

Literature and Human Rights

LITERATURE

- Raises awareness about human rights
- Contributes to soothe human suffering
- Gives form and meaning to human life
- Is a source of social transformation
- Has the power to change lives and touch hearts and minds
- Has the capacity to drive change and motivate people to take action
- Represents human rights violations as a social problem.

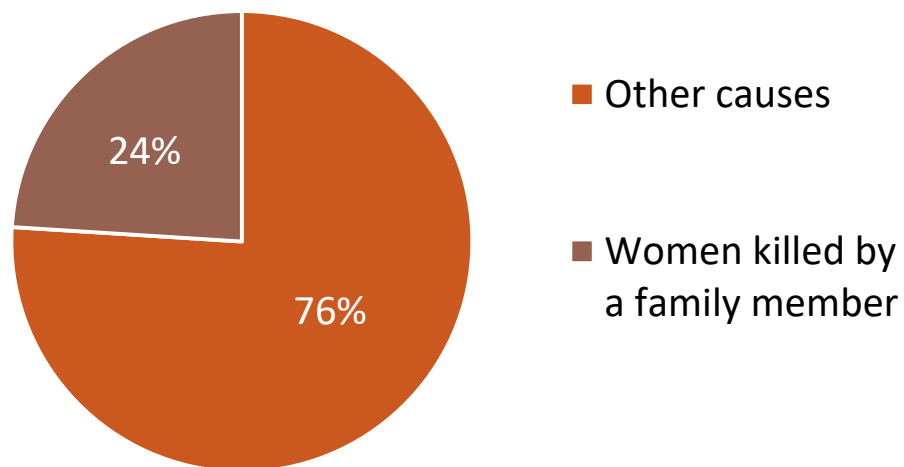
STUDENTS

- Gain pragmatic skills for critical reading and thinking
- Understand their responsibility in creating change while realizing they are accountable for their actions
- Discover their sense of responsibility
- Are motivated to actively participate in reforming society and reduce the level of human rights violations.

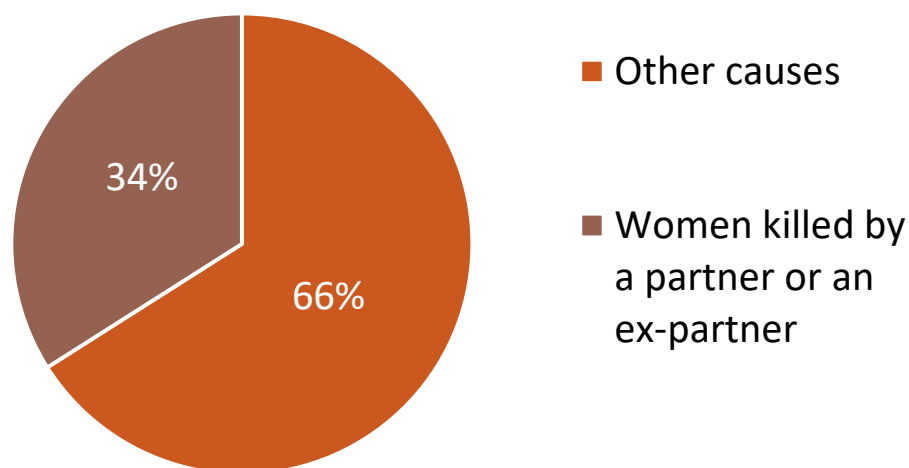
*“The patterned **connection between society and fiction** is so discernible and so reliable that **literature ought to be added to the regular tools of social investigation**” - Rockwell*



Femicide by a family member



Femicide by a partner or ex-partner



Source: ONU

www.epicentro.iss.it/focus/domestica/DocumentazioneMondo

My Last Duchess, Robert Browning

- Victorian poem
- 1842 → 1561

*« Oh, sir, she smiled, no doubt,
Whene'er I passed her; but who passed
without
Much the same smile? This grew; I gave
commands;
Then all smiles stopped together. There
she stands
As if alive. »*



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J. Joyce, Eveline

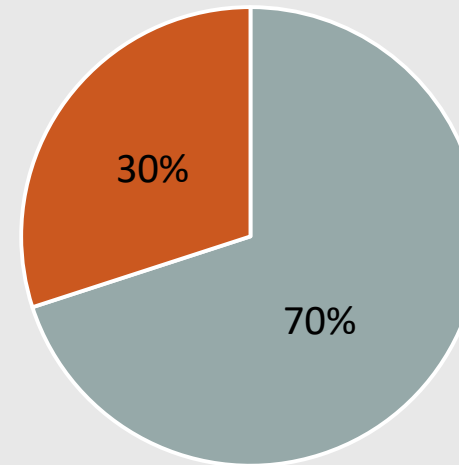
- Modernist short story
- 1914

«She would not be treated as her mother had been. Even now, though she was over nineteen, she sometimes felt herself in danger of her father's violence.»

«[...] like he used to go for Harry and Ernest, because she was a girl; but latterly he had begun to threaten her and say what he would do to her only for her dead mother's grave.»

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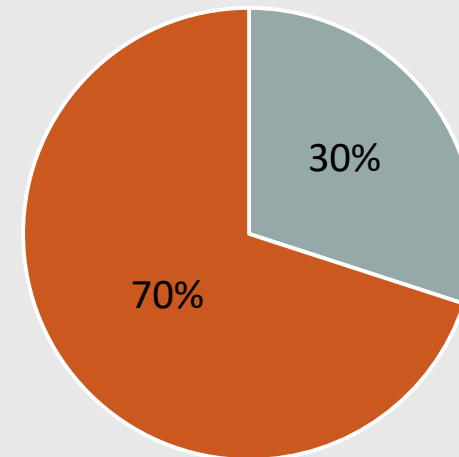
Physical, sexual and psychological abuses



- Haven't experienced any kind of abuse
- Have experienced an abuse

Source: National Institute of Health www.nih.gov/

Consequences of psychological abuse



- No serious consequences
- Women who display symptoms of PTSD and/or depression

Source: National Coalition Against Domestic Violence www.ncadv.org/statistics

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Sally Rooney, Normal People, 2018

- Postmodern novel
- 2018.

« In one motion he moves his hand down from her shoulder and squeezes the flesh of her right breast, in front of everyone. [...] Her eyes are stinging and she feels a pain where he grabbed her. »

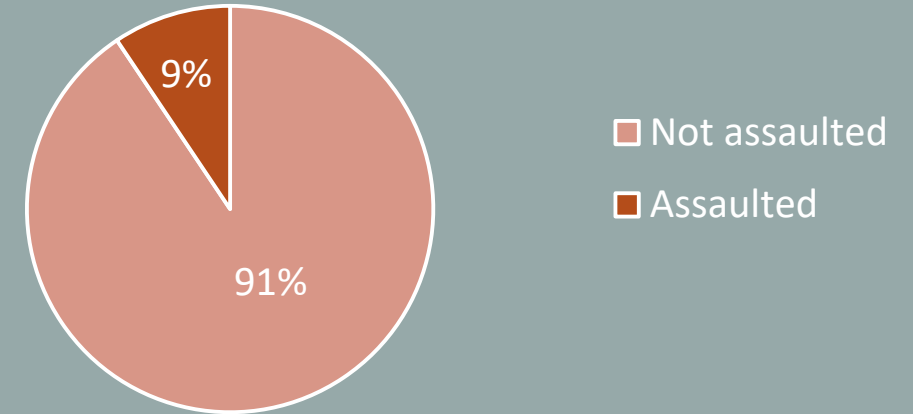
« Well, she likes to beat me up. Just during sex, that is. »

« Marianne is not allowed to talk or make eye contact while the game is going on. If she breaks the rules, she gets punished later. He tells her bad things about herself. [...] She experiences a depression so deep it is tranquilizing, she eats whenever he tells her to eat. »

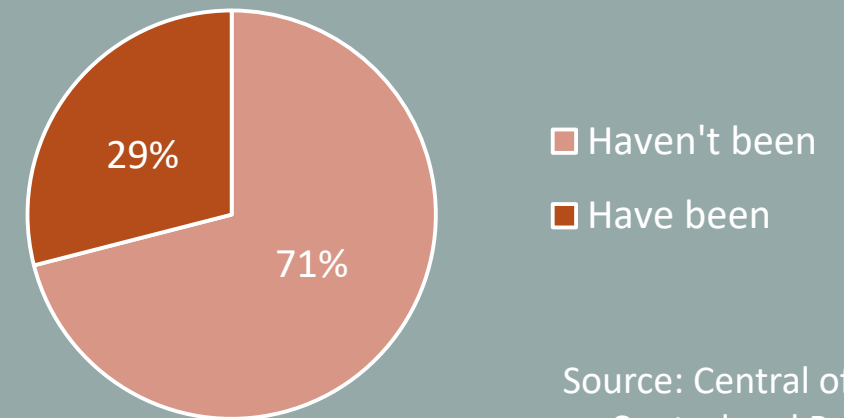
« Alan lifts his arm and throws the bottle at her. It smashes behind her on the tiles. [...] she manages to make it into her room [...], before he catches up. He tries the handle and she has to strain to keep it from turning. Then he kicks the outside of the door. »

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High school students reported being assaulted by their boyfriend or girlfriend



College women said they have been in an abusive dating relationship



Source: Central of Disease Control and Prevention

www.thehotline.org/resources/statistics/



Covid-19 Lockdown: statistics

Source: La Repubblica, Esteri, 04 May 2020

- In the first three weeks of lockdown, **abuses and feminicides ha increased by 20% in all 193 countries of the United Nations;**
- Depending on the possible recurrence of the lockdown, **this year the increase of domestic violence cases** could be between **15 and 31 million**
- In **Great Britain**, police had arrested **over 4 thousands people accused of domestic abuse** and **calls to the National Domestic Violence Hotline** has increased by **49%** in the **first six weeks of lockdown**
- Between **January and February in Mexico**, **feminicides increased by 9,1% compared to 2019**
- In **New York, China, Malaysia, Turkey and Lebanon**, **abuses increased by 30% in April**
- In the **next 10 years**, there could be an **increase by about 2 million of cases of feminine genital mutilations;**
- In the **next 10 years**, there could be an **increase by about 13 million of marriage between children;**
- There has been a **lack of help and social support due to the lockdown.**