

What do you think?

Island Connections goes onto the streets to find out what you think about the burning issue of the day.

Domestic violence

▲ **November 25th is International Day** for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Despite campaigns and policies both here locally in Spain, and on a worldwide basis, this kind of despicable violence continues, and with over 80 women dead in Spain this year alone at the hands of partners or ex-partners, obviously a lot more needs to be done.

Tackling violence against women goes beyond political

differences, but despite many apparent moves in the right direction, little seems to have changed here in Spain.

So we thought we would look for your views, and ask why, in your opinion, do the levels of domestic violence in Spain continue to remain so high? Is it a general break down in society or lack of action from the government?



Gloria Castillo, Los Realejos

I think the laws are very bad. We should take this problem much more seriously and take a hard line regarding punishment. At the moment if a victim of violence manages to get a barring order, banning her ex-partner from coming near her, it doesn't change anything, because nobody controls it.



Stacey Gordon, Great Britain, (Spar Tenerife Marichal volleyball team)

I think it is not that there is more violence against women than there has ever been, but we are now more aware of it. We have to stop men doing this.



Irene, Maria, Carmen, Los Realejos

We think it is wrong that the press is reporting so much about this subject. It is the same with terrorism. The more attention you give to them, the more violence happens. Members of a victim's family, friends or neighbours should be more willing to react if they know something is happening and there should be stricter laws. It is unbelievable that murders might leave jail after five years of good behaviour. You can leave prison but never the cemetery.



Rafael, Brazil

I have lived in Spain for two years, and I think it is the same as in Brazil. I think they should really punish the men with long prison sentences; perhaps this would make them think about what they are doing before doing it. Also I would say it is a question of education, we should start within the family to show that violence is never ever a solution.



Isora, Kelly, Catalina, Begonia, Icod de los Vinos

Violence against women is as much a political and social as an educational problem. We are living in a "machista" world. It is a question of power. But we have to stop thinking it is just something that happens within a relationship. There are many forms of violence and it is a problem of society. We are surrounded by machismo in adverts, papers, TV and even in music. Many songs call for violence against women.



Wilfried, El Tanque

Recently I read a historical book where it was reported that in the past Spanish and Dutch conquerors were known for their violence against women up to and including killing them. Spanish women did not have much rights at that time and neither during the Franco regime. Perhaps the modern society with emancipation and the new role of women came too quickly and the Spanish man hasn't adapted yet to the new way of thinking.

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