



MINISTERIO
PÚBLICO

Violence Against Women in the Dominican Republic

*Actions in the Dominican Republic to
reduce violence against women by
promoting their empowerment*

Aim of the Presentation

Violence Against Women in the Dominican Republic

To provide information on:

a) Advances in legal recourses and continuous support for the victims of violence

b) The orientation and reinsertion efforts aimed at perpetrators of violent crimes

Violence Against Women in the Dominican Republic

- The DR has an approximate population of 10 million inhabitants, according to the latest census. 50% of the population is female.
- Femicides represent a primary citizen concern, above all for the consistency of the trend displayed in recent years. Between 2005 and 2016 a total of **2,074** women lost their lives in violent incidents, of which **1,078** were femicides.

**Approximately 80% of them were
NEVER REPORTED TO THE PUBLIC**

PROSECUTOR

Violence Against Women in the Dominican Republic

- 189 women lose their lives violently every year
- Between January and December 2015 alone **8,634** reports were received of gender-based violence, **58,553** of intrafamily violence, and **6,741** of sex crimes
- Art 42 of the Dominican Constitution: Condemns intrafamily and gender-based violence in any of its forms
- Law 24–97, of January 1997: A judicial instrument that establishes sanctions for some of the forms of violence against women. It is based on the CEDAW and Belém do Pará conventions to prevent, sanction, and eradicate violence against women

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- The **Women's Ministry** (formerly the Women's Secretary of State, Law 86–99) governs the public policies related to gender in the country. It promotes important strategies at the national level, in addition to chairing and coordinating the National Commission for the Prevention of and Struggle Against Intrafamily Violence. It defines and monitors the implementation of the National Model for the Prevention and Care of Violence Against Women and Intrafamily Violence and its care protocols (Strategic Plan for the Prevention, Detection, Care, and Sanction of Violence Against Women and Intrafamily Violence 2011-2016)

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The National Commission for the Prevention of and Struggle Against Intrafamily Violence (**CONAPLUVI**) 1998: To establish and guarantee the application of the appropriate mechanisms to face violence against women and intrafamily violence.



Structure of the Public Ministry for the Care, Monitoring, and Penal Prosecution of Cases of Violence

Violence Against Women in the Dominican Republic

The existing structure for the treatment, care, monitoring, and management of cases of victims and aggressors consists of the following:

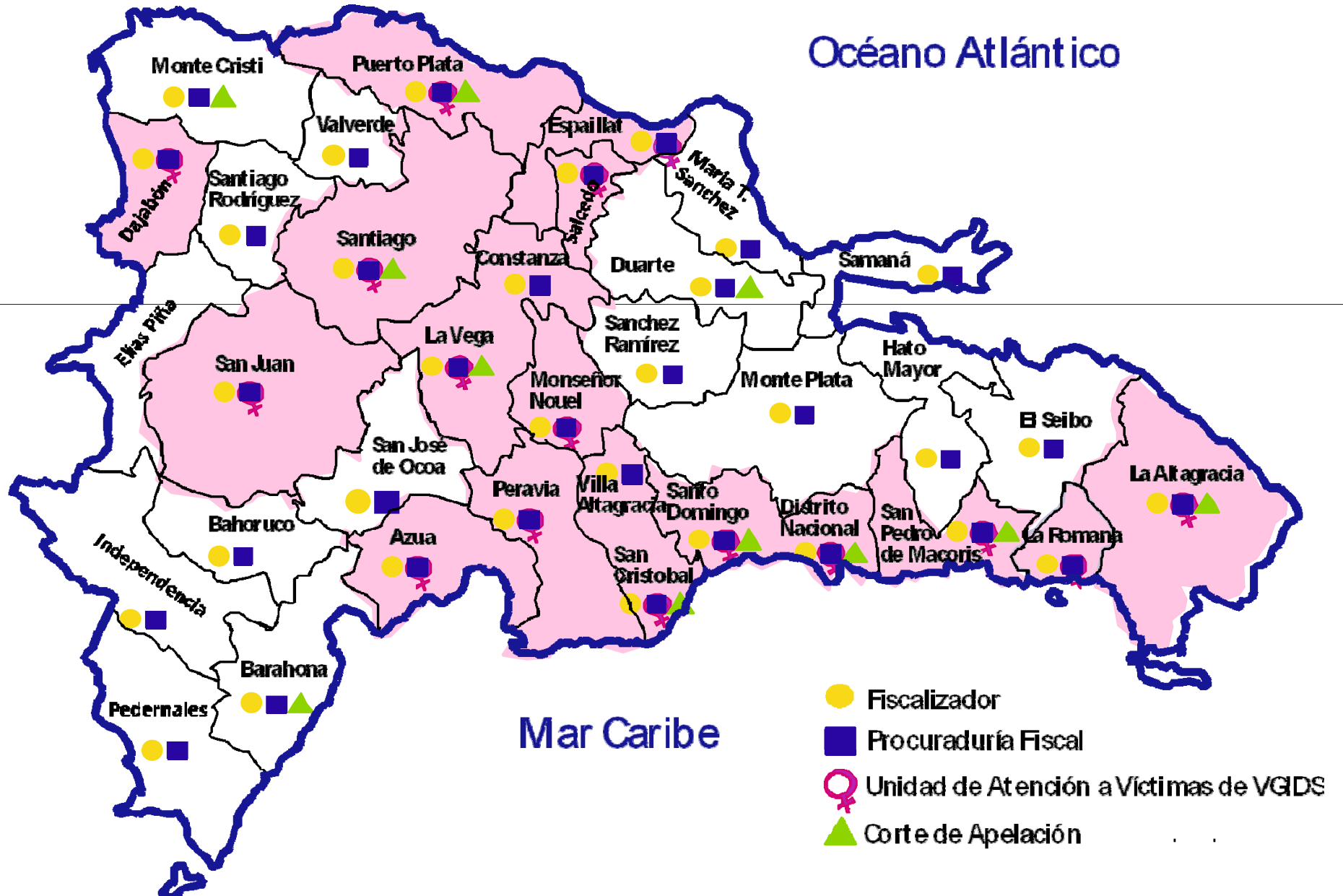
- **Adjunct Attorney General for Women's Issues** since the end of 2006. Responsible for elaborating criminal policy for all matters related to the treatment and holistic care of gender-based and intrafamily violence and sex crimes, as well as penal prosecution.
- **35 public prosecutors**, in some cases with community prosecutor's offices such as in the National District and the Province of Santo Domingo.
- **18 holistic care units for gender-based and family violence and sex crimes** distributed throughout the national territory (National District with 17 Neighborhood Attorney's Offices as annexes, Province of Santo Domingo, San Cristóbal, Peravia, Azua, San Juan de La Maguana, San Pedro de Macorís, La Altagracia, Monseñor Nouel, La Vega, Espaillat, Hermanas Mirabal, Santiago, Puerto Plata, Provincia Duarte, Dajabón, La Romana, and Valverde) which seek to attend victims quickly and efficiently, bringing together in one space both legal and specialized services, that is, forensic medical and psychological services to elaborate the expert reports that allow the public prosecutor to sustain the accusation of the facts of violence.



Structure of the Public Ministry for the Care, Monitoring, and Penal Prosecution of Cases of Violence

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- **National Directorate for Victim Care:** free psychological care for victims of all types of crimes throughout their legal processes.
- **Directorate for Legal Representation of Victims and Witnesses:** provides legal assistance at no cost to victims.
- **Women's Survivors of Domestic Violence Center:** provides psychotherapy to victims on the critical path of domestic violence.
- **Men's Behavioral Intervention Center:** Works with the learning of a new masculinity using specialized techniques managed by qualified behavioral professionals. It has two centers: one in the National District and another in San Juan de la Maguana for the country's southern region.
- **Life Line** (Helpline 809-200-1202)/ Emergency system **911**.



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Permanent Activities

1. Supervision and maintenance of the Centers under the DNAV
 - a. Youth and Family Victims Care Center
 - b. Men's Behavioral Intervention Center
 - c. Survivors of Domestic Violence Care Center
2. Supervision and maintenance of the Department of Psychological Assistance
2. Development of the Critical Path User Manual on Intrafamily and Gender-Based Violence and Sex Crimes
4. Ordinary Public Prosecutors in the different provinces and municipalities around the country

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Offers timely, high-quality attention to youth victims of violence and their families from a holistic perspective that identifies needs in the biopsychosocial, spiritual, and ecological spheres, promoting growth and personal and collective development through the offer of prevention, treatment, referral, and monitoring services aimed at protecting their rights.

This branch of the DNAV receives a monthly average of **25** families and carries out some **52** monitoring sessions of prior cases, for a total of **77** visits attended per month.

ACHIEVEMENTS in the year 2015

Monitoring provided in various cases supervised by the DNAV, such as at the Center for Youth Victims Care, Survivors of Violence, and Intervention for Aggressors. Thousands of families have benefited from these interventions.

Inter-institutional coordination links have been created with the Women's Ministry, the Education Ministry, CONANI, the Vice Presidency, and DPD.

Support has been provided for several branches of the PGR (DINAIA, ENMP, Public Prosecutors, ENJ) through consulting and training.

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A holistic care space for women's emotional recovery, economic independence, social development, and labor market integration, to strengthen the family nucleus by continuing with their life plans.

Programs Developed:

1. Psychological care
2. Mutual support groups
3. Psycho corporal therapy
4. Social services
5. Training
6. Program for service providers

This branch of the DNAV receives an average of **139** newly entered persons and monitoring sessions each month.

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Summary of work in all programs

August 2007 – February 2016

Cases Attended in Individual Therapy: **4,280**

Psychiatric Evaluations: **2,344**

Psycho Corporal (Biodance) Therapy: **685**

Psycho Corporal (Hatha Yoga) Therapy: **83**

Proper Treatment Awareness Education Centers: **377**

Gender-Based Violence Training: **2,264**

Mothers Trained in Positive Discipline: **7**

Institutions in Care Network: **145**

Women Trained in Financial Literacy and Business Administration: **391**

Women Trained in the Entrepreneurship Program: **326**

Number of Approved Microloans: **237**



Legal Representation for Victims of Gender-Based and Intrafamily Violence

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The National Service for Legal Representation of Victims' Rights (RELEVIC) has secured prison sentences of between 30, 20, and 15 years for defendants in cases of femicide, incest, and other violent crimes against women, girls, and youths.

Court-issued sentences also establish that the defendants must pay compensation to the victims with sums of at least **RD\$1,000,000.00**

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Aims of the Center

- To guarantee the victim's security.
- To prevent further mistreatment.
- To work with the aggressor's issues.
- To assume responsibility for his violent conduct.
- To reject all arguments in favor of violence.
- To recognize that violent conduct is a choice, not a loss of control.
- To identify the effects of abuse on the aggressor's partner and environment.
- To identify controlling patterns and authoritarian attitudes.

Created
July 15,
2008

- To develop respectful behavior and attitudes to replace the abuse.

- To reevalutate the aggressor's images of his partner.
- To make amends for damage done.

- To commit not to repeat the damage and to honor those commitments.
- To accept the need to detach oneself from certain privileges.

- To accept that overcoming abusive patterns make be a lifelong process.
- To refrain from abuse by learning non-abusive techniques.

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Achievements made in 2015

- 12,500 (twelve thousand five hundred) users impacted by interventions since 2008.
- This population has not committed femicide after being in our program.
- The recidivism rate is below 5%.
- The program is novel, conceptually holistic, and respectful of our cultural reality.
- The program was not adapted from other countries, but based on knowledge of certain experiences to develop and define the program based on our own reality.
- The Men's Behavioral Intervention Center is a pioneer in research specialized in the subject of aggressors in the country and an international example that is being emulated by neighboring countries.



Interventions with **Inmates** for Cases of Gender-Based Violence, Domestic Violence, or Sex Crimes

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Reintegration efforts for perpetrators of violent crimes

Programs	Description
Authentic Masculinity	The biopsychosocial characteristics of the inmate are worked with to prompt a personal encounter with the self.
For Proper Family and Gender Treatment (sponsored by the Office of the First Lady).	This program discusses the different types of intrafamily, gender-based, and relationship violence and complements it with the ideal behaviors of a person who treats family and partner appropriately.
Individual, group, and occupational therapy	Teaching control of the impulses that lead to the use of violence as a means to achieve goals.



Interventions with **Inmates** for Cases of Gender-Based Violence, Domestic Violence, or Sex Crimes

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Reintegration efforts for perpetrators of violent crimes

Programs	Description
Self-help groups for addiction	To provide an answer to the quandary of drug use to evade interpersonal, family, and social conflicts
Integration in different educational programs	Professional technical training. Education prior to inmate release.
Guide to pro-social values	Teaching the basic values learned in the family as well as their significance in application to daily life. Comparison of anti-values with universal values.



Interventions with **Inmates** for Cases of Gender-Based Violence, Domestic Violence, or Sex Crimes

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Reintegration efforts for perpetrators of violent crimes

Programs	Description
Relationship conflict resolution	Lessons on how to get past couples' conflicts that affect relationships.
Anxiety and stress reduction	Used for professional technical training to prepare inmates for release.
Recognition of the self	The person works with their conception of self and their capacities and resources to face life difficulties.
Psychoeducation	Deals with different subjects that help inmates learn to understand their environment and interpersonal issues.