

→ female victims of gender-related violence

According to the specifically relevant survey Macroencuesta de Violencia contra la Mujer 2015 (large-scale survey on violence against women), carried out by the Ministry of Health, some 12.5% of women over the age of 16 living Spain have been subject to physical or sexual violence at the hands of their partner or ex-partner over the course of their life. For many of them this also means a true case of personal isolation. Providing them with an employment opportunity, far from their environment, where they can grow and begin developing a new life is, in many cases, a way out of the problem.

Fighting against this scourge and offering an outlet to people in suffering is everyone's responsibility, not just that of the administration or associations but also for civil society and businesses. Committed to this vision, Clece supports female victims of gender violence by facilitating their job placement, and assisting them to regain their self-esteem, personal independence and autonomy. Clece counts 178 female victims of gender violence as part of its workforce, amounting to 40% more than in the same period of the previous year.

In line with their workplace engagement, Clece also takes part in different initiatives aimed at sensitisation and awareness regarding this problem. It is therefore that in 2014 it organised the 2nd Clece Forum for integration "There is a way out from gender-related violence"; it took part in the race "Hay Salida"; it is a member of the association Empresas por una Sociedad Libre de Violencia de Género (businesses for a gender-violence free society); and was recently invited by the UN to represent its model for integration of female victims of gender-related violence.

THE SITUATION OF GENDER-RELATED VIOLENCE IN SPAIN

12.5%

of women over the age of 16 have experienced violence at some point

7 of every 10

victims of gender-related violence have never reported it

Complaints of gender-related violence increased by

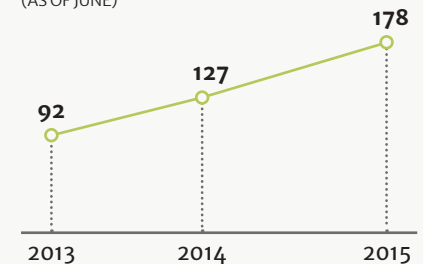
1.5%

in 2014 after having fallen for five straight years

SOURCE: NATIONAL SURVEY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN 2015, CARRIED OUT BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND EQUALITY

TREND PROGRESSION FOR INTEGRATION OF GENDER-RELATED VIOLENCE VICTIMS AT CLECE

(AS OF JUNE)





Prize for solidarity with victims

The story of Marta Guerrero, a Clece employee, is synonymous with overcoming and fortitude. Her rough experience at the hands of gender violence, along with the subsequent support she received at the women's protection centre managed by Clece, Centro de Protección de la Mujer de Valencia, drove her to help other women who had had similar experiences to hers. For this important social endeavour in awareness and support for women, she received the honourable civil-merit accolade Orden del Mérito Civil from the hand of King Felipe VI in 2015.

In these efforts, Marta has worked with Policía Local de Valencia on two European projects in which women having suffered from gender violence or who still do, share their experience, contributing potential solutions to different situations they may be faced with. "When you share your experiences in a group, you help the woman listening to see there is a way out from any and every thing", she explains.

It is possible

When you chat with Ana and learn her story, there are many highly striking elements. Without a doubt, her ability to withstand 10 years of abuse on both her and her children, but what is most shocking are her fortitude, conviction and above all, her smile.

After a long time, Ana finally mustered the strength necessary to flee to her mother's home. She managed to get a restraining order against the aggressor and received legal and psychological support at a victims' association. What gave her a new impetus was the job she found at Clece. This allowed her to leave her maternal home and build a new home for her children. Thanks to stable employment and to her overcoming spirit, Ana today faces the future with optimism and enthusiasm, and one of her greatest desires is that her son will finish his law degree.





“One day you get up and say: ‘I can’t go on like this’”

“I had to leave my home with my daughter. I lived there with a GPS telephone because my ex-partner was forbidden to be within 200 metres of us and he repeatedly breached this”. Mari Carmen tells her chilling tale as a gender violence victim, and how thanks to her work at Clece, she overcame her fears and re-built her life. She hesitated for 29 years but finally after numerous threats decided to cut her losses, leave and start fresh.

Since five years ago, she has been working in the dining hall of a centre for the elderly managed by Clece, where she has begun to smile again. “I came here without any sort of joy or hope, very sad, but you then see you are appreciated at work, that you are happy there, and the grief goes away” she says.

“If it weren’t for the company I don’t know what my life would be like, I believe I’d have been another statistic on the victim’s list”, Mari Carmen adds, emotionally. “Everything has changed for me, I have become strong, full of joy, I have managed to start a new life and am glad to see my daughter is happy” she adds.