

## CONSEQUENCES OF ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN: CASE STUDY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

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### ABSTRACT

Since 1948 when the international Convention of Human Rights and Fundamental freedoms was proclaimed till today, there is a global absurdity as to gender based violence. Gender relations of women and men, unfortunately, were and continue to remain the same as they were before this convention due to gender separation.

### INTRODUCTION

On this sensitive and very important issue progress was not made on awareness of gender issues, ethnicity and religion in the Balkans, where the mentality of the people is similar, always isolated, with a tendency for distrust, gender discrimination seems more dramatic and drastic than in any west society.

If violence is a question in highly developed countries, then we can say that we are in the course of the problem where in the first case we deal with the lack of awareness within communities of their fundamental rights, followed by the violation of these rights of two genders with a special accent against women on discrimination against women. Low education level is one of the causes of these violations, as in these cultures such a thing is not considered as freedom violation but rather something common. To be the guardian of a family implies maintaining control of the family, over their rights and freedoms. In some cases this is considered as a virtue of manliness and the woman totally agrees with her position of inferiority.

But in the cases where the woman does not agree with this role, then we have to deal with families that have a “problem”, there, where the rows escalate into the physical violence, which in some cases ends with the death of the victim. Violence in Kosovo is complicated and also unusual. This peculiarity comes from our culture, our relations and norms in the family, which unfortunately are replaced very frequently, mechanically with Western models without crossing first the normal course of development of institutions themselves, and what’s most important, without being seen as progress. Very often during the accounts of the women who suffered physical abuse the question WHY is repeated. This is bizarre because there is never a reason for such behavior and definitely no excuse, or justification. In the end the prevailing absurdity remains accompanied with the question which has no answer: WHY?

What gives us hope and at the same time feeling of sadness, when we listen to the accounts of these female victims, is the word love mentioned so often by them even in the traumatic moments of crisis. It does not happen with the men this way. In sessions with the men such a word is seldom heard from their mouth. It takes an enormous effort.

Being in love,nurturing love in ourselves is not a vice,it is a virtue,one of the most sublime that nature succeeded to create in humane beings.Did we ever stop and think about this virtue?

### **What would happen if love had greater in each of us?**

Yes. It would have been a miracle.We would have a life with better quality,more humane,less frightening and ultimately more beautiful and happier.One who possesses love does not select it,give somewhere and somewhere not.

In the worst case,even when not in love,a person should not react in a violent way.This is what we try to install in our children,who will be the women and men tomorrow in the community where we now work with abusers and victims.If something will save us from this situation,then it is precisely love and mutual respect.To always start with ourselves in order to have a chance to give positive examples to others. We are witness that we lack love ourselves then is reflected in the environment where we live and work. If we turn back,look and analyze all the unpleasant events that our people went through, someone may say that these reactions are partly understandable,but this does not justify in any way the violence exercised against women.

I do not want to report from a statistical point of view the topic of physical violence exercised between genders and certainly not sensational and attractive for the media. My approach will be human ,based mainly on my work experience and results achieved.Slogans “Domestic Violence”,“Sexual Trafficking and turning and Forced Prostitution”are repeated in our society and turning into stale stereotypical buzzwords. Unfortunately,these in our society are not just slogans,but are real,something that occurred yesterday,today and if we do not get involved to stop it,will occur tomorrow too.

Institutional projects and attention of civil society to prevent these situations for now are limited,partly due to the tradition of silence in our families.Negligence in drafting relevant legal norms and their application in practice of the laws contributed to this.I want to review this problem from the humane point of view .First ,the issue should be felt ,considered and reviewed as a humane problem,to learn ,to see and treat the issues outside the legal frame ,to see it in the moral frame for each of us.

### **We have saying:”Troubles come one after another”.**

The first bad thing is lack of respect for the right of the individual within the family.There after violence in the family arises,which has a strong impact on the moral degradation of each individual.Grave economic situation should be added to this ,lack of prospects for the individual,which together create something bad,which again,unfortunately remains within the family causing a lot of dissatisfaction.As usual,they produce aggressive behaviour in the family.

Beside the weight and magnitude of these closely related problems,there seems an acceptance that this is our reality and that we do not have the proper force or will to fight and to change this situation.we are a society whose mentality was built with double standards. In spite of going through great changes,I am convinced that our society has readiness to provide protection and help the victims of the gender violence in cases when we are informed.

Empathy always begins from the heart and within our families. Good intentions will succeed at least to help prevent and spreading of this occurrence to help the victims of all the forms of violence, always starting with those who are the least to be blamed for what happened. Being indifferent in this situation or tendency to minimize these problems contributes troublesome and sad continuation. From my work experience and the data during many researches, it is evident that violence is everywhere, affects anyone.

Talking briefly with women in different areas of our society, with no intention to change, the issues into statistics or the pain into numbers. We just want to give that is more human, that we have felt as necessary. For awareness on the problem against violence, numbers and statistics are not a priority, but the person who goes through or continues to suffer violence and the pain. We can do a miracle overnight, or can we completely stop the violence at once. We can contribute to reduce this form of physical violence. Gender based violence, is not something that is present only today. Gender violence has existed for a long time and it will continue to exist in the future. It is fair, for a few moments, to make efforts in order to understand that it exists and that it is a crime, a total absurdity which in no moment can and should be justified.

### **EMPLOYED WOMAN IN KOSOVO**

The old ethnic norms of the Albanian family in Kosovo almost disappeared without being wisely replaced by a cultural behavior of advanced societies. It is not the issue anymore in which time it was better, then or now. Looking at the current position of the woman in the workplace, we can say that something has improved for her position, but this is not enough. Whether this implies her general improvement and the cultural improvement of our society in relation to women is quite debatable.

Being a woman in Kosovo is a heavy weight by itself. The life of the woman in Kosovo is also subject to discrimination. Participation of the woman in politics and other decision-making roles has been and continues to be symbolic. Very often, women get in political activities just formally or to fulfill the "quotas", for which our society was not voluntarily determined, rather was dictated and imposed by internationalists that created relevant legal norms.

Unfortunately, this creates aversion in men, it even seems boring to them to listen to women. Not wanting to complain, some women in Kosovo today engage themselves to a maximum degree first to prove that they are capable (which is quite ironic), then to create some gender balance. This should also be objective for their work, but not as something immanent for which the woman needs to work. The saying that "The woman is pillar of the family, the basis of the education for generations: the woman is life itself"..., is old, used even abused.

This would be true if the appreciation and the care toward her was commensurate. Let us start with a larger analysis in order to understand first the individual awareness of the value of a healthy society. If our main aim is healthy society, then it can not be achieved level then healthy families and there is not such a family and society. When she reaches an equal there is no need to mention the participation of the woman in this or that avenue of the social life. Differences disappear only when the limit between giving and taking no longer exist, when we got used to life and wellbehaved relations and mutual respect.

## WOMEN-VICTIMS OF THE VIOLENCE IN FAMILY

From the many studies, we realize that violence affects more uneducated women, who due to the economic dependency and inability of relevant institutions to assist them economically are forced to live in a circle where many problems prevail and violence exists in the family. Unfortunately, this exercised violence creates violence on the new generation of children who later will behave similarly as their violent parents. From another point of view, almost all the victims of physical violence are from families where the violation of fundamental human rights exists. Grown children in an environment like that lose the contest over moral values, or what is worse, they also have the sense of guilt for what happened in their family.

Persons like these are prone to telling lies and they use them to gain the love of others, as compensation for parent's love which they lacked in their childhood. We should look at the origins of the problems of the victims. The roots of such degeneration frequently is a dysfunctional family, and to some degree the environment, and the level of education. The family itself as the most significant unit of every society reveals the level of awareness for fundamental rights of each individual and unfortunately this awareness is minimal among uneducated people. The accounts that follow are by the victims of violence. We will often encounter misunderstandings in connection with solving different situations for which you believe there is a solution. It should be clarified beforehand that these accounts were provided some years ago. Clarification is necessary. Our support started and continues to be intertwined with which other institutions which have improved over time. The treatment of the problem of violence within the family including forced incest, has its difficulties first within the family, then in the community where it is treated and finally by who and how it is treated.

Relevant responding institutions have gone through difficult periods. The treatment of these "internal issues" has first required willingness and unprejudiced engagement. The staff of these institutions have not always been equal to the responsibilities. The treatment itself was considered something that violated the authority of the family, according to the concept: "if you support the woman, you smear the ethic of the family..." etc. When the woman can not see the solution then we deal with her low level of self-esteem and the distrust of our relevant legislative institutions. This article will not address our institutional deficiencies, we tried to present a contribution for the memory and ongoing support to the victims of gender based violence in the family and society.

## CHILDREN VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE AND THEIR HORRIBLE EXPERIENCES

It is a well-known fact that the children of dysfunctional families, where physical violence prevails are the victims of direct or indirect assault. In cases when the child is abused in the family, or when he/she is a witness of the family (usually beating of the mother by the father), he/she carries physical and psychological consequences. Children of such families seem destined to a problematic future with a lot of sad experience. This is a cursed chain which starts very easily, enters almost invisibly, but consequences for the future are always grave for the person who has gone through the violence and also for domestic partners and the children. From my statistics, a considerable number who sought help or were referred by the police and social workers are female or children. It is impossible to work in the same way with these victims. No matter how violence affects and hurts children, they continue the spirit of respect, hope and endless love for their parents.

All this is very ironic. Their love, their behaviour and always and in all cases their willingness to improve their relations with their parents or the persons who abused them is difficult. Psychologists explain the phenomenon as a need for the repetition of the trauma. The consequences are too many and their treatment should begin with the physical protection of the victim, and then pass into psychological treatment. In our country is still in the period of building a doctor-patient relation....

## CONCLUSION

All this violence and terror is almost incomprehensible. Unfortunately it is a reality, an everyday situation, something tangible and existing which we encounter in our country, in our homes, almost in all homes. Writing about this situation seems often like speculating, making things up, which is not like that. This is not making up, this is real happenings of violence against women. This excessive violence is a result of our patriarchal mentality, an inherited result in archaic primitive families, but generally of people with mental disorders during the years of classic Serbian occupation, in a difficult situation of the long colonization and the war experienced during the twentieth century. I am a woman too, and I feel deeply the violence exercised in each of them. My ongoing efforts are to change myself, change things for better in a community here I live and also help whenever I can. It is a big challenge for all of us, our society which is not capable of changing the attitude toward women, fight the violence uncompromisingly exercised upon her. This is a very ugly situation and if we don't fight it will take us into the abyss. Women as an object of torture and violence can not fight this very negative, primitive, humiliating exposure by herself. Our nation went through many calamities under the colonial rule and classic and such an ongoing situation of nightmare and war obviously affects the mental state.

The entire nation, whole population went through many physical and mental disorders, went through many years of repression, imprisonments, beating, killing, massive expulsion - summarized in a few words the horrors of the greatest Holocaust in Europe. Finally, by the fate's will we became a state where we can enjoy our freedom and be led the way we want. Mental disorders had the effect, they can not be erased so quickly they follow us constantly. They are additional problems for us, which we could not even predict. These are disorders that our nation accumulated for years. This and many other things effect our proper development and of our new generations.

The possibility to reveal what we really were very often was lost, what we feel, what we want and how would we want to change something for our general well-being on the approach toward women. It is often forgotten that we are a peace loving nation, that in our history for centuries, we never invaded nor occupied any country that in our traditions there was ethic and still is, human behavior toward women in a part of our families.

Negative energy accumulated for decades, reflects certainly in our deviant and harsh behavior. Cruel behavior and often discriminating toward children, wife, mothers and grandmothers deserve every condemnation. No case, not any violent behavior against women can be excused and justified. No violence against anyone can be tolerated let alone against women. After the last war we have suffered a number of murders, including women, All this is a result of revenge, disputes, mental disorders and patriarchy that still dominate our homes. This situation unfortunately continues to be present in our family and social life. An army of unemployed, difficult social situation and no prospects create depression in many people, within many families with no vision for a better and happier future. This social crisis



lessens our indescribable joy for our state. for years the population waited for things to get better and it will certainly get better, but things move very slowly in many areas of our family and social life.

We have not understood thoroughly the situation that by exercising violence in the family against women we plant the seeds of violence to new generation. We seem unaware that we should restrain and fight violence against women and any person. It is said that the man is the pillar of the family, in spite of this the burden falls on every man to understand that all he went through under the colonial rule, perhaps all Albanian woman suffered twice as much. She was at all times the carrier of good and bad, mother and educator, cared for the children, in great poverty she made efforts to prepare something for her husband and children even then when she had nothing to cook and prepare. So, Kosovar woman stayed side by side with her husband in all the situations of poverty and the war for the freedom of Kosovo. She went through the calamity that this people went through. Why does she restrain herself and not beat her husband?! Why did it become a custom for the man to beat his wife in our homes?! Here we come to the gender difference, the force, Darwin's theory, that unfortunately the fittest survive, have to exist. This applies in nature, for the animal world and not for human beings.

Another problem arises the problem when mothers beat their children. This is a vicious circle, cursed and has no end. The cycle of violence that revolves within the family and hurts other members of the family. There are times when we are sceptical that something will change for good and that the problem of violence will be solved. This is a very complex family and social issue which can not be changed quickly unless we change ourselves. The condemnation against violence should never be kept silent. It should be talked and condemned loudly. It is an ugly thing to tolerate violence an evil thing that hurts and kills. We stress, taking into consideration basic rights and freedoms to which all humans are entitled, based on the state and international rights the violence against women is not permitted, even by Koran and the bible. Violence on no occasion should be tolerated. We will try to understand, treat and we have the necessary willingness to help those abused women in all occasions and fight practically the violence exercised against the woman in our families.

No one wants to be beaten, discriminated and humiliated. This happens and it is expressed more in our families. The bad thing is that in the consciousness of a majority this seems like something natural. Some women even think that if they get punished physically for the fault that they made this is entirely normal. Violence is only told and confessed when the person is made to go to hospital, as we say in everyday life. Very often they do not talk about the humiliation that they experience from their husbands. Fear and attitude that violence should be kept hidden, silent, not told, suggest that we tacitly agree with this disgusting practice in our society. Every woman should have the courage to speak openly about this primitive, patriarchal phenomenon of violence exercised on our women, so we could protect women and make efforts to eliminate it. Completely aware that the matter is not attractive, perhaps even unpleasant, sensitive, I tried to remain neutral in the sense of attributing the fault and responsibility. In this case fault is not accepted.

The violence against women should be observed, studied and treated the way it is best for those who voluntarily stay with their families. No problem is solved overnight, certainly not sensitive social issues like these which are a reality within the development of our society. Development derives from us, we build our social reality by our actions, our consciousness

and behavior, and therefore we should be mindful of our accountability for our society actions.

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