

How “silent violence against women” can threaten public life

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Despite the positive evolution of women's conditions in Western societies, violence against women still exists in various forms. In addition to domestic violence, women are still physically or sexually assaulted and are subjected to rape or attempted rape. Thus, violence against women is always a source of fear and panic in our society. Men, by their aggressive behavior towards women, create dangerous social spaces for them.

Moreover, women are subjected to psychological violence and verbal abuse that cannot be seen and therefore is "invisible", which appears in the form of contempt, discrimination, devaluation, denigration and attacks on the dignity of women. This is especially true when it comes to a professional hierarchy, because the field of work is still categorized by gender divisions. Since high-level positions have long been reserved for men, today women are largely absent in the political sphere because of these gender-based and discriminatory stereotypes. The sexist insults of men addressed to women constitute a redoubtable weapon to wound the latter. Insults with sexual connotations are used to discredit women in the public sphere.

Sexism in language provides sufficient means to despise and denigrate women. The contempt of women results from the education of children, a macho and gendered education in which man, for often obscure reasons, is presented as a stronger being whose pride should never be hindered or challenged. On the other hand, girls learn female stereotypes: a girl should be sensitive, weak and submissive. How can our societies reduce sexism in women's public life? Can changes in our educational systems help eliminate sexism? Could increasing opportunities for women in male dominated trades change the contempt of women in society?