

el Periòdic News

INTERNATIONAL DAY NOVEMBER 25TH

A collective path to the elimination of violence against women

The purple dots, an essential first step managed by the Andorran Red Cross with the aim of accompanying victims

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ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

Within the framework of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, celebrated this November 25th, this day seeks to reflect on the seriousness of gender-based violence and promote actions to eradicate this scourge. Violence against women is one of the main issues in today's society, there are being raised more and more voices to eradicate this problem. Victims are more aware of the importance of reporting their aggressors, and society is showing signs of awareness of this reality. However, despite the progress, there is still much to be done.

The Andorran Women's Institute, with the limited data available, presented a report that shows an increase in the number of women who dare to ask for help. In 2023, the Service for Attention to Victims of Gender Violence (SA-VVG) attended to 301 cases, compared to 324 in 2022. These data reflect an alarming reality, although they are only comparable to those collected in the last two years, given the short history of the entity.

Despite social mobilization and the increase in resources to combat gender violence, this problem continues to be present in many areas. It is crucial to remember that many assaults occur in the immediate environment of the victims, but also in

festive contexts, such as major festivals, private events or night-clubs.

In these spaces, the purple points stand out as an essential resource for victims. These points, managed by the Andorran Red Cross, offer information, support and preventive tools. During the event held yesterday, the general director of the organization, Jordi Fernàndez, explained to EL PERIÒDIC that «it is not just a point of attention, it is also an information point and



Jordi Fernàndez

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE RED CROSS

«As an unregulated service, we cannot be present in all places if companies do not request us»

«It is not only a point of attention, it is also an information point and distribution point for glass covers and condoms»



Els punts liles s'erigeixen com un recurs essencial per a les víctimes.

a distribution point for glass covers and condoms», recalling a case that exemplifies the need for these services: «Two summers ago we had a case of three girls who had substances thrown into their drinks».

The presence of the purple points depends, to a large extent, on the will of the organizing entities. Fernàndez lamented that «as it is an unregulated service, we cannot be present in all places if the companies do not request it». This situation reflects the lack of prioritization that some entiti-

es give to gender violence, a problem that also crosses borders. Fernàndez emphasized that «to activate this service, the municipal administration or the organizing entity of the event must make the request».

The data corroborates the need for these spaces. During the second year of implementation, the Andorran Red Cross was present at 20-night events and treated 36 people, six of whom were minors. In fact, in an interview with this media outlet, the head of the Equality Policies Area of

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The purple points are established as an essential resource for victims.

the SAVVG, Mireia Porras, highlighted the concern that the service had regarding minor victims of gender-based violence: «The age group from 16 to 20 years old is one that worries us a lot because they are very young and are already suffering gender-based violence,» she said. The protocols for the purple points vary depending on the age of the victim, but the aim is always to offer immediate and efficient support. In the case of minors, the first action is to contact the 116-emergency service; however, for adults, this step may be optional. As highlighted by the general director

of the entity, the Red Cross has interdisciplinary teams made up of health professionals, social wor-

THE FIGURES

301

The number of cases that the Service for Attention to Victims of Gender Violence attended in 2023.

36

The number of people that the Andorran Red Cross attended during its second year of implementation.

kers and volunteers to offer comprehensive care to victims.

In addition, Fernández has underlined the importance of this prior work: «On site we have teams made up of a health professional, usually a nurse, and a person with a social profile, such as a social educator. We often also have volunteers who accompany these professionals». This coordination is key to helping victims overcome their fears and doubts, including the decision to report.

Coordination between entities, a key piece

On the other hand, the president of the Andorran Women's Institute, Montserrat Ronchera, has detailed to this media outlet the importance of effective coordination between the different entities: «From the IAD we ensure that the coordination with the different entities that can activate the protocols is as correct as possible. This process allows us to guarantee that everything works quickly and efficiently».

Despite the shortcomings that still exist, it is necessary to highlight the progress made. Data

The IAD report shows an increase in the number of women who dare to ask for help


collection in recent years offers a clearer picture of the reality of gender-based violence here in the country, and this can be a point of support for victims who are hesitating whether to take the step or not. With the joint effort of society, institutions and entities, we can move towards a future where violence against women is a memory of the past. It is everyone's responsibility, especially on this International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to join efforts to build a society free of violence, in which all women can live without fear and with full dignity. ●

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