



Violence Against Women

Awareness



WOMEN POWER - RAISING AWARENESS
ERASMUS + KA229

What's violence?

- Violence is defined as an abuse of power, being mostly related to a higher position of power in comparison with a weaker one.
- The violence based on gender represents a violation of the Human Rights, having terrible consequences on many plans: individual, familial and social. The people most threatened by this gender inequality are women.



1. National statistics about violence against women

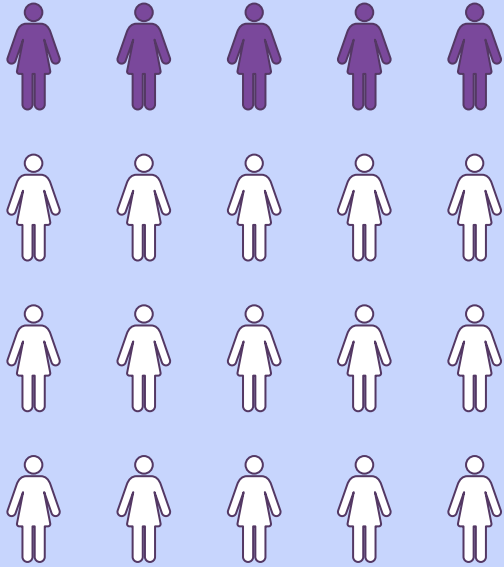


Types of violence	In Romania	In European Union
Physical violence	73%	85%
Sexual violence	69%	85%
Psychological violence	53%	71%
Limitation of freedom	60%	69%
Threatening with violence	50%	64%



- Between 2004 and 2011 there were a number of 82.000 cases, from which 800 were deaths.





25%

Of Romanian women admitted to be a victim of sexual assault by the age of 15.



17% of the victims called the police on their abusers

74% were not aware of the existence of organisations for women in need





Year	Number of rapes (in the family)
2004	651
2005	733
2006	983
2007	1130
2008	1149
2009	1184
2010	3459
2011	3742
2012	4478
2013	4699
2014	4893



Cases of violence during the pandemic



- During the pandemic, women had to isolate with their abusers this causing an increase in the number of reports that had been filled by 2,3%.
- For example in 2021 approximately 33 women were killed by partners, family members or ex-partners. On the other hand, in 2020, 212 victims were killed, 47 being married with the author of the crime and the rest (44) being in a relationship with them.



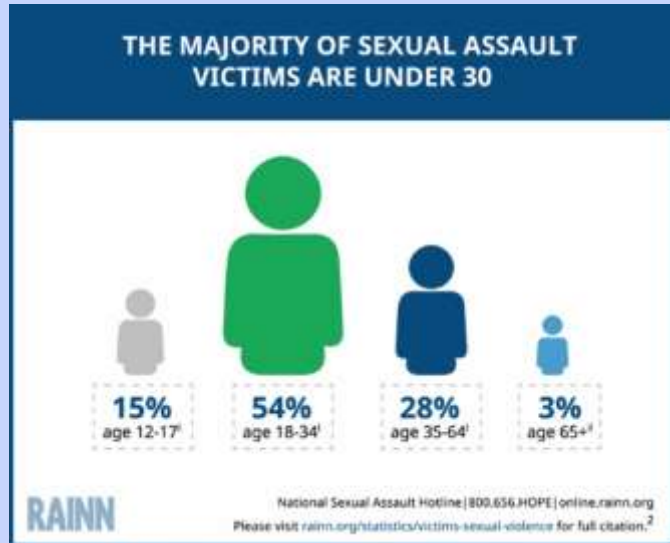
2. Most vulnerable groups of women and laws protecting women in Romania



The most vulnerable groups of female population subject to abuse

1. Age criteria

Younger people are at the highest risk of sexual violence: Ages 12-34 are the highest risk years for rape and sexual assault.



Immigrant women and girls are up to 2 times more likely to experience domestic violence than the general population.



2. Ethnic background

Women belonging to ethnic minorities, such as the Roma, are at greater risk of experiencing all forms of IPV (intimate partner violence) than the overall female population.



3. Poverty

Women and girls living in poverty are more vulnerable to sexual exploitation, including trafficking.



**70% OF THE
WORLD'S POOR
ARE WOMEN.**



4. Women in rural areas

In Romania, the prevalence of domestic violence with female victims is higher in rural areas, where a number of 2291 female victims (54.98%) were recorded, while a number of 1876 female victims (45.02%) are from urban areas.

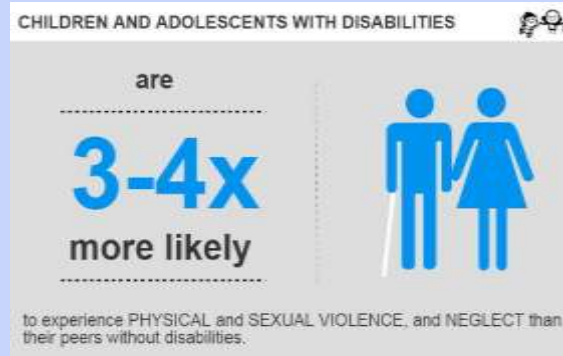


Other vulnerable groups:

Children



Disabled people



Inmates



Previous rape victims



Sex workers



Queer women



Punishments for various types of abusers

A sexual act with a person, committed by coercion, making it impossible to defend oneself or express one's will or taking advantage of its mental or physical state, is punishable by imprisonment from 2 to 7 years and the prohibition of the exercise of certain rights.



The punishment can also be imprisonment from 3 to 10 years and the prohibition of exercising certain rights.

If the act resulted in the death of the victim, the penalty is imprisonment from 7 to 15 years and the prohibition of exercising certain rights.



Laws in force in Romania regarding the protection of female victims

Romania has no violence against women law but does criminalise numerous forms of violence.

The law on preventing and combating violence in family in Romania includes verbal violence, *psychological violence*, physical violence, *sexual violence*, economic violence and *social violence*.



In Romania, protection orders for survivors of domestic violence can be issued ***within 72 hours by the Court of Law.***





Romania has a national helpline for victims of family violence that is free of charge (0800 500 333) and available 24/7, which provides advice and referral.

Romania has made dramatic progress in expanding provision of shelters for those experiencing domestic violence, although many shelters are not run for women only.



- The five sexual assault services in Romania are all run by NGOs and are part of the Breaking the Silence on Sexual Violence Network.



In addition, starting with 1st February 2014, the Romanian penal code criminalised sexual assault, defining it as 'an act of a sexual nature other than rape with a person, perpetrated with constraint, or rendering it impossible for the person to defend or to express consent, or taking advantage of an incapacitated state of a person'. The new code sets out definitions for rape and sexual harassment.



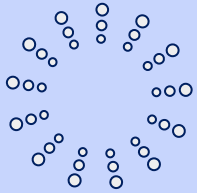
3. Projects to prevent violence against women





1. *“The INVICTA House”* is a crisis center for helping women victims of domestic violence with a 24 hour program and with social workers on duty. The services are provided to women victims of domestic violence that are within the radius of the city of Bucharest.





2. *“Developing and strengthening the network to prevent and combat violence against women”*

is a project which had the overall objective of strengthening the capacity and increasing the visibility of the network against violence against women to improve monitoring and advocacy activities, at local and national levels.



3. The “Together for the safety of women”

march is a national project which demands funding from
authorities for
public social assistance services
in order to support the victims of gender-based violence.

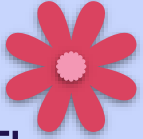


4. *“Men for women’s rights”*



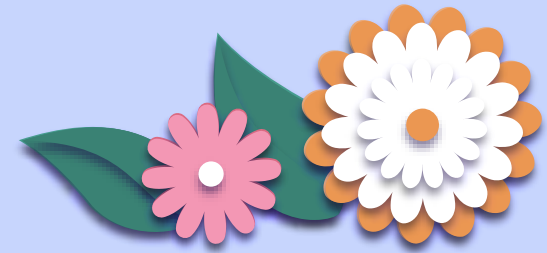
Project RED SPOTS- statistics.mp4

is an organization whose story began in high school years and developed later on in January 2018, when they went with a backpack full of sanitary towels to have them distributed to the homeless women in the North Station in Bucharest.



The campaign continues to:

- distribute essential menstrual hygiene products,
- organize hygiene courses,
- support communities to solve some problems related to improper living conditions and
- fight for the right of all women to adequate menstrual hygiene products and information.



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2020-1-PL01-KA229-081676_4

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