Candies in Hell + 20

20 year of activism to end violence against women in Nicaragua

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After he beat me, he would court me and buy me clothes, but my grandmother said to me,

“Child, what are you going to do with Candies in Hell?”

Ana Cristina, Candies in Hell, 1995
Leon, Nicaragua
Candies in Hell 1995

- 1st prevalence study on VAWG in Central America
- 488 women interviewed in Leon, Nicaragua
1 out of 2 women experienced physical or sexual abuse by an intimate partner

1 out of 4 experienced violence in the last year
CARTA ABIERTA a los Diputados y Diputadas de la Asamblea Nacional:

Por este medio, solicito que la Asamblea Nacional proine la discusión y aprobación, durante el presente periodo legislativo, del Anteproyecto de Reformas al Código Penal para la Prevención y Sanción de la Violencia Intrafamiliar presentado por la Red de Mujeres contra la Violencia. Considero urgente aprobar este proyecto de ley porque:

- Una de cada dos mujeres ha sido maltratada físicamente alguna vez por el
  hombre con quien conviven.
- Una de cada cuatro está siendo maltratada actualmente.
- Son miles de niños y niñas que también son víctimas de violencia a manos de
  las personas con quienes conviven.
- Las hijas e hijos de mujeres maltratadas sufren hasta 6 veces más problemas
  emocionales, de aprendizaje, de comportamiento y de abuso que los hijos de
  mujeres no maltratadas.
- Actualmente, sólo 2 de cada 10 mujeres maltratadas hacen denuncia.

Existe consenso entre especialistas en violencia, sobre la importancia
experta en materia penal y de salud, sobre la importancia
sancionar la violencia icológica y no sólo las lesiones físicas
sólo con las medidas preventivas contempladas en el acto
fomentar que más víctimas denuncien las agresiones contra
la Red de Mujeres contra la Violencia ha recogido y trata
mujeres, hombres, jóvenes, niñas y niños para apoyar

Por todas estas razones, solicito se aprueben las reformas al Código Penal lo más

ATENTAMENTE
Blanca Estela Paramo

Nombre: Blanca Estela Paramo

Para llevar la letra, busque la carta, redacte en un sobre y dé a conocimiento de la
Asamblea Nacional. También puede escanear la firma y enviar por fax a 244 8056.
Para más información sobre la ubicación, llame a la Red de Mujeres contra la Violencia, el número 272 8780.
Candies in Hell +20

20 year follow-up study in Leon, Nicaragua, using same methods and sampling frame
1400 women aged 14-64 were interviewed about experiences of different forms of violence in their lifetimes and last 12 months using WHO instrument.
Qualitative interviews with community men and women, service providers, government officials and women’s rights activists.
Results
IPV was reduced by nearly half in 20 years

Lifetime physical violence: 52% in 1995, 28% in 2016

12 months physical violence: 27% in 1995, 8% in 2016

Lifetime sexual violence: 22% in 1995, 15% in 2016

Lifetime emotional violence: 71% in 1995, 43% in 2016
But it is still unacceptably high and much higher than official numbers

Under-reporting is due to methodological and ethical issues, including privacy, training of fieldworkers.
Lifetime prevalence of IPV has decreased particularly among younger women.
Sexual violence remains very high

- Any sexual violence (partner + non partner): 46%
- Harassed on bus: 26%
- Sexual electronic content: 14%
- Rape: 6%
- Attempted rape: 9%
- Sex for work: 4%
- Sex for grades: 2%
Why did violence decrease in Leon?
Demographic changes among women in Leon, Nicaragua between 1995-2016

- 30 years +
  - 40% (1995) vs 53% (2016)

- Rural Residence
  - 18% (1995) vs 35% (2016)

- High School +
  - 53% (1995) vs 73% (2016)

- 4 + children
  - 27% (1995) vs 9% (2016)
Risk of physical partner violence

2 X

- >30 years old
- Disabled
- Early marriage
- Partner beaten as a child
- Urban residence
- Not Married
- Partner uses alcohol

4 X

Adjusted odds ratios in multivariate logistic regression, controlling for education
What do women know about Law 779?

- Aware of Law 779: 90
- Helps women who suffer violence: 52
- Protects women's rights: 55
- Punishes men who hit women: 32

Does Law 779 help or hurt women?

- Helps women: 80
- Harms women: 15
- No difference: 7
Where do women look for help?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1995</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Courts</td>
<td>33%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Center</td>
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<td>Women’s House</td>
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Courts: 33% in 1995, 14% in 2016
Police: 7% in 1995, 9% in 2016
Hospital: 5% in 1995, 4% in 2016
Health Center: 33% in 1995
Women’s House: 7% in 1995

1995 looked for help: 33%
2016 looked for help: 14%
When is a husband justified in beating his wife? Changes in women’s opinions over time

- Neglects children or housework: 15% (1998), 14% (2006), 14% (2016)
- Leaves house without permission: 3% (1998), 5% (2006), 2% (2016)
- Refuses to have sex: 2% (1998), 2% (2006), 2% (2016)
- At least one reason: 38% (1998), 11% (2006), 2% (2016)
1995
Everyone told me - he is the father of your children, you have to stay....

2016
My neighbor told me, “You know that men can’t lay a hand on a woman: that’s not allowed.”
Before, it was taboo, something you shouldn’t talk about. Now people see it as something that shouldn’t exist - there is more rejection of violence.

I think that women are more decisive, that they won’t just stay in a relationship because it’s their husband and they are going to stick with him til the end. That doesn’t happen anymore.

Ana Cristina, 2016
This study found a 50% decrease in intimate partner violence in one generation.

Violence against women and girls can be prevented through a coordinated effort to increase women’s access to justice, comprehensive services for survivors, and greater awareness of rights.
THANK YOU