situation well and to save succeeding generation from a Third World War. The United Nations has a lot of projects and missions to succeed in destroying the concept of violence against women.

### 6.1 The most recent United Nations operation

The most recent United Nations headquarters meeting met on 21 October to discuss women's peace and security because the world is in a crisis situation.<sup>5</sup> United Nations peacekeeping operations account for only 0.3% of global military spending and place a stronger emphasis on meeting women's, peace and security commitments. The Security Council's Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security on 21 October is led by the Kenyan Government and is based on investing in local women peacebuilders, a well-developed strategy that will meet all commitments.

Women's participation in peacebuilding succeeds in making peace more lasting. Women are strong pillars in maintaining peace, security and prosperity, with women around the world succeeding in leading conflict prevention movements, but at the same time they are most affected by violent conflict, terrorism and war.

### 6.2 The Covid-19 crisis

The Covid-19 crisis is also a problem in stopping violence against women as can be seen in the graph. According to a United Nations case study "*COVID-19 and Ending Violence against Women and Girls*", domestic violence cases increased by 30% in France, and, for

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<sup>5</sup> Homepage of UNWOMEN. Page Events. URL: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/events/2021/10/event-open-debate-on-women-peace-and-security>.

example, in Argentina emergency calls for domestic violence cases increased by 25% since the beginning of the pandemic.

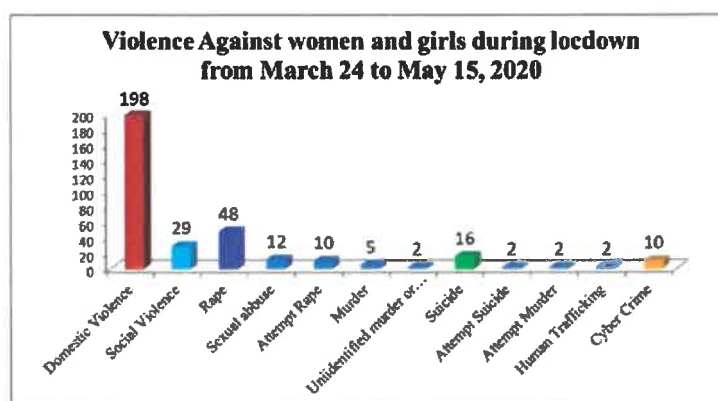


Figure 2 <sup>6</sup>

The European Union and the United Nations are embarking on a new, global, multi-year initiative focused on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG) - the Spotlight Initiative. The Spotlight Initiative seeks to make violence against women a thing of the past, with the UN actively involved in maintaining peace, security and prosperity regardless of nationality or border, allowing women and girls to lead normal and balanced lives.

### 6.3 Innovations

United Nations comes to the aid of women and girls who are struggling with domestic violence with a multitude of solutions, such as in the Canary Islands, Spain, women can alert pharmacies about a domestic violence situation with a code message "Mask-19" that brings the police in support. Also, in Cumbria, UK, police have enlisted delivery drivers and postal workers in looking out for signs of abuse, the app "Bright Sky" being very popular

<sup>6</sup> Homepage of WOREC. URL: <https://www.worecnepal.org/content/131/2020-05-20>.

## **7. Personal opinions**

To address and solve the problem, I recommend discovering and recognizing all the basic aspects of violence through a systematic collection of data, characteristics and consequences of large-scale violence. Subsequently, conducting studies and investigations to determine the causes and risk factors that represent a very important step in combating this problem situation, then to design the means to prevent violence with the information provided by the studies conducted, and finally, putting them into practice.

In conclusion, I recommend to every person who is a victim of domestic violence to take action, to use all the rights and possibilities offered by law to get rid of aggression and start a normal life. United Nations is trying its best to help women and girls who are facing domestic violence, try to follow the instructions that are available to you and thus succeed in doing something in this case. Break the silence before is too late!


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## 8. Affidavit

I declare that I have written the present essay independently and on my own. I have clearly marked any ideas borrowed from other sources as not my own and documented their sources. The essay does not contain any work that I have handed in or have had graded as a previous scientific paper earlier on.

I am aware that any failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism is the presentation of another person's thoughts or words as if they were my own – even if I summarise, paraphrase, condense, cut, rearrange, or otherwise alter them.

I am aware of the consequences and sanctions plagiarism entails. Among others, consequences may include nullification of the essay and exclusion from participation in the PSP Forum High School Student Writing Competition. These consequences also apply retrospectively, i.e. if plagiarism is discovered after the essay has been accepted and graded. I am fully aware of the scope of these consequences.



Daria Andreea Ilie

Breaza, Romania in February 2022

Principal/Commander of “Dimitrie Cantemir” Military High School

Colonel



  
Aurel - Constantin NEAGU , PhD