

Commissione Europea DG Occupazione, Affari Sociali e Inclusione

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## LITERACY COURSE ON RIGHTS for women refugees and asylum seekers



## TOGETHER WE'RE A CROWD! TOGETHER WE'RE STRONG!



## THE MEANING OF THE WORD RIGHT

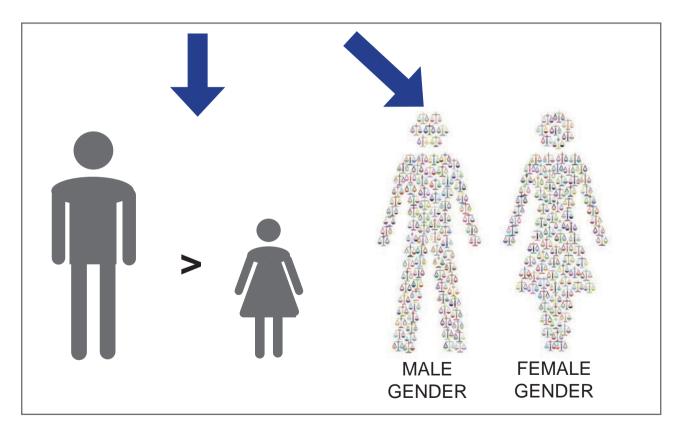
Every person has the RIGHT to:

- be respected (not be treated badly)
- live (not be killed)
- say what they think and choose what they want (have FREEDOM)





## WHAT DOES IT MEAN? GENDER DISCRIMINATION









BEING UNABLE TO GO TO SCHOOL

BEING UNABLETO GO TO UNIVERSITY

HAVING TO DO THE HARDEST JOBS

#### **GENDER DISCRIMINATION**



GENDER DISCRIMINATION BEING UNABLE TO HAVE AN IMPORTANT JOB

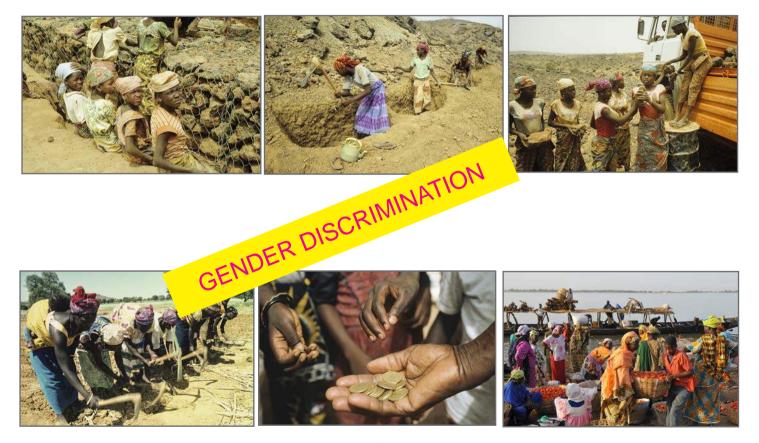


**BEING PAID LESS** 

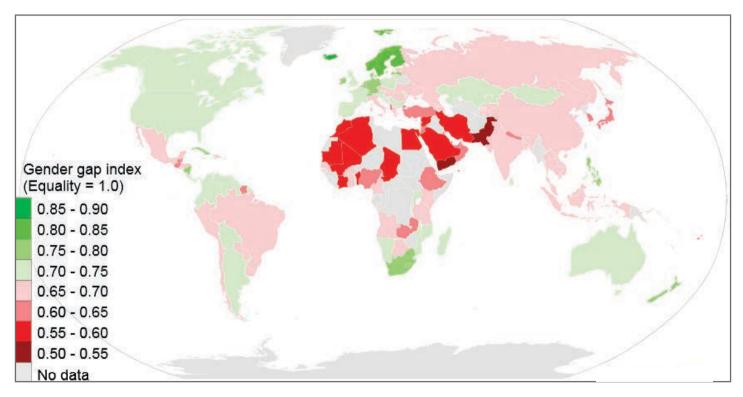


BEING UNABLE TO INHERIT LAND

## Because a woman....



## Gender Equity Index Map The geography of gender discrimination



\* N.B.: gender violence exists even where gender discrimination is prohibited!

## WHAT DOES GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE MEAN?



Violence and control of women by men. The women are not free to decide what to do. If the women rebel, they are punished



HURT YOUNG GIRLS (e.g. Female Genital Mutilation)



INSULT, THREATEN, ABUSE BEAT



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

## **VIOLENZA DI GENERE**

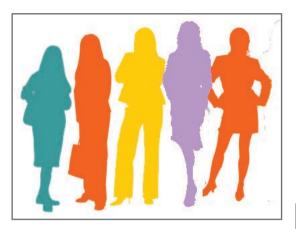


FORCE INTO PROSTITUTION OR TO HAVE SEX (SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND VIOLENCE)



FORCE INTO MARRIAGE, TO HAVE CHILDREN, TO REMAIN AT HOME

# IN ITALY, THE LAW PROTECTS WOMEN FROM DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE:



The women, who have been elected into Parliament, have made laws that respect women

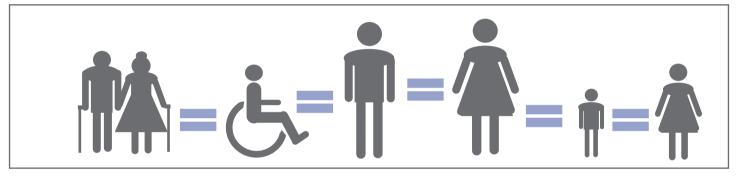
The feminist movement demands respect for all women



## THE ITALIAN CONSTITUTION

### states that:

## All men and women citizens have equal RIGHTS (Art. 3)



If a person risks life or is persecuted in his/her own country, he/she has the right to find shelter in Italy (Art. 10 - right to asylum)





Women who are unable to return to their own country as they have suffered or risk suffering:

- violence
- mutilation
- discrimination
  - exploitation

have the right to asylum in Italy

## **ITALIAN LAW states that:**

No man may control, beat, threaten, rape or exploit a women, young girl or female child



## IN ITALY, WOMEN HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- Study, Work, earn like men, make their own decisions
- Decide within the family
- Divorce and keep their children
- Request a family reunification with children left in their home country
- Terminate a dangerous or unwanted pregnancy
- Be helped for an anonymous childbirth
- Have free legal assistance (if they have no money) to report:
- Sexual violence
- Sexual harassment at work
- Stalking
- Abuse (domestic violence)
- Work exploitation
- Exploitation by prostitution





## ALL WOMEN IN ITALY WHO SUFFER

- violence
- mutilation
- discrimination

have the right to be protected and safeguarded even if they do not have a residence permit



## **IN ITALY**

 the law protects ALL women
ALL YOUNG BOYS AND GIRLS have the right to stay with their mother



NO-ONE may take away a woman's children because she has reported a violent husband



AMBULANCE





POLICE

TEL. 075.8987774 IF YOU ASK FOR HELP AT A WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTRE, YOU WILL FIND MANY WOMEN WHO WILL HELP YOU FREE OF CHARGE WITH KINDNESS AND PROFESSIONALISM even if you don't have any documents

AN EMERGENCY IS FREE FOR EVERYONE even for those WITHOUT documents)





## LET'S STOP GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE TOGETHER

## STOP to

## domestic violence, exploitation, threats





## PROTECT

• Yourself

• Your sons and daughters (gender-based violence hurts them too!)







## **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

#### WHAT IS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE?

Every action taken against your will is violence.

Violence against women is a CRIME. Anyone who abuses or threatens a woman or her children (even your husband, partner, friend, family member or employer) is disobeying Italian law and is, therefore, committing a crime, which must be punished.

#### WHO COMMITS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE?

The person who is violent towards you may not be someone you don't know. Instead, it may be someone close to you. For example: your husband, fiancé or partner, a friend, a friend of your husband, your father, a family member, your employer. If you work as a domestic help, it may also be someone living in or frequenting the house where you work.

#### DIFFERENT TYPES OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

This is the most visible form of violence and is the most dangerous as it is the main cause of death in women between the age of 16 and 44. It includes every form of abuse against you, your body or your possessions. For example: he beats you, kicks you, slaps you, breaks your possessions, tears up photos of your family members, deprives you of medical care, sleep or rest, destroys your residence permit or your passport.

#### **FINANCIAL ABUSE**

This is dangerous as it restricts your freedom. For example: your husband or partner doesn't give you

any money, doesn't want you to work, takes the money you earn, takes your possessions, does not share the management of family expenses with you, tells you that you cannot survive without his wage, blackmails you by saying you cannot renew your residence permit without his money.

#### SEXUAL ABUSE

This is often used as a way to dominate a relationship, to affirm control over the woman and her body. It can occur inside or outside the home. You suffer it every time you are forced into a sexual act against your will. For example: someone, including your husband, forces you to have sexual relationships, even though you don't want to, forces you to look at pornographic material or to have sexual relationships with other people.

#### **PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE**

This form of violence is difficult to recognise. It often accompanies other types of violence. For example: he offends you, says nasty words to you, makes you feel stupid, threatens to hurt you or your children, follows you, won't allow you to go out, won't allow you to speak to your family or friends, tells you that without him you are nobody or without him you would have to leave Italy.

#### THE CONSEQUENCES OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Every type of violence can have numerous physical and psychological consequences for you and your children.

Physical and material: e.g. permanent scars, loss of hearing and sight, job loss, loss of your home or your belongings.

Psychological: e.g. anxiety, insomnia, depression, drug, alcohol or psychotropic drug addiction, loss of self-esteem, isolation, fear of other people, inability to establish new relationships or to have friends.

## WHAT GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IS NOT

It is never your fault. There is nothing to be ashamed of. It is not something that happens only to immigrant women. It is not caused by women. It is not a problem that can be solved at home. It is not something to hide. It is not acceptable.

## HOW TO RECOGNISE VIOLENCE

Violence can appear gradually. It is important to recognise it before the situation becomes too dangerous. Sometimes it begins with arguments, which become increasingly more frequent. After the initial violent episodes, he may tell you it will never happen again. However, you must not believe him every time. There are certain signs that will tell you he could be violent towards you. For example: you feel you're in danger, he possesses firearms, or he's violent outside the home.

#### **ASK FOR HELP**

If you are a victim of violence, you must ask for help.

You must not think you are alone or that there is no solution to your problem. You must not feel ashamed or think it's your fault. You are not the only one in this situation and there is a way to get out of it. Pluck up the courage to talk to someone. There are competent people who can help you! Talking to someone

is the first stop towards stopping the violence!

#### **RESIDENCE PERMIT**

If your residence permit has been granted for family reasons, and is, therefore, linked to your husband's, you don't have to put up with his violence. The Crisis Centres can tell you how to obtain an individual Residence permit.

## **REMEMBER THAT...**

All the services offered by the Crisis Centres are free of charge.

"Free Advocacy" is there if you need a lawyer and don't have the money to pay for one, so you can get legal assistance. Contact a Crisis Centre to find out how to do it. The services can ensure your husband is removed from the home. Or they can find a safe house for you and your children.

The first thing to do when you suffer violence is also the most difficult: you have to recognise the violence and understand you are a victim. It is important you don't ignore the seriousness of your situation. You must understand that what is happening to you is not "normal" and you must defend yourself and possibly your children too, and to do this you need to ask for help.

#### **THE CRISIS CENTRES**

Every town has places where you can go to ask for help. These places are the Crisis Centres you can contact for information and legal or psychological assistance. The women working at the Centre will know how to listen to you and give you good advice. They won't leave you alone and it will all be totally confidential. If you are in danger, the Crisis Centre can accommodate you and your children.

#### CALL 1522

If you have suffered violence, even in the past, and have decided to ask for help, call the telephone number 1522. This service is free and available 24/7. Expert, experienced women operators, who speak numerous languages (Italian, English, French, Spanish and Russian) will answer you. You can also call to get information, legal or psychological assistance, or to find out which is your nearest Crisis Centre.

#### IF YOU ARE A MOTHER...

Even though children in a violent household are not direct victims of abuse, they suffer serious traumas and can have problems. If your child is doing badly at school, finds it difficult to concentrate, has eating disorders, is aggressive towards friends, is afraid, cannot sleep, has nightmares, has started to wet the bed again, is agitated, violent or angry with you, if violence is normal for him/her, then he/she may need help.

## VOCABULARY

#### **GENDER DIFFERENCE**

The theory of gender difference began with "studies of women" and referred to two assumptions: the definitions of femininity and masculinity correspond to two complex, social constructions - of the male and female gender - which have developed the biological abilities of the two sexes differently over time and space, and used them to identify a social hierarchy between men and women, historically to the detriment of the latter. Over time, men and women have developed different cultural traits and social competencies which, once freed from the mark of female social inferiority, can help a process of sexualisation of society, which would be a cultural and moral benefit.

#### **GENDER DISCRIMINATION**

The term refers to the main forms of discrimination, which range from the exclusion of women from the main development programmes and wage inequality, to psychological and sexual abuse. The most common form can be summed up as an unequal distribution of resources, whether it is food, money, education, employment, information or training.

#### DIVERSITY

To be different, that is to say to be unequal and separate. If used as a synonym of difference, it is perhaps worth noting how the term diversity has a negative connotation in its etymology: from the Latin diversus, past participle of the verb divertere (to deviate). Someone who is diverse, basically deviates from the model, from the generally accepted norm. A negative connotation which has withstood time and the in fact the diverse person par excellence today is the foreigner, the person against whom the community, the group must defend itself to maintain its identity and, in the most extreme definition,

its very survival. What people don't take into account, especially when they recall how natural it is to exclude the diverse person in order to survive, is that in nature itself, the more complex the organisms, the more unity and diversity do not exclude one another. On the contrary, they come together and man, perhaps the most complex of all living beings, is biologically identified by a principle of unity/diversity.

#### **EMPOWERMENT**

A process which enables the acquisition of powers and responsibilities, access to resources and the development of individual skills to actively take part in the financial, social and political world.

#### **HETEROSEXUAL**

A person who feels emotionally and sexually attracted to people of the opposite sex.

#### GAY

A person who feels emotionally and sexually attracted to people of the same sex. This term is used mainly to describe homosexual men.

#### **GENDER**

Gender is a term which refers to a system of roles and relationships between men and women, which forms via a process in which males and females enter the social categories of men and women, categories determined by the economic, social and historic, political and cultural context.

#### **GENDER ANALYSIS**

This consists of a systematic examination of roles, relationships and processes, which focuses on the inequality between men and women in power, income and employment in all societies. Gender analysis is essential in order to guide actions and interventions towards a gender perspective.

#### **GENDER BLINDNESS**

This is understood as a lack of understanding or failure to acknowledge a gender dimension. People who fail to recognise gender as a vital key to the choices available for men and women.

#### **GENDER IMPACT**

The assessment of gender impact involves examining the different effects for men and women of political projects. It suggests adapting those projects, so as to neutralise any discriminatory effects and encourage those of gender equality.

#### **GENDER NEUTRAL**

This is when there are no differences with either a positive or negative impact on gender relationships and equality between men and women.

#### **LESBIAN**

A woman who is attracted physically and emotionally to another woman.

#### LANGUAGE

Language is not neutral. On the contrary, a single subject is given a supposedly universally neutral voice, but which in reality is masculine. The habit of expressing concepts using the masculine plural form leads to verifications and analyses without discerning the differences between men and women.

#### **MULTICULTURALISM**

The co-existence of numerous cultures, understood as freedom of choice and different cultural ideas within a single society. In short, as Z. Bauman argues, it means separating citizens' cultural origins and assuming that cultural diversity is not an obstacle to participating in public life. Some suggest eliminating this term, as they believe it hides the idea of coexistence without any exchange between diversities, a separation which bars reciprocal crossovers and contaminations, and which ultimately evokes an image of contiguous and relatively closed cultural worlds.

#### HOMOSEXUAL

A person who feels emotionally and sexually attracted to people of the same sex.

#### **SEXUAL ORIENTATION**

Sexual, emotional and sentimental attraction to members of the opposite sex, the same sex or both. It can be homosexual, bisexual or heterosexual.

#### **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

This is understood as equal opportunity among individuals or groups of people. It can also refer to the absence of any obstacle to economic, political and social participation on grounds of gender.

#### **GENDER ROLE**

The overall expectations and roles of how men and women have to behave in a given culture and in a given period.

#### **BIOLOGICAL SEX**

This means biologically belonging to the male or female sex, as determined by the sexual chromosomes.

#### **SEXIST STEREOTYPES**

Prejudices and mental and social meanings of patriarchal societies, which judge and despise the female sex. These are negative gender stereotypes used against women and young girls.

#### **GENDER STEREOTYPES**

These can be positive or negative stereotypes against men and women. More often than not the male predominates over the female and men's positive characteristics outweigh those of women and are compared as though they are in a mirror. Women's characteristics are usually thought to be negative when compared to those of the opposite sex.

#### **STUDIES ON WOMEN/GENDER**

An academic, usually cross-disciplinary approach to the analysis of women's situations and gender relationships and also of the gender specificity of the different disciplines.

#### **TRANS-SEXUAL**

A person whose anatomical sex does not match their gender identity, They may or may not have undergone surgery to change sex.

#### SEXUAL ASSAULT

Any form of violence arising from the use or threat of physical or emotional coercion, including rape, abuse of husband or wife and extramarital abuse, sexual harassment, incest and paedophilia.

#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Any form of physical, sexual or psychological violence, which places the safety or wellbeing of a family member in danger and/or the use of physical or emotional abuse or the threat of physical violence, including sexual violence, within the family or family unit. This definition includes the abuse of children, incest, marital violence towards women, sexual violence or other forms of abuse of any member of the family unit.

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