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THE STRUGGLES AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE IN SPANISH UNIVERSITIES AND HOW THEY CONTRIBUTED TO CHANGING LEGISLATION

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the transformation process of Spanish universities in the prevention and action against sexual harassment, drawing on the lessons learned from the #MeToo University Movement. Three pivotal aspects are explored: Spain's pioneering contributions, particularly in co-creation and global impact; the successful inclusion of groundbreaking concepts into legislation and ethical codes; and the societal impact towards ending sexual harassment. Despite the significant social progress, Spain faces criticism from those unwilling to break the silence around harassment, underscoring the ongoing need for change in academia.

Keywords: sexual harassment, universities, Spain, struggles, legislation, #MeToo

LE LOTTE CONTRO LA VIOLENZA DI GENERE NELLE UNIVERSITÀ SPAGNOLE E COME HANNO CONTRIBUITO A CAMBIARE LA LEGISLAZIONE

SINTESI

Questo articolo esamina il processo di trasformazione delle università spagnole nella prevenzione e nella lotta contro le molestie sessuali, attingendo alle lezioni apprese dal Movimento Universitario #MeToo. Vengono esplorati tre aspetti cruciali: i contributi pionieristici della Spagna, in particolare nella co-creazione e nell'impatto globale; il successo dell'inclusione di concetti innovativi nella legislazione e nei codici etici; e l'impatto sociale verso la fine delle molestie sessuali. Nonostante i significativi progressi sociali, la Spagna deve far fronte alle critiche di coloro che non sono disposti a rompere il silenzio sulle molestie, sottolineando la continua necessità di cambiamento nel mondo accademico.

Parole chiave: molestie sessuali, università, Spagna, lotte, legislazione, #MeToo

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

To understand such a context of barriers and resistance, a brief history of the Spanish struggles to overcome sexual harassment in academia is essential.

In September 1991, the foundation of the Community of Research on Excellence for All (CREA) marked a pivotal moment (Joanpere et al., 2022). According to its founders, there was an imperative need for a transformative shift away from entrenched feudalism within Spanish academia. This shift aimed at enhancing the scientific contributions of Spanish universities and addressing pervasive issues such as racism, sexism, as well as a code of silence – or *omertà* – concerning sexual harassment (Diario Feminista, 2021).

At that time, the process of choosing research groups was pyramidal, from the top down, with a very strong hierarchical structure. Professors would often declare, “this student is mine, and this is yours,” reflecting a mentality where students beginning their careers were considered the property of certain professors. Those entering the university quickly became dependent on the favours of professors in the most powerful positions. This structure made it more difficult for victims to report cases and seek solutions. Professors were confined to conducting research within their own departments, prohibited from establishing interdisciplinary research groups across different departments. Those who held power in each department could ensure the subjugation of their members, as they could not control professors from other departments whose promotions depended on different committees.

The new horizontal way of working broke away from this oppressive structure, fostering an environment where interdisciplinary collaboration and equality could thrive. CREA initiated an interdisciplinary research center, supported by the European Commission’s Research Programs, setting an example that other professors then emulated. In 1995, the University of Barcelona, acknowledging this shift, approved a regulation facilitating the formation of interdisciplinary research centers (Soler-Gallart, 2017).

The same year, in 1995, the new landscape empowered Professor Ramón Flecha to lodge the first official complaint against a professor for repeated sexual harassment of several female students (Joanpere et al., 2022). Most professors in the harasser’s environment were aware of what was happening and often joked about the matter. It was well-known that every year he would tell a student that to earn the highest grade, she should strengthen her self-confidence, easily achievable through intimate relationships (Wright Dziech & Weiner, 1990). Against such a normalization, Flecha submitted this complaint at the request of then-student Lúdia Puigvert, incorporating not only the analysis of the problem but also proposing

a solution through the creation of protocols, an equality committee, and a student-based organization. There was never an official response (Diario Feminista, 2022, cf. Omerta 113). However, despite no official response being received from the university presidency, they have met informally on various occasions with supporters of the victims. During these meetings, the presidency clearly stated that: a) gender violence did not exist in universities because the students were of legal age and freely made their own decisions, b) this false claim was unfairly tarnishing the reputation of Spanish universities, and c) if he or anyone from his research group did not remain silent, they would be expelled from the university.

In December 1994, Flecha had delivered his first lecture at Harvard and already had the support of relevant scholars from that and other top-ranked universities globally, as well as from the international feminist movement. Far from heeding the threats, Flecha, Puigvert, and a third researcher, Jesús Gómez, focused on how to conduct scientific research on this undeniable reality and how to make complaints with such a force that they could not be ignored (Diario Feminista, 2022, cf. Omerta 113). Ending impunity and breaking the silence, however, took many more years, which they achieved in 2003 when they started to prepare the bid for the first scientific research project addressing gender violence in Spanish universities (Valls, 2005–2008).

In parallel, civil society was then getting organized to end with gender-based violence in society. In 2003, numerous organizations, including CREA’s Women group Sappho, joined efforts to create the “Unitarian Platform Against Gender Violence” in Catalonia. That same year, the platform organized the conference ‘Against Harassment, Zero Tolerance’ and CREA-Sappho, as the sole university-based organization involved, took on the challenging task of dismantling the silence within academia. Concurrently, CREA amended its ethical guidelines, and made a public statement to zero tolerance for mistreatment. This included a steadfast commitment to supporting victims and collaborating with them to expose and denounce cases of abuse, both nearby and distant, with the overarching goal of enhancing the quality of life for all, especially women victims of abuse (Diario Feminista, 2021, cf. Omerta 14, Omerta 15, Omerta 53).

Between 2004 and 2006, CREA faced an *isolating gender violence*¹ visceral backlash, following its reporting about sexual harassment within the University of Barcelona (Vidu et al., 2021b; Flecha, 2021; Madrid et al., 2020). Despite institutional resistance and attacks, the center garnered international support from institutions like Harvard University and the European Women’s Lobby. Additionally, CREA’s research, funded by the Spanish National Scientific Program, led to a paradigm shift in academia.

1 Isolating Gender Violence (IGV) is any kind of violence against those who advocate for gender violence victims. The objective of such violence is to isolate gender violence victims and discourage reporting or receiving support, in order to maintain the impunity of gender violence (Vidu et al., 2021b).

The first study about gender violence in Spanish universities (Valls, 2005–2008) unveiled clear data about the prevalence of this problem in academic contexts. The study included a representative survey across diverse Spanish universities, inspired by previous international surveys on this issue, targeting students from different faculties and disciplines. Key figures such as that 62% students have suffered or know about a situation of sexual harassment, or that 92% students do not know whether their universities have any type of service to support them (Valls et al., 2016) was alarming and caught the attention of the media and society. The study also portrayed a rigorous analysis of successful actions in the international arena in the prevention and reaction to gender violence that could be recreated in the Spanish context.

The Spanish Parliament, influenced by these scientific findings, recognized the prevalence of sexual harassment in universities and approved the modification of the University Act in 2007, which included the obligation to have Equality Units and protocols to prevent sexual harassment (Agencia Estatal Boletín Oficial del Estado, 2007; 2011). Furthermore, the researchers who struggled against gender violence in academia had been also struggling to change the power-based structure of academic promotion into a merit-based system that would not push women to subsume to certain male professors. That same year, later in 2007, the National Agency for Quality Evaluation in Spain was created following feminist researchers' claim (Bordanoba Gallego et al., 2023). This prompted a meritocratic transformation, replacing arbitrary professor selection with a system favoring publications in reputable journals.

Notwithstanding the great success of all these efforts in the long term, the academics who broke the silence and led these transformations had to face terrible backlash situations in the process, and still today university institutions are trying to make them invisible in equity units and committees, as a reminiscence of old power-based dynamics.

METHODS

This study has been meticulously crafted through a multifaceted approach, delving into the historical evolution of Spanish universities. Firstly, it analyzes historical data, providing a comprehensive overview of the entire journey these institutions have undergone. By scrutinizing the intricate details of this evolutionary process, the study aims to unearth patterns, challenges, and transformative moments that have shaped the landscape of Spanish academia.

Moreover, this study includes the analysis of media press and current legislation, integrating the voices of the victims and the victims of IGV. The authors of the paper have been involved in this struggle since its inception. The research also focuses on dissecting the primary contributions from the Spanish experience in reshaping the educational milieu. These contributions, which range

from legislative interventions to grassroots movements, have played a pivotal role in the narrative created about gender violence within university settings. A meticulous examination of these contributions unveils the nuanced strategies, successes, and setbacks that have marked Spain's trajectory in addressing and transforming the contextual challenges prevalent in higher education.

The impact of the struggle against gender violence in Spanish universities has been analyzed in terms of several key areas: 1) Transformation of Prevention Measures: The study examines how prevention measures within universities have evolved. This includes the implementation of comprehensive policies, and pioneer training programs for staff and students in Spain, 2) Increasing Number of Denouncements: The research analyzes trends in the reporting of gender violence cases. It looks at the increasing number of denouncements over the years, highlighting how awareness and support systems have empowered more victims to come forward. 3) Decrease of Impunity: The study investigates the decrease in impunity for perpetrators of gender violence. This involves examining the outcomes of reported cases, the effectiveness of disciplinary actions, and the overall reduction in tolerance for such behavior within academic institutions. 4) Legislation Changes: The analysis covers changes in legislation that have been influenced by the struggle against gender violence. This includes the introduction of new laws, amendments to existing laws, and the impact of these changes on university policies and practices.

By integrating these aspects, the study provides a comprehensive assessment of how the struggle against gender violence has transformed Spanish universities, contributing to a safer and more equitable academic environment. Additionally, the study engages with contemporary debates, providing a dynamic lens through which to analyze the current state of Spanish universities. By intertwining these discussions with historical achievements, the research constructs a rich and nuanced perspective. This approach enables a more profound understanding of the present context by contextualizing it within the achievements and challenges that have transpired over time. The study, thus, serves as a comprehensive exploration of the Spanish university system, utilizing a historical lens to not only chronicle its evolution but also to critically assess the current debates and achievements that shape its contemporary landscape.

THE PERVASIVE INVISIBILITY OF GENDER SCIENTISTS: DETERRING PROGRESS IN ADDRESSING GENDER VIOLENCE

The invisibility of gender scientists represents a terrible barrier to substantial progress in effectively addressing gender violence. Despite significant strides toward gender equality, the persistent absence of recognition for scholars actively engaged in gender-related research hampers the advancement of nuanced solutions to

combat gender violence. This invisibility extends beyond academia, permeating societal perceptions and public discourse (Flecha, 2021; Madrid et al., 2020).

Gender scientists, through their rigorous research and scholarship, contribute invaluable insights crucial to comprehending the intricacies of gender violence. However, their work sometimes remains eclipsed within institutions and power-based structures which seek for the reproduction of the status quo and rooted forms of domination and abuse (Bordanoba Gallego et al., 2023; Flecha, 2021). Through lack of acknowledgement and intentional dismissal, they obstruct the dissemination of vital knowledge and impede the formulation of evidence-based policies, ultimately undermining the collective endeavor to eradicate gender violence.

There are four researchers from Spanish universities among the top ten academics worldwide on gender violence, according to Google Scholar. Among them, the professor who made the first complaint about sexual harassment in our academia and the principal investigator of the first research about gender violence in Spanish universities. And yet, they are marginalized in their own universities (they have been even dismissed from Equality Committees in different Faculties) and their work is ignored by university officials, governments and media (Diario Feminista, 2022, cf. Omerta 97). Is their scientific knowledge and ethical commitment threatening the institutions, or maybe it is threatening some power positions, and therefore damaging the institutions?

The marginalization of gender scientists perpetuates a cycle of ignorance, reinforcing societal misconceptions about the multifaceted nature of gender violence. In order to cultivate a society that is genuinely equipped to address this pervasive issue, it is imperative to dismantle the barriers that relegate gender scientists to the periphery. Acknowledging and amplifying contributions which have been published and recognized internationally by top-ranked journals on gender is essential not only for academic equity but for the substantive progress required to foster an environment intolerant to gender violence (El Periódico, 2022; Valls et al., 2016; Schubert, 2015). The invisible status of gender scientists represents an institutional and societal shortcoming that demands rectification for the comprehensive understanding and eradication of gender violence.

In Spain, the invisibilization and consistent overlooking of international scientific contributions in the prevention of gender violence, echoed broad issues of our academic context. Today it is very easy to access and identify preeminent gender scientists by going to international rankings, or even consulting international platforms which discern evidence from misinformation. However, despite these resources, so often the media, policy actions and institutions rely on so-called “experts”, while neglecting the scientific contributions of these gender scientists (Bordanoba Gallego et al., 2023). Relying on such “experts”, universities have promoted non-scientific

publications and endorsed misguided directives that have negatively contributed to heightened violence rather than fostering its resolution. Furthermore, in university equality units and decision-making positions on gender violence issues, prominence is often given to individuals who have no scientific publications on the specific topic nor a demonstrated track record of supporting victims and those who advocate for them. Instead of giving voice to individuals who not only understand the scientific evidence on social impact but also stand alongside the victims, universities continue to marginalize the contributions of genuine gender scholars.

PIONEER CONTRIBUTIONS ON SOCIAL IMPACT AND CO-CREATION: LEADING THE UNIVERSITIES TRANSFORMATION

The evolving environment gradually empowered individuals to speak up about instances of sexual harassment, marking significant milestones that set precedents. In 2009, Lidia Puigvert, a tenured professor then, lodged an official complaint, shedding light on structural issues within specific academic programs that left students vulnerable to harassment. Her complaint catalyzed the reporting of a groundbreaking case against a prominent professor at the University of Barcelona, a figure of considerable influence in Spain. That same year, in 2009, CREA invited the Director of the Harvard Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response to deliver a lecture at the University of Barcelona. During this address, she acknowledged the importance of our struggle, foreseeing its positive impact on future generations (Vidu, 2017; Schubert, 2015). These courageous acts paved the way for other victims to feel encouraged to speak up and triggered the subsequent reporting of a groundbreaking case against that prominent professor whose harassing actions had been known and silenced for years. Ana Vidu, sought support in 2011, when she was a master student, after receiving harassing emails from this same case. Despite initial setbacks, Prof Flecha’s perseverance in support of victims prompted the recently created Equality Committee of his Faculty to take action. However, the Committee’s initial reluctance exposed structural flaws in Equality Committees, often controlled by Rectors with arbitrary designations, perpetuating a culture of silence (Pulido et al., 2021; Vidu, 2017).

By 2012, Ana Vidu and 13 victims collaborated, submitting witness accounts and emails to the University. However, the institution claimed an inability to act and redirected the report to the Prosecutor’s Office, sidelining the only Equality Committee member consistently supporting Vidu (Joanpere et al., 2022; Vidu, 2017). CREA’s journey demonstrates resilience against isolating gender violence, resulting in institutional change and fostering an environment where victims feel empowered to speak out. This struggle transcends gender, necessitating structural transformations and challenging entrenched power dynamics. These transformative actions created the ideal

context for the establishment of the world's first Solidarity Network of Victims of Gender Violence in Universities, where an empowered environment encouraged individuals to report instances of sexual harassment, setting significant precedents.

The Solidarity Network of Victims of Gender Violence in Universities (today known as *MeToo University*) was created in 2013 in Spain in parallel to the formation of EROC (End Rape On Campus) in the United States, setting in motion a transformative journey (AAU, 2019; Clark & Pino, 2016). Overcoming initial challenges, this network emerged as a pivotal force, challenging the entrenched culture of silence surrounding gender violence within academic institutions (Pulido et al., 2021). The culmination of their pioneering efforts materialized in 2014 when the University of Barcelona took decisive action against a male student accused of sexual harassment, signaling a seismic shift in dismantling impunity for such offenses. The supportive environment for victims facilitated achieving the first case in Spanish universities in which a victim won a case of reported sexual harassment. The victory in this case not only brought justice to the victims involved but also served as a landmark moment in the ongoing fight against sexual harassment in academia. It demonstrated the tangible impact of collective advocacy and empowerment in challenging entrenched power dynamics and holding perpetrators accountable for their actions.

On June 13, 2016, the major TV and radio media in Catalonia launched a devastating campaign, airing defamatory news from the early morning and continuing throughout the day. This campaign, orchestrated in collaboration with a lobby of harassers, aimed to discredit those reporting gender-based violence cases in universities. The news spread quickly, reaching the schools of the children of these professors, their families, and colleagues. Personal lives of professors and their families were defamed without any evidence.

This collective movement, initiated concurrently in Spain and the US, became a rallying point for victims and survivors of gender-based violence on university campuses. Acknowledged by the National Gender Violence Observatory as a Good Practice in the prevention of gender-based violence, the movement swiftly gained momentum, spreading throughout universities across the country (Joanpere et al., 2022). The steps taken forward to combat sexual harassment in universities faced a significant backlash in June 2016 from the lobby of harassers, who launched a massive campaign against CREA and primarily targeted Ramon Flecha, the initiator of this transformation (Madrid et al., 2020).

As progress was made in raising awareness, empowering victims, and holding perpetrators accountable, those vested in maintaining the status quo of impunity for harassers mobilized to undermine these efforts. Confronting resistance from university authorities and a pervasive lobby, the network encountered a huge barrier in the form of a damaging and isolating gender violence campaign

launched in 2016 against the scholars who supported the victims from the network (Madrid et al., 2020).

This smear campaign had a severe impact on the lives of those supporting victims and the victims themselves, both academically and in terms of their families, social circles, and health (Nazareno et al., 2022; Aubert & Flecha, 2021; Melgar et al., 2021; Puigvert et al., 2021). Despite an initial success in halting mobilization, the campaign ultimately boomeranged with serious consequences for the victims and their supporters.

However, by collaborating with existing networks and organizations, the movement leveraged collective resources and expertise to amplify its message and effect change on a larger scale. From academia, solidarity with other social movements strengthened the movement's legitimacy and mobilized additional support from allies across different sectors of society. Furthermore, due to international solidarity and recognition of the struggle, as well as science-based analysis of the whole process, the victims – instead of facing revictimization and abandoning academia – saw their scientific prestige soar on an international scale. Overall, the movement against gender-based violence in universities achieved enormous social impact by fostering global solidarity, embracing co-creation, engaging in dialogue with institutions, and aligning with broader social movements (Soler, 2017). Through these concerted efforts, the movement not only raised awareness of the issue but also catalyzed tangible reforms and contributed to the creation of safer and more inclusive academic environments for all. For example, in collaboration with the Unitary Platform against Gender Violence, the Solidarity Network initiated an impactful campaign under the motto “Our Daughters Have the Right to a Violence Free University” addressing civil society organizations and citizens at large, highlighting their commitment to social impact and co-creation. At the same time, in 2016 and within the academic context, CREA organized the First Conference on Isolating Gender Violence (IGV), which convened diverse speakers who expressed shock at the cruelty of the IGV backlash, while applauding the victims and supporters for their resilience and intelligence (Vidu et al., 2017).

This transformative journey is not coincidental; it emanates from the same context where the pioneering scientific debate on the social impact of research and co-creation of knowledge and solutions between academia and society began. Theoretical and scientific contributions about the Dialogic Society (Flecha, 2022) have created a context in which the emergence of social movements alongside academia achieves greater resonance. The Solidarity Network has transformed the context through ongoing dialogues and co-creation efforts with social movements, citizens supporting victims, and politicians. This collaborative approach has created a more preventive environment where impunity is not tolerated, and an increasing number of victims feel empowered to report cases, supported by fellow victims

and professors. In just one year, the network received over a hundred reports from victims seeking help in 2022, demonstrating the significant impact of the movement. The Solidarity Network's persistent efforts in dismantling the *omertà* surrounding gender violence. Also influencing the criteria of social impact and co-creation in scientific research, paving the way for a more inclusive and safer academic environment.

BEYOND BOUNDARIES: COCREATION IN SPANISH ACADEMIA AND ITS PROFOUND SOCIAL IMPACT ON GENDER VIOLENCE ADVOCACY

The emergence of the global MeToo Movement in 2017 resonated with movements worldwide, providing support and inspiration. In Spain, this movement took a distinctive form, giving rise to “MeToo University”, previously known as the Solidarity Network of Victims of Gender Violence in Universities. Grounded in the Spanish context, this unique movement stands out for its co-creation with both activists and academics, merging scientific rigor with social activism.

One of the most important achievements of the MeToo University's movement was the coverage on the front page of a major Spanish newspaper of a journalistic report unveiling cases and the struggle. On this front page, the featured “U” symbolizing university context, showcased images of 25 women who had experienced sexual harassment and isolating gender violence in academic settings (El Periódico, 2022). A comprehensive report, crafted over six months by dedicated female journalists, highlighted the pervasive fear within academic institutions where powerful harassers maintain control, sparking widespread discussions across various media platforms.

The movement's successes are rooted in the profound scientific, policy, and social impact of its studies and initiatives. Notably, MeToo University's policy impact resulted in groundbreaking legislation against Isolating Gender Violence. The Parliament of Catalonia unanimously incorporated this concept in the law on December 22, 2020 (Law 17/2020), making it a global pioneer. The Parliament of the Basque Country followed suit on March 17, 2022, incorporating IGV into its legislation on the Equality of Women and Men. This legislative momentum has triggered similar processes in other Spanish and international parliaments, along with diverse organizations and businesses responding to MeToo University's advocacy. The groundbreaking legislation enacted by the Parliament of Catalonia in 2020 marked a historic moment, solidifying Spain's position as a trailblazer in addressing gender violence within academic settings and beyond (Vidu et al., 2021a).

Esteemed organizations like the European Sociological Association have recognized the co-creation model, further reinforcing its influence (Joanpere et al., 2022). MeToo University members actively engage in training professionals across various fields, contributing to the

movement's political impact, catalyzing societal change, and reducing gender violence cases in different settings.

The coalescence of policy and social impact is underpinned by scientific rigor in MeToo University's studies, published in top-ranked scientific journals. These studies explore diverse dimensions of gender violence in Spanish universities, the concept of Isolating Gender Violence, its consequences on supporters' health, victim typologies, and the legislative impact.

In essence, the co-creation of knowledge within MeToo University, interweaving activism and academia, has generated a movement with far-reaching social, policy, and scientific impact. Rooted in the Spanish context, this distinctive approach underscores the importance of tailored solutions and collaborative efforts in addressing gender violence in academic settings. Within Spanish universities, pioneering contributions in critical areas, including Isolating Gender Violence (Flecha, 2021), preventive socialization (Melgar-Alcantud et al., 2021; Puigvert, 2014), the language of desire (Puigvert, 2014), and the discourse on objectivity and overcoming sexual harassment (Bordanoba Gallego et al., 2023), have positioned scholars like Lidia Puigvert in top-ranked positions. Their influence emanates from the transformative co-creation of knowledge, leading to concepts that resonate and generate tangible social impact, ultimately improving individuals' lives.

Preventive socialization is another crucial dimension where Spanish universities, with scholars like Lidia Puigvert at the forefront, make pioneering contributions (Puigvert, 2014). Actively engaging in training professionals across various sectors, including judges and prosecutors, the movement fosters societal change and reduces gender violence cases, reflecting a proactive approach to ensuring a safer, more inclusive academic environment.

The exploration of the language of desire, led by scholars within Spanish universities, challenges traditional narratives surrounding desire and power dynamics (Melgar-Alcantud et al., 2021; Puigvert, 2014). This interdisciplinary approach, co-created by academics and society, aims to reshape societal norms and promote healthier, more respectful interactions, particularly within academic spaces.

One of the most contentious topics addressed by scholars is the examination of objectivity and strategies to overcome sexual harassment within academia (Bordanoba Gallego et al., 2023). By delving into the complexities of power dynamics and institutional structures, the co-creation of knowledge has spurred discussions challenging entrenched norms and paving the way for a more inclusive and equitable academic landscape. The “*Omertà*” section of the newspaper *El Diario Feminista* includes numerous cases where universities have failed to act based on objective criteria, favoring the perpetuation of sexual harassment. Among them we find the case of a female assistant professor who had a scientifically brilliant career in a Spanish university. She had taken a public stance in support of victims of gender-based violence at the university.

Her vitae indicated that she would clearly win the tenured faculty position that had been advertised at her university, especially considering the scientifically meritocratic criteria adopted by Spanish evaluation agencies and universities. Nevertheless, she was not promoted, rather expelled from that university (*Diario Feminista*, 2021). Thanks to the MeToo movement today she is tenured professor in a different university, therefore transitioning from a victim of isolating gender violence to a survivor. The university decision to remove her showcased the feudal structures still remaining in our academia, despite current legislations, and the need for co-creation between researchers, social movements and citizens, to build a better, more scientific and humane university.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROCESS

Central to the transformative journey illuminated by MeToo University is the profound social impact it has engendered, transcending traditional boundaries and fostering a collaborative paradigm marked by co-creation. The movement's success lies not only in its legal and policy victories but equally in its ability to galvanize societal shifts, dismantling the veils of isolating gender violence and fostering an environment where survivors are supported and empowered.

MeToo University's approach exemplifies co-creation—a collective effort where survivors, activists, and academics collaborate to reshape the narrative surrounding gender violence. By intertwining academic research with lived experiences, the movement forges a dynamic synergy that not only informs policies but resonates with society, offering a multifaceted understanding of the pervasive issue.

The process also serves as a poignant lesson in overcoming isolating gender violence, as MeToo University's initiatives extend beyond legal frameworks. The movement propels societal discourse, challenging preconceptions and fostering a culture of accountability. Through education and advocacy, it promotes a collective responsibility to confront and eradicate gender violence, transcending the isolation often imposed on victims.

The social impact is notably evident in legislative accomplishments against isolating gender violence, a testament to the movement's ability to shape broader societal values. By obtaining endorsements from entities like the European Sociological Association, MeToo University amplifies its reach, creating a ripple effect that extends beyond national borders.

In essence, MeToo University's trajectory underscores the indispensable role of social impact and co-creation in addressing isolating gender violence. By fostering collaboration, breaking down societal barriers, and influencing legislative change, the movement not only charts a course towards justice but also redefines societal norms, offering a beacon of hope for a future free from the shackles of gender violence.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, the narrative of MeToo University and all the process in Spain is not merely a chronicle of legal victories but an intricate tapestry of profound societal transformation and impactful co-creation. The movement, with strong international connections, has not only catalyzed legislative changes but has been a harbinger of unprecedented social shifts, dismantling the isolating gender violence prevalent in universities.

One of the pivotal takeaways from MeToo University's journey is the tangible social impact it has had on universities and society at large. The movement's tireless advocacy has led to legislative milestones, such as the incorporation of isolating gender violence in the legislation of Catalonia and the Basque Country. These legal triumphs are not just abstract victories; they signal a seismic shift in societal consciousness, challenging the entrenched norms that perpetuate gender violence (Vidu et al., 2021a).

Co-creation stands out as a cornerstone of MeToo University's methodology, encapsulating a collaborative spirit that bridges the gap between academic research and the lived experiences of survivors. The movement's commitment to co-creation is evident in its partnerships with diverse organizations, including the European Sociological Association, illustrating a collective commitment to address gender violence comprehensively. This inclusive approach has not only enriched academic discourse but has resonated with wider audiences, fostering a shared understanding of the multifaceted nature of the issue.

The struggle against isolating gender violence also unveils itself as an ongoing conversation that spans both historical achievements and contemporary debates. By meticulously analyzing historical data, the movement has drawn critical lessons from the evolution of Spanish universities, uncovering the pervasive invisibility of gender scientists and recognizing the barriers that impede progress. These insights serve as guideposts for future endeavors, emphasizing the importance of continuous reflection on the journey toward gender equality.

Lessons learned from this process are multifaceted, encompassing the need for systemic changes, the power of collective voices, and the vital role of education in dismantling societal prejudices. The movement's resilience in the face of a vicious campaign of Isolating Gender Violence serves as a testament to the strength inherent in solidarity, challenging not only the perpetrators of harassment but also the complicit structures that perpetuate it.

Ultimately, all the Spanish process emerges as a beacon of hope, illuminating a path toward a future where universities are free from gender violence. Its narrative resounds as a call for collective action, urging societies to confront uncomfortable truths, challenge prevailing norms, and actively participate in co-creating a world where the isolating shackles of gender violence are unequivocally dismantled.

BOJ PROTI SPOLNEMU NASILJU NA ŠPANSKIH UNIVERZAH IN NJEGOV PRISPEVEK K SPREMINJANJU ZAKONODAJE

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POVZETEK

Ta študija se s podrobno analizo zgodovinskih podatkov poglobi v transformacijo španskih univerz, s ciljem razkriti izzive, vzorce in prelome, ki so oblikovali akademski svet. Natančno prouči pomembne prispevke Španije, od zakonodajnih posegov do množičnih gibanj, ki so imeli ključno vlogo pri oblikovanju narativov o spolnem nasilju v univerzitetnem okolju. Študija s prepletanjem sodobnih razprav z zgodovinskimi dosežki vzpostavi niansirano perspektivo, ki nudi vpogled v obravnavo izzivov v španskem visokem šolstvu. V osnovi služi kot zgodovinska leča, ki opisuje razvoj španskega univerzitetnega sistema, hkrati pa kritično ocenjuje trenutne razprave in dosežke. Prav tako poudarja nevidnost znanstvenikov, ki se ukvarjajo s problematiko spolnega nasilja. Kljub napredku na področju enakosti spolov, uravnotežene rešitve namreč ovira pomankanje upoštevanja znanstvenikov, ki se ukvarjajo z raziskavami, povezanimi s spolom. Ta nevidnost sega onkraj akademskega kroga in vpliva na družbeno dojemanje. Prispevke znanstvenikov s področja enakosti spolov pogosto zasenči pristranskost, kar ovira razširjanje ključnega znanja in oblikovanje politike, ki temelji na dokazih. Študija ugotavlja, da je ponovna vzpostavitev »nevidnosti« znanstvenikov s področja spola nujna za celovito razumevanje in izkoreninjenje spolnega nasilja, pri čemer poudarja potrebo po priznavanju in vključevanju njihovih prispevkov v javni diskurz in oblikovanje politik.

Ključne besede: spolno nadlegovanje, univerze, Španija, težave, zakonodaja, #MeToo

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