



| **NUESTROS
CUERPOS,
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LÍMITES**

Sexual Violence towards Young Women

“Our Bodies, Your Limits”
Sexual Violence towards Young Women



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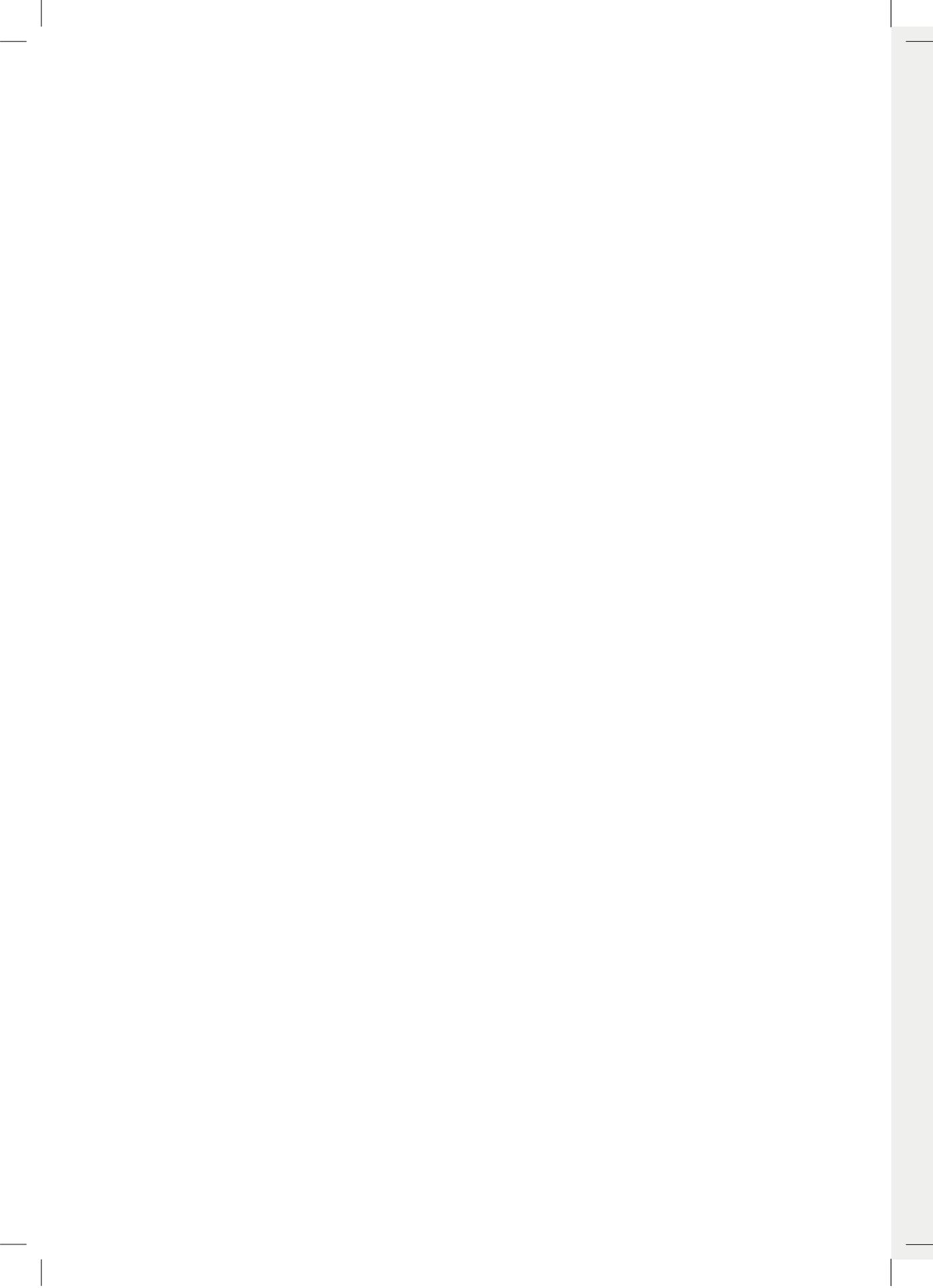
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Introduction



For Huelva Provincial Council, gender equality is a pillar which should inspire the political action of this institution.

We have spent many years working hard, undertaking a multitude of projects and actions aimed at eradicating discrimination and gender violence. Our ultimate goal is to achieve true equality between men and women.

In 2018, the Council joined the "Recognise and Change" awareness-raising project dedicated to combating gender violence and any other form of discrimination and violence. The main aim of this project, which intersects gender and migration, is to promote amongst European citizens - preferably young boys and girls aged 11 to 29 - a culture which rejects violence and discrimination in all its forms and embraces a culture based on plurality and mutual recognition.

The intention is to produce a "chain reaction" effect which leads to positive relationships, free from discrimination and violence, for girls and boys aged 11 to 29. They are the authors of the project's actions; they are key agents in raising awareness amongst their peers, classmates, families, male and female policy makers, the authorities and, generally speaking, all citizens.

Our experience of collaborating and carrying out activities during this project has yielded important results. It has cemented our conviction that it is essential to tackle gender violence starting from educational centres, associations and youth movements. Prevention is the best tool to eradicate violence towards women, and the best time to dismantle gender stereotypes and sexism - especially sexual violence and the harm it is causing us as a society - is during childhood, adolescence and youth.

Developing tools for them and coordinating the action of policy-makers, families and educational communities is undoubtedly a solution that addresses many the problems.

To this end, the Council has published the guide "Our Bodies, Your Limits", Sexual Violence towards Young Women. The author of the guide, Carmen Ruíz Repullo, offers suggestions on how to raise awareness about sexual violence such as male-led violence against women, how to identify the different ways in which it manifests, and she also provide guidelines on how to deal with it.

This guide will be available both in printed and digital format to all citizens, and all bodies and institutions which work directly with a young population.

In my role of political reference of this project since the beginning, I'd like to celebrate the results achieved so far and encourage everyone to keep working along the same lines in order to create a free society in which tolerance, respect and equality reign supreme.

M.^a Eugenia Limón Bayo
President of Huelva Council

1. Acknowledging sexual violence, namely male-inflicted violence

There are milestones which mark important moments in all our lives, journeys and narratives. In the last few years, several historic events have happened in the feminist movement which have highlighted the importance of ending all sexual violence against women. These milestones have not only served to generate a feminist historiography, but to shine a light on what happens in people's daily "normal" lives. We're talking about the multiple instances of sexual violence inflicted upon women and who are at the centre of the so-called Fourth Wave of Feminism.

Feminist milestones of the 21st century:



*TREN DE LA LIBERTAD - THE FREEDOM TRAIN (2014)

Movement in support of women's right to abortion.



*7N. SPANISH NATIONAL MARCH IN OPPOSITION TO MALE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (2015)

Movement which denounced different kinds of violence suffered by women at the hands of men.



* LA MANADA DE SAN FERMINES RAPE CASE (2016)

Social outcry and reaction to sexual abuse.



*THE ME-TOO MOVEMENT (2017)

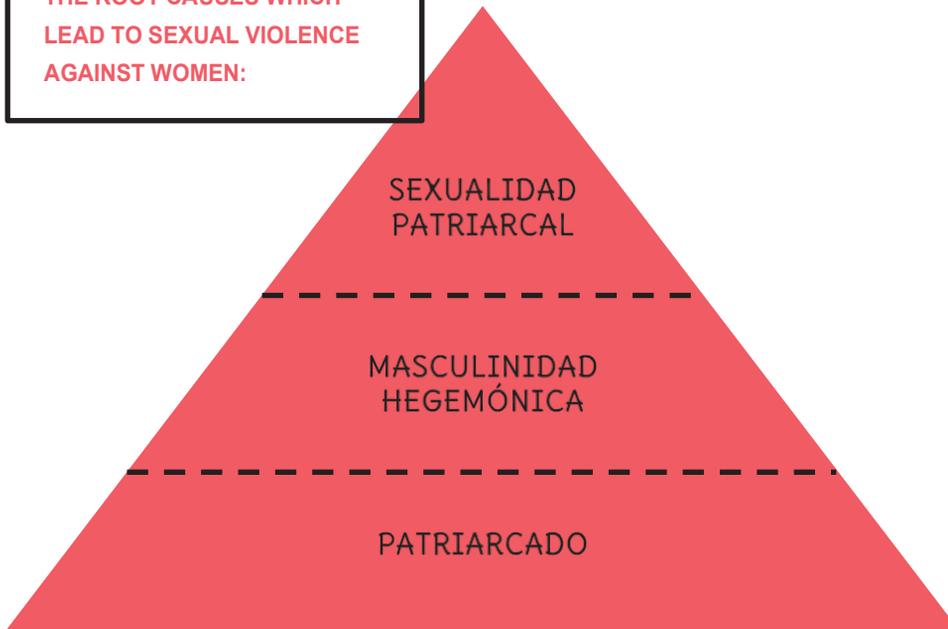
Denouncing sexual harassment in the film industry.

All these milestones had an unprecedented impact in the fight against sexual violence, highlighting the fact that these were not isolated cases but an extremely common event which takes place in our society. Just look at the final statistics of the Marco-Investigation of Violence against Women in 2019, which maintains that 57.3% of women aged 16 or over in Spain has experienced violence at the hands of men in some form or another throughout their lives.

We sometimes hear statements such as: why does sexual violence take place in a society which is considered to be egalitarian? Even if a society is considered to be egalitarian, it doesn't mean violence against women does not

take place. In order to eradicate male-inflicted violence in any form (physical, sexual, psychological, and financial), it is necessary to eradicate the root causes.

**THE ROOT CAUSES WHICH
LEAD TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN:**



In broad terms, there are essentially three main causes of sexual violence, which are rooted in the patriarchal system.

**WHAT DO WE MEAN BY
"PATRIARCHY"?**

A patriarchy is a social organisation which organises the world according to a hierarchy and symmetry, which places men in a position of power over women. It is a system of oppression built on the role of the man and upheld thanks to a range of social, political, and financial structures.

This patriarchal system replicates itself in all societies; however, it does not do so in the same way. As societies become more and more "visibly egalitarian", the patriarchy tends to become less noticeable and more subtle, to the point of almost being imperceptible. In this sense, according to Alicia Puleo, it's important to distinguish two types of patriarchy:

* Patriarchy of coercion: this patriarchal system maintains very strict rules in terms of a woman's role. Disobeying these rules can even lead to a woman's death.

* Patriarchy of consent: this type of patriarchy tends to exist in developed societies and societies viewed as "strongly egalitarian". In these cases, failure on behalf of women to play the expected role does not lead to imprisonment or death. However, women in these societies tend to do what is expected of them in the home (having workdays which are twice or three times as long), in relationships (making personal sacrifices for their partner), in their appearance (obsession with being thin, hegemonic bodies, etc.)

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY HEGEMONIC MASCULINITY?

In broad strokes, when we speak of hegemonic masculinity, we are referring to the model of a man which the patriarchal system considers to be appropriate. However, we need to remember that, to speak of "hegemonic masculinity" is not the same as talking about masculinity, because there is no single model of a man.

Hegemonic masculinity at present is centred around two key elements: approval and recognition. You must prove that you comply with the canon in order to be recognised by the group. This translates into performing certain dangerous actions in front of other guys and girls, including:

- * Driving faster than allowed on a motorbike or car;
- * Abusing alcohol or other drugs;
- * Climbing buildings without safety equipment to show your superiority;
- * scolding female companions in public.

Have you ever heard guys say something like: "Don't you have the balls for it?" This expression perfectly exemplifies their gender mandate: men are to prove that they are "real men", they need to obtain social approval of their peers, thus obtaining power and privilege. The problem is that this perverse form of gaining approval does not only put men at risk, but also women. We mustn't forget that the problem of sexual violence specifically and gender violence in general is a problem of the men who attack, but it is one that women then have to put up with.

**WHAT DO WE MEAN BY PATRIARCHAL
SEXUALITY?**

According to María José Urruzola (1999), the context in which people are educated about sexual relationships is the result of a structurally sexist and hierarchical social organisation. In this sense, sexual relationships are not identified as isolated experiences; instead, they are part of the social context we live in. It is a patriarchal context which defines sexual relationships by:

- * devaluing of emotional relationships;
- * Reducing sexuality to concrete actions such as coitus;
- * imposing heterosexuality as the norm;
- * viewing masculine pleasure is more important than female pleasure;
- * preferring quantity over quality;
- * colonising women's bodies;
- * normalising sexual violence.

A clear example of the entire patriarchal system of sexual relationships is visible in pornography, which is currently mis-educating adolescents and teens about sex.

2 Conceptualising sexual violence

The concept of sexual violence cannot be analysed on the fringes of the concept of gender violence, because both share the main root cause, which is none other than the patriarchal system, which continues to view women as bodies to be oppressed and to ensure male pleasure. It is a way for men to exercise power and control over women and this leads women to live in a culture of fear: the fear of being sexually assaulted, verbally assaulted in the streets, stalked, etc.

Taking as reference the definition of the World Health Organisation (WHO), sexual violence is:

"any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work."

When we speak of sexual violence, we are referring to any act of a sexual nature which is not consented to nor desired by women, which can be obtained through blackmail, manipulation, pressure, insistence, intimidation, force or violence, amongst others. We are talking about sexual violence which ranges from the more subtle - such as sexual blackmail in a relationship - to the more severe - such as rape.

Sexual violence is not a type of violence that grows old; it takes on new forms and adapts to the times. At present, Relationship, Information and Communication Technologies are another tool which enable it to be carried out. What's more, this violence takes place inside and outside relationships, and can occur in any given context:

-  With a partner
-  In the home
-  In the street
-  On social networks
-  In educational centres
-  At university
-  At work
-  On public transport
-  In pubs, clubs, night time leisure areas, etc.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN NUMBERS:

International Context (1)

- * **7%** of women claim to have experience sexual attacks on behalf of people other than their partner.
- * Around **30%** of all women who have been in a relationship have experience physical or sexual violence on behalf of their partner.

European Context (2)

- * **1 in 3** women in the EU has experienced physical and/or sexual violence
- * **55%** of women in the EU has experienced sexual harassment
- * **1 in 20** women (5%) of the EU aged 15 or older has been raped.

National Context (3)

- * **40.4%** of women living in Spain aged 16 or over has experienced sexual violence at some point of their lives.
- * **8.9%** of women living in Spain aged 16 or over has experienced sexual violence at the hands of their partner or ex-partner at some point of their lives.
- * **6.5%** of women living in Spain aged 16 or over has experienced sexual violence at the hands of their partner or ex-partner at some point of their lives. [problem in source]
- * **98.4%** of women who claim to have experienced sexual violence state that the attacker(s) were exclusively men.

1 Data available at: <https://www.who.int/es/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women>

2 To find out more: "Gender violence against women: an EU-scale enquiry", The Fundamental Rights Agency of the EU (FRA), 2014. Available at: https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-vaw-survey-at-a-glance-oct14_es.pdf

3 To find out more: «Macro survey of violence against Women 2019». Available at: <https://violenciagenero.igualdad.gob.es/violenciaEnCifras/macroencuesta2015/Macroencuesta2019/home.htm>

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Sexual violence is a crime recognised as such in our Penal Code (2015) under chapter 8 and referred to as Crimes against Freedom and sexual indemnity. In this chapter, we present different types of sexual crime: attacks, sexual abuse, sexual intimidation, indecent exposure, sexual taunting, prostitution, and exploitation. However, in compliance with the directives indicated by UN Women, the different legislations of the member states of the UN are required to:

- * Define sexual assault as a violation of physical integrity and sexual autonomy;
- * Replace existing crimes with different levels of sexual assault based on the damage inflicted;
- * Consider aggravating circumstances, including:
 - The relationship between the perpetrator of the violence and the survivor;
 - The use or threat of violence;
 - The presence of multiple perpetrators or violence;
 - The physical and mental repercussions on the victim;
- * Remove every mention of sexual assault having to be committed through force or violence;
- * Specifically classify sexual attacks in a relationship as crimes.

Bearing these UN Women directives in mind, the Spanish legislation needs to be reformulated with a matter of urgency and we hope that this is not long in coming. Sexual violence cannot be read solely according to the judicial framework of any given country. We must not forget that the legal system fits within an institution that is inside a patriarchal system.

4 To find out more: "Legislative manual of violence against women". Available at: https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/ministerio/planes-estrategias/igualdad-de-oportunidades/onumannuallegislation_tcm30-428123.pdf

3 Women's bodies subjected to patriarchal control

Feminism in the 70s-80s already warned us about this and denounced the violence women experienced solely for being women. In addition to the causes mentioned at the beginning (patriarchal system, hegemonic masculinity, and patriarchal sexuality), sexual violence is also the result of the rulings of the patriarchy on women's bodies, which manifest in the following ways:

- * The way in which women are controlled is tied to control over their bodies and sexuality;
- * Public space is designed for men, not women; consequently, it is risky for women to take up space;
- * Women must protect and maintain their integrity.

Do any of these commandments ring a bell? Sadly, we continue to hear that women need to be "deserving of respect", need to avoid walking in dangerous areas and be careful to not gain a "bad reputation", especially in sexual terms. Given these premises, if women fail to follow the the rules, they put themselves at risk, giving those who could attack them reason to do so and giving others the right to blame them for what happened. This being said, it is now time to change the language we use:

WE SHOULD NOT TELL WOMEN TO BE CAREFUL; WE SHOULD TELL MEN TO RESPECT WOMEN.

3.1 The "Pornification" of Society Sexist porno-violence

All it takes to understand what we mean by the pornification of society is to go for a walk in the streets, take a look at social networks or watch TV programmes. When we talk about the pornification of society, we are referring to how accustomed we have become with seeing women's bodies as objects or hyper-sexualised, pleasure-giving, abuse-able, rape-able bodies.

ASK YOURSELF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

What do women who appear in videogames look like?

Why is it that sexually attractive women are used to promote products?

Why is it that, in many music videos, women are wearing less clothes than men?

Why is it that women of a mature age aren't cast in leading roles in movies?

Why is it that most female TV presenters are younger than their male counterparts?

With the answers to these questions, it would seem that, as women, we are visible in society as long as we adhere to the sexual profile which is expected of us and we exploit our eroticism. However, hyper-sexualisation leads to:

- Young women viewing their sexual attractiveness as their best shot at social success;
- Society viewing hyper-sexualisation as a sign of sexual freedom for women;

THE PROBLEM OF THIS HYPER-SEXUALISATION IS THAT IT TURNS WOMEN INTO OBJECTS AND MEANS THEY ARE TREATED AS SUCH; IN OTHER WORDS, THEY ARE DEHUMANISED AND NO LONGER SEEN AS PEOPLE.

THIS OBJECTIFICATION ALLOWS FOR THE COMMERCIALISATION AND EXPLOITATION OF FEMALE BODIES.



3.2 Sexist porno-violence

Before delving into this section, it's important to ask ourselves a question: is pornography the main cause of sexual violence towards women? The answer is no, sexual violence did not appear on the scene at the same time as pornography. The main culprit of sexual violence is a person who commits abuse (while being protected by a patriarchal system), and who continues to view women as bodies at the service of male pleasure, either through force, money or strategies of sexual coercion, which range from insistence to pressure. However, pornography is turning into perverse socialisation tool which legitimates sexual violence towards women.

To talk about pornography in the present is not the same as talking about it before the technological revolution, although its aim remains the same: to socialise men as dominant on a sexual level and women as submissive, devoid of their own sexual urges or own sexuality. In other words, today's pornography, that is the kind which is mostly produced on the internet, tends to be:

* aimed at heterosexual men.

* Centred on sexualisation, objectification and violence towards women.

ARE YOU AWARE OF THIS
PORNOGRAPHY DATA?

* In the world, there are 800 million pornographic pages; 3/5 are located in the US(1);

* 52.1% of adolescents think that the consumption of pornography has impacted a lot or significantly on their sexual relations(2);

* Around 25% of all adolescents and young people believe that pornography affects the image people have of women(3).

1 To find our more: <https://www.daleunavuelta.org/>

2 To find out more: https://www.savethechildren.es/sites/default/files/2020-09/Informe_Desinformacion_sexual-Pornografia_y_adolescencia.pdf

3 Ballester, Luis y Orte, Carmen (2019). New pornography and changes in interpersonal relationships. Octaedro: Barcelona.

This represents only some data pertaining to the consumption of pornography, but the reality is much more disconcerting. Taken into consideration the work of Peter Szil (2019:117), the damage caused by pornography during youth can be summarised into several fundamental aspects.

1. Pornography separates men's sexual desire from the world of emotions. This is reflected in the complete lack of affection in pornography.
2. Pornography counteracts gender equality. It does not display symmetrical sexuality; instead, hegemonic masculinity is the fil rouge.
3. Pornography promotes the reproductive irresponsibility of men. It also shows their irresponsibility with regard to the risks of not using contraceptive methods; contraception rarely appears in pornography.
4. Pornography promotes the acceptance of violence towards women. It depicts women who are suffering and men who are sexually excited.
5. Pornography is the marketing of prostitution. It is not only done directly, through chatrooms and webcams, but also indirectly, by presenting women as bodies or objects.

Although pornography is consumed by both guys and girls, the message directed at them is completely different:

* Message for girls. You are expected to like what you see. This is what gives men pleasure and it may entail violence.

Sexually pleasant-looking objects

* Message for guys. You have the right to use a woman's body for your own pleasure, and you can use violence to achieve it.

People who deserve to be sexually satisfied

We are at a social moment in time where the debate about pornography should take centre stage. Avoiding it or making it a taboo subject means perpetuating misogyny and violence against women under the umbrella of false sexual neo-liberalism.

3.3 Rape culture

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD STATEMENTS LIKE THESE?



All these statements reflect what we already know about a culture which justifies rape. They represent a symbolic and subtle form of violence, and are intrinsic to our patriarchal society. Their main danger is their normalisation and, consequently, the manifestation of multiple forms of sexual violence which - on occasion - are seen as inevitable.

Rape culture perpetuates and supports two key justifications of sexual violence:

* The first is the notion that men have a naturally unstoppable urge to have sex and there is nothing they can do to control it.

➤ This idea takes the blame away from the attackers

* The second is the notion that a good girl should not appear desirable or express desire.

➤ This idea places the blame on the victims

The danger of rape culture is the fact that its rhetoric is commonplace in society to the point that we don't even perceive it; fortunately, however, its numbing effect is wearing off every passing day, especially amongst younger generations of women.

Some other red flags of rape culture are:

- * Social tolerance of certain forms of sexual violence: cat calling, stalking, menacing looks, etc.
- * Jokes or comments about sexual violence which trivialise the fact it is a crime.
- * The hyper-sexualisation and objectification of women's bodies;
- * Prostitution as a men's right and a possible option for women;
- * Pornography as a space for pleasure, when in reality it's a space which perpetuates male pleasure.

PORNOGRAPHY IS AN INDICATOR OF RAPE CULTURE AS IT GIVES MEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY VIOLENCE TOWARDS WOMEN THROUGH SEX, SOMETHING THAT WITHOUT SEX WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED BY OUR OFFICIALLY EGALITARIAN SOCIETIES: SPITTING, SLAPPING, STRANGLING, RAPING, ETC.

4. Manifestation of sexual violence

One of the biggest challenge we encounter when shedding light of different types of sexual violence that young women are subjected to is the fact that we continue to equate sexual violence with rape, force, and penetration. However, there are many other forms of sexual assault which go unnoticed or which aren't taken into consideration, especially by those who engage in them. Sometimes, we hear guys say: "You can't do anything now, everything is seen as violence". This is the main shift we are experiencing: in the past, many forms of sexual violence were tolerated and went unchecked because they were normalised; now, we live in a time of feminist awareness and we are giving a name to what in the past was ignored and putting a stop to it.

4.1. WHEN I DON'T WANT TO, I DON'T CONSENT



CUANDO
NO DESEO,
NO
CONSIENTO

4.1. Sexual abuse on behalf of partners

When we think about sexual assault, the image we immediately conjure up in our mind is one of a public space in which a woman is attacked by a stranger. However, sexual assaults do not only take place outside the home; in the home, there are also forms of sexual violence which are justified as being manifestations of "love" and they often go undetected.

SOME SIGNS OF
SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN A
STABLE
RELATIONSHIP:

* Forcing a partner to have sexual encounters, even when said partner does not want to. There are many ways to force someone, including:

- insisting: "What's your problem, just have sex with me"
- blackmailing: "If you really wanted me, you'd do it"
- getting angry. In these cases, there's no need to even say a word: body language says it all.

* Keep having a sexual relationship out of fear of what could happen if I say no.

Some fears are connected to:

- the boy choosing to break up;
- the risk of him hooking up with another girl if he is not satisfied with the relationship;
- possible retaliations.

Sexual violence is a mechanism of male dominance, which suppresses women's sexual freedom. Women's sexual freedom refers to the fact that every woman can decide what she wants or does not want to do, who she wants to do it with, how, when, and where, being in control at all times of doing what she wants to do. When a woman does not want to continue doing what she is doing on a sexual level, "no" or "that's enough" need to be clearly understood by her sexual partner, otherwise said partner is crossing the line of consent or, in other words, committing a crime.

Consent is a key aspect when assessing whether sexual abuse took place or not. However, it is important to remember that, at times, when it comes to sex, we "consent" even though we do not want to have intercourse. Consent is an act that comes after desire; what we want to happen, we consent to: we allow it to happen. But if women are expressing their consent, then they want to have sexual relations? The harsh reality is that this is not always the case.

It is important to distinguish two types of consent:

* free consent

- Consent decided upon with no coercion, fear and/or threats, which allow a person to do what they really want to do on a sexual level.

* false consent or forced consent

- Consent decided upon with coercion, fear and/or threats, which leads to a person doing what they actually do not want to do.

So, false consent and forced consent are sexual violence? Precisely. When we "consent" to something under pressure, what we are really doing is not resisting, but we do not want what is happening on a sexual level.



When it is not consent:

When we do not say "Yes, I'd like to";

When we are pressured or coerced into having sex, even with a life partner;

When we are under the influence of alcohol or drugs;

When we do not put up resistance when being sexually assaulted;

When we say yes initially, then change our mind, and our partner gets angry;

When we say in relationships out of fear.

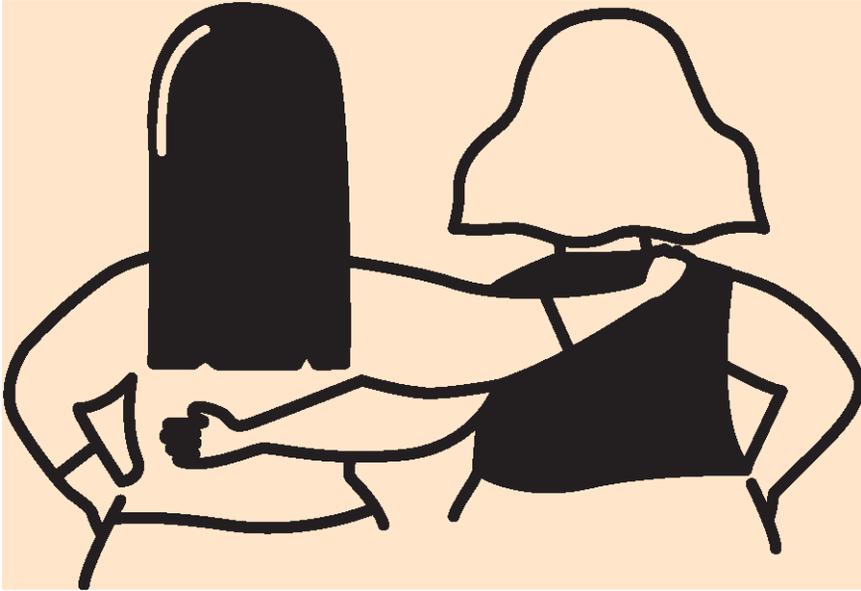


When it is consent:

When we inform our sexual partner that we wish to have sex with them;

When we decide freely, under no pressure, coercion or threat.

4.2. LISTEN UP SISTER, YOUR GANG IS HERE



4.2 Sexual assaults outside the relationship

Sexual assault outside the relationship comprises all those instances in which the assault is carried out by strangers in public places. This is what we assume it was, but the research we conducted informed us that this information is not entirely accurate. Taking into consideration the 2019 macro-survey of violence towards women, 6.5 % of women aged 16 or older claimed to have experienced sexual assault outside the relationship during her life and only 11.1% of these women claimed to have reported the incident.

WHO WAS THE ATTACKER?

- 21.6% say it was a family member (6.3% said it was their father);
- 49% say it was a friend or a man they knew;
- 39.1% say the attacker was a complete stranger.

PLACE OF THE ASSAULT

- 44.2% in a house;
- 17.8% in a bar, club, etc.;
- 32% in open areas such as streets or parks.

UNDER THE CATEGORY OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE OUTSIDE THE RELATIONSHIP, WE FIND MULTIPLE SEXUAL ASSAULTS OR GROUP ASSAULTS. IN 2016, THE SAN FERMIN GROUP ASSAULT RECEIVED A LOT OF MEDIA ATTENTION. SINCE EARLY 2015, OUR COLLEAGUES OF GEOVIOLENCIASexual.COM HAVE BEEN COUNTING THE MULTIPLE SEXUAL ASSAULTS REPORTED IN OUR COUNTRY.

¹ To find out more: <https://geoviolenciasexual.com/agresiones-sexuales-multiples-en-espana-desde-2016- casos-actualizados/>

What the numbers do show is that, every year, the number of reports of group sexual assaults and sexual assaults in general is increasing. This can have two explanations:

* Over time, our awareness is growing and, as a result, more women are reporting their assaults.

* As society grows more and more aware of male-led violence, the patriarchal system and attackers turn to assault to re-affirm their power and privileges.

A MAJOR INDICATOR OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE WHICH IMPACTS ON WOMEN'S DAILY LIVES, AND ESPECIALLY ON THE LIVES OF YOUNG WOMEN, IS THE CULTURE OF FEAR. THE SIMPLE ACT OF WALKING DOWN THE STREET AND HEARING FOOTSTEPS BEHIND YOU IS A DANGER WARNING; AS WOMEN, WE HAVE BEEN SOCIALISED TO BELIEVE THIS ALL OUR LIVES, AND THE THREAT IS GREATER IF THERE IS A MAN AND NOT A WOMAN WALKING BEHIND US. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT EVERY MAN WALKING BEHIND A WOMAN IN A POORLY-LIT AREA INTENDS TO COMMIT A SEXUAL ASSAULT; WHAT IT DOES MEAN IS THE WOMEN ARE IN A HEIGHTENED STATE OF FEAR IN PUBLIC SPACES.

4.3 THE NIGHT AND THE PARTY ARE OURS TOO!



¡LA NOCHE Y
LA FIESTA
TAMBIÉN EN
NUESTRA!

4.3 Sexual assaults in night time leisure spaces

The Patriarchy does not stay within the confines of the home; it is also experienced in party rooms, clubs, pubs, bars, gatherings and music festivals. Sexual assault in leisure spaces is a form of intimidation and dominance towards women, predominantly young and adolescent, all around the world. It is a product of patriarchal socialisation which violates women's fundamental right to enjoy leisure and party spaces freely and safely, the same way men do.

Just like in all aspects of society, leisure activities at night are designed according to imbalanced parameters, and specific types of sexual violence take place which do not occur in other spaces. These forms of sexual violence are preceded by other chauvinistic actions towards women in a party environment.

THINK ABOUT THE FOLLOWING: AS A WOMAN, HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED THIS?

- Being let into clubs for free as a way to attract male clients; Being offered
- shots or drinks to relax more;
- being expected to dress in a certain way to enter a bar or club (generally a hyper-sexualised way).

These are clear examples of male dominance and rape culture which invade party spaces and, occasionally, are normalised without making young women in the slightest bit suspicious.

In addition to the specificities we encounter in night time leisure spaces, we have to consider how guys and girls perceive said spaces. Reports such as the ones written by the Federación de Mujeres Jóvenes (2019) or Noctámbulas (2018) indicate that the roles young people play in nocturnal leisure is differentiated by gender:

> hunters

There are guys who view nocturnal leisure spaces as spaces to "hunt for women", to find prey with the end goal of satisfying their male desires. To this end, they tend to choose women who they view as "easy".

> prey

On the other hand, women see nocturnal leisure spaces as a potential space in which they are at risk and they have to find strategies to avoid being assaulted by one or more guys, generally strangers. Some young girls say that they spend all night trying to get "hunters", slimeballs and nuisances to leave them alone.

What's more, nocturnal leisure spaces are characterised by the consumption of alcohol and drugs and, when these are involved, girls and boys do not ascribe the same value to them: while guys use alcohol and drugs as a justification for inappropriate behaviour, girls are accused of being irresponsible and the blame is placed upon them for their actions.

MOST COMMON TYPES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN NOCTURNAL LEISURE SPACES:

- Give you a kiss even though you don't want it just to look good amongst their peers;
- Touch your bottom when they go to the restroom;
- A group of guys corners you and doesn't let you move;
- They joke about sexually assaulting you;
- in a group, they make the passage narrow so that when you walk past they can touch you;
- a guy might dance very close to you when there's lots of space in the club;
- you dance close to a guy and he thinks this is permission to touch you;
- they think that, by offering you a drink, you are expected to have a sexual encounter with them;
- they comment on your body;
- a guy approaches you at the bar when you are ordering and doesn't let you leave; he tries to offer you a drink, demands your presence, etc.;
- they think that, because you've had a drink, you are more vulnerable and will consent to sexual encounters more easily;
- you are the waitress in a bar or club and they keep saying vulgar things to you;
- when you leave a club, a male stranger insists on accompanying you so you don't feel alone.

All of these examples are even more common when young men are in groups; The group gives them a sense of power and safety to act with impunity. What's more, in a group setting, they find the perfect place to go undetected and hide their "violent deeds". In this way, the group becomes a "pack" with a shared code.

Many young girls go to parties knowing that they are at a high risk of experiencing some the above-mentioned forms of violence, which, sadly, continue to be very "normalised". As a matter of fact, these forms of violence do not occur in isolation or as a one-off incident; many of them can occur in one night and can be committed by one or more guys.

When the time has come to go home or end the party, the girls start to find strategies to protect their friends and themselves. These include:

- * Going home with friends;
- * Finding alternative routes which are brightly lit;
- * Not drinking excessively;
- * Calling one another when they get home;
- * Taking a shared cab ride, even though they live nearby;
- * Holding their phone in their hand and keeping the battery charged;
- * Holding their keys in their hand so they don't have to fumble for them.

Essentially, we are talking about limitations women have in public spaces, which they perceive to be dangerous or unsafe.

FEAR IN OF ITSELF IS A FORM OF
OPPRESSION THAT WOMEN ARE
SUBJECTED TO AND A FORM OF
DOMINANCE MEN EXERCISE UPON THEM.

4.4. WE DON'T WANT YOUR CATCALLS, WE WANT YOUR RESPECT



4.4 Sexual assault in public spaces

In this section, we will refer to forms of sexual violence experienced by women in the public space and these range from being assaulted in the street to being assaulted on means of transport.

According to the Observatory which monitors street assaults in Chile, street assaults are:

ALL ACTIONS WITH AN IMPLICIT OR EXPLICIT SEXUAL CONNOTATION WHICH OCCUR BETWEEN STRANGERS, ARE UNIDIRECTIONAL, TAKE PLACE IN PUBLIC PLACES, AND CAN POTENTIALLY CAUSE ONE OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED DISCOMFORT.

Based on this definition, sexual assaults in public spaces could entail:

- *Lecherous or persistent gazing at your body or parts of it;
- *Sexually-intended whistles or honking;
- * Sexually explicitly or implicit comments (informally referred to as cat calls);
- * Sexual jokes or offensive comments about your body;
- Unwanted physical contact such as, for example, cornering and intentional pressure against one's genitals;
- * Taking sexualised photographs or recordings without your knowledge or consent;
- * Following someone on foot or on any means of transportation;
- * Public masturbation.

The problem with these forms of sexual violence is that they continue to be very "normalised" in our day-to-day lives and the narrative continues to be that women should be careful and try to avoid these scenarios rather than saying to men that they should not perform these actions. In this sense, it is important for men to not be complicity: guys need to be allies and take action against these forms of sexual assault.

4.5 MY IMAGES DO NOT NEED YOUR APPROVAL



4.5 Sexual assault in technological spaces

Since their inception, virtual spaces - and social networks in particular - have become spaces in which to connect, socialise, communicate, and share information, especially amongst the young population. The fact that the digital world is integrated into our lives on a daily basis means we cannot talk of an online and offline existence; they are both an integral part of who we are.

When talking about sexual violence amongst young people, we have to analyse behaviour in these spaces where the lack of a physical presence does not necessarily represent a barrier to people who wish to hound, blackmail, control, manipulate, attack, or sexually assault others.

In this sense, the Internet in general and social networks specifically have turned into new landscapes where types of sexual violence which were already taking form in a non-virtual space are moving into a technological context, and new types of sexual violence that only occur in a virtual context are being created.

In short, when referring to sexual violence as a form of gender violence in technological spaces, we come across two types of violence:

- Sexual cyber-male dominance, that is forms of discrimination against women based on their gender which use technologies.
- Sexual cyber-violence, i.e. violent and criminal actions of a sexual nature against women with the help of technology

IN THE LATTER, WE CAN FIND THE FOLLOWING CRIMES: PUBLISHING OR SHARING IMAGES OR VIDEOS OBTAINED VIA SEXTING, SEXTORSION, GROOMING, REVENGE PORN, CHILD PORNOGRAPHY, ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, THE KIDNAPPING OF WOMEN, ETC.

¹ To find out more: <http://www.pantallasamigas.net/>

Let's focus on some of these which tend to occur during adolescence:

SEXTING

— Sexting entails sending content of a sexual nature such as photos or videos, generally created by the person sending them, to another person using a mobile phone. These actions tend to take place between people who have or have had an emotional or sexual relationship and occur for reasons directly or indirectly connected to intimacy. When this content sent for the purpose of sexting is published and/or shared without permission, a crime is being committed and this crime is recognised under Article 197 of the new Penal Code; however, it is not referred to in the text specifically with the word 'sexting'.

SEXTORSION

— This term refers to a form of sexual exploitation through blackmail, in which someone uses the sexual content obtained via sexting or webcams to get something from the victim (generally related to sex), and threatens to publish the content.

GROOMING OR CHILD GROOMING

- This is a deliberate action on behalf of an adult - mainly men - whose goal is to establish a friendship with under-aged children or teens via the internet. This is a cat-fishing technique in which the groomers conceal their real identity; they pretend to be young guys or girls in order to obtain erotic-pornographic images or videos of under-aged children or teens to satisfy their sexual deviances, or in order to set up a sexual encounter.

CYBERSTALKING AS A FORM OF GENDER VIOLENCE

— Cyberstalking comprises harassing, spying on or stalking through technological devices. Cyberstalking can translate to identity theft, false accusations, threats, etc.

REVENGE PORN

— The publication of sexual content on the Internet accompanied by the victim's personal information; this happens mostly to women. This tends to happen after a relationship breaks down or as a form of revenge for the most part on behalf of the guy who is angry that the girl has broken things off; however, it can also occur between people who do not know each other and who have received the sexual content illegally.

It is very important that we do not consider social networks responsible for these crimes; social networks are another context in which sexual violence flourishes; however, the only party responsible is the person who uses it to commit a crime.

5 Stand up against sexual violence

"What is not seen does not exist" is a sentence that perfectly supports the patriarchal system and allows it to continue to flourish. What the patriarchy wasn't expecting was for women, especially the younger generations, to become so aware of all the types of sexual violence they are subjected to. At times, we've heard guys say: "We're not allowed to do anything - everything is considered to be violence these days!" This sentence encapsulates the dramatic shift we are experiencing: recognising and naming all the forms of sexual violence experienced by women in all aspects of their lives.

Remember:

- * The first step towards addressing sexual violence is acknowledging its existence.
- * The second step is individual and group transformation, especially on behalf of guys and men.

If you are a guy, your stance towards sexual violence should be:

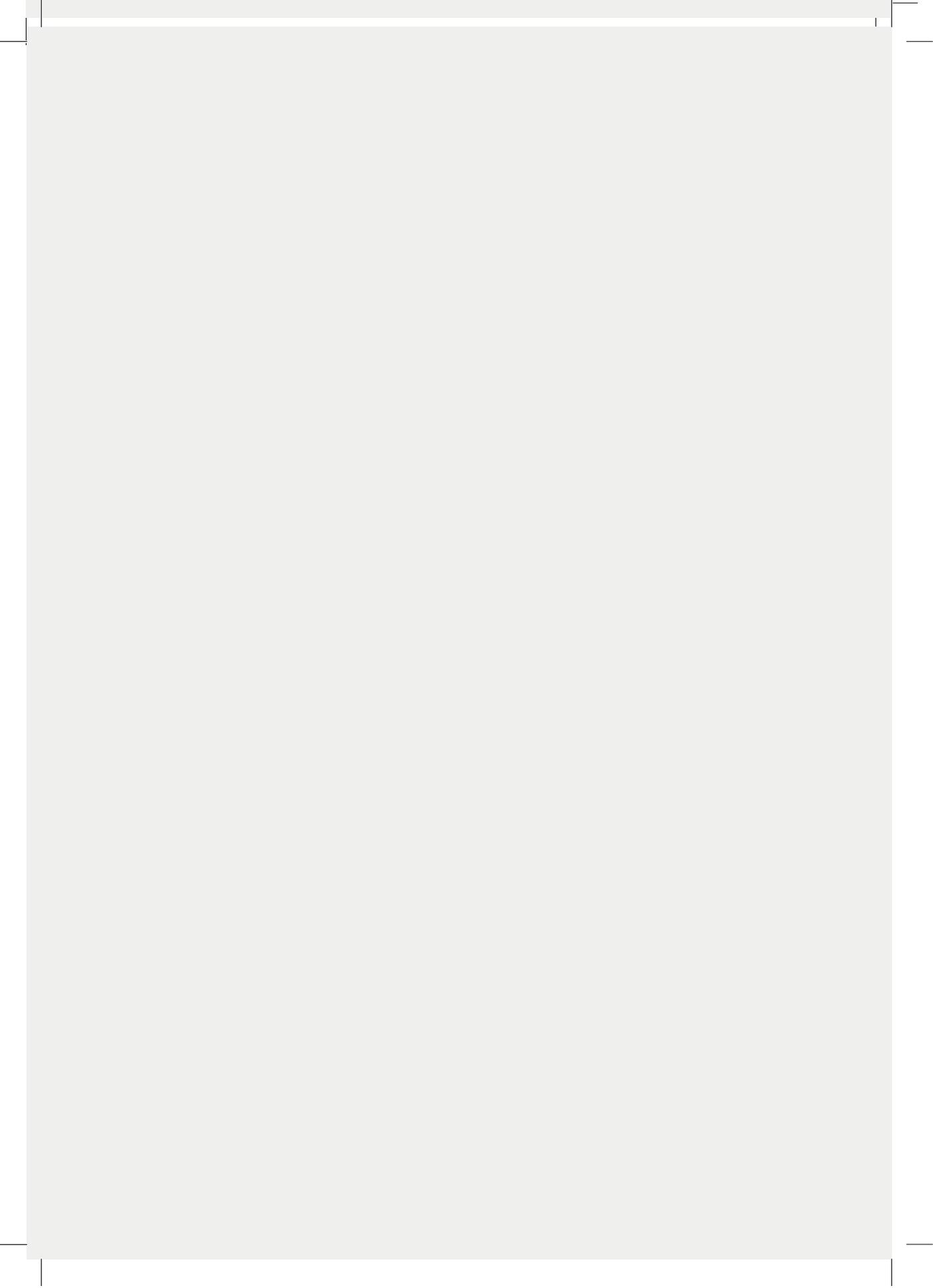


- to not insist, apply pressure, or blackmail a girl to have sexual relations with you or perform any sexual acts.
- to not believe that a woman's silence equates to consent;
- to not share any sexual photographs or videos of a girl without her permission;
- to not rate or classify women solely based on their sex appeal;
- to not approach any girl in the street using the "cat calling" strategy;
- to not be an accomplice to the sexual violence inflicted by other guys; take a stand against it;
- to not press parts of your body against a woman's body;
- alcohol and drugs are never a justification, and you know it.

If you are a girl, your stance towards sexual violence should be:



- to not feel guilty or responsible if you experience any kind of sexual assault;
- to not justify any sexual assault against women;
- to take up public space freely, and without fear;
- to do what you desire in sexual terms.



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Resources for violence against women - Huelva



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Phone number that provides
information to women
+34 900 200 999

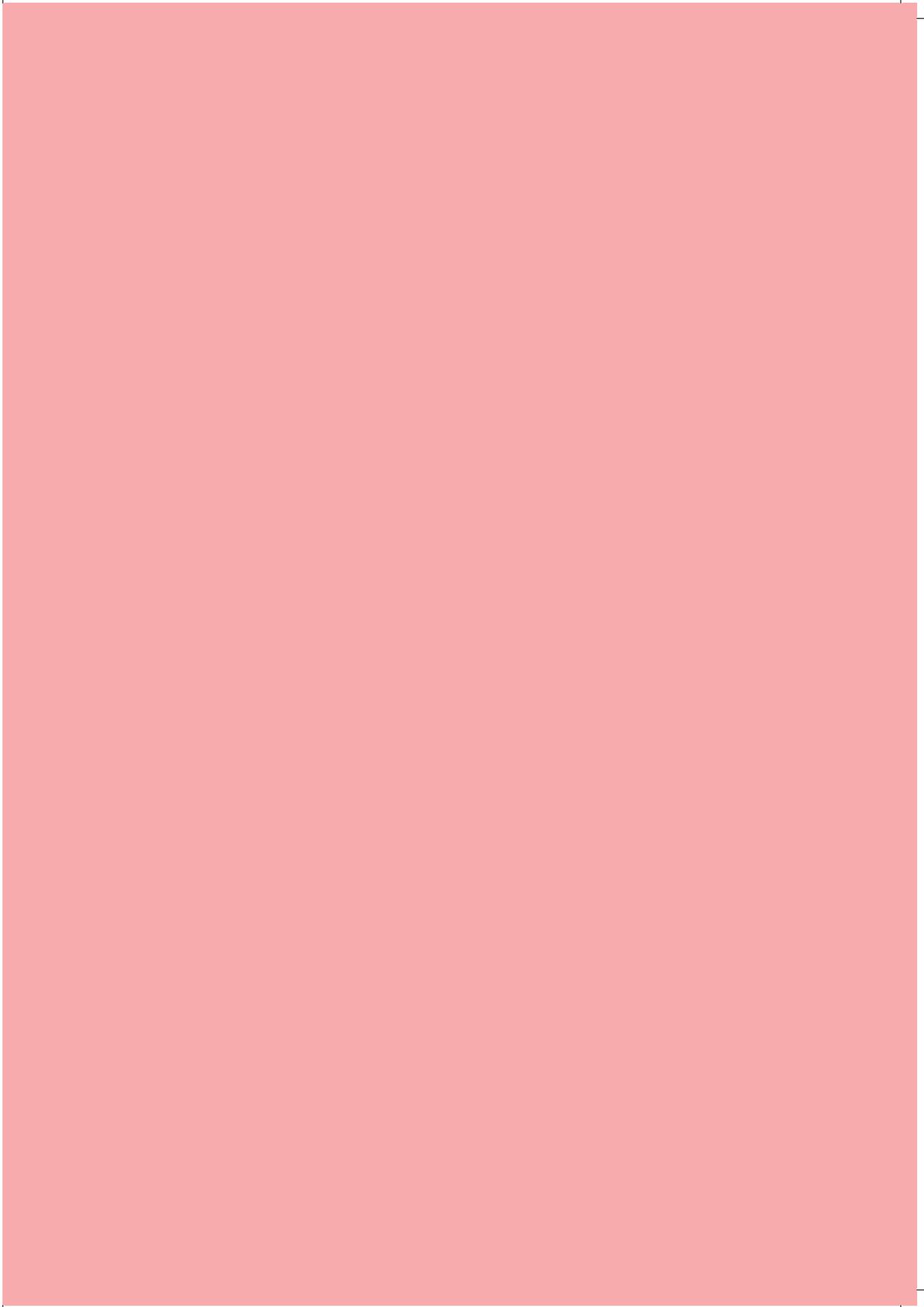
National Guard **062**



Telephone assistance **016**
Gender Violence Victim Assistance

National Police **091**







European Union



“Our Bodies, Your Limits”
Sexual Violence towards Young Women