

# Experiences of Women Victims of Violence

## Experiências de Mulheres Vítimas de Violências

### Experiencias de Mujeres Víctimas de Violencia

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# REVISA

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#### RESUMO

**Objetivo:** descrever a vivência e a experiência frente às agressões do parceiro contra a mulher em rodas de conversa na Instituição Matriusca. E os objetivos específicos foram: analisar o olhar da mulher para o motivo das agressões, discriminar os tipos de agressões sofridas pela mulher violentada, desvelar o motivo pelo qual a mulher não denunciou o parceiro. **Método:** abordagem qualitativa e método descritivo conforme os princípios de Minayo. A coleta de dados deu-se mediante entrevista realizada em rodas de conversa online promovidas pela Instituição Matriusca. **Resultados:** Foram entrevistadas 10 mulheres com idade entre 18 e 42 anos, que responderam questões referentes às violências sofridas e suas experiências. Os resultados obtidos foram divididos em 08 categorias que abordam questões sobre as violências sofridas pelas mulheres. **Conclusão:** Nas entrevistas realizadas pode-se concluir que as violências físicas e psicológicas predominam no ranking de violências, que as mulheres estão sujeitas a sofrerem e que há uma dependência tanto emocional quanto financeira das vítimas em relação ao agressor e que, após sofrerem determinadas violências parte das vítimas procuram justificar as atitudes do agressor, se sentem culpadas, mesmo que a agressão seja presenciada por terceiros, raramente acontece a denúncia. Por meio deste estudo a Enfermagem pode entender e estudar um pouco mais sobre as vítimas de violência, desde o tipo de violência que sofrem até suas necessidades ao chegarem para atendimento.

**Descritores:** Violência contra a mulher; Assistência de Enfermagem; Violência doméstica.

#### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** to describe the experience and experience in the face of partner aggression against a woman in conversation circles at the Matriusca Institution. And the specific objectives were analysis of the woman's view of the reason for the aggressions, to discriminate the types of aggressions suffered by the violent woman, to reveal the reason why the woman does not denounce her partner. **Method:** qualitative approach and descriptive method according to Minayo's principles. Data collection took place through interviews carried out in online conversation circles promoted by the Matriusca Institution. **Results:** 10 women aged between 18 and 42 years were interviewed, who asked about the violence suffered and their experiences. The results obtained were divided into 08 categories that address issues about violence suffered by women. **Conclusion:** The necessary changes can be fulfilled that physical and psychological violence predominate in the ranking of violence, that women can suffer and that there is both an emotional and financial dependence of the victims on the aggressor and that, after suffering certain types of violence, part of the killed victims justify as the aggressor's attitudes, they feel guilty, even if the aggression is witnessed by third parties, a common complaint. Through this study, nursing can understand and study a little more about victims of violence, from the type of violence it provides to its need when they get to care.

**Descriptors:** Violence against women; Nursing care; Domestic violence.

#### RESUMEN

**Objetivo:** describir la vivencia y vivencia ante la agresión de la pareja contra una mujer en los círculos de conversación de la Institución Matriusca. Y los objetivos específicos fueron: analizar la visión de la mujer sobre el motivo de las agresiones, discriminar los tipos de agresiones sufridas por la mujer violenta, revelar el motivo por el cual la mujer no denuncia a su pareja. **Método:** enfoque cualitativo y método descriptivo según los principios de Minayo. La recolección de datos se realizó a través de entrevistas realizadas en círculos de conversación online promovidos por la Institución Matriusca. **Resultados:** Se entrevistó a 10 mujeres de entre 18 y 42 años, quienes preguntaron sobre la violencia sufrida y sus vivencias. Los resultados obtenidos se dividieron en 08 categorías que abordan temas sobre la violencia sufrida por las mujeres. **Conclusión:** Se pueden cumplir los cambios necesarios que la violencia física y psicológica predomine en el ranking de violencia, que las mujeres puedan sufrir y que exista una dependencia tanto emocional como económica de las víctimas del agresor y que, luego de sufrir ciertos tipos de violencia, Parte de las víctimas muertas justifican como actitudes del agresor, se sienten culpables, aunque la agresión sea presenciada por terceros, denuncia común. A través de este estudio, la enfermería podrá comprender y estudiar un poco más sobre las víctimas de violencia, desde el tipo de violencia que brinda hasta su necesidad a la hora de recibir atención.

**Descritores:** La violencia contra las mujeres; Cuidado do enfermera; La violencia doméstica.

ORIGINAL

## Introduction

Violence against women is any action or conduct based on gender that causes death, harm or physical, sexual or psychological suffering to women, both in the public and private spheres. Violence against women is characterized as a public health problem in the public interest, but most often it is a private phenomenon in women's lives, where many do not see as violence the attitudes taken by third parties.<sup>1</sup>

The idea of submission that women suffer before men is one of the reasons why violence occurs. The victim of these violences for having various traumas and diseases such as: anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress and suicide. The most visible and best known when compared to other types of violence is physical violence in which it consists of any and all acts that aims to repress women through physical force, and punches and beatings can occur, and sexual violence that is the one in which acts or attempts at sexual intercourse occur without the consent of the woman.<sup>2</sup>

Law 11.340 also known as Maria da Penha Law is a law created to combat violence against women, this law was created by Maria da Penha Maia Fernandes in 1983 after being shot with a shotgun and almost being electrocuted while bathing. The Maria da Penha Law was approved only in 2006.<sup>3</sup>

Currently the Secretariat of Policies for Women, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Justice are together in the development of actions that enable strategies to prevent, welcome, care and protect people in situations of violence. These three bodies also seek to create strategies that ensure accountability and the fight against impunity of aggressors that are implemented in federation units.<sup>4</sup>

In view of the above this study proposes the following research question: How has the woman experienced and experienced the partner's violence against her? Who has witnessed the assaults and what kind of help has the woman sought as support?

The general objective of this study was to describe the experience and experience of the partner's aggressions against women in conversation wheels at the MATRIUSCA Institution. And the specific objectives were: to analyze the woman's gaze to the reason for the aggressions; discriminate the types of aggression suffered by the raped woman; the reasons why the woman does not denounce her partner.

This study becomes important, because it can equip professionals not only in the nursing area, but so many others who provide care to women victims of violence. It is known that in cases of violence the victim feels vulnerable to any type of event so it is necessary that he has an integrated team to perform active listening to/with this patient and most importantly, it is necessary to have a humanized welcome so that bonds of trust between the woman and the professional are created.

## Method

This research was based on the principles of Maria Cecília de Souza Minayo, using the qualitative approach and descriptive method.

The data collected in the research started from the authorization of the Research Ethics Committee (CEP) issued in the opinion embodied in CEP no. 4,937,326. All ethical principles were met for the interview, thus preserving the reliability, confidentiality and confidentiality of the data, and also the replacement of the names of the interviewees with fictitious names randomly as a way to guarantee the anonymity of the participants.

The research was conducted in a group of conversations that meets periodically, with women victims of violence. This group is coordinated by the MATRIUSCA Institute, located in Brasília/DF.

As already described, for the interview was made contact with the participants through the Zoom Meetings application and the invitation to participate in the research. After accepting the invitation; the interviewees received the Informed Consent in two ways via Google Forms to be authorized by them.

The participants of the research met the following inclusion criteria: Being 18 years of age or older, having access to the Zoom Meetings application, being willing to participate in the research, feeling comfortable answering the proposed questions, enjoying full mental health, that is, women who have full conditions and cognitive abilities, who are oriented in time and space.

The interview took place through the Zoom Meetings application in which the entire meeting was recorded and the data obtained could be trusted.

## Results and Discussion

The results for this research were obtained through interviews with 10 women who received fictitious names, randomly chosen by the interviewees in order to preserve anonymity as described below.

**Table 1.** Profile of study participants. Federal District, 2021.

Identification	Age	Profession	Education Level	Marital Status
Aurora	21	Personnel Department Analyst	Complete Higher Education	Single
Regina	42	General Services Assistant	Complete High School	Single
Ariane	33	Home Secretary	Complete High School	Stable Union
Lorena	22	Administrative Assistant	Complete High School	Single
Joana	22	Unattended	Complete High School	Stable Union
Valéria	41	Saleslady	Complete High School	Stable Union

Fernanda	34	House woman	Complete Fundamental School	Stable Union
Tamara	25	Student	Incomplete Higher Education	Single
Natália	30	Merchant	Complete High School	Single
Luisa	18	Administrative Assistant	Complete High School	Single

In the process of analyzing the collected data, 08 categories were separated and described below:

### **Type of aggression suffered**

In this category, the interviewees clearly reported which types of aggression suffered, in which there was a prevalence between physical and verbal aggression in most reports.

Verbal and Physical (AURORA)

Physical and Psychological (REGINA)

Physical, psychological and sexual (ARIANE)

Physical, psychological and patrimonial. (LORRAINE)

All. Physical, psychological, verbal, sexual, moral and patrimonial (JOANA)

Physical and Psychological (VALERIA)

Physical, verbal, psychological, sexual and moral (FERNANDA)

Physical and Psychological (KAREN)

Physical, psychological, sexual (NATALIA)

Physical, psychological (LUISA)

It can be noted that in all the interviews the participants suffered some kind of violence. Violence in its most frequent meaning means the use of physical, psychological or intellectual force to compel another person to do something that is not willing; it is to embarrass, it is to take away freedom, it is to disturb, it is to prevent the other person from manifesting his desire and his will, under penalty of living gravely threatened or even in his domain, is a violation of the essential rights of the human being. In this way it can be understood as a way of restricting the freedom of a person or a group of people, repressing and offending them physically or morally.<sup>2</sup>

Physical violence is understood as any conduct that will offend

the integrity or body health of women. Beatings, throwing objects, shaking and squeezing arms, strangling or causing suffocation, torturing, wounding or burning with firearms, causing injuries with sharp or piercing objects, are characteristic of this violence.<sup>3</sup>

Psychological violence is defined as any action or omission that causes or aims to cause harm to the person's self-esteem, identity or development. This type of violence includes: threats, humiliations, criticism for sexual performance, not letting the person leave the house, causing the isolation of friends and family, or preventing them from using their own money. Among the modalities of violence, it is the most difficult to identify. It can lead the person to feel devalued, suffer from anxiety and get sick with ease, situations that drag on for a long time and get aggravated, can lead the person to cause suicide.<sup>5</sup>

Moral violence is considered as any conduct that constitutes slander, defamation or injury. Accuse the woman of treason, issue moral judgments about the conduct, make lying criticisms, expose the intimate life, demean the woman through name-calling that affect sorcery that affects her nature and devalue the victim for his way of dressing are conducts.<sup>3</sup>

Sexual violence is understood as any conduct that constrained the victim to witness, maintain or participate in unwanted sexual intercourse, through intimidation, threat, coercion or use of force; which induces it to market or use, in any event, its sexuality, to prevent it from using any contraceptive method or to force it into marriage, pregnancy, abortion or prostitution, through coercion, blackmail, bribery or manipulation; or that limits or nullifies the exercise of your sexual and reproductive rights.<sup>6</sup>

Attitudes such as controlling money, failing to pay child support, destroying personal documents, theft, extortion or damage, swindle, deprivation of assets, values or economic resources and causing purposeful damage to women's or her likes are part of the classification of property violence.<sup>3</sup>

The term domestic violence has been used to refer to all forms of violence practiced in the family environment, however, violence against women, perpetrated by their partner, is one of the most common types.<sup>7</sup>

Violence against women is a global problem and is a case of public health. This type of problem causes in raped women a number of physical and emotional symptoms, such as: anxiety, fear, feeling of inferiority, insecurity, low self-esteem and great psychic suffering, which requires differentiated treatment with analysts.<sup>7</sup>

### **Forms of aggression suffered**

In this category, the interviewees report on the forms of aggression suffered, such as slaps, kicks, bites and others:

Yes. The first assault I was slapped in the face. (AURORA)

Yes, when he assaulted me they had slaps, kicks, punches... everything that's very typical in a physical assault. Apart from the names he cursed at me (REGINA)

Yes. In the last fight we had he arrived very drunk and drugged around 3:00 a.m. at our house and when I asked him to go take a shower to bed and go to sleep he revolted with me, almost killed me. He hit me with everything that was nice, pulled my hair, bit me and hit me in places that's hard to see, just see if the person sees me naked. Despite being very drunk and drugged he was with a surreal force and forced me to have sex with him (ARIANE)

Yes. All the aggressions always had these attitudes of pulling my hair, pinching me, throwing punches and even in one of the aggressions he kicked me and as I was pregnant I hit my belly on the corner of the table before falling to the floor, then I had to rush to the hospital because I was feeling a lot of pain only of course, I went alone because if I went with him everyone would know that he assaulted me because I would not be able to hold the crying and the doctors would want to know what happened, my parents too (LORENA)

Yes, as I said before he always makes me intimidated and I live in fear of him, he always hits me in places that it is clear to see that I got hit and when he gets very hurt I stay indoors, because I'm ashamed to go out on the street like that (JOANA)

Yes, I've suffered physical aggression from him. The last few times I've been taking a few hair pulls [...] (VALERIA)

All aggression is the same thing, punch, punch, slap, kick... everything always, even break my jaw (FERNANDA)

In the first aggression I took a push followed by a slap in the back, then the next were more serious, punches, punches, kicks ... (KAREN)

He's always been very jealous. At the first assault we were together in a bar and he assaulted me in the car when we were leaving because the waiter asked for my phone number (NATALIA)

When I found out I was pregnant I went to tell him, i expected a better reaction... I was beaten with punches to the face, hair pulls and kicks in the belly. (LUISA)

If it is wrong to believe that the phenomenon of violence is represented only by the aggressive use of the force of a particular person or group against another person or group, the concept of violence also goes beyond the physical force misused, to the possibility or threat of using it against another person. This implies the concept of coercion, which occurs when the aggressor uses any procedures to compel and seek to force the other person to perform a certain situation against the will of this person.<sup>8</sup>

Historically, women have taken on a role of submission and the man of domination, which can often generate a dangerous relationship, going from verbal aggression, to physical, and can reach homicide.<sup>9</sup>

### **Initiation of aggressions**

In this category, the interviewees reported the beginning of the aggressions and from what is in the reports, all aggressions began after a certain time of coexistence, especially for those who had a

longer time of coexistence, as follows:

On the first separation. (AURORA)

A year ago. But it was only once. (REGINA)

I can't remember exactly when they started. (ARIANE)

The assaults started around 1 year after our relationship, we started dating in 2018 and when we completed 1 year of dating they started. (LORRAINE)

Two years ago, right after I found out I was pregnant. (JOANA)

They started around four months ago. These last few months he's been assaulting me a lot, the assaults when they're not physical are verbal. (VALERIA)

They started about four years ago. (FERNANDA)

Five years ago we've been together, and the assaults started four years and eight months ago. (KAREN)

When we've been dating for five months. (NATALIA)

Right after I found out I was pregnant, around 6 months ago. (LUISA)

According to a survey conducted by FIBGE (Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics Foundation), in 1989, it was found that 63% of the victims of domestic violence were women, 43.6% aged between 18 and 29 years. In these cases, 70% of the aggressors were the companions themselves.<sup>6</sup>

The majority of those responsible for violence against women in Brazil according to the 2015 Map of Violence are men with whom victims at some point had affective relations. And in general, most victims are between the ages of 18 and 30, an age group where most of the aggressors are also included. The fact that there is a relationship of violence against women and the affection between aggressor and victim may be related to the feeling of culturally strange possession in society as a historical heritage, because since long the woman has been subjugated to her husband, including in the jurisdiction. The feeling of ownership is sustained by the culture that influences the media in order to romanticize such possession.<sup>8</sup>

### **Witnesses to the assaults**

In this category, the interviewees reported that the aggressions were not reserved, away from people, but that family, friends and acquaintances witnessed everything.

Friends. (AURORA)

Yes, my daughter who was 17 at the time. (REGINA)

We live the three of us, me and our son and whenever there is physical aggression our son witnesses. (JOANA)

We live only the two of us, but verbal assaults are constant even in front of neighbors, friends, my family. (VALERIA)

Yes. We have 8 children and every time he curses me or beats the boys always witness. He also tried to hit me the time my mom came to visit me. (FERNANDA)

Yes. Our 3-year-old son. (KAREN)

Yes, my grandparents. (NATALIA)

My little sister. (LUISA)

Many raped women are mothers and their children are exposed to situations of violence, witnessing the aggressions or even being victims jointly the mother.<sup>9</sup>

Domestic violence presents points of overlap with the family, and may also reach people who, not belonging to the family, live, partially or in full, in the aggressor's home, as is the case of households and domestic workers.<sup>10</sup>

### **Support network**

In this category, the interviewees report how they reached the support group, most of them were on social network through the indication of friends.

Through friends who indicated to me see the post on Instagram. (Aurora)

Through the post on Instagram. (REGINA)

Through the ad I saw on Instagram. (ARIANE)

Through friends. (LORRAINE)

Through the post on Instagram. (JOANA)

Through Instagram. (VALERIA)

My oldest daughter who encouraged me. (FERNANDA)

Through the post on Instagram. (KAREN)

Through a follower who posted on Instagram. (NATALIA)

Through the post on Instagram. (LUISA)

Social network is defined as the web of relationships involving subjects, whether people, institutions or social movements, considered actors.<sup>11</sup>

Social networks are not only characterized by the function of social support or support, they can be assumed as support networks, but also as destructive or innocuous networks, depending on their nature and composition.<sup>12</sup>

### **About the reasons for the assaults**



In this category, the interviewees reported on the times when they seek reasons to justify such aggressions; if they feel guilty; jealousy, nature of the individual and even deprive themselves to avoid beatings, as follows:

Yes. When there was the first assault I thought that such an attitude was motivated by us fighting that night and I went out to a party without his permission and also because he didn't like that I went out alone (AURORA)

No, when he had the first and only physical aggression I did not know and did not want to know why he assaulted me because I never did anything for him to commit such an attitude with me (REGINA)

We're always looking for motive. Sometimes we think it's an exaggeration of us wanting to take care of the person, sometimes we think it's because of a beer he took at the bar, sometimes we blame ourselves for wearing an outfit and he doesn't like it. My husband is very jealous so I avoid to the maximum wear clothes with neckline, because Always I catch if I at least look at the side (ARIANE)

I was looking for it, sometimes I avoided saying something because as always, the aggressor puts the woman on the wall as if she was to blame for things and I as another victim thought I was guilty, that I was picking up too much in the foot and that the pregnancy was influencing my change of mood and that so our fights happened and consequently the aggressions (LORENA)

At first I was looking for reasons for this to happen because it was not common for this to happen, but then it became frequent and I stopped looking for reasons because I don't think it justifies the assaults. I never insulted him or anything for this to happen (JOANA)

[...] I believe that most of the assaults I have suffered and have been suffering are motivated by alcohol. There is no other explanation [...]  
(VALERIA)

When there's an assault, All I can think about is, "why does he hit me?"  
(FERNANDA)

In the first assault I tried to look for reasons to justify why he beat me because we were at a party of a friend of his and just because I went dancing with the boy he assaulted me in front of everyone who was there, so I thought it was out of jealousy, but the other times I did nothing to justify him hitting me, sometimes even the way I talked to him was already reason for him to come after me assaultme (KAREN)

So I always thought that the jealousy he had of me were the reasons for the fights and the assaults, but I saw after a while that this was his way  
(NATALIA)

At first I believed that he was always stressed out by staying days trying not to use drugs, but then even he using it was aggressive.  
(LUISA)

Probably, men who practice violence against their partners have a previous history of experiencing or even suffering some kind of violence on the part of their parents, which can interfere in their idealization as a man. These

events tend to lead them to reproduce such acts in society and, especially in the family.<sup>13</sup>

Some characteristics draw this complex scenario: habituality: 20% of the female victims suffer violence daily; oppression: 20% of the victims remain in the situation for fear of revenge of the aggressor; intense load of violence: of every 10 women murdered in Brazil, 7 women were killed by people with whom they had an affective bond.<sup>14</sup>

Jealousy considered "normal" is one that occurs in a real situation of competition and the "pathological" and/or "sick" that occurs in an imaginary situation. Yet "pathological jealousy" is one that involves the delirium of a betrayal.<sup>15</sup>

Jealous emotional behavior as possession is an element that does not consist of all situations of jealous emotional behavior, since there is the possibility of a person presenting such behavior, even if that person does not have a form relationship with the other. Nevertheless, it is possible to understand the association between jealous emotional behavior and possession, especially if we take into account the gender relations experienced over the years as asymmetric relationships of power between men and women, in which women are often in a situation of subordination.<sup>16</sup>

Jealousy and betrayal are topics of great importance for studies on domestic and marital violence, as has been demonstrated in different studies.<sup>17</sup>

### **The victim's lack of freedom**

In this category, the interviewees report in detail about the deprivation they suffered/suffered from the aggressor, such as: access to contact with friends, family, about sick jealousy and also about deprivation of work.

Yes (AURORA)

[...] he was always very jealous and saw things where he did not have, if I talked to a friend he already said we were talking about "male", if I went out in an outfit he said "will already show up for the male?" then it was always very complicated that part of him being jealous (REGINA)

When he assaults me he doesn't let me have contact with anyone, the last time he assaulted me he took my phone and then returned me with all my contacts erased. I don't even have my mother's number, my father's number and the rest of my family (ARIANE) anymore.

I cannot talk to anyone when I'm with him, I cannot take photo and I cannot express myself (JOANA)

I can't understand why I'm forced to stay indoors and get beat up by a guy who doesn't want me, who doesn't like me, and who's even told me he's with someone else. I can not go out with my friends, if someone from my family comes to my house I can not be talking alone and the worst, forbids me even to keep messing with the phone (VALERIA)

I'm not a woman going out to parties and ballads because before we lived together, he always forbade, even wearing short clothes and I always saw that attitude as a way to protect myself. But gradually I got

away from everyone I had as friends in the old day, even my family... Nobody cares about me. (FERNANDA)

I don't have any friends these days, even with my mom I talk a few times and I can only go to her house when he goes along. (KAREN)

After we started dating, I started acting in a way that didn't act, I totally changed my personality. I was always a person who went out to parties, ballads, had friends and after I started to relate I deprived myself of many things, stopped leaving, even almost left my job, all because of his sick jealousy (NATALIA)

He didn't like me to bring my sister or anyone else from my family here home, not even talking to his friends when he wasn't home, he was always very controlling, wouldn't let me wear short clothes with cleavage (LUISA)

Feminist theory focuses on the issue of male domination over women. Men represent a social category that holds a "project of domination-exploitation" of women, that is, historically women were the object of exploitation by the opposite sex as a result.<sup>18</sup>

The aggressor, before "being able to physically injure his companion, needs to lower his self-esteem in such a way that he tolerates aggression."<sup>19</sup>

When focusing on the violence that occurs within the family, considered "a nest of affection", people feel ashamed to admit, even to friends, that a member of their family is an aggressor. Thus, whatever the mode of violence, usually forms around it a conspiracy of silence, no one talks about it. It is therefore almost unbelievable to think that within her home the woman is at the mercy of an aggressive companion, this contradicts what might be expected, since this space is seen as sacred.<sup>20</sup>

### **About reporting your partner**

In this category, a minority of the interviewees report on the complaints made and then withdrawn, talk about the fear of denouncing the aggressor due to the threats suffered.

Yes. When he assaulted me I went to the police station and registered the bulletin, I also had protective measures against him, but with a few days we returned to dating and I removed the measure, soon after a while verbal aggressions became more frequent and that's when I decided to end my relationship with him. Currently I have no protective measure, we have no contact (AURORA)

Yes, however, what happens, we have a 6-year-old son who is crazy in this father of his and that for my son I am capable of anything, even to forgive and move on with my life, but of course without maintaining husband and wife relationships. [...] the last time we spoke he threatened me and I filed a police report against him and I'm going to my 6th protective measure (REGINA)

No, because I'm afraid he'll kill me later because we know that justice is a failure in this world we live in. Even a few days ago my mother-in-law and sister-in-law came to lunch at our house and my mother-in-law realized that I was not so happy, then my mother-in-law asked if

everything was okay and I answered yes, but my desire was to tell you what happened. When I said everything was fine she asked "did my son hit you?" and I bowed my head and shut up, then she said "no use shutting up, I know he hit you I know the son I have, and when younger he killed his first wife because he was always jealous and put something in his head". Only I didn't know it because he doesn't talk much about his past and I'm afraid to report it [...]. (ARIANE)

No, and in my opinion it's no use denouncing whether he's going to keep making my life a little easier. Of the assaults I never reported, I only exposed it to my family and friends, but I denounce him if he does not pay pension to my son, which is his obligation (LORENA)

No. I see myself in a sac, I have nowhere to go, I have no family, I have no help from someone, I have no money and the worst I have no freedom to express myself and be able to tell someone of greater force to be able to help me. I'm very afraid of what might happen and I'm afraid that the situation gets worse, I keep thinking about leaving this house and going under the bridge, but I fear for my son's health and his safety, I know we are not living well in this house along with my husband who beats me every day, but I do not know where it is worse, on the street or inside my own home (JOANA)

In my case I have not yet taken initiative to end this suffering, I thought several and did not have the courage. Maybe I'm weak as he said himself, because this courage to go to denounce I do not have and look that I do not even need it for absolutely nothing because I work and I can support myself (VALERIA)

I'd really like to report it and stop catching it, but we have eight kids together, can you imagine how bad it must be not to have a father present because he's in jail? My kids love their father even though he knocks me. My eldest daughter always encourages me to go to the police and report her father, but I've always been afraid. I don't want my boys to grow up and look mirror their father, but I also don't want them to suffer from having an absent father (FERNANDA)

I never reported him and never told anyone that he beats me because I always threatened him saying he would disappear with our 4-year-old son if I left him or reported him (KAREN)

So, my assailant can't be arrested for being a cop and meeting lawyers, delegates and corrections officers. (NATALIA)

I denounced him when I was last assaulted, because when I arrived at the hospital the Nurse advised me to make a bulletin and ask for the protective measure, I did, but I'm afraid he will come back here to Brasilia and do something with me. (LUISA)

The Maria da Penha Law was created in 2006 to meet an international outcry for the defense of women's rights, expressed in the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), in the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women, held in Pará in 1994 and also to meet Brazil's own constitutional promulgation, in Art. 226, which considers that "the State will ensure assistance to the family in the person of each of those who integrate it, creating mechanisms to curb violence within the framework of its relations".<sup>8</sup>

With regard to the legal nature, the Law because it is understood as a public policy, the concept of public policy is related to formal and formal procedures aimed at the peaceful resolution of conflicts.<sup>8</sup>

It is necessary to understand what emotional dependence is to understand why women still remain in the relationship. Addiction goes beyond love, the person to feel well needs the presence of another, be it partner, boyfriend or husband, it is as if she annuls and can only live if there is the other to support him.<sup>21</sup>

Emotional dependence is characterized by negative reinforcement, because it takes into account the fear that the woman has of losing the affection of her partner, while love is configured in positive reinforcement, because it adds affectivity, stating that when two people are together for habits or emotional dependencies, they tend to trigger an unconscious hatred for each other, which increasingly causes the increase of a dysfunctional relationship and even the increase in aggressions.<sup>22</sup>

There is an emotional game in the dysfunctional relationship between the aggressor and the victim, because when separated the man makes promises that he will change and the woman because she is emotionally dependent on the partner believes and relives with the partner, then restarting the cycle of violence.<sup>23</sup> Thus, it is then noted that the woman's emotional dependence on the aggressor, which contributes to her permanence the abusive relationships having her partner full ability to influence their decisions.<sup>23</sup>

The woman needs to remain in the relationship, even if for this she has to take responsibility for everything that occurs in the relationship.<sup>23</sup> The main factors that can be identified in the relationship of dependence is sadness, the inability to live alone, the woman has no life of her own, all her tasks have to revolve around the partner, can't live without it, has the idealization that someday it will change.<sup>21</sup>

Domestic violence is extremely harmful to the moral formation of children, as it reinforces stereotypes and relationships based on violence and intolerance, that is, if children are exposed to repetitive scenes of violence, they will start from what they are experiencing, present aggressive and abusive behavior throughout their lives.<sup>24</sup>

The family environment is a place where much of the children's experience is built, through living with parents, whether healthy or not. If children are exposed to repetitive scenes of violence, they go from what they are experiencing, present throughout their lives aggressive and abusive behavior, and can replicate, generalize or naturalize what they have experienced for their lives, reflecting briefly or inevitably, in adulthood as well as in future relationships.<sup>24</sup>

The word guard for Family Law has expanded meaning, since it is an obligation that certain people have to ensure the conservation of property entrusted to them.<sup>24</sup> Custody is the legal obligation to provide minor moral and material assistance, under the power – family power – by its guardian.<sup>24</sup> The custody institute is provided for in both the Statute of the Child and Adolescent in Articles 33 to 35, which are based on the constitutional principles set out in Articles 227 to 229 of the Constitution of the Federative Republic of Brazil of 1998, as well as articles 1,583 to 1,590 of the Civil Code, and its purpose is to list the rules regarding the "Protection of the Person and Children".<sup>24</sup>

In 1989, there was an international existence of a harmonising document to globally modify rules and measures for the promotion and protection of children's rights, together with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CSDC). Law No. 142/2015 of 8 September was created to supply or compensate and correct parental incompetence, which puts children and

young people in danger. In a more in-depth way, the Law seeks to safeguard situations in which there is an activity/omission, of persons with parental responsibilities (parents or who have custody in fact) of the child itself or even of a third party and thus endangers it, where it is potentially causal in relation to the interests of the child.<sup>25</sup>

The custody dispute arises in the context of the end of the parents' relationship. The question that arises in these disputes is that the "rupture of the marital relationship of the parents cannot compromise the continuity of parental bonds because the exercise of family power is not affected by the separation. The family state is unavailable. The family unit persists even after the separation of its components, it is a link that perpetuates itself."<sup>25</sup>

When the care phase is not so intense and the child understands the situation that involves it, in this case, that of a witness of domestic violence, it starts to have a dispute of loyalty that affects the children. Father and Mother put the children in the conflict, demanding their loyalty in the plot against the partner. This conflict is the worst dispute that can arise in the rupture of conjugality because it places in the child, the doubt as to the "permanence of the functions of caring, protecting and providing the material and affective needs of the children".<sup>23</sup>

## Final Considerations

This study met the proposed objectives and brought important points for our reflection: that physical and psychological violence predominates in the ranking of violence against women inside their home; whereas there seems to be both emotional and financial dependence on the part of victims in relation to aggressors; that most of the interviewees do not report a complaint to the police, due to the fear and fear of losing their homes and custody of their children, and finally that women cannot quickly identify that they are in an abusive, repressive and controlling relationship, suggestive of violence in the future.

Through this finding, it is evident that nurses play a fundamental role with regard to the reception and humanized care provided to women who are victims of violence. The way of attending, the tone of the voice, the look during the consultation and the active listening of what the woman has to say are the differentials so that the nurse is the trusted person of this woman. Assistance should be planned by promoting the safety, respect and satisfaction of the victim in their needs, whether individual or collective. The victim should be and feel protected by the nursing team.

It is also important to emphasize that the multiprofessional approach, registration and notifications, referral to a mental health support network and women's protection agencies guidelines and follow-ups should be considered as a routine part for this type of care.

Finally, this study suggests that further research be carried out so that this problem is not trivialized or forgotten, but can also describe the feelings, difficulties and specific knowledge of the professional nurse who is at the head of the service of care to women victims of violence.

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