

**Recommendations
from the Catalonia Broadcasting Council
on the Coverage of Gender Violence
in News and Entertainment Programmes**

1. Gender violence should be treated as a breach of human rights and an offence against people's freedom and dignity.

Information should be given on gender violence to help see the phenomenon in all its complexity. Domestic violence is currently a crime and social problem. However, it is not recommendable to directly report the news of a particular case if it has not been previously reported to the relevant authorities.

2. Choose and diversify sources of information.

Declarations should not be taken from neighbours or family members unless they give concrete and useful information. The Council recommends the use of qualified and specialist sources.

3. Respect the right to privacy of victims and the presumption of innocence of perpetrators.

It is necessary to preserve the anonymity of people affected, particularly in the case of minors, and always respect their decision about revealing their identity. It is also important to respect the decision of the security forces

with regard to the publication of particular information that may influence the investigation process. Published information should never be used in a way that can enable people to draw rash conclusions about the facts before a court.

4. Respect the dignity of victims and never show them without their prior written consent.

It is important to not let victims be overwhelmed by photographers, microphones and television cameras. It is more useful and less morbid to wait until the person affected has recovered their self-esteem and equilibrium before they are exposed to the media. A victim may well be a good witness, but should never be used for publicity purposes.

5. Use concepts and terminology in keeping with the definition of the facts.

It is important to give equal media treatment to men and women and to avoid stereotypes and generalisations that trivialise the treatment of cases of gender violence. It is important to prevent the use of adjectives that could contribute towards an implicit justification of aggression.

- 6. Avoid sensationalism, morbidity and drama both with regard to the form (pictures) and content (verbal message) of information on gender violence.**

All pictures must respect people's dignity and it is necessary to avoid detailed, risqué or shocking descriptions (particularly in the reconstruction of events), which are the result of a type of coverage that plays to people's morbid curiosity. Morbidity must not be confused with social interest.

- 7. In the editing process, it is important to choose shots that provide content and prevent attention from focusing on victims.**

Preserving the content and objectivity of information makes it necessary to try to choose impersonal and neutral shots that do not enable the location of events to be identified or particular people related. It is necessary to assess the pictures that are essential and those that are superfluous or harrowing.

- 8. Prevent cause-effect relations both with regard to sociocultural situations and the personal circumstances of the people involved.**

It is counterproductive to be biased towards particular social groups or

determined circumstances with regard to the incidence of cases of gender violence.

9. Contextualise information.

The Council recommends explaining the background and the process undertaken by the victim before arriving at the present situation.

10. Do not involve third parties who are only circumstantially related to the case.

It is counterproductive to involve third parties without any direct link to the case, even if they have family or emotional ties to the people involved.

11. Guarantee the monitoring of information. It is important to report on the resolution of the case and, where applicable, the recovery of victims.

The Council recommends following up cases and giving importance to information about people who have been able to move on with their lives.

12. Rectify any erroneous information that has been broadcast about a case.

In the event of an error or mistake with regard to information related to a case, the media should rectify the error as soon as possible to prevent more psychological pressure on the people affected.