

## Abstract of Contribution 3967

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**RN23 - Sexuality**

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### **The Influence of Police Officers' Gender in Their Attitude Towards Domestic Violence and Intimate Partner Violence in Portugal**

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In recent years, Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) gained increased visibility in the public space in Portugal, mainly due to the number of women killed by their partners. In the complexity of social structures and interaction mechanisms of the public and private spaces, we perceive an unequal distribution of power between men and women that legitimizes the prevalence of authority as an expression of male identity (Vieira 2017, 2020; Begonya 2020; Santos, 2020; Vanesa Pérez-Martinez et al.,2020). If we put the lens on patriarchal social structures, we perceive the reproduction of hierarchies and privileges, that naturalize and legitimize the domination of women by men (Bourdieu, 1999). Given the relevance of police intervention, and the level of decision allowed to police officers to judge IPV situations (Myhill & Jonhson 2016), it was our goal to understand the influence of gender in the police officer's attitude towards IPV situations. To this end, GNR military personnel were surveyed through an online questionnaire about their beliefs, values, and professional attitudes regarding domestic violence. A total of 1871 valid responses were received. The results were analyzed using the IBM SPSS version 25 software. The distribution of responses across the levels of the scale, shows the existence of differences in how respondents of different genders evaluate the problem of IPV. The dimension and impact that IPV continues to have in contemporary societies, make it necessary for police forces to adapt and deepen their training and action models, to the knowledge that has been acquired about victims and aggressors.