

2019 Annual Conference of the European Network on Gender and Violence

Feminist thoughts and the development of VAW policies in Italy

How are feminist thoughts enacted in everyday practices within anti-violence centers in Italy?

To what extent have (or not) feminist thoughts been recognized by institutions?

1st: mapping specialised and general services to support women victims of violence, in order to:

- supply a quant-qualitative analytical picture of the victim support system
- define the optimum service range



2nd: supporting policies to prevent and fight VAW, through:

- ex-ante and in itinere analyses of the new plan (2017-2020)
- post-evaluation of the previous plan (2015-17)



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INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL	ROLE AND PRACTICES OF FEMINIST MOVEMENTS
1970: Divorce Law, confirmed by referendum in 1974	Late sixties and all along the 70s: mobilization, reflections and publications by Italian feminist movements on reproductive health, sexuality, vaw and gender roles
Family law is reformed 1975	Feminist and women movements' mobilization after Circeo Massacre
Abortion Law, confirmed by referendum in 1981	Mobilizations against VAW in Rome (Urlione Donne Italiane) and all over the country
1979	Presentation of the Citizens Initiative Law against sexual violence (1995)
Honour crime is abolished 1981	
1986	"Violare il silenzio" - European conference of women's centre against sexual violence in Venice
1990	21 anti-violence centres all over the country
National law against sexual violence 1996	First national conference of D.I.Re.network anti-violence women's centres
First survey on sexual violence Italian National Institute of statistic (ISTAT) 1997	
Urban Project: "Anti-violence network among the cities" 1998	
2000	Over 80 anti-violence centres all over the country
Law against violence within family relationships 2001	
Setting up the national helpline 1522 2006	
First national survey on VAW (ISTAT) 2007	"Not in my name" mobilization
National Law on stalking 2009	
First National Plan against violence and stalking 2010	185 anti-violence centres all over the country
Italy ratifies of the Istanbul Convention and Law on Femicide 2011	Publication of CEDAW shadow report
National minimum standards for of women's centres and shelters 2013	
National Extraordinary Action Plan on sexual and gender-based violence 2014	
2015	First mobilization against VAW of "Non una di meno"
National Strategic Plan on male violence against women 2017	Publication of "Non una di meno" anti-violence Plan
VIVa project + ISTAT research on specialist support services 2017	CEDAW shadow report (Lavori in corsa network)
2019	338 anti-violence centres all over the country
	Publication of GREVIO shadow report

Current situation in Italy (quantitative study's findings)

- 338 anti-violence centers mapped:
- 51 are public centres
 - 158 are managed by associations or NGOs focused only on VAW
 - 128 are managed by associations or NGOs active in many fields, also in combating VAW and supporting VAW's victims

14th National
 thoughts on
 feminism

As in other European countries, feminist thoughts are hegemonic in anti-violence centres, as:

- Centres and shelters in Italy were founded by feminist and women groups. Their practices and models of interventions were developed within feminist tradition as recognized also in institutional documents, namely:
- Anti-violence practices based in women's relationship
 - Gender approach
 - Women at the core of the intervention: women's role, needs and desires are central in the definition of a proper support
 - Women's empowerment (self-empowerment, job and housing support)
 - Multi-agency approach

Feminist contributions to Italian National Plan

- Gender approach: VAW as generated by gender inequalities
- Holistic and multi-agency approach to combating VAW
- Avoid re-victimization
- Importance of women's empowerment
- Women who are subjected to violence are at the core of interventions
- Use of gendered language

and to Agreement on centers minimum standards

- Women-to-women relationship
- Women's needs and desires at the core of practices/interventions
- Only female personnel can help women with centers/shelters
- Centers that focus only (or mainly) on VAW and that have at least 5 years of experience on VAW
- Mediation is prohibited

Two questions are now framing VVA's analysis:

Are there other "positive" models or patterns of intervention in supporting women who are dealing with VAW, different than feminist ones?

Which is the role of Institutions through laws as well as funding, if any, in defining women's centres practices and routines?



Angela M. Toffanin, Maura Misiti, Alice Mauri, Marta Pietrobelli
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Social Science Research Institute on Gender Issues
 Protestant University of Applied Sciences
 17-19 July 2019, Freiburg



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Feminist thoughts and the development of VAW policies in Italy

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2) supporting policies to prevent and fight VAW, through:

- ex-ante and in itinere analyses of the new plan (2017-2020)
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3) post-evaluation of the previous plan (2015-17)

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1997 First survey on sexual violence Italian National Institute of statistic (ISTAT)	
1998 Urban Project: "Anti-violence network among the cities"	
2000 Law against violence within family relationships	Over 80 anti-violence centres all over the country
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2006 First national survey on VAW (ISTAT)	
2007 National Law on stalking	"Not in my name" mobilization
2009 First National Plan against violence and stalking	185 anti-violence centres all over the country
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	338 anti-violence centres all over the country
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Current situation in Italy

(quantitative study's findings)

338 anti-violence centers mapped:

- 51 are managed by associations or NGOs focused only on VAW
- 51 are public centres
- 138 are managed by associations or NGOs active in many fields, also in combating VAW and supporting VAW's victims

As in other European countries, feminist thoughts are hegemonic in anti-violence centres, as:

Centres and shelters in Italy were founded by feminist and women groups. Their practices and models of interventions were developed with feminist tradition as recognized also in institutional documents, namely:

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Feminist contributions to Italian National Plan

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and to Agreement on centers minimum standards

- Women-to-women relationship
- Women's needs and desires at the core of practices/interventions
- Only female personnel can help women within centers/shelters
- Centers that focus only (or mainly) on VAW and that have at least 5 years of experience on VAW
- Mediation is prohibited

Two questions are now framing VIVA's analysis:

Are there other "positive" models or patterns of intervention in supporting women who are dealing with VAW, different than feminist ones?

Which is the role of Institutions through laws as well as funding, if any, in defining women's centres practices and routines?



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ViVa project

December 2017 - December 2020

Part of #4 workstream of the Italian National Strategic Plan on male violence against women 2017-2020.

The Plan defines the whole strategy to prevent and combat male VAW and domestic violence in Italy, in line with the Istanbul Convention.

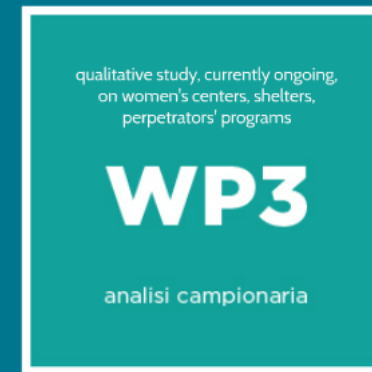
Three + one workstreams:

- 1) Prevention: awareness programs and campaigns to let the public understand socio-cultural causes and consequences of male VAW
- 2) Protection and support of women victims of violence and their children, through women's centres and shelters
- 3) Prosecution: avoid women re-victimization and guarantee fair justice
- 4) **Support and promotion of information and research system**

- ViVa project:**
- 2 areas of work
 - 4 objectives
 - 6 working packages

1°: **mapping** specialised and general services to support women victims of violence, in order to:

- supply a **quanti-qualitative analytical picture** of the victim support system
- define the 'optimum service range'



2°: **supporting** policies to prevent and fight VAW, through:

- **ex-ante and in itinere analyses** of the new plan (2017-2020)
- **post-evaluation** of the previous plan (2015-17)



qualitative study, currently ongoing,
on women's centers, shelters,
perpetrators' programs

WP3

analisi campionaria



*How are feminist thoughts enacted
in everyday practices
within anti-violence centers
in Italy?*

*To what extent have (or not)
feminist thoughts been recognized
by institutions?*

THE ITALIAN ROUTE OF WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENTS

INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL

ROLE AND PRACTICES OF FEMINIST MOVEMENTS

Late sixties and all along the '70's: mobilization, reflections and publications by Italian feminist movements on reproductive health, sexuality, vaw and gender roles

1970: Divorce Law, confirmed by referendum in **1974**

Family law is reformed **1975**

1977

Abortion Law, confirmed by referendum in **1978**

1979

Honour crime is abolished **1981**

1986

National law against sexual violence **1990**

First survey on sexual violence Italian National institute of statistic (ISTAT) **1997**

Urban Project: "Anti-violence network among the cities" **1998**

Law against violence within family relationships **2000**

Setting up the national helpline 1522 **2006**

First national survey on VAW (ISTAT) **2007**

National Law on stalking **2009**

First National Plan against violence and stalking **2010**

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National Extraordinary Action Plan on sexual and gender-based violence **2015**

National Strategic Plan on male violence against women **2017**

ViVa project + ISTAT research on specialist support services **2017**

2019

Feminist and women movements' mobilization after Circeo Massacre

Mobilizations against VAW in Rome (Unione Donne Italiane) and all over the country

Presentation of the Citizens initiative Law against sexual violence (1996)

"Violare il silenzio" - European conference of women's centre against sexual violence in Venice

21 anti-violence centres all over the country

First national conference of D.i.Re.network anti-violence women's centres

1996

1997

1998

2000

2001

2006

2007

2009

2010

2011

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2017

2019

Over 80 anti-violence centres all over the country

"Not in my name" mobilization

185 anti-violence centres all over the country

Publication of CEDAW shadow report

First mobilization against VAW of "Non una di meno"

Publication of "Non una di meno" anti-violence Plan

CEDAW shadow report (Lavori in corsa network)

338 anti-violence centres all over the country

Publication of GREVIO shadow report

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ROUTE OF WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENTS

NATIONAL LEVEL

ROLE AND PRACTICES OF FEMINIST MOVEMENTS

Late sixties and all along the '70's: mobilization, reflections and publications by Italian feminist movements on reproductive health, sexuality, vaw and gender roles

referendum in	1974	
law is reformed	1975	Feminist and women movements' mobilization after Circeo Massacre
	1977	Mobilizations against VAW in Rome (Unione Donne Italiane) and all over the country
referendum in 1981	1978	
	1979	Presentation of the Citizens initiative Law against sexual violence (1996)
rape is abolished	1981	
	1986	"Violare il silenzio" - European conference of women's centre against sexual violence in Venice
	1990	21 anti-violence centres all over the country
sexual violence	1996	First national conference of D.i.Re.network anti-violence women's centres
statistic (ISTAT)	1997	
"connecting the cities"	1998	
	2000	Over 80 anti-violence centres all over the country
gay relationships	2001	
helpline 1522	2006	
on VAW (ISTAT)	2007	"Not in my name" mobilization
law on stalking	2009	

"We are a women's center, not only an anti-violence women's center. This means that we are going to listen to every woman who will come here. All women will be listened for their problems [...] The anti-violence center is a laboratory of thoughts [...] We are still leading to the direction of stimulating the outside world on some dimensions. A laboratory that is constantly evolving and constantly checking what we do, what we are interested in." **Not-for-profit anti-violence women's centre A, North of Italy, 2019**

"We are a place of women, of freedom, of possibilities and of resources. We started as a political movement, and we are now increasingly combining our professional skills with political action. We are a professional and social 'workshop', that we are also a complex place, which must be chosen, because the experience of violence is an important part of it." **Not-for-profit anti-violence women's centre B, North of Italy, 2019**



Prezi

“We are a women’s center, not only an anti-violence women’s center. This means that we are going to listen to every woman who will come here. All women will be listened for their problems. (...) The anti-violence center is a laboratory of thoughts. (...) We are still leading to the direction of stimulating the outside world on some dimensions. A laboratory that is constantly evolving and constantly checking what we do, what we are interested in.” **Not-for profit anti-violence women’s centre A, North of Italy, 2019**

women’s centre

“We are a place of women, of freedom, of possibilities and of resources. We started as a political movement, and we are now increasingly combining our professional skills with political action. We are a professional and social “workshop”. But we are also a complex place, which must be chosen, because the experience of violence is an important part of it.

Not-for profit anti-violence women’s centre B, North of Italy, 2019



Here there was a women's centre since 1994. It was public: the Municipality allowed women and feminist groups to open a library. It was a place where women could meet and speak of everything, including violence. (...) It was a place of comfort, where discomfort was embraced. The access to anti-violence centre happened through the library; therefore, women's privacy and safety were guaranteed. We were living in difficult times, with no laws, no multi-agency approach and women who were subjected to violence were constantly blamed and stigmatized. It was also a projects' lab.

Public women's center A, North of Italy, 2019

but also
other types...

Current situation in Italy

(quantitative study's findings)

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but feminist thoughts as hegemonic



Feminist contributions to Italian National Plan

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Thank you!

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