

No safe place

Violence against women - A documentary

The word home is often associated with comfort, a place to rest, a safe haven in the busy and unsafe world we're living in. Unfortunately in many homes in the Arab World abuse, violence and maltreatment are common.

This documentary will show what happens inside many homes. By telling personal stories we will show the grave reality behind the statistics. The documentary will look at the reasons and what is and can be done about the horrors that happen at home.

Until recently there has hardly been awareness of the extent, nature and impact of domestic violence in the Arab World. In a traditional patriarchal society like Egypt women and girls have a subordinate position. Victims of violence and the society around them often look at domestic violence as 'well intentioned discipline', a form of care or as something that the victim deserved.

According to a 2003 survey by the Center for Egyptian Women's Legal Affairs, an estimated 67% of women in urban areas and 30% in rural areas had been involved in some form of domestic violence at least once between 2002 and 2003. The 2005 Egypt Demographic and Health Survey indicated that 47.4% of women above age 14 had experienced domestic violence.

Advocates state that law enforcement authorities, ranging from police to judges, tend to dismiss spousal abuse as a private matter between husband and wife because the 'integrity of the family' is more important than the well being of the woman. The law does not prohibit spousal abuse specifically, and provisions of the law relating to assault in general are applied.

Research by Abd el-Wahhab notes that almost 44% of the cases filed for wife beating are withdrawn a few days after the filing. There is also enough evidence that women agree that violence was justified because they talked back to their husband, talked to another man, neglected the children, spent too much money, refused sex or burned dinner.

The production

In a documentary of 28 minutes the story of domestic violence against women will be told.

It will tell personal stories and present facts. To show that positive things happen in this field we will work together with relevant NGO's and show elements of their work to support women.

Budget

The budget for the research, the production and the editing of this documentary is 14,500 euros.

We would be very grateful if you could support this project with all or part of the money needed. Upon your request we will mail you a breakdown of the budget.