

POWERLESS TO ACT?

It is a fact that there exist plenty of serious concerns which governments and our current society have to deal with. Indeed, violence against women is by far one of the most important ones. The staggering figures are thoroughly frightening. It is absolutely necessary to eradicate it once and for all.

Owing to the fact that the underlying causes of violence against women are inequality and discrimination, the first and foremost measure would be to bring everybody up knowing about human rights and equality among all human beings, at home as well as at school. Actually, this should be done since children are toddlers.

In addition to this, laws should be modified in order to make them efficient and effective. Governments should make people obey them, if necessary, punishing those who broke the law.

As a matter of fact, it is outrageous to see how people in authority and power are sitting on the fence doing far less than they should do about it, and putting some women's lives at risk. I say that due to the fact that I lived an experience related to this appalling matter. I will try to explain it briefly, without telling many details.

"I had some neighbours whose situation was getting worse and worse due to different reasons. Sometimes I heard some noises, but because they had a big dog, I really did not worry much about that. One day, another neighbour told me he had seen the girl with some bruises. She was bound to have been hit by her boyfriend. I could not believe my ears! I was struck by such a horrible problem. That night, I heard some noises and the couple arguing, even screaming. I decided to call the police. When four policemen arrived at the house, first of all, they wanted to speak to me. I was asked all kind of questions related to the couple. After that, they went to my neighbours' place. They did nothing in spite of the fact that they knew the girl had some black-and-blue marks. They only talked to the couple and she said that she was okay. Afterwards, they spoke back to me, to explain they could not do anything else. Needless to say, I was absolutely confused and disappointed, and I told them so. That night I could not sleep a wink. The day after, I made the decision to call 016. I was asked a huge amount of questions, yet again. Eventually, they told me they only acted when the woman who needed help actually asked for help. I was told to try to speak to the girl. I was unable to understand what was happening and how the things were evolving.

The arguments went on. My distress and frustration were rampant each time I phoned the police, knowing they did nothing to work out such a hideous situation. As I was determined to find a solution, I went to visit the police's station in order to speak to someone who was responsible for this kind of problems. I was told that, according to the law, they could not do anything. The neighbours should carry on calling them. The more, the better. They should report it to the police. Once more, I was painfully worried about such a shocking story. I had never lived a similar situation before.

Thanks to the neighbours' calls and as a result of the police visits, we realised that things got a little better. However, the problem was still there. A tragedy was likely to happen one day. Nothing had been solved.

Some time later, the couple had to move to another place."

With hindsight, I wonder what the point of worrying so much was, was it useless?. After doing my best, I did feel hopeless, due to the reasons I have just explained above.

All things considered, people in authority and power must make a shift right now, in order to abolish this earthshaking problem. The sooner this change takes place, the more significant the reduction of violence against women will be.

**Level: First advanced
Pseudonym: Disappointed**