

Congreso Mundial Punta Arenas, September 23 to 27, 2024

Presentation “Chiamatela Venerdì – Storie di quotidiana violenza domestica” (Call her Friday) di Guendalina Di Sabatino

I am honored to participate in the Ammpe 2024 World Congress together with many illustrious women committed to affirming female subjectivity. The urgency of the issues that this authoritative Association of women journalists and writers places on the agenda, urges the assumption of responsibility of men, women and governments of the regions of the world to combat the multiple and transversal forms of violence produced by a system which, in the current terrible and painful phase of climate change and “third world war in pieces”, as Pope Francisco says, continues to place an economy of profit accumulation based on oppression and exploitation above all else.

All of us, women and men, from one end of the planet to the other, live in a society oppressed by inequalities and injustices, by discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, disability. These forms of invisible violence that structure society and shape the experiences and social opportunities of each and every one of us are at the basis of a millennial patriarchal order based on female subordination in the hierarchy of the sexes that we have inherited over the centuries through the transmission of gender roles. These persistent sexist stereotypes continue to fuel clichés about male identity according to the model of the strong and authoritarian man, destined 'by nature' to possess and command over women and minors, justifying the possession, control and power of man on women's bodies and on their freedom of affirmation. The stories of domestic violence collected in the book "Chiamatela Venerdì" (Call her Friday) clearly demonstrate how violence against women is witnessed and, in some situations, suffered by their children, persists and resists the still insufficient counteractions in the *continuum* of the transmission of principles, practices and models, which we still can't eradicate in the third millennium, despite the continuous global mobilization of women on male violence. All the women I listened to, told me about themselves in their own family contexts and about the violence they witnessed and suffered from childhood to adulthood, inflicted by their fathers, partners or father-in-law-patriarchs. They all wanted me to use fictitious names for the publication. Friday, which gives the book its title, thanks to her mother does not bear this name that her grandfather had chosen for her, in anger, scrolling through the calendar on the day of her birth, when they announced the arrival of a girl. “The name that I have lost, / where does it live where does it flourish? / (...)” Gabriela Mistral writes in the first verses of the poem “Ballad of my name”. The Nobel Prize-winning feminist poet criticizes the social denial of female identity, claiming the right to her woman's name: that right to the name that her patriarch grandfather tries to deny to the young woman who arrives in Italy from Kosovo fleeing from the violence of war and the domestic one.

They all wanted me to change dates and details of recognizable situations. In a sexist culture that is hard to renew, the fear of not being believed and the fear of retaliation from the violent partner, who they never reported but found the courage to leave thanks to a psychotherapeutic process, which led them to the awareness of annihilation, of one's own person and that of one's children.

Violence based on gender is a truth from which we would like, but can't, look away almost addicted to it, it is a hidden phenomenon that often takes place within the home and we only become aware of it when it leads to femicide. The ONU tells us that 7 out of 10 women in the world suffer violence in their lifetime. In Italy, every three days a woman is killed by the man who said he loved her, husband, partner or ex-partner, leaving their children orphaned. The tragic mourning seriously affects the psychological balance of those sons and daughters already marked by the suffering of violence witnessed within the walls of the home. I don't know if there is a State in the world that has

a registry of these "special orphans". Italy doesn't have it, despite the protection laws. And there isn't even a national day dedicated to reflecting on their painful condition, which my small women's association, the "Hannah Arendt" Women's Culture Center and Ammpe Italia are dealing with.

"Violence is an issue that concerns men first and foremost, because it is men who rape, beat, humiliate, and sometimes even kill. [...] There is no dark enemy hidden in our streets to be expelled: evil is in our homes, in our families, in the relationships and in the sexual imagination that we have built, in the sexual division of roles [...] Violence is fruit of a shared culture which is not simply the physical domination of men over women, but is the construction of a cultural imaginary which also shapes women's lives and their desires". Stefano Ciccone writes, among the authors involved in building a new male identity.

Eliminating gender violence is fundamental to changing the way of thinking of each of us, acquiring a transformative awareness that allows men and women to recognize their own complicity in the transmission of stereotypes, so deeply rooted in our consciences that they are invisible, as the possession of the other inherent in the desire to merge with the other in the model of romantic love, which, unknowingly, creates a destructive emotional dependence that kills when women choose to separate from their partner. "You don't kill for love but love has something to do with it," says Lea Melandri, one of the most important exponents of historical Italian feminism.

Gender violence is a complex structural cultural phenomenon and it is neither simple nor obvious to talk about. From discriminatory treatments to insults, beatings, sexual assaults, mutilations, femicides, digital harassment, whose main victims are female journalists, in every narrative words can contribute to eradicating or confirming clichés and stereotypes. For this reason, it would be desirable that in the editorial offices of newspapers and televisions, to have a new figure with expertise on the topic that would deal with violence against women and minors so as to no longer present the perpetrators of femicide as fathers of families and exemplary partners who are victims of raptus and madness. homicidal, generating a public opinion the false idea that femicides are mostly committed by men who are victims of psychological problems or prey to attacks of sudden aggression, triggered by a woman who does not know her place. Femicides are crimes of power. Building and knowing how to communicate new equal relationships between men and women based on mutual respect is a way to eradicate the patriarchal culture of male possession over women's bodies.

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