

IX CONGRESO MUNDIAL DE BIOÉTICA WORLD CONFERENCE ON BIOETHICS

Gijón, (España) 17- 19 Octubre 2016

The IX World Conference on Bioethics organised by the International Society of Bioethics (SIBI) IX took place over the 17, 18 and 19 October in Gijón. Entitled "Violence against women: socio-structural and legal perspectives", over five hundred national and international delegates took part. The programme for the event was drawn up in collaboration with a cross-section of representatives from the Feminist Movement of Asturias.

After three days of conferences given by experts in the subject, not to mention several intense debates, the following Conclusions were adopted by consent at the Closing Act:

Whereas male violence constitutes the most serious manifestation of gender inequality and the most flagrant violation of women's human rights in our society.

Whereas feminism cannot stand indifferent in the face of gender violence, it will continue to demand the eradication of such violence as a priority on the Policy Agenda until such time as it becomes a matter of state given that it affects society as a whole.

We believe there is an urgent necessity to adopt the following measures.

1.- To reach a National Agreement across the political and social divide to serve as a guarantee of the right of all women to a violent free life under any political and economic situation.

2.- That all the measures and provisions provided for in the current Law 1/2004 of 28 December on Comprehensive Protection Measures Against Gender Violence be developed. It is particularly urgent that the following be implemented:

2.1- The setting-up of specialist medical units to attend to the victims of gender violence.

2.2- The provision of effective instruments to assess the risk and to coordinate all existing resources.

2.3- Special training for all those professionals involved in the process.

3.- Male violence against women is an act of the will aimed at subordinating women. Inequality is at the root of gender violence and is difficult to recognise as it is made socially invisible and legitimated, accordingly it is necessary that:

3.1- The education system invest in co-education at all levels and have teachers who have been trained in the structural factors of gender inequality.

3.2- Education must serve to deconstruct myths, such as romantic love, teaching affective-sexual education programmes that encourage relations of respect and independence to avoid both violence in teenage couples, as well as discrimination based on sexual diversity.

3.3- Communication media professionals must be trained in relation to gender inequality to ensure rigorous treatment of gender violence.

3.4- Measures must be adopted that contribute to reducing the symbolic violence present in all communication media, advertising, video games and social networks because there is complete impunity with respect to the extolling of sexism and male chauvinism.

4.- As an expression of the gravity of gender violence we propose:

4.1- The inclusion of the misogynous murder of women or *femicide* as a criminal offence.

4.2- Regulation of the consuetudinary or ritual matrimony, as well as providing for the figure of reverential fear.

4.3- The trafficking of women as 21st century slavery must be urgently tackled.

Women who are the victims of any form of male violence require the solidarity of all the institutions and society because WITHOUT RELIEF THERE IS NO JUSTICE.

Gijón, 20 October 2016