

Domestic Violence

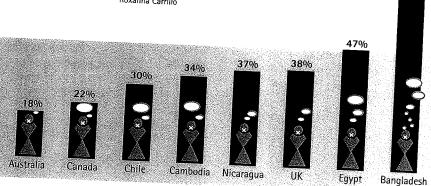
For millions of women, the home is the most dangerous place they could be. Far from being a place of safety, the family is often a cradle of violence. Women suffer cruelties in their homes every day, from all family members. Domestic violence is a means of keeping women "in their place," literally confined to relationship, household, or family structures defined by patriarchal authority. Violence against women sustains particular sexual, family, and household structures, and keeps women subordinate to them.

Domestic violence is the most ubiquitous constant in women's lives around the world. There is virtually no place where it is not a significant problem, and women of no race, class, or age are exempt from its reach. Statistics on domestic violence are notoriously unreliable. What information we do have about it is only available because of concerted campaigns by women to bring attention to this issue.

Violence against women is often ignored or even condoned by the state on the grounds that it is a "private" matter.

Significant
numbers of the world's population
are routinely subject to torture, starvation,
terrorism, humiliation, mutilation and even
murder simply because they are female.
Crimes such as these against any other group
would be recognized as a civil
and political emergency.

Charlotte Bunch and Roxanna Carrillo



When women say it's OK
Percentage of women who say it is acceptable
for a husband to beat his wife for one or more
specific reasons – burning food, arguing with him,
going out without telling him, neglecting the
children, refusing sex
2004 selected countries

34%

Egypt Zambia India Ethiopia Haiti Cambodia Nicaragua

Canada 11% of women have been stalked in the past 5 years in a way that caused them to fear for their life; 80% of all stalkers were male.

Domestic violence costs more than \$1 billion a year in medical costs alone; 22%–35% of women who visit a hospital emergency room do so because of domestic violence.

68%

CANADA

Argentina.

In Buenos Aires
province, police receive
an average of
53 complaints of
domestic violence a day.

Suffering in silence

Percentage of physically abused women who never told family or officials about their abuse 2002 selected countries

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16%

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14%

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Sao Paulo BRAZIL

2006 9,000+ BOLIVIA 70%

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UK Violence against women One incident of domestic violence is reported to the police every minute, accounting for 16% of all crime; proportion of adult women who say they have experienced physical abuse 77% of victims of domestic by a male partner or intimate violence are women; **Poland** 25% of women will be affected by number of cases of domestic violence In 2006, 20,809 cases domestic violence in their lifetime: reported to the police date given were prosecuted, For women aged 19-44, domestic 8,938 convictions were violence is the leading cause of morbidity. secured. Russia 2005 31,656 36.000 women 1994 565,000 2005 are beaten every day RUSSLA by a husband or 2006 3,300 partner. 36,534 **Pakistan** 15% More than 70% of women UKRAINE 2005 110 in police custody are 14% subjected to physical and sexual abuse. JAPAN 24% 6.3% AZERBALIAN 2006 57,545 15% Belgrade partial/regional SYRIA Yokohama CHINA 50% 30% Palestine . 2005 7,419 PAKISTAN 53% Thailand ISRAEL Authority 80% 41% Dhaka Reported cases of BAHRAIN ALGERIA EGYPT 20% of women Bangkok abuse increased from 66% - UAE 60-80% are physically BANGLADESI 47% 34% 5 a day in 2002 to some form of abuse abused at least one province AUALIUH/AFÉ married women 28 a day in 2005. 42% once a year. 47% 11,000 reports 6% beaten physically THAILAND 5-26% adult women a year to police CAMBODIA INDIA PHILIPPINES 80% FTHIOPIA of assault and battery L__{17%} SRI LANKA 45-71% 66% by men against female →Sri Lanka married women 46% partners; an estimated 1,106 incidents of UGANDA 30% 200,000 women suffer violence against one district domestic violence Ghana women reported in the 41% Significant each year. press in 1998, 25% of Dar-esSalaan domestic violence which were "domestic bill passed in 2007. violence" reports. Îndia NAMIBIA New strong anti-36% domestic violence law 54% passed in 2005; among AUSTRALIA 5 provinces Mauritania 25% other features, this Dumostic violence is SOUTH AFRICA criminalizes marital rare, especially among rape and enables the Moor population. women to obtain protection orders. 32% NEW Seel John South Africa Sweden 17% European heterande I fa Australia Shelters for battered women 12% Year in which first shelter was opened Pacific Islanders selected examples India Medico

1974 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1987 1988 1989 1990 1993 1994 1995 1996 2006 2007

At least one woman in three in the world has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime by a member of her family. For the majority of such women, the abuse is repeated over months or years. In an astonishing number of cases, "ordinary" domestic violence culminates in murder. Violence against women often escalates when the woman tries to leave an abusiye relationship — this is when violent partners are most likely to turn to murder.

Some patterns of women-murder are culture and place-specific: dowry-burnings in India and Pakistan, bride-price murders in Zambia, gun-murders in the USA. "Honor killing" is a term used to identify a form of legally or socially sanctioned revenge exercised within a family against a woman who is deemed to have soiled the family's honor, usually through behavior that is judged to be sexually inappropriate. Women's human rights activists are increasing pressure on governments to take action against honor killings, but many governments are reluctant to do so.

Canada 40%-70% of all female murder victims are killed by their husbands or boyfriends. In 2003, 78 people were killed by their spouse; 64 of these victims were women. 1994-2003: 1,695 "family-related" homicides. Mexico in Cuidad Juarez and Chihuahua more than 500 women have been CANADA murdered since 1993, and

dozens more are missing.

Guatemala USA More than 2,400 women were murdered between Jamaica 2000-06; 97% of cases 90 women a year are are unsolved. killed by domestic violence El Salvador In the first 8 months of 2006, GUATEMALA 286 women were killed. EL SALVADOR

USA On average, 23 women a week are killed by intimates; this has held steady for more than a decade. Of all women murdered between 1976-2005, 42% were killed by an intimate or other family member; 74% of all murders of women from domestic violence occur after the woman has left the

relationship, filed for divorce

or sought a restraining order

against her partner.

DOMINICAN REP

Uruguay Domestic violence results in death of

1 woman

every 9 days.

VENEZUELA

Dominican Republic In the first 6 months of 2006, 43 women were killed by partners or former partners.

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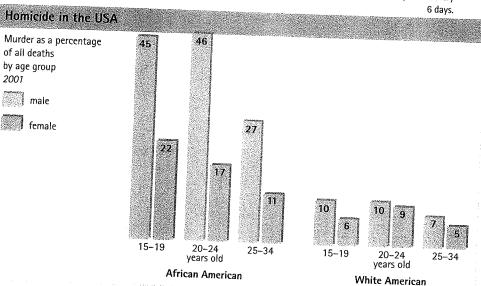
31 Puerto Rico

Domestic violence results in death of 1 woman every 10 days; Of all women murdered each year, 70% are killed by husbands, boyfriends, or ex-partners.

Venezuela

Colombia A woman is reportedly killed by her partner or ex-partner every

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