

Titre : « **Femicide in Italy: social problems and the current Criminal Law.** »

Auteurs : V. MARINO (1), A. FEOLA (2), A. MASULLO (2), L.T. MARSELLA (3)

Affiliations : (1) Section of Legal Medicine, University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Rome, Italy.
(2) Department of Experimental Medicine, Second University of Naples, Naples, Italy.
(3) Legal Medicine and Social Security Services, Department of Biomedicine and Prevention, University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Rome, Italy

Email : valeria.marino@live.it

Introduction

Femicide is defined as the killing of women due to their gender. Femicide is a broader criminology category, which includes every kind of violence on women, systematically exerted in behalf of a patriarchal system. It is a violation of human rights, both in public and private sphere, in which violence is the result of misogynist practices.

Every day in Italy hundreds of women are exposed to gender-based violence; the average of last decade is 170 feminicides for year.

The Italian Government has reacted to this escalation of violence introducing new laws aiming to tighten up punishments for the convicted of these crimes. Besides this, preventive measures to safeguard women and victims of domestic violence have been introduced as well.

Materials and Method

The aim of this study is to analyze Italian legislation on gender-based violence. It focuses on the rules introduced with the Legislative Decree n. 93 14.08.2013, passed into law n. 119 15.10.2013 which contains urgent dispositions about public security and fight against gender-based violence. Its aim is to prevent feminicides and to protect the potential victims.

Results

In the International Human Rights Law, women's rights are granted by several UN conventions and Regional Agreements, nevertheless international statistic indicate that gender-based violence is still present. Domestic violence still affects millions of women all over Europe.

Clinical researches and official investigations aiming to evaluate the phenomenon of femicide have influenced national political debates and legislation reforms in some States.

Italy, even before the recent Legislative Decree on femicide (d.l.14.08.2013 n. 93), has ratified the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul 2011) with the law 27.06.2013 n. 77.

A new legislation, based on the recommendations coming from the Convention above, has empowered the legal tools for the repression of domestic violence and stalking. These crimes are now being considered as a sign of danger, expressing a high potential of degenerating into femicide.

Conclusion

In last years an increasing awareness from society and Public Institutions about the true nature of crimes on women made it possible to collect statistics and to organize socio-criminological investigations. Nevertheless, it is still essential to stimulate an even broader awareness from national and supranational institutions, such as UE, and to spread more incisive on the phenomenon among citizens.

Keywords: violence, women, dignity, femicide, femicide