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FEMINIST THOUGHTS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF VAW POLICIES IN ITALY



4 OBJECTIVES



- **1°: mapping** the 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)

Male violence against women stems from the public and scientific debates in the seventies, with reference mainly to sexual and domestic violence. In Italy, the work of women's association and feminist movement(s) gave voice to women and their experiences.

During the late sixties and all along the seventies, Italian feminist movements reflect on and fight for reproductive health, sexuality and gender roles. Furthermore, they contributed and continue to:

- the development of public policies related to VAW and support-services
- integrate feminist concepts and practices into policies

THE ITALIAN ROUTE OF WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENTS

ROLE AND PRACTICES OF FEMINIST MOVEMENTS INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL 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 Feminist and women movements' mobilization after Circeo Massacre **1977** Mobilizations against VAW in Rome (Unione Donne Italiane) and all over the country Abortion Law, confirmed by referendum in 1981 1978 1979 Presentation of the Citizens initiative Law against sexual violence (1996) 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 2011 Publication of CEDAW shadow report Italy ratifies of the Istanbul Convention and Law on Femicide 2013 National minimum standards for of women's centres and shelters 2014 National Extraordinary Action Plan on sexual and gender-based violence 2015 **2016** 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 CEDAW shadow report (Lavori in corsa network)

HOW FEMINIST THOUGHTS ARE ENACTED IN EVERYDAY PRACTICES WITHIN ANTI-VIOLENCE CENTRES IN ITALY?

338 anti-violence centres:

158 are managed by associations or NGOs focused only on VAW

are public centres

128 are managed by associations or NGOs focused not only on VAW

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

· Anti-violence centres and shelters in Italy were founded by feminist and women's 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's needs and desires at the "core" of the intervention
- Women's empowerment (self-empowerment, job and housing support)
- Multi-agency approach

2019 Publication of GREVIO shadow report

TWO QUESTIONS ARE NOW FRAMING VIVA'S ANALYSIS:

Are there other "positive" models or patterns of intervention in supporting women who suffer 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?





