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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND FIGHTING WITH IT IN SPAIN

Today domestic violence is one of the most serious issues among women and children. It's also problem of public health and criminal justice. The risks related to domestic violence affect not only the victims, but their families, friends and police. It occurs when one person in intimate relationship or marriage tries to dominate and control the other person and it can be in all forms of psychological, physical, emotional and mental abuse. Also, issues like poverty and homelessness emerge as a result of domestic violence. Between 25%–50% of homeless families have lost their homes as a result of intimate partner violence. Although there are many causes, the effects of domestic abuse on women are quite detrimental to not only their psychological, but physical health as well.

When it comes to solve the problem of domestic violence, Spain is setting a good example. In this country, the issue of fighting domestic violence has been a national priority for over a decade. It was fourteen years ago, when the law was passed introducing key reforms in Spanish courts to deal with this problem. Special judges were trained and appointed. They have a power to process suspected cases of domestic violence within 72 hours. Over the past fifteen years, the number of domestic violence has been halved in the country. Such results exist to wide-ranging efforts by the Spanish authorities. These include specialist courts with judges trained in domestic violence. One of the main challenges in fighting violence in Spain, like in another countries, is that it takes years for victims to tell about it. Such methods and ways probably will help to deal with this serious problem not only in Spain.

To sum up, the causes for domestic violence begin with one goal. This goal is set with the purpose of feeling power and control over the other individual. It is very important to inform people that they are not alone and speaking up helps not only them, but helps bring awareness and open societies eyes. Finally, this is a very delicate topic which brings many detrimental effects to many women all over the world, and each passing day it is affecting more and more women.

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