



AGGRESSIONS AGAINST WOMEN

Equality warns that invisible gender violence is normalized

Mònica Álvarez points out that if psychological abuse is not detected at the outset, it is more difficult to get out of it

Mireia Porras believes that education is the basic pillar to reverse the context of inequality

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The Equality Policy Area and the Service for Victims of Gender-Based Violence (Savvg) warn about the prevalence of invisible gender-based violence, that is, that which is hidden behind implicit forms that are socially tolerated. This was explained by the head of the area, Mireia Porras, and the Savvg psychologist, Mònica Álvarez, pointing out the patriarchal and sexist system that governs the world as the main responsible for this reality. «There is a series of invisible violence that is tolerated, and that is not even identified as abuse, such as sexist comments, derogatory actions just because of your role, ignoring the person, or certain humiliations and ridicules», shared the psychologist, while recalling the figure of an iceberg on gender violence that International Amnesty published years ago denouncing precisely this affectation.

In this sense, Álvarez emphasized that «on a social scale we have it very normalized, and it also happens in relationships», emphasizing that «what we find is that, if we cannot detect this at the outset, as the relationship and the abusive dynamic becomes more consolidated, it is more difficult for us to get out of it». In this way, she was in favor of promoting «a socialization based on respect, with healthy relationships», which allow that «as soon as this psychological violence begins to be detected, the victims can set the limit and stay away».

Be that as it may, the Savvg psychologist lamented that this social acceptance has caused that «if women express the discomfort that certain comments make them feel, their social environment minimizes or justifies it». «Socially, what is seen as bad is not the sexist comment, but precisely the woman who says this I don't like. For this reason, there are times when we do not dare to say certain things», she said.

But, beyond a vexatious treatment, this kind of conduct is usually the first stage of a relationship where physical aggression ends



►► A Purple Dot against sexist attacks at the Gràcia festivities in Barcelona, this summer.

up occurring. «In any relationship of gender violence there is always psychological violence. It's an interaction where inequality is created between the couple and abuse appears», assured the psychologist, who also cited other forms of

aggression such as sexual and economic.

Likewise, both Porras and Álvarez referred to the patriarchal system as the origin of this chakra. «Gender-based violence is the result of masculinity, since we start from

deeply rooted conceptions around gender stereotypes», remarked the psychologist, while the head of area pointed out that «in Andorra, as in the rest of countries, there are people who are very aware, but others who are not. That's why all the work



Mireia Porras

EQUALITY POLICIES MANAGER

«Much progress has been made, but there is still a long way to go. Gender violence goes hand in hand with the inequality that still exists»

Mònica Álvarez

PSYCHOLOGIST

«Socially, what is seen as bad is not the sexist comment, but precisely the woman who says "I don't like this"»

of prevention through training and campaigns to reach them is so important». In the same vein, Porras considered that in the Principality «much progress has been made, but there is still a long way to go», emphasizing that «gender violence is totally linked to gender inequality that still exists today».

And what is the main course of action to effectively move forward on the right path? For the head of area, «the key point is education». «Education is the basic pillar that can reverse this situation, both in terms of inequality and violence against women», asserted Porras, who recalled that, as part of the Awareness Plan for gender equality in educational centers approved in 2020, there is already the figure of the equality officer in all schools, while prevention and awareness workshops continue to be carried out. ≡

Andorran schools work on gender equality in the classroom

►► Coinciding with the International Day against women violence, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education has proposed to all schools in the country a set of actions aimed at sensitizing students to the richness of diversity, as well as the importance of gender equality. In this sense, the ac-

tivities are adapted to the different ages of the students, and include everything from telling stories that address co-education, equality and tolerance, to cut-out cards, creating stories, learning about the role of various female artists or a short video contest. The aim of all these actions, as reported by the

Executive, is to raise awareness among children and adolescents in building an egalitarian society that offers the same opportunities to everyone, promoting gender mainstreaming in classes to eliminate discrimination and sexist behaviors that promote gender violence.

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GENERAL COUNCIL

The Government gives guarantees of fairness to avoid «arbitrary» power cuts

Calvó defends the new energy crisis law, while the PS assures that it «evidences our weaknesses»

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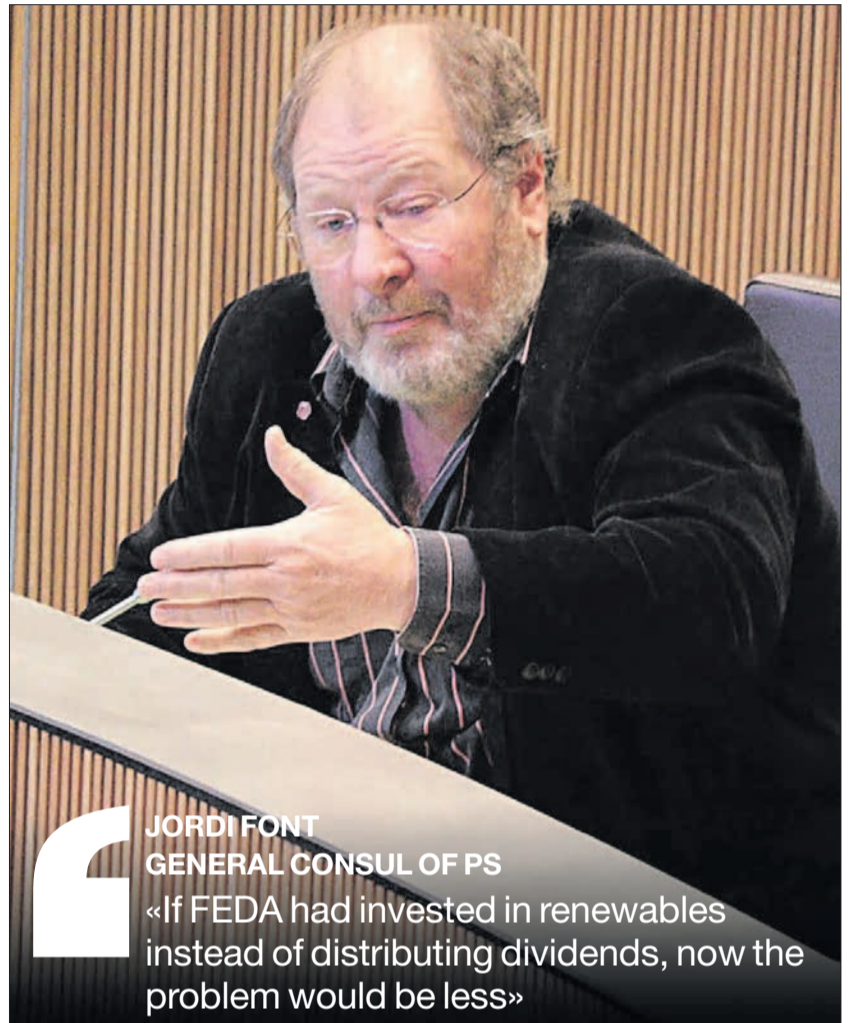
In a session of the General Council in which he led by example and the temperature of the chamber was adjusted, with a mixed reaction from the general councilors and the ministers of the Government, the plenary of the chamber approved the project of law on measures to respond to energy crisis situations, with the vote in favor of the majority (Democrats, GPI and CC) and against the Social Democratic Party (PS) and the non-affiliated councilor, Carine Montaner. The Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Sustainability, Sílvia Calvó, assured that with the new law there will be guarantees of fairness with the management of eventual power cuts and that for this reason they will not be «arbitrary», since the mechanisms in the management of restrictions. «They are more possible than before, so we must anticipate», said Calvó, although «we hope that these measures will never have to be applied», since «we do not want to cut off the light», but «to be prepared in case it is necessary to do so».

The Minister of the Environment defended the text during the plenary of the attacks that were uttered from the social democratic bench. Thus, while Calvó recalled the increase in the cost of energy that FEDA has to import and the importance of saving, the social democratic councilor general, Jordi Font, had no mercy on the energy policy of the Government and the opportunity of this law. «It wasn't necessary, it's not what we expected and it shows our weaknesses», he said. «Instead of distributing dividends, FEDA should have invested in renewables, and now the problem would be less», he assured. In addition, «responsibility is not assumed in case of possible cuts and it is not clear what can and cannot be done». He also criticized the fact that this rule may contradict other laws in force, such as that of civil protection, the state of alarm or emergency.

From Terceravia, although they decided to vote in favor of it, they were also very critical. According to Joan Carles Camps, «so far the admini-



SÍLVIA CALVÓ
MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT
«We hope that the measures will never have to be applied and we do not want there to be restrictions, but we must be prepared»



JORDI FONT
GENERAL CONSUL OF PS
«If FEDA had invested in renewables instead of distributing dividends, now the problem would be less»

The plenary overturns the PS amendment to the research text in biomedicine

► The majority groups overturned the entire amendment presented by the Social Democratic Party (PS) to the research bill in the field of health and biomedicine. According to the PS, the text has many shortcomings that make it difficult to obtain, despite the parliamentary work in the legislative committee, an «approvable», modern, respectful law that does not discriminate, or benefit a company». This is how General Consul Susanna Vela expressed herself, in charge of defending the amendment, who assured that «the text is fundamentally wrong». In her address, the social democratic councilor pointed out the shortcomings detected in the text and she reinforced a report by the Observatory of Bioethics and Law-Unesco Chair of Bi-



► López and Vela, in the Council.

oethics at the University of Barcelona (UB), to whom from parliamentary group took charge of the study «as the responsible opposition that we are», emphasized Vela.

► The president of the Democratic Group, Carles Enseñat, guaranteed that the text «is a good law, sized and designed for Andorra, which seeks

to provide real solutions to the country's real challenges». For all of this, he regretted that the social democrats «lost the opportunity to improve the law, by making an amendment that is designed and motivated by political opportunity and to seek a possible electoral income, which lowers and tarnishes any negotiation or willingness to work».

nistration has been an example, but consumption continues to rise, so the Government's example has not worked or been credible». In this way, «as there are already other laws that provide for it, it is not the time to generate more anxiety», he defended in the same line as the social democrats. On the other hand, last Thursday's session of the General Council also approved the bill for the creation of international reserves and access to the financial system for assistance in the form of an urgent provision of liquidity. The law allows the country to have the figure of an internationally approved lender of last resort, to attend to the financial system in case of need for liquidity, as the Government assured, in the mouth of the Minister of Finance, Eric Jover. On the contrary, the president of the Social Democrat parliamentary group, Pere López, questioned whether it was a lender of last resort that could be approved. ≡

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