

ppi 201502ZU4645

Esta publicación científica en formato digital es continuidad de la revista impresa
ISSN-Versión Impresa 0798-1406 / ISSN-Versión on line 2542-3185 Depósito legal pp
197402ZU34



CUESTIONES POLÍTICAS

Instituto de Estudios Políticos y Derecho Público "Dr. Humberto J. La Roche"
de la Facultad de Ciencias Jurídicas y Políticas de la Universidad del Zulia
Maracaibo, Venezuela



Vol.39

Nº 71

2021

The Role of Public Authorities in Combating Gender-Based Violence

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.46398/cuestpol.3971.21>

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Abstract

The objective of the research was to identify the factors that contribute to the increase in rates of gender-based violence and to clarify the role of the authorities in the fight against this problem. To achieve this objective, the following methods were used: statistical analysis, hypothetical-deductive model, factor analysis, generalization and analogy and correlation analysis.

It was found that there is a negative relationship between the level of violence against women and the economic situation, the level of gender inequality, the level of development of social norms and the level of gender development (only for violence against women who are not intimate partners). A positive relationship between the level of gender development and the level of domestic violence was demonstrated. Factors that directly negatively affected rates of gender-based violence were identified: cultural, traditional, religious beliefs about the status of women in society; authorities' restrictions on the rights of individuals associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The authorities' tools to counter gender-based violence were identified. The perspective of further research is the identification of the social and legal aspects of this global phenomenon.

Keywords: gender inequality; gender development; violence against women; gender-based violence; domestic violence.

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El papel de las autoridades en la lucha contra la violencia de género

Resumen

El objetivo de la investigación fue identificar los factores que contribuyen al aumento de las tasas de violencia de género y aclarar el papel de las autoridades en la lucha contra esta problemática. Para lograr este objetivo se utilizaron los siguientes métodos: análisis estadístico, modelo hipotético-deductivo, análisis factorial, generalización y analogía y análisis de correlación. Se encontró que existe una relación negativa entre el nivel de violencia contra las mujeres y la situación económica, el nivel de desigualdad de género, el nivel de desarrollo de las normas sociales y el nivel de desarrollo de género (solo para violencia contra mujeres que no son parejas íntimas). Se demostró una relación positiva entre el nivel de desarrollo de género y el nivel de violencia doméstica. Se identificaron factores que afectaron directamente de manera negativa las tasas de violencia de género: creencias culturales, tradicionales, religiosas sobre la condición de la mujer en la sociedad; restricciones de las autoridades a los derechos de las personas asociadas con la pandemia de COVID-19. Se identificaron las herramientas de las autoridades para contrarrestar la violencia de género. La perspectiva de una mayor investigación es la identificación de los aspectos sociales y legales de este fenómeno mundial.

Palabras clave: desigualdad de género; desarrollo de género; violencia contra la mujer; violencia de género; violencia doméstica.

Introduction

Gender-based violence is one of the most common human rights violations in the world (Elsherief *et al.*, 2017). According to the United Nations Population Fund, one in three women worldwide experiences physical or sexual violence during their lifetime (UNFPA, 2016; Autiero *et al.*, 2020). The victims of gender-based violence are mostly women and girls. The various factors that contribute to the increase in gender-based violence rates must become a priority issue that needs to be addressed by the authorities.

An important tool in resolving any crisis situation in all public-private spheres is their legal settlement at the international and national levels. Authorities are empowered to protect the rights of vulnerable groups, to develop and improve mechanisms to combat violations of their rights. In particular, it concerns the prevention of an increase in gender-based

violence rates and the elimination of existing factors that contribute to violence.

1. Literature review

There are several approaches to understanding gender-based violence in the literature. A narrow understanding of gender-based violence is defined by Wirtz *et al.* (2018) as a general term for any harm caused against human will and resulting from gender inequality. Gender inequality is identified as the root cause of gender-based violence. In addition, the main causes of gender-based violence are related to beliefs, norms, attitudes and structures that promote and/or tolerate gender discrimination and gender inequality (Nordby, 2018).

A broad approach is proposed by Johnson (2004) as gender-driven violence. The majority of victims are women and girls (although men may also be victims of violence), covering racial, ethnic, class, age, economic, religious and cultural diversity. Gender-based violence exists in different places: at home, in society, in public institutions. There are five types of gender-based violence: sexual violence; physical violence; emotional and psychological violence; negative traditional practices; socio-economic violence (Johnson, 2004).

The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women interprets gender-based violence as “any form of violence that causes or may cause physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, forced arbitrary deprivation of freedom, regardless of whether they are in the state or in private life” (United Nations, 1993).

Gender-based violence is a man-caused crisis that exists in various forms, including offline, through physical and sexual violence, and in today’s world, gender-based violence occurs through the Internet through harassment and trolling. An innovative tool to combat gender-based violence is to involve Internet users in the joint fight against gender-based violence in social media (Karuna *et al.*, 2016). Combating gender-based violence on the Internet requires the involvement of technology companies that are Internet providers to prevent the use of networks by those who intend to commit violence. One of the key tasks of the state is to involve Internet providers in effectively solving the problems of Internet violence in their networks. Combating gender-based violence is a complex task that requires joint action by the public, private sectors, and society as a whole (Suzor *et al.*, 2018).

Globally, gender-based violence increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 and past pandemics have led to an increase in intimate

partner violence (physical, intellectual, economic and psychological); increased the number of sexual harassment on the Internet and offline, intimidation of persons on the grounds of sex; sexual exploitation and abuse, especially among women and girls; human trafficking for profit from exploitation, especially of girls via the Internet; child, early and forced marriage in order to reduce family expenses; ill-treatment of persons with disabilities and gender non-conforming people; damage to the female genitals; attacks on female healthcare workers; human trafficking (USAID, 2021).

The factors that cause gender-based violence are interrelated. The evidence is the Covid-19 pandemic, which has led to restrictions on movement, social exclusion, and increased financial stress, which could have led to increased gender-based violence rates. In such circumstances, the government's opposition to gender-based violence is reduced to expanding hotlines and information exchange; funding shelters and other options for the safe accommodation of victims of gender-based violence; expanding access to services for victims of gender-based violence; limiting risk factors associated with violence; modifications of family law and justice (Guedes *et al.*, 2020).

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed many societal inequalities based on gender, class, race, and access to health care. State and local authorities have introduced innovative and coordinated counteraction to gender-based violence, which aims to address the systemic causes of violence. It is reduced to ensuring the continuity of existing services and creating new strategies to improve the communication system. Increasing gender inequalities in a pandemic have contributed to increased gender-based violence rates. As a result, it is necessary to develop a multi-level and coordinated response to gender-based violence, its cultural and social causes and to eliminate its consequences (Polischuk and Fay, 2020).

The crisis is increasing the vulnerability of women and girls due to the lack of access to sources of social support, healthcare services, social and other services. The consequences of violence are growing as economic tensions in the state facilitate the concealment of the perpetrator, which reduces the ability to effectively combat gender-based violence. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction has clearly recognized the need to better integrate gender perspectives into crisis preparedness (John *et al.*, 2020). Legal and forensic medicine must work to achieve two main goals: the assessment of gender-based violence; risk assessment after isolation from the abuser (Acosta, 2020).

Legislation criminalising violence against women as a tool to combat gender-based violence codifies women's right to live without violence. Legislative sanctions for violence against women can be a deterrent to the development of gender-based violence. New international law and national

law recognise women's right to life without violence. National legislation in most parts of the world not only prohibits and criminalises violence, but also provides mechanisms to support victims of gender-based violence and their families. States have a duty to protect women from violence and to enact laws to prevent and punish gender-based violence (Klugman, 2017).

Research objectives

The aim of the research paper is to identify the factors that contribute to the increased gender-based violence rates and to establish the role of the authorities in combating gender-based violence.

Research objectives of the article

1. Identify countries with the largest and smallest human development, gender development, gender inequality.
2. Identify factors that may affect the level of gender-based violence in identified countries.
3. Analyse statistical indicators of factors that may affect the level of gender-based violence in the studied countries.
4. Investigate the impact of established factors on the level of gender-based violence in the studied countries.
5. Find out the role of the authorities in combating gender-based violence.

2. Research materials and methods

The main approach in the study of the role of public authorities in combating gender-based violence was to identify the countries with the highest, medium, and lowest human development index, gender development index and gender inequality index. We believe that these indices are a reflection of the effectiveness of the government's functions of ensuring respect for the gender rights of individuals. This approach was chosen in order to fully explore the role of the authorities in combating gender-based violence. The formula for determining the arithmetic mean was used in the study:

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i = \frac{x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n}{n}$$

where X1 – Gender Inequality Index (Gender Development Index) for 2005, X2 – for 2010, X3 – for 2015, X4 – for 2017, X5 – for 2018, X6 – for 2019, n – number of indicators.

The study of the role of the authorities in combating gender-based violence was carried out using statistical analysis to identify countries with the highest and lowest human development, gender development and gender inequality indices. Statistical analysis involved the indicators of the Gender Social Norms Index, the number of cases of gender-based violence against women in the studied countries and regions of the world, the level of economic development of the studied countries, which is reflected in GDP per capita.

The direction of the research was determined through the hypothetical-deductive method, which was reduced to the identification of factors that may affect the level of gender-based violence, as well as the role of public authorities in combating gender-based violence.

A study was conducted through the correlation analysis to establish the relationship: between the Gender Development Index and violence against women ever experienced in 2005 – 2019 in Germany, Australia, USA, Japan, Ukraine, South Africa, India; between the Gender Inequality Index and violence against women ever experienced in 2005 – 2019 in the studied countries; between GDP per capita and the gender development index for 2000 – 2019. The study used the formula of correlation analysis:

$$r = \frac{\sum (x_{1j} - \bar{x}_1) \cdot (x_{2j} - \bar{x}_2)}{\sqrt{\sum (x_{1j} - \bar{x}_1)^2} \cdot \sqrt{\sum (x_{2j} - \bar{x}_2)^2}}$$

where x_1 – Gender Inequality Index and x_2 – violence against women ever experienced, r – linear correlation coefficient.

The method of factor analysis, generalisation and analogy identified the factors that affect the number of cases of gender-based violence.

The research used the most significant scientific works that reflect the development of scientific thought in the field of gender-based violence and ways to combat gender-based violence for the period 1993 to 2021. This period of the study was chosen as the one that most clearly reflects the role of the authorities in combating gender-based violence.

The paper analyses the following indicators:

- Gender Development Index (GDI) 2000 – 2019 reflected in United Nations Development Programme.
- Gender Inequality Index (GII) 2000 – 2019 reflected in United Nations Development Programme.
- Violence against women ever experienced, (% of female population ages 15 and older) 2005 – 2019 reflected in UN Women.

- Gender Development Index (GDI) and Violence against women ever experienced (% of female population ages 15 and older) in regions reflected in United Nations Development Programme, UN Women.
- Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) 2005-2014 reflected in United Nations Development Programme.
- GDP per capita (current US\$) 2000 – 2019 reflected in The World Bank.

3. Results

The Gender Development Index measures the gap between three components: education, life expectancy and income of men and women, taking into account the impact of human development. The Gender Development Index reflects the influence of the authorities on gender equality, ensuring the well-being and prosperity of all social groups. In order to achieve the goals, set in the study, we select countries with a high, medium and lowest index of human development during 2000 – 2019.

Table 1. Table of correlation of the CSOCI components

HDI Rank	Country	2000	2005	2010	2015	2017	2018	2019
6	Germany	0.943	0.957	0.960	0.968	0.969	0.968	0.972
8	Australia	0.961	0.970	0.976	0.975	0.976	0.976	0.976
17	USA	0.987	0.992	0.996	0.994	0.995	0.993	0.994
19	Japan	0.950	0.955	0.960	0.971	0.976	0.977	0.978
74	Ukraine	0.992	1.004	1.012	0.997	1.000	1.000	1.000
114	South Africa	0.959	0.959	0.975	0.982	0.981	0.983	0.986
131	India	0.736	0.761	0.782	0.809	0.817	0.818	0.820

Source: United Nations Development Programme, 2020.

Thus, the countries with the highest human development index include: Germany and Australia, the medium – the United States and Japan, the lowest – South Africa and India (Table 1). At the same time, the highest level of the gender development index in the studied countries during 2000 – 2019 was recorded in Ukraine, and the lowest level of the gender development index – in India.

The Gender Inequality Index is an indicator that reflects inequality between women and men in three areas: reproductive health, empowerment, and the labour market.

Table 2. Gender Inequality Index (GII)

HDI Rank	Country	2000	2005	2010	2015	2017	2018	2019
6	Germany	0.130	0.117	0.097	0.076	0.084	0.084	0.084
8	Australia	0.160	0.139	0.138	0.110	0.104	0.103	0.097
17	USA	-	0.263	0.259	0.238	0.229	0.211	0.204
19	Japan	0.135	0.146	0.121	0.121	0.103	0.100	0.094
74	Ukraine	0.388	0.379	0.334	0.288	0.273	0.270	0.234
114	South Africa	0.470	0.464	0.439	0.419	0.414	0.411	0.406
131	India	-	0.624	0.590	0.550	0.525	0.512	0.488

Source: United Nations Development Programme, 2020.

There is a positive trend of decline in the Gender Inequality Index in all countries from 2000 to 2019. At the same time, violence against women aged 15 and older remains high (Table 3).

Table 3. Violence against women ever experienced, (% of female population ages 15 and older)

HDI Rank	Country	intimate partner	Non-intimate partner
		2005-2019	2005-2019
6	Germany	22.0	7.0
8	Australia	22.8	10.0
17	USA	-	-
19	Japan	-	-
74	Ukraine	26.0	5.0
114	South Africa	21.3	-
131	India	28.8	-

Source: UN Women, 2019.

Between 2005 and 2019, women were more likely to be victims of intimate partner violence than non-intimate partners, indicating a high level of domestic violence.

In order to establish the relationship between the Gender Development Index and violence against women ever experienced and between the Gender Inequality Index and violence against women ever experienced, it is necessary to determine the arithmetic mean of these indices in the studied countries for 2005 - 2019, as the arithmetic mean violence against women ever experienced is provided for 2005 – 2019. The arithmetic mean of the Gender Inequality Index in Germany is 0.090, Australia – 0.115, the United States – 0.234, Japan – 0.114, Ukraine – 0.296, Africa – 0.425, India – 0.548. In order to establish the relationship between the Gender Inequality Index and violence against women ever experienced, it is necessary to conduct a correlation analysis of the indicators in Tables 2 and 3.

The linear correlation coefficient between the Gender Inequality Index and violence against women ever experienced (non-intimate partner), excluding the USA and Japan, South Africa and India, is -0.636; between the Gender Inequality Index and violence against women ever experienced (intimate partner), excluding the United States and Japan, is -0.727.

Thus, a negative correlation was established between the index of gender inequality and the amount of violence against women during 2005-2019. Therefore, the lower the Gender Inequality Index, the more cases of violence against women. In order to establish the interaction between the Gender Development Index and violence against women ever experienced, it is necessary to calculate the arithmetic mean of the Gender Development Index. The arithmetic mean of the Gender Development Index for 2005 – 2019 is: Germany – 0.966, Australia – 0.975, USA – 0.994, Japan – 0.970, Ukraine – 1.002, Africa – 0.978, India – 0.801.

The linear correlation coefficient between Gender Development Index and violence against women ever experienced during 2005 – 2019 in the studied countries (intimate partner), excluding the USA and Japan, is 0,603, nonintimate partner, excluding the USA and Japan, South Africa and India, is 0.731.

Thus, there is a positive correlation between the gender development index and the number of cases of violence against women (intimate partner), and a negative correlation between the gender development index and the number of cases of violence against women (non-intimate partner). Therefore, gender development reduces the incidence of domestic violence against women.

In Australia, there has been an increase in sexual assault as a form of domestic violence in 2020. The statistics is as follows: in 2017 – 105.1, 2018 – 105.3, 2019 – 105.9 cases per 100,000 people were recorded, while

in 2020 the number of cases of violence increased by 13% compared to 2019 (107.1) (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021). The reason for the increase domestic violence rates is the pandemic caused by Covid-19. The decision of the authorities to restrict the movement of the population led to a long stay of people indoors, resulting in increased number of cases of domestic violence.

Analysing the indicators of the gender development index in some regions of the world (Table 4), the highest index during 2000 – 2019 was found in Latin America and the Caribbean – 0.957 - 0.978, and the lowest – in South Asia – 0.734 - 0.824. At the same time, Latin America and the Caribbean have the highest percentage of violence against women who are not intimate partners and the lowest percentage of violence against women who are intimate partners.

Table 4. Gender Development Index (GDI) and Violence against women ever experienced (% of female population ages 15 and older) in regions

	Gender Development Index (GDI)					Violence against women ever experienced (% of female population ages 15 and older)	
						nonintimate partner	intimate partner
Regions	2000	2005	2010	2015	2019	2005-2019	
Arab States	0.807	0.821	0.835	0.853	0.856	-	-
East Asia and the Pacific	0.916	0.930	0.948	0.959	0.961	3.2	-
Europe and Central Asia	0.924	0.930	0.952	0.952	0.953	3.4	27.9
Latin America and the Caribbean	0.957	0.971	0.977	0.986	0.978	31.5	23.8
South Asia	0.734	0.765	0.790	0.818	0.824	3.0	31.0
Sub-Saharan Africa	0.857	0.857	0.879	0.887	0.894	2.2	31.4

Source: United Nations Development Programme, 2020. UN Women, 2019.

Domestic violence is observed in the regions of the world where the largest percentage of the population professes Islam – East Asia, Southeast

Asia, Africa. The regions of the world where the majority of the population professes Christianity have a lower percentage of violence against women being intimate partners – Latin America, Europe and Central Asia.

The Gender Social Norms Index is made by persons who have at least one gender bias, those who do not have prejudices and those who have prejudices in the areas of politics, economics, education and physical integrity (Table 5).

Table 5. Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI)

	GSNI (share of people with at least 1 bias)		Share of people with no bias		Share of people biased by dimension							
					Political		Economic		Educational		Physical integrity	
	2005- 2009	2010- 2014	2005- 2009	2010- 2014	2005- 2009	2010- 2014	2005- 2009	2010- 2014	2005- 2009	2010- 2014	2005- 2009	2010- 2014
Germany	59.11	62.6	40.89	37.4	26.43	26.59	26.94	30.91	14.32	15.78	39.9	44.68
Australia	52.23	46.24	47.77	53.76	32.37	32.48	26.05	18.06	7.53	4.09	26.05	20.93
USA	60.63	57.31	39.37	42.69	42.23	39.9	19.41	14.81	7.81	6.54	38.84	34.57
Japan	72.08	68.81	27.92	31.19	46.44	46.87	39.69	41.79	18.34	16.21	37.04	26.28
Ukraine	87.28	86.53	12.72	13.47	60.6	62.63	58.18	57.69	32.47	18.23	50.8	56.61
South Africa	93.32	96.32	6.68	3.68	61.33	75.56	55.22	57.06	19.98	38.8	81.04	88.8
India	91.4	98.28	8.6	1.72	62.12	64.1	68.32	69.91	38.63	35.24	75.31	88.38

Source: United Nations Development Programme, 2020.

It is established that India, where the highest level of domestic violence is recorded, has the highest percentage of gender-biased people for 2010 – 2014, the lowest percentage of people without prejudice (for 2010 - 2014), the highest percentage of people who are most biased in politics (2005 – 2009), economics (2005 – 2014), education (2005 – 2009). The lowest level of domestic violence is observed in South Africa, however this country has a high level of gender bias and a low percentage of people without gender bias, the highest percentage of gender bias in politics (2009–2014), education (2010–2014), physical integrity (2005 – 2014).

Thus, domestic violence does not depend on gender bias of the population. The well-being of the population depends on the economic development of the state. Based on the conclusion about the relationship between the gender development index and the number of cases of violence against women (intimate partners), we consider it appropriate to study the

impact of economic development of the studied countries on the gender development index.

Table 6. GDP per capita (current US\$)

Country	2000	2005	2010	2015	2017	2018	2019
Germany	23,635	34,507	41,531	41,086	44,552	47,810	46,467
Australia	21,679	33,999	52,022	56,755	54,027	57,354	55,057
USA	36,334	44,114	48,467	56,839	60,062	62,996	65,297
Japan	38,532	37,217	44,507	34,524	38,386	39,159	40,246
Ukraine	653	1,826	2,965	2,124	2,640	3,096	3,659
South Africa	3,032	5,383	7,328	5,734	6,131	6,372	6,001
India	443	714	1,357	1,605	1,981	2,005	2,099

Source: The World Bank, 2020.

The linear correlation index between GDP per capita and the gender development index in the studied countries during 2000 – 2019 is equal to: 2000 – -0.895, 2005 – -0.842, 2010 – -0.853, 2015 – -0.765, 2017 – -0.772, 2018 – -0.791, 2019 – -0.757. Thus, there is a negative correlation between economic development and the gender development index.

4. Discussion

Vulnerable groups of the population are a category of people, the provision and observance of whose rights is a changing phenomenon in crisis situations in the country and the world.

In general, the role of the authorities in combating gender-based violence is divided into three stages: prevention, response and elimination of the consequences of gender-based violence.

Prevention of gender-based violence, as the main stage of counteraction, is to prevent and eliminate factors influencing the increase in the number of cases of gender-based violence.

The study showed that the level of gender inequality does not affect the number of cases of violence against women, and a study of the social norms index found that the level of domestic violence does not directly depend on the level of gender bias in general and in certain areas of society.

Therefore, we do not agree with the rationale that gender-based violence depends on gender norms — that is, social norms about the corresponding roles and responsibilities of men and women (Heise *et al.*, 2002). The level of violence against women and girls depends on the religion of the majority of the population in a given country. The highest level of domestic violence is established in those regions of the world where the largest percentage of the population professes Islam — East Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa. A lower percentage of violence against women (intimate partners) is observed in those regions where the majority of the population is Christian — Latin America, Europe and Central Asia. Therefore, we agree that patriarchal society is the direct cause of gender-based violence, as patriarchy establishes such socio-cultural values and norms of society that subordinate women, determine and dictate their place and behaviour (Hadi, 2017).

The positive correlation between the gender development index and the number of cases of violence against women (intimate partner), the negative correlation between the gender development index and the number of cases of violence against women (non-intimate partner) is proved. Thus, gender development reduces the incidence of violence against women (intimate partners).

Therefore, we unequivocally believe that effective prevention of gender-based violence among adolescents and young adults is a key strategy to reduce gender-based violence (Crooks *et al.*, 2018). Authorities are required to develop programmes and strategies to prevent gender-based violence to address the root causes and factors of violence against women and girls at the population level (Perrin *et al.*, 2019), as most cases of gender-based violence can be prevented by effective preventive measures (Oliveira *et al.*, 2018; Rituerto-González *et al.*, 2019). Prohibiting the coverage of intimate information in the form of images, videos or text in the media will reduce the risk of violence against women (Russo and Pirlott, 2006).

It is established that the economic development of the population does not affect the level of gender development, and accordingly the level of gender-based violence.

The current Covid-19 pandemic is a factor that negatively affects the dynamics of gender-based violence: social isolation, increased Internet use, reduced access to support services and financial stress have led to increased domestic violence rates. We agree that the failure to implement methods to prevent the risk of gender-based violence in all sectors and activities in crisis situations may create a risk of gender-based violence (USAID, 2021). Therefore, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to negatively affect women's lives, there is a need to prioritise their right to health and safety. It is also important to note that some women remain financially dependent on those who have abused them. Therefore, there is a need to implement community programmes, especially for psychological support and shelter, especially for victims of abuse (Bingol and Ince Yenilmez, 2020).

An important step in combating gender-based violence is to eliminate the consequences of violence against women and prevent their recurrence. Therefore, in the face of government restrictions on the rights of individuals to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic, access to justice for survivors of gender-based violence needs to be increased, support for women victims of violence and prevention of re-violence shall be provided (Morrison *et al.*, 2007).

Conclusions and recommendations

The authorities are the main actors that can directly influence the dynamics of gender-based violence by addressing the factors that increase the incidence of violence against women and girls. The countries with the highest, middle and lowest levels of human development, gender development and gender inequality were found to include Australia, Germany, the United States, Japan, Ukraine, South Africa and India. The study found a negative relationship between the level of violence against women and the economic situation in the country, the level of gender inequality, the level of social norms and the level of gender development (only for violence against women non-intimate partners) in the studied countries during 2000 - 2019. It was found that the factors that negatively affect the amount of gender-based violence are: restriction by the authorities of the rights of persons associated with the Covid-19 pandemic; cultural, traditional, religious beliefs about the status of women in society. The relationship between the level of gender development and the level of domestic violence has been proven.

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The countries with the highest, medium and lowest levels of human development, gender development and gender inequality were found to include Australia, Germany, the United States, Japan, Ukraine, South Africa and India.

The study found a negative correlation between the level of violence against women and the economic situation of the country, the gender inequality level, the level of social norms and the level of gender development (only for violence against women non-intimate partners) in the studied countries during 2000 — 2019. It was found that the factors that negatively affect the number of cases of gender-based violence are: authorities' restriction of the rights of persons associated with the Covid-19 pandemic; cultural, traditional, religious beliefs about the status of women in society. The relationship between the gender development level and the domestic violence level was proved.

The pandemic caused by the Covid-19 mass morbidity has led the authorities to impose a number of restrictions, some of which have affected the movement of the population. Prolonged stay at home has led to increased domestic violence rates. Accordingly, the authorities are obliged to develop an action plan in crisis conditions to prevent and eliminate the consequences of gender-based violence.

Authorities have several levers of influence in the fight against gender-based violence, which are reduced to legislative regulation (international and national), prevention of gender-based violence, including through the media, educating young people, balancing religious views, culture, and traditions with respect to the opposite sex or gender-nonconforming people, support and development of family institutions, social, medical and financial support for victims of gender-based violence.

The prospect of further research is to cover social and legal aspects that affect the level of gender-based violence.

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CUESTIONES POLÍTICAS

Vol.39 N° 71

*Esta revista fue editada en formato digital y publicada en diciembre de 2021, por el **Fondo Editorial Serbiluz**, Universidad del Zulia. Maracaibo-Venezuela*

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