

One in three EU women experienced violence

8th March, 2013



About a third of all women in the European Union have experienced violence at some time in their life. A survey from the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights found that around 62 million women over the age of 15 have experienced physical or sexual violence. The agency interviewed over 42,000 women across Europe. The women gave

details about violence at home and at work. This included domestic abuse, rape, stalking, sexual harassment and online bullying. The survey found that 22 per cent of women suffered from violence by a husband or boyfriend. It also found that 67 per cent of the women did not report serious domestic violence to the police.

The EU said that laws have to change to protect women. They want to make domestic violence a public offence. At the moment police in many countries cannot stop domestic violence because it happens in the home. The agency's director said the violence against women shows there is, "an extensive human rights abuse" in all EU countries. He added: "These survey figures simply cannot and should not be ignored." He said violence against women was a huge problem that affects everyone, saying: "The enormity of the problem is proof that violence against women does not just impact a few women only. It impacts on society every day." The agency said there was a strong link between alcohol and the violence.

Sources: BBC / The Irish Times / The Local.de

Writing

People who are violent against women should go to prison for a long time. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

third / violence / survey / interviewed / abuse / online / bullying / suffered / domestic / protect / public / offence / extensive / figures / problem / enormity / impacts / society

True / False

- Two-thirds of women in Europe have experienced violence. T / F
- 62 million women in the European Union have suffered from violence. T / F
- The EU interviewed 42,000 women about violence. T / F
- Most women reported violence to the police. T / F
- The EU said laws to protect women are tough enough. T / F
- An EU director said violence against women was a human rights abuse. T / F
- The director said people would probably ignore the report. T / F
- The EU said violence and alcohol were linked. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. experienced | a. safeguard |
| 2. survey | b. questioned |
| 3. interviewed | c. big |
| 4. online | d. lived with |
| 5. found | e. evidence |
| 6. protect | f. questionnaire |
| 7. offence | g. connection |
| 8. huge | h. discovered |
| 9. proof | i. cyber |
| 10. link | j. crime |

Discussion – Student A

- Why are people violent?
- Is there ever any reason to be violent?
- Why do some people like looking at violence?
- What do you think about what you read?
- What does violence against woman say about society?
- What can countries do to reduce violence against women?
- What should schools do to warn people about violent behaviour?
- What can society do to get more women to report violence?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. About a third | a. the age of 15 |
| 2. at some time | b. affects everyone |
| 3. 62 million women over | c. serious domestic violence |
| 4. The women gave details | d. abuse |
| 5. women did not report | e. of all women |
| 6. laws have to change | f. and the violence |
| 7. human rights | g. about violence at home |
| 8. a huge problem that | h. every day |
| 9. It impacts on society | i. in their life |
| 10. a strong link between alcohol | j. to protect women |

Discussion – Student B

- How did this article make you feel?
- Will laws help reduce violence against women?
- Why don't many countries think domestic violence is a crime?
- What can society do to protect women?
- Should violence against women carry a huge jail sentence?
- How does violence against women affect the whole of society?
- Should there be more laws for alcohol to reduce violence?
- What everyday things we read, look at or listen to might make people violent?

Spelling

- a ihtr of all women
- yhapilsc or sexual violence
- The agency riwetevndie over 42,000 women
- This ldiucnde domestic abuse
- online bliynqu
- ireusos domestic violence
- tecorpt women
- a public cnofeef
- These survey gesifur
- should not be iedrogn
- It impacts on ioysetc every day
- a strong link between haolclo and the violence

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. f	3. b	4. i	5. h
6. a	7. j	8. c	9. e	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Movies

You think movies lead to violence the most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which of these are least responsible for encouraging violence (and why): cartoons, sport or video games.

Role B – Cartoons

You think cartoons lead to violence the most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which of these are least responsible for encouraging violence (and why): movies, sport or video games.

Role C – Sport

You think sport leads to violence the most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which of these are least responsible for encouraging violence (and why): cartoons, movies or video games.

Role D – Video games

You think video games lead to violence the most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which of these are least responsible for encouraging violence (and why): cartoons, sport or movies.

Speaking – Violent things

Rank these with your partner. Put the most violent at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- movies
- TV news
- wrestling / boxing
- sports matches
- books
- street protests
- cartoons
- video games

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.