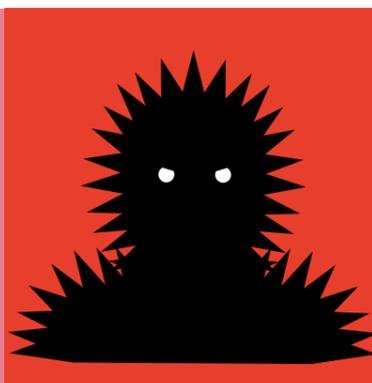


Narratives of violence too often show the prejudices and thought patterns of those who communicate, rather than tell with attention and respect the facts and dynamics.

Male violence against women in the media

How to avoid the traps of secondary victimisation

<p>1</p> <p>the monsters are the others</p>	<p>TRAP</p> <p>Violence against women is traced back to men who are foreigners or on the margins: immigrants, alcoholics, drug addicts, the insane, often made to seem monstrous or dehumanised, instead of reflecting on how close to the family it is.</p>	<p>GOOD PRACTICE FOR THE MEDIA</p> <p>Always recall data on different types of violence and their perpetrators. Violence, in particular the most serious forms of violence, is primarily committed by partners, family members or other acquaintances. Rapes are committed in 62.7% of cases by partners, in 3.6% by relatives and 9.4% by friends (Istat, 2014). From 2000 to 2019 3,230 women were killed in Italy, of which 2,355 in a family context and 1,564 at the hands of their spouse/partner or ex-partner (Eures, 2019).</p>	
<p>2</p> <p>the sudden fit of madness</p>	<p>TRAP</p> <p>Violence is portrayed as an uncontrollable act that suddenly explodes, depriving the perpetrator of responsibility. The representation of the perpetrator as a 'good person', socially or economically integrated, hinders recognition of the account of violence.</p>	<p>GOOD PRACTICE FOR THE MEDIA</p> <p>The background to the event must always be considered, even where there is no an official complaint. The number of cases never reported is very high: the complaint rates concern only 12.2% of the violence committed by partners and 6% of that by non-partners (Istat, 2014). In most cases the violence has a history of repetition and a development over time.</p>	
<p>3</p> <p>too much love</p>	<p>TRAP</p> <p>The 'she wanted to leave him, but he loved her too much' pattern is a classic stereotype based on the idea of an all-encompassing love that does not allow for change or second thoughts. But the narrative centred on jealousy and supposed excess of feelings hides possessive relationships, power and control dynamics, and inability to deal with differences and conflicts.</p>	<p>GOOD PRACTICE FOR THE MEDIA</p> <p>Possible experiences of insecurity and fragility must be distinguished from the deforming concepts and possessive forms of love that justify oppressive forms of relationships. Fear of losing a partner cannot justify control and violence.</p>	
<p>4</p> <p>it's her fault</p>	<p>TRAP</p> <p>There are many ways to project responsibility onto the woman by pointing the finger at her behaviour: the way she dresses, going out without her partner, wanting to have fun or seek pleasure, and also the fact of not having reported the violence to the authorities. This leads to blaming and laying the guilt on the victim, making them believe that they have done something to "cause" or "deserve" the violence suffered.</p>	<p>GOOD PRACTICE FOR THE MEDIA</p> <p>It is important not to take for granted or normalise the way a male looks at and behaves towards women and their bodies and lives, which is instead the main question to be asked. It is necessary to start by recognizing women's freedom without endorsing manipulative attitudes and forms of control.</p>	
<p>5</p> <p>she invented it all</p>	<p>TRAP</p> <p>Faced with complaints, in cases of ill-treatment or violence often people insist that women can lie about sexual abuses or denounce them to gain some advantage, contributing to undermining their credibility. This reinforces misogynistic stereotypes and distorts the narrative and perception of facts.</p>	<p>GOOD PRACTICE FOR THE MEDIA</p> <p>All research underlines the many obstacles that make it difficult for women to report violence, including the fear of not being believed. An eventual complaint often comes at the end of a long process of putting it off, and is the tip of the iceberg of a much more widespread violence. According to ISTAT, 6 million 788,000 women in Italy have suffered some form of physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, 31.5% of women aged between 16 and 70.</p>	

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NEVER AGAIN

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