

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: A STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT OF A FAILED STATE

VIOLENCIA DE GÉNERO: UN ESTADO DE CUENTA DE UN ESTADO FALLIDO

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November 25th, **The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**, however, each victim exposes a failed state to us. This year, we have failed Brenda Liz Pérez Bahamonde, Erika Marie Neris Díaz, María Julia Febus Santiago, Adaly Santiago Ramos, Jennifer Michelle Maldonado Padua, Wilmarie Castro Díaz, Kanluska Morales Cintrón, Dorcas Greymar Irizaray Pagán, Nancy Rosario Marina, Daisy Carrión Navarro, Yomara Torres Garay, Vanessa Cardona Soto, Iraida Hornedo Camacho and Joanna Rosalie Pla Rivera. Each one of these identified victims and the many others, who have “disappeared,” with no apparent cause of death, or those who have been forgotten, represent a failed state of the government and of each person that makes up this society.

Gender-based violence has increased considerably in Puerto Rico in recent years. This reality, unfortunately, is not very different from other countries in Latin America, the Caribbean and the United States of America. We are aware that, usually, statistics do not come close to the reality of the problem. **We have a state of emergency.** Fear of the aggressor, shame, lack of sensitivity and empathy of some people in management agencies, inconsistencies, and little support from the judicial system, among other reasons, lead victims of gender violence to remain silent, and with the silence, they lose the battle. There are many other disappeared women, of whom there are unconfirmed suspicions, who remain in the memories of their family and friends, but forgotten by the justice system. The only acceptable justice is that women do not have to experience a single act of violence. Tackling gender-based violence from a patriarchal culture requires profound transformations at different levels and from a plurality of approaches. A thank you to community organizations for their efforts to eradicate gender-based violence.

In this issue we include the special section **“Gender-based violence: A statement of ac-**

count of a failed state” with the intention of calling for reflection and action on the complex reality of gender-based violence that affects us globally. The Sexual Consent Scale (Irizaray-Rodríguez et al.,) makes us aware of the importance of assuming an assertive position on our bodies, regardless of the nature of the relationship we are engaging. On the other hand, we know that gender violence affects various areas of society, including the work environment. How prepared are human resources personnel to address gender violence issues in the workplace? Soto Sánchez and Serrano García present a qualitative work on the experiences of human resources personnel in dealing with cases of gender violence and the implications for training process in order to manage those situations in a responsibly and effectively way. Finally, we know that gender violence is complex and interconnected by multiple realities. Torres Lorenzo and collaborators present a narrative review on the intersectionality of substance use and gender violence. A topic little worked on in Puerto Rico is the use of substances and how it can be used as a coping mechanism for trauma experiences, but at the same time a way of control and manipulation on the part of the aggressor. There is a lot to do in the area of prevention, treatment and in transforming the legal processes that do not adjust to the magnitude and complexity of these cases. The present and future agenda must be directed towards moving from a failed to a state of non-violence.

This issue also includes seven articles that address a variety of relevant topics. Two articles present the topic of spirituality; one approaching the spirituality as part of coping with the death of significant others (Torres Narváez & Martínez-Taboas) and another article presents the relevance of addressing spirituality within the discipline of psychology (Pagan-Torres). Preliminary results on the feasibility and acceptance of the “acceptance and commitment” therapy for the Latino

population with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and substance abuse in Puerto Rico are also presented (Pérez-Pedrogo et al.). A topic that is still current and relevant, it is the COVID-19 pandemic. Salessi explored the resources of psychological capital, job satisfaction, and organizational commitment in a sample of Argentine teachers during the pandemic period. On the other hand, at a time the World Cup is being held, one of the articles (Acosta González) discusses the possible impact of the sports press on high-performance athletes in Puerto Rico. We also include an article that presents the Palgrave Encyclopedia of Biographies of Latin American Psychology, which includes the first Puerto Rican university professors (Roca de Torres et al., 2022). Finally, we include an article that analyzes the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), version 5 text revised compared to previous versions (González-Rivera & Alvarez-Alatorre).

This issue presents a variety of topics relevant to the discipline of psychology. We thank the authors for their commitment to the discipline and the reviewers who ensure the quality articles. I hope this issue renews our commitment to promote changes that translate into a better quality of life for our society.

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