

## AN END TO IT ALL

It is hard to believe that violence against women has existed since prehistoric times and that thousands of women end up dying every week in this day and age. Why is the number of victims rising every year and how is this kind of violence changing?

Years ago in western countries, women tended to work at home and took care of their families. Men had the responsibility to get money, so consequently, to be the leader of the family. Sometimes, that fact permitted men to feel superior to women, and to do with them whatever they wanted. Actually, societies produced these false thoughts indirectly; women were a property which fathers gave to their husbands by a contract, marriage.

It strikes me that violence against middle-aged women has not risen as much as statistics said it would; in the past women did not report abuse as a consequence of their economic and social dependence, so this is not a current problem. Although this aspect has improved in western countries, it still has an important role in developing countries. Governments must provide more funds for women in this situation to keep them safer and more independent.

Violence against women is popularly associated with adults' relationships; nonetheless, the cases of teenage violence have alarmingly increased. According to a new report of the Spanish Government, about 1 in 3 people (from 15 to 29 years old) believe that: "it is normal to control your partner's timetables, their relationships with family and friends, studies, work, or even tell them what they can or cannot do".

That is not violent behaviour, but as far as I know, it is this obsession with "control" which could trigger violent acts among the youngest couples. New technologies do not help this kind of conducts; women are more exposed to "control" with mobile phones, social networks as well as whatsapp. Secondary schools must be stricter when it comes to teaching students the importance of respect instead of control.

Education is the best weapon to fight inequality and violence; nobody can give in to violence. There is always a way out. Societies must protect defenseless people; behind each woman there could be a child who is living this torture too. We have to break inequality stereotypes. Only then could we put an end to violence against women.