

BOOK REVIEW

PFITZNER NAOMI, FITZ-GIBBON KATE, WALKLATE SANDRA, MEYER SILKE, SEGRAVE MARIE, *Violence Against Women During Coronavirus. When Staying home isn't safe*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2023, 150 p. Open access https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-29356-6_1

The book *Violence Against Women During Coronavirus. When Staying home isn't safe* brings into discussion the societal response to a social problem – violence against women – in the context of a global health crisis generated by the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Structured into seven chapters, the work constitutes a veritable radiography of the challenges generated by the restrictions applied in some stages of the quarantine imposed during the pandemic. The authors highlight, on the one hand, the difficulties encountered by victims in accessing support services, and on the other hand, the efforts of practitioners to intervene in support of victims of domestic and family violence.

The first chapter analyzes the implications of the restrictions generated by the Covid-19 pandemic on domestic violence. To describe the context generated by this health crisis, the authors discuss how violence against women has evolved during natural disasters, armed conflicts, economic crises, and other health crises such as the Ebola or Zika epidemics. All these types of crises were accompanied, according to international studies, by an increase in acts of domestic violence that manifested itself throughout the crisis and continued in the period immediately following. In all these types of crises, but especially during the Ebola and Zika virus epidemics, victims of domestic violence have had limited access to social and victim protection services due to restrictions and social distancing measures.

The second chapter shows how domestic violence has evolved in various areas of the world during the pandemic. Data were presented on the situation in areas where there were significant increases in violence (China, Jordan, Iraq, Australia) and the forms of domestic violence that took on the worst forms: coercive control were described. Particular attention was paid to the respondent femicide partner. The evolution of this type of femicide was different. There were countries in the world where rates of intimate partner femicide were not influenced by the pandemic context, but there were also countries where rates of intimate partner femicide increased (Panama, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Canada). Temporary international migrants have been caught by the pandemic restrictions in a special

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situation compared to other categories of the population. Temporary migrant women victims of domestic violence faced a double vulnerability that made it difficult to access support services. To describe the experience of this type of victim, the authors included in chapter 3 the results of research carried out in Australia, but also studies from other countries.

Chapter 4 presents the situation of child victims of domestic violence, children to whom the warnings of international organizations did not pay the necessary attention. Less visible, the children were also, to a greater extent, direct victims of abuse in the family space or witnesses to the violence suffered by their mothers. This category of victims was allocated the space of an entire chapter during which data was presented on the types of abuse and the prevalence of violence against children during the pandemic. Support services for victims of domestic violence were difficult to access during the pandemic when total quarantine was imposed, and mobility restrictions and social distancing made it almost impossible for professionals to intervene. In this context, practitioners were put in a position to innovate, to find means of information and support for victims. Chapter 5 presents the ways in which victims had access to information about support services (for example, information printed on the back of shopping receipts) or access to support services (information campaigns about codes that signaled the need for help).

The authors allocated chapter 6 to the professionals who offered support to the victims (psychologists). They themselves were forced to comply with restrictions and social distancing, facing the fear of the unknown situation generated by the pandemic. These professionals continued their work remotely through technology and tried to make up for the lack of direct contact with victims. As the authors of the book also pointed out, the pandemic led to many innovations in the field of intervention and support for victims, but it also highlighted the mental wear and tear of professionals who continued to provide support to victims. The last chapter of the book describes how the justice system has adapted to the conditions of the pandemic. Special attention was given to the way the police and the courts adapted their intervention and procedures for handling cases of violence. The book has the merit of bringing together the results of studies on the evolution of domestic violence, the experiences of victims of domestic violence (women, temporary migrants, children) with the experience of professionals from the victim protection system and the justice system, and with the community's response to the problem of violence against women during the pandemic. The book provides professionals with models of intervention and support for victims of violence in the context of health and other crises.

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