



WORKPACKAGE 2: Exploring and analysing the Gender-based Violence attitudes and teachers educational needs on the topic: Literature Review and Comparative Research

Objective(s) of the WP2: is to analyse the gender-based violence attitudes, experience and reactions of teachers and children in EU countries on purpose to inform culture sensitive education and awareness raising material.

NATIONAL REPORT – ITALY

1.1. The scope of gender-based violence in the country (max 2 pages)

The conception of gender-based violence in Italy

The expression *gender-based violence* in Italy refers to all forms of violence from psychological and physical to sexual violence, from the persecutory acts of so-called stalking to rape, to femicide, which affect a large number of people discriminated by sex¹ (The Ministry of the Interior of Italy). In Italian national legislation, sexual violence refers to anyone who, by force or by threat or abuse of authority, forces another person to commit or suffer sexual acts (Penal Code, Article 609bis) and therefore includes rape and sexual harassment². Specific definition of gender-based violence in Italian legislation does not exist as it mainly focuses on violence against women.

Considering that in 2013 Italy ratified the “**Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence**”³, *violence against women* is understood as any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

Specifically Italian National legislation regarding violence against women covers:

- domestic violence,
- sexual violence,
- violence against minors,
- female genital mutilation,
- stalking, and
- trafficking of human beings.

What are available representative survey data on gender-based violence?

¹ <http://www.interno.gov.it/it/temi/sicurezza/violenza-genero>

² <https://www.istat.it/it/violenza-sulle-donne/il-contesto/definizioni-e-indicatori>

³ http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/210/signatures?p_auth=2uEuimqg



A comprehensive and articulated framework on violence against women emerged only on the basis of the survey data on violence - called the “**Survey on Women's Safety**” - conducted by the National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) in 2006 and then in 2014⁴, a new edition is being planned in 2018.

According to the data provided by ISTAT in 2014 regarding violence against women in its different forms, 31.5% of women between 16 and 70 years (6 million 788 thousand) have suffered some form of physical or sexual violence during their lives:

- 20.2% (4 million 353 thousand) have suffered physical violence,
- 21% (4 million 520 thousand) - sexual violence,
- 5.4% (1 million 157 thousand) - the most serious forms of sexual violence such as rape (652 thousand) and attempted rape (746 thousand).

13.6% of women have suffered physical or sexual violence from partners or former partners (2 million 800 thousand), in particular 5.2% (855 thousand) from current partners and 18.9% (2 million 44 thousand) from the former partner. 24.7% of women have suffered at least one physical or sexual violence by non-partner men: 13.2% by strangers and 13% by known people.

12.3% of women have suffered threats, 11.5% were jostled or tugged, 7.3% were slapped, kicked, punched and bitten, other times they were hit with objects that can hurt (6.1%). Less severe forms such as attempted strangulation, burns, suffocation and the threat or use of weapons were less frequent. Among the women who have suffered sexual violence, the most widespread form is physical harassment, i.e. being touched or hugged or kissed against their will (15.6%), unwanted relationships experienced as violence (4.7%), rape (3%) and attempted rape (3.5%).

The most serious forms of violence were exercised by partners, relatives or friends. The rapes were committed in 62.7% of cases by current partners, 3.6% by relatives and 9.4% by friends. Even physical violence (such as slaps, kicks, fists and bites) was mostly exercised by partners or former partners. 76.8% of sexual harassment was committed by strangers.

Foreign women have suffered physical or sexual violence similarly to Italians during their lifetime (31.3% and 31.5%). Physical violence is more common among foreigners (25.7% compared to 19.6%), while the sexual one is more common to Italian women (21.5% compared to 16.2%). Foreigners were more subjected to rape and attempted rape (7.7% vs. 5.1%).

In addition to physical or sexual violence, women have suffered psychological and economic violence, that is, behaviour of humiliation, devaluation, control and intimidation, as well as deprivation or limitation of access to their financial resources or family's resources. In 2014, 26.4% women have suffered psychological or economic violence from their current partner and 46.1% from a former partner.

In 2014, 1.2% of the women have suffered from the most serious psychological violence (threats and being closed at home or being followed), accounting for a total of 200 thousand women, while the children were

⁴ <https://www.istat.it/it/violenza-sulle-donne/il-fenomeno/violenza-dentro-e-fuori-la-famig/numero-delle-vittime-e-forme-di->



subject to threat and retaliation for about 50 thousand women (0.3%). For women who have separated from the former partner the instrumentalization and the threat to children reaches 3.4%, the most serious psychological violence reaches 13.5%.

A non-negligible percentage of women also have suffered persecutory acts (stalking). It is estimated that 21.5% of women between 16 and 70 years (equal to 2 million 151 thousand) have suffered persecutory behaviour by a former partner during their lifetime. If we consider women who have suffered persecutory acts several times, these are 15.3%

Violence against minors:

- **10.6%** of women have suffered sexual violence **before age 16**. Considering the total of the violence experienced by women with children, the percentage of children who have witnessed violence on one's mother has increased (From 60.3% for 2006 to 65.2% recorded in 2014).
- Based on reported crimes, the judicial authorities state that on average 3,418 sexual abuse crimes are committed on children annually in Italy. The number of reported cases of sexual abuse on children of less than 14 years of age from 1984 to 1999 has increased by 98%, with peaks in some regions. The highest risk regions seem to be Lombardy, Sicily and Campania.
- A summary of data recently processed by a network of Italian centres showed that the typical victim of sexual abuse is a girl (74%) aged between 6 to 10 years (39%), of Italian nationality, and the crime is committed within her own original family (56%). The forms of abuse committed are often severe and they mainly take the form of repeated sexual harassment acts (32%) and sexual intercourse (29%), perpetrated primarily in the home environment. The abuser is mainly the father (47%) or another close family member (60%), although abuse by mothers is increasingly common. The crime is often reported by family members (24,8%), while reporting by schools is very low (7%).⁵

⁵ http://www.gruppocrc.net/IMG/pdf/Italy_ngowg_report_GRUPPO_CRC_EN_-2.pdf, p.39



1.2. National policies on violence prevention (max 2 pages)

Is there a national policy or action plan for the prevention of violence against children and does it include definition and actions on the prevention of gender-based violence?

Italy is a party to a number of international and regional human rights instruments including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol; the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its Protocol No. 12 concerning non-discrimination.

At the national level, the **Italian Constitution** guarantees human rights for everyone and sets out the principle of equality of all citizens before the law, without distinction as to sex, race, language, religion, and political opinions, personal and social conditions. **Article 3 of the Italian Constitution** sets forth the principle of formal and substantial equality, including between women and men. **Article 13 of the Constitution** adopted in 1947, and amended in 2012, includes the following provisions on violence against persons: Any act of physical and moral violence against a person subjected to restriction of personal liberty shall be punished⁶.

Italian national legislation against violence against women is extensive, however no specific provisions are covering gender-based violence per se.

- The first significant legislative innovation in the field of sexual violence, in Italy, occurred with the approval of the **Law No. 66/1996 Norms against sexual violence**, that defines violence against women as a crime against personal freedom, modifying the previous definition of sexual violence as a crime against public moral and common sense. The law states that anyone who, through violence or threats or through abuse of authority, forces someone to perform or suffer sexual acts is punished with imprisonment from five to ten years. The Law also defines penal procedures in cases of sexual violence against children. The specific definition of violence is not provided.
- **Act No. 154/2001 On Measures Against Violence In Family Relations** introduced new measures aimed to combating cases of intra-family violence, specifically addresses domestic violence and deals with the separation of the violent relative from the family, through civil or penal legal actions. Before this law was enacted there was no specific provisions to avoid the persistence of violent behaviour of the aggressive relative in the family previous to the penal process.
- **Law No. 60/2001 and Law No. 134/2001, on legal aid for women**, a fundamental instrument to defend raped and/or ill-treated women and assert their rights, in collaboration with the anti-violence centres and the courts. Legal aid came into force, as the tool provided to abused women without sufficient financial means so that they can defend themselves and assert their rights. This is done mainly through collaboration with crisis centres and courts.

⁶ https://www.senato.it/1025?articolo_numero_articolo=13&sezione=120



- **Act No. 304/2003 On Measures Against Violence In Family Relations** contained a single article, which amended Article 342-bis of the Civil Code, relating to protection orders against abusive family members. In particular, it provided for the precautionary measure of immediate removal from the family home (Article 282-bis Civil Code) of the perpetrator (spouse, unmarried partner or other member of the family) in cases of domestic violence, and stated that only the court may grant permission to return.
- **In September 2006** a bill of law called “**Awareness-raising and suppression measures on crimes against the family on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, and any other cause of discrimination**” as a measure to prevent and suppress violence and to promote an effective inclusion of victims, with the aim of stopping the increasingly frequent events of violence against women in Italy.⁷
- **Law No. 7/2006 On Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** prohibit the performance of all forms of female genital mutilation, including clitoridectomy, excision, in-bulation and any other practice causing effects of the same kind, or causing mental or physical illness. The principle of extraterritoriality is applicable, making FGM punishable even if it is committed outside the country.
- **Law No. 38/2009 On Urgent Measures Regarding Sexual Violence** introduced the crime of stalking in the Italian legal system (until this provision, there was no appropriate sanction in Italian law for the stalking that often precedes acts of violence). The offence is punishable with imprisonment ranging from 6 months to up to 4 years. Rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment are also all offences under the Italian Penal Code. Moreover it provides free legal counselling to victims of sexual violence. The decree also focused on support to non-governmental organizations working in support of victims of violence (such as anti-violence centres, women centres, shelters).
- Italy has taken a historic step in the fight against gender-based violence with **Law No. 77/2013**, approving the **ratification of the Istanbul Convention**, drawn up on 11 May 2011. The guidelines outlined by the Convention are in fact the track and the lighthouse to implement effective measures, at national level, and to prevent and combat the phenomenon of gender-based violence. Moreover, in 2013 a crime of femicide (murder of women) was introduced.
- **Law No. 119/2013 Against gender-based and domestic violence**, containing urgent provisions on security and the fight against gender-based violence, strengthened the ‘warning’ and introduced new aggravating circumstances in such cases. In particular, the penalty was increased if children under 18 years of age witness violence, as well as if the victim is in a particularly vulnerable situation (if pregnant). Also, the particularly close relationship between the victim and the perpetrator was introduced as an aggravating circumstance (e.g. if the perpetrator is the victim’s spouse or partner, or non-cohabiting partner). The law ensures greater protection for victims in relation to hearings and that information is provided to victims about support services existing in the local area. Furthermore, the law also provided for the granting of legal aid for women victims of domestic violence whose income exceeds the income limits fixed by the national legislation. Protection is also extended to foreign victims, for whom the law introduced the possibility to obtain a humanitarian residence permit.

⁷ http://www.surt.org/gvei/docs/national_report_italy.pdf



National Plans:

- **In October 2010** the Department for Equal Opportunities approved the first “**National Plan Against Gender-based Violence and Stalking**”⁸ as a first attempt to develop an organic response to address violence against women in Italy. By drawing on the experience of anti-violence centres across the country, it focused on the prevention and the repression of any forms of violence against women. However, the plan lacked clear objectives, and it was funded appropriately by the central government, because of the strong retrenchments in the Italian public expenditure. The plan did not specifically define gender-based violence, and provided the definition of violence against women used by the Council of Europe.
- **In July 2015**, the Italian government adopted the “**The Extraordinary National Action Plan against sexual and gender-based violence 2015-2017**”, which oversaw the expansion of women’s support services including anti-violence centres and women’s shelters. The creation of a national observatory on the phenomenon of violence is also expected. However, even if the plan entitled against gender-based violence, the definition is not provided and the plan covers only violence against women.
- **In February 2016**, Italy adopted its “**National action plan against trafficking in, and serious exploitation of, human beings 2016-2018**”. The plan is aimed at identifying multi-annual intervention strategies to prevent and combat the phenomenon, including measures aimed at awareness-raising, prevention and social integration of victims.
- **In 2017**, Italy adopted “**Strategic national plan for violence against women 2017-2020**”⁹. The Plan is divided into three main intervention areas: prevention; protection and support; prosecution and punishment) and services: assistance and promotion. The plan focuses on the need of training for different stakeholders, from the judiciary to the police, health and social workers, but also on the active policies for the job reintegration and the autonomous living of victims. Above all, the Plan focuses on investing in new generations and highlights that schools play a fundamental role in spreading gender equality education and respect for differences, combating all forms of violence, from an early age.

Laws specifically protecting children (under 18) from sexual violence and abuse:

Italy has ratified the principal international treaties relating to child rights, such as the CRC, the Optional Protocol on the Sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Trafficking Protocol and the ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour No. 182. In terms of regional instruments, Italy has ratified the Council of Europe Convention (CoE) on Cybercrime in 2008 and CoE Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings in 2010. It has also signed and ratified the CoE Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse¹⁰.

The principal National legal instruments dealing with violence against children in Italy are:

⁸ http://files.centro-antiviolenza.it/200000064-b166cb2613/piano_nazionale_antiviolenza.pdf

⁹ <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/testo-piano-diramato-conferenza.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/201/signatures>





- **The Act of Law 285/1997 “Provisions for the promotion of rights and opportunities for children and adolescents”** promotes initiatives to prevent the phenomenon of sexual abuse, through awareness raising campaigns, training of professionals and networking among social and health care professionals.¹¹
- **Law 269/1998 on “Provisions against the Exploitation of Prostitution, Pornography, and Sexual Tourism to the Detriment of Children: The New Forms of Slavery”** allows for the punishment of those who produce, distribute, and advertise paedopornographic materials, including those who merely keep them in their possession, and includes powers to confiscate material seized, close down trade activity and repeal the trading licenses of radio-TV broadcasting networks. It also provides for severe punishments for those who organize tourism abroad with the specific purpose of exploiting juvenile prostitution.¹² This Law strengthened the protection of personal dignity and liberty, especially with regards to minors, and supported the judicial suppression of acts against personal and sexual freedom and against children’s physical and psychological freedom.
- **Law No. 38/2006 on “Provisions to Fight the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Pornography, including through the Internet”**, extending protection from exploitation in prostitution for children up to the age of 18 and broadening the range of child pornography offences, the Law also bans plea-bargaining in cases of sexual crimes against children. It also precludes offenders convicted of such crimes from ever working in schools, other institutions and places frequented by children.

What are official documents in schools for gender-based violence (violence in general):

Law No. 107/2015 “The Good School” recognizes that the education is one of the crucial elements in the fight against gender-based violence and pledges to ensure the implementation of the principles of equal opportunities, promote gender equality in schools of all levels, prevent gender-based violence and all forms of discrimination, as well as inform and raise awareness among students, teachers and parents on those issues.

In light of this regulatory framework, the Italian Ministry of Education intends to support students, teachers and school managers to address the problems related to all forms of discrimination and combat all forms of violence and aggression. In this context, the schools should have the task to prepare actions in compliance with the framework.

National Plan (2015) “Education for respect”¹³ aims at promoting a series of educational and training actions in all schools of Italy to counteract any form of violence and discrimination and to promote the overcoming of prejudices and inequalities, according to the principles expressed in Article 3 of the Italian constitution.

¹¹ <http://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/1997/09/05/097G0322/sg>

¹² http://www.gruppocrc.net/IMG/pdf/Italy_ngowg_report_GRUPPO_CRC_EN_-2.pdf , p.43

¹³ http://www.notiziedellascuola.it/legislazione-e-dottrina/indice-cronologico/2017/ottobre/NOTA_MIUR_20171027_prot5515



Systematic Approaches For Equality of Gender - SAFER

Co-funded by the Rights,
Equality and Citizenship (REC)
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National Plan is composed of:

- National Guidelines for gender equality, prevention of gender violence and all forms of discrimination.
- Guidelines for the prevention and contrast of cyberbullying in schools.

The educational institutions are called to initiate actions involving students, teachers and parents, to promote respect for differences and overcoming prejudices. Schools are invited to report initiatives and good practices carried out on the subjects covered by the National Plan in order to allow a national mapping of these projects and an appropriate dissemination of the best experiences.





1.3. Availability of prevention programs/good practices (max 2 pages)

What good practices on gender-based violence are in your country?

There are several official and unofficial studies and relevant activities on violence against women and minors that have been implemented in Italy mainly by national and local organisations. Some of them has left strong impact on society in the fight against gender-based violence.

Women's National Association named "**Telefono Rosa**" Onlus was born in 1988 to make a research to bring out, through the direct voices of women, violence submerged¹⁴. The association helps people who suffer physical, psychological, economic, sexual violence, mobbing and stalking. More than seven hundred thousand women have turned to "Telefono Rosa" to tell their stories of ordinary physical, psychological, economic violence; to talk about their existential discomfort; to give their testimonies showing the need for more support for women. The association provides different activities and services, such as listening and Reception, Free legal advice, Legal assistance, Psychological counselling, Self-help groups, Support for parenthood, Social Secretariat. Every year the Association organises training and refresher courses on the phenomenon of gender-based violence. Since 2004, the Association manages, on behalf of the City of Rome, the "International House of Women's Human Rights", a reception centre for Italian and foreign women, victims of acidification, infibulation, physical and psychological violence. Since December 2012 the Association coordinates Public Hotline "1522" promoted by the Department for Equal Opportunities, which offers a multilingual telephone reception service addressed to the victims of all forms of violence. From 2013, "Telefono Rosa" manages, on behalf of the Province of Rome, the Provincial Reception Centre "La Ginestra". The Centre offers psychological and legal support, accompaniment in hospitals and health care structures and insertion of children in public schools, with the performance of all the necessary paperwork for the recognition of diplomas eventually obtained in the country of origin. For each of the women an individual project is foreseen to accompany and support them in getting out of a violent situation and of regaining their autonomy.

In 2005, **O.N.D.A.**¹⁵ (the National Women's Health Observatory) was established to contribute to identifying specific gender issues concerning women's health in general. The goal of O.N.D.A is to promote a gender health culture at the institutional, health-care, scientific-academic and social levels to guarantee women right to health according to the principles of fairness and equal opportunities. The Observatory analyses the most important medical conditions affecting women, proposing primary and secondary prevention strategies, as well as fostering gendered health behaviours. The project supports basic and clinical research on women's main medical conditions, it also assesses their social and economic impact, and it provides information to institutions, practitioners, and the public. It is currently collaborating with all national institutions working in this field in order to study, inform, educate, and stimulate attention to these issues.

¹⁴ <http://www.telefonorosa.it/>

¹⁵ <https://www.ondaosservatorio.it/chi-siamo/>





The association “**Donne di Benin City**” (women of Benin City)¹⁶ based in Palermo, Italy brings together former victims of trafficking who decided to change their lives. Association has created a drop-in centre in Palermo as a safe space for women to get support and advice on a range of issues, and to share skills and experience. Association supports women individual needs, gives advice and assists with hospital check-ups and appointments for residency permits and passports, helps with legal appointments, provides humanitarian aid.

The experience of the anti-violence centres and the large range of activities they carry out are valuable examples in the field. Local Networks and the National network of organisations working in the field of prevention and protection of violence against women is enhanced thanks to specific actions carried out by the Department for Equal Opportunities.

What good practices on gender-based violence are at schools in your country?

Schools play a key role in a fights against gender violence, according to Law No. 38/2006 “Provisions on combating the sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, including via the Internet”. Some specific tools have been developed in school level in order to promote the work of local networks, such as:

- Multi-professional training;
- Multidisciplinary seminars;
- Working groups composed of different professional figures;
- Development of networks of service coordinators;
- Development of action plans to prevent violence against women, which are integrated with national action plans.

In line with the provisions and national guidelines, there are initiatives against gender-based violence implemented by the local organisations in Italy funded either by the National authorities or EU-funded programmes.

One of the good practices is “**CONVEY**” project implemented by CESIE that aims to develop peer-to-peer approaches to education and implement awareness-raising activities on sexual violence and harassment by training young people on the effects of gender stereotyping and sexualisation in digital media¹⁷. The project develops an online game, a pilot programme for teachers and 14-18 year-old people, policy recommendations for key educational and policy stakeholders, and a Social Awareness Campaign against sexual violence and sexual harassment. Throughout the project, a longitudinal research was conducted to measure the impact of the project and the behaviour change in the young people involved in the activities.

¹⁶ <http://palermo.meridionews.it/articolo/39851/le-donne-di-benin-city-insieme-contro-la-tratta-dalla-strada-al-cucito-nel-centro-di-suor-anna/>

¹⁷ http://cesie.org/media/cesie.org_description_CONVEY.pdf





Organisation “**Differenza Donna**”¹⁸ (Difference Woman) that was born in Rome on 6 March 1989 aims to bring out, raise awareness, prevent and overcome gender-based violence. The association has been working at schools and implementing training activities to prevent gender-based violence. The association has developed tools for teachers and other school stakeholders and is engaged in a research work on the re-formulation of scholastic programs and textbooks from a gender perspective with the collaboration of teachers and its experts from the association.

What three lessons from your country’s practices and mistakes other countries should learn?

Italy’s good practices:

- Specialised police units (*Squadra Mobile*) were established at the provincial level in Italy. These were entrusted with enhancing cooperation with agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) regarding a “network” for victim protection and with setting up dedicated reception centres for violence victims. There are also many calls for funding for projects to prevent and combat the phenomenon of gender-based violence announced at the national level. The projects intend to support sensitization activities with respect to many areas of intervention, such as migrant women and refugees, job placement of women victims of violence, support for women prisoners who have suffered violence, treatment programs for abusive men, support and protection of women who are also subjected to “economic” violence and awareness, prevention and education projects.

Needed improvements (as defined by CEDAW Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Italy 2017):

- There must be focus programmes for the identification and assistance to individuals with specific needs and vulnerabilities, especially refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls¹⁹ because still there is a lack of comprehensive framework and procedures, guidelines and standards are not clear from the government level.
- Entrenched stereotypes concerning the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society, perpetuating traditional roles of women as mothers and homemakers and undermining women’s social status and their educational and career prospects are still prevalent in Italy.
- The high prevalence of cases of gender-based violence against women and girls in Italy and underreporting results in low prosecution and impunity for perpetrators.
- There is no mandatory, comprehensive and age-appropriate education in schools on sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Gender education is not yet part of Italy's standard curriculum and the limited measures taken to eliminate stereotypes in the education system, including in school curricula and textbooks.

¹⁸ <http://www.differenzadonna.org>

¹⁹ http://www.marinacastellaneta.it/blog/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/CEDAW_C_ITA_CO_7_25120_E.pdf



1.4. Gender-based violence in the media (max 3 pages)

Description of several cases of media reports on gender-based violence (1 page max for one case). The cases of GBV in the media shall have happened within the last 5 years.

Case 1.

A 15 years girl committed suicide after being raped in a group²⁰.

A 15-year-old schoolgirl committed suicide after being bullied and gang raped when she was just 13. Before taking her own life she has written an anguished letter saying that “I was raped by some of the students who still attend that school.” In the letter she also left the message to others “If anyone ever tries this on you trust me it’s worth fighting! Fight! If you don’t you’ll regret it for the rest of your life like I do.”

- **How the case got known?**

The case got known when mother of the victim went to public with her daughter’s story explaining that her daughter had been too terrified to leave the house for almost two years before her death in December 2015. She told to news that her daughter had stopped going to school in October 2013 because of alleged bullying, and when she returned after the New Year, the bullies apologised and invited her to a festival, a policed event that took place on February 15. Later in the day, her mother said that they lured her to a boy’s house, where the alleged attack took place. She was just 13. “One boy stood at the door,” said her mother. “Two boys shared her in the room and two girls waited in the lounge room”.

- **What was the reaction of the society to the presented case? What was the repercussion of the case? What should be learnt from the case?**

Current and former students and parents at the school said they were shocked when they read mother’s Facebook post a few weeks ago about what her daughter endured.

Some students created an online petition calling for the school to acknowledge what happened to the victim. They said they had no idea of the story until they saw mother’s post, 414 days after the teenager’s death.

Especially social media was quick to respond to victim’s shocking and heart-breaking story. She has gained condolences from different parts of the world. Social media can have a strong impact and contribute to the fight against gender-based violence.

²⁰ <https://curiosandosimpara.com/2018/01/05/ragazzina-13-anni-si-suicida-stata-violentata-gruppo-la-madre-trova-lettera-rivela-la-straziante-verita/>



Case 2.

Woman committed suicide after a video went viral on social media²¹

In Italy, a 31-year-old woman committed suicide after a video of her having sex went viral on social media.

- **How the case got known?**

Ordeal of the woman began in the spring of 2015, when she sent a video of herself performing a sex act on a man to a handful of people she trusted, including her ex-boyfriend on WhatsApp. The video was widely shared on WhatsApp and other social media sites being copied and republished thousands of times. It all started out as a game after her boyfriend broke up with her. But the game ended up with the explicit footage being seen by thousands on social media who mocked her mercilessly. In fact, from that moment on, the woman fell into a deep depression. The online comments were very harsh, and turned her life upside down.

- **What was the reaction of the society to the presented case? What was the repercussion of the case? What should be learnt from the case?**

After the video went viral, woman left her job, moved to another region and was in the process of changing her name, but the story kept following her. In a court case, woman won a “right to be forgotten” ruling, ordering the video to be removed from various sites and search engines, including Facebook. According to the Judge who was hearing the case, the videos should have been removed much more quickly from the Internet and this might have prevented the death of this young woman who was in her prime.

“As a government, there’s not a lot that we can do,” said Prime Minister Matteo Renzi. “It’s mainly a cultural battle – also a social and political battle. Our commitment is try to do everything we can... Violence against women is not an ineradicable phenomenon.”

The woman who wanted to be forgotten is now remembered across the country. The woman’s family have called for justice and for an end to shaming. “Now we call for the justice system to act so that her death was not in vain,” the family said, quoted by Italian media.

Author Roberto Saviano said the hostility towards Tiziana stemmed from what he described as Italy’s “morbid” relationship with sex. “I grieve for Tiziana, who killed herself because she was a woman in a country where uninhibited and playful sex is still the worst of sins,” he wrote on Twitter. Another commenter suggested that had Tiziana been a man - “if she were called Tiziano” - she would still be alive because men having sex do not attract the same kind of scandalised reaction. One mourner at her funeral said she was surprised by how few men had attended. “There were many women and very few men and this thing made me feel really bad,” she told reporters.

Italy has reacted to this suicide with a mixture of shock and shame. Her death has provoked a debate about the corrosive effects of the public shaming of young women.

²¹ <http://www.lastampa.it/2016/11/04/italia/cronache/ragazza-suicida-per-il-video-hard-chiesta-larchiviazione-per-i-amici-VuaQcpm9WhuMXT7c1DJeUJ/pagina.html>



Case 3.

Raped in bathroom: video spread on Whatsapp²²

Seventeen-year-old girl was raped in a nightclub bathroom in Rimini city of Italy in September 2016 and the act was filmed by her friends on a cell phone.

- **How the case got known?**

The video was later circulated via WhatsApp to an unknown number of individuals. Once the Rimini resident girl saw the video, she told her mother and the mother reported the matter to the police, who are said to have blocked it from being circulated further. The girl told investigators that she remembered very little about the night as she was very drunk at the time, but it seems she was dragged to the bathroom by a boy of Albanian origins, who proceeded to rape her as her female friends filmed the incident on a cell phone, standing on a toilet in the adjacent stall to do so.

- **What was the reaction of the society to the presented case? What was the repercussion of the case? What should be learnt from the case?**

Democratic Party (PD) senator noted that the case “demonstrates once again that sexual violence against women is a deeply rooted cultural phenomenon.” “Not only did a boy see a drunk, underage girl only as prey to overpower, but her friends - witnesses to a crime - instead of seeking help decided to become accomplices,” the senator said. “The feeling is that the youth of the 'social network generation' find it difficult to distinguish between reality and virtual reality. The senator called for greater attention to prevention, adding that “we must realize that a different culture would have prevented the young rapist from committing the crime and her friends from filming rape as if it were a game.” Northern League secretary commented by saying that “the unbelievable thing is that the rape was filmed with a cell phone and the video put on WhatsApp by a group of the girls' friends. What is going through these people's heads, and hearts?” The head of the Rimini branch of the LGBT rights association Arcigay said that the incident was once again proof that Italian culture and education are “imbued with criminal sexism practiced - in this case - by women themselves”.

After the accident, Italian officials called for increased police patrols and new laws to punish perpetrators after a spate of rapes around Italy.

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http://bologna.repubblica.it/cronaca/2016/09/14/news/rimini_filmata_mentre_viene_stuprata_le_amiche_diffondono_il_video_su_whatsapp-147736786/?refresh_ce



1.5. Conclusions (max 3 pages)

- **What stereotypes on Gender based violence are prevalent in your country?**

Italy is a country where gender stereotypes are prevalent according to the research “Italians and assisted violence” conducted with 1000 Italians (men and women) by Ipsos for WeWorld Onlus in 2017²³.

The most common stereotypes in Italy identified by the report are:

- Women are able to sacrifice much more than one man for the family (65% of the respondents agree with this statement)
- It is very important for a woman to be attractive (62%)
- All women dream of getting married (37%)
- It is always better that the husband works and the wife stays at home with the children (36%)
- It is for men more than for women very important to be successful at work (35%)
- Motherhood is the only experience that allows a woman to realize herself completely (32%)
- The man must sustain the family (28%)
- It is more important for a boy than for a girl to have education (17%)
- It is acceptable that the man commands at home (13%).

- **What gender based violence attitudes are prevalent in your country at schools (according research data or your opinion)?**

In December 2013, a survey by the English association “Girlguiding” showed that out of 1,300 girls aged 7 to 21, the overwhelming majority reported that they experienced a high level of sexism. The report highlighted how widespread the sexist attitudes and negative feelings deriving from it influences girls from as early as their childhood. 87% of respondents stated that judgments about them are based on their body (and not on their brains). More than one third of respondents (36%) was induced to consider herself stupid for being female (and the percentage is up to 60% among girls aged 16-21).

Very widespread is the perception of the importance of women physical aspect. “Appearance pressure” come from the media and society: 80% (from 11 years old) think that on TV it is talked too much about the weight of women and 71% say they want to lose weight. Moreover, 1 child out of 5 in primary schools (aged 7 to 11 years) has reported having already been on a diet at least once (and 21% say they have tried the diet of a TV stars)²⁴.

Gender stereotypes for girls and boys is often imposed unconsciously by the teaching staff, also present in the images and texts of the books, and transmitted by the teaching staff to students. These stereotypes, with time, create negative conditioning, have a strong influence on the choice of profession and personal life.

²³ <https://www.lanuovaecologia.it/8-marzo-weworld-italia-ancorata-stereotipi-genere/>

²⁴ <http://www.scosse.org/stereotipi-di-genere-nella-scuola-la-differenza-si-fa-dallinfanzia/>



- **What theoretical background and aspects of gender based violence should be included in the research analysis? Please list all the forms and aspects of GBV, which are relevant in your country, you are suggesting to include in the survey for teachers and children.**

In Italy violence against women (as gender-based violence concept covers only the later) takes very different forms, both due to the seriousness and the type of relationship in which it manifests itself.

The most common types of gender-based violence in Italy are:

- sexual violence,
- stalking,
- physical violence.

High levels of gender-based violence might be due to the lack of educational programmes and initiatives on gender-based violence and prevalence of gender stereotypes in schools. Therefore, it becomes necessary to identify and criticize these stereotypes and to strengthen education on gender in order to combat existing gender stereotypes. This does not mean to nullify the differences, to cancel the sexual differences, but to widen the vision on the different forms of gender identity that assumes and guarantee the inclusion of all.

- **What are educational needs of teachers on the topic of gender based violence?**

The research on educational needs of teachers on the topic of gender-based violence is not existent in Italy. However, according to the recommendations of CEDAW Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Italy 2017 and National Law No. 107/2015 “The Good School”, and National Plan (2015) “Education for respect” it is important to eliminate stereotypes in the education system, including in school curricula and textbooks, to promote gender equality in schools of all levels, raise awareness among students, teachers and parents on those issues and implement a series of educational and training actions in all schools of Italy to counteract any form of violence and discrimination.

- **What gaps in education on gender based violence in your country should be closed?**

Gender education should be introduced in Italian educational system.

