

HUMAN RIGHTS IN LITERATURE

- **The Constitution of the Italian Republic**
- **The Universal Declaration of Human Rights ⇒ UDHR**

Art. 3 The Constitution of the Italian Republic ⇒ “All citizens have equal social dignity and are equal before the law, without distinction as to sex, race, language, religion, political opinions, or personal or social condition. It is the duty of the Republic to remove those obstacles of an economic and social nature that, by in fact limiting the freedom and equality of citizens, impede the full development of the human person and the effective participation of all workers in the political, economic and social organisation of the country”.

Art. 1 of UDHR ⇒ “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”.

Art. 2 of UDHR ⇒ “Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status [...]”.

Literary texts

- J. Winterson, FrankissStein, 2019
- S. Rooney, Normal People, 2018
- J. Joyce, Eveline, in Dubliners, 1914
- R. Browning, My Last Duchess, 1842



Conclusions

Jeanette Winterson, FRANKISSSTEIN, 2019



LITERARY REFERENCES	VIOLATIONS OF ART.1,2 OF UDHR AND ART.3 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC
“Women are weak, said Byron”.	Lord Byron treated women and their thoughts as inferior
“The male principle is readier and more active than the female principle.”	
“Different models, too, blonde and busty, brunette and sporty.Whatever”	Men playing with the sex dolls could make women lose their dignity.
“If you want be a bit more discreet you can fold her up and strap her in the back or stow her out of sight in the boot or trunk or whatever you call it”.	
“My girls are practical - they are built to work - so we keep ‘em handy-sized.”	
“He lunged at my crotch and found what I don’t have. [...] He pushed me into the stall, slammed the door shut and forced me up against it. [...] He started pulling at my jeans. His fat, dirty fingers were trying to get the zip down. [...] He hit the side of my face with the back of his fist.”	The transgender Ry had been violented by a man in a bar because of his/her gender and appearance.

Sally Rooney, **NORMAL PEOPLE**, 2018



LITERARY REFERENCES	VIOLATIONS OF ART.1, 2 OF UDHR AND ART. 3 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC
“My dad used to hit my mum, she says.[...] Did he ever hit you? Sometimes.”	Marianne’s father used to hit her sometimes.
“At the end of the hall, Alan comes up from the kitchen with a bottle of beer in his hands. Where the fuck were you? he says. [...] It’s moving towards already from every direction, and there’s no special move she can make, no evasive gesture, that can help her escape it. [...] Alan lifts his arm and throws the bottle at her.”	Marianne suffers from domestic violence by her brother Alan, who does not want her to go out with Connell.
“She hears a cracking noise when it connects with her face, then a strange feeling inside her head. She steps backwards while Alan enters the room. [...] Her hand goes to her face. Her nose is running really quite badly. [...] Was it him? says Connell. She nods. Her eyes have a frightened look.”	

James Joyce, **EVELINE** from DUBLINERS 1914



LITERARY REFERENCES	VIOLATIONS OF ART.1, 2 OF UDHR AND ART. 3 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC
“Even now, though she was over nineteen, she sometimes felt herself in danger of her father’s violence. She knew it was that that had given her the palpitations.”	After Eveline’s mother had died, her father is often verbally abusive towards her: he threatens her and makes her feel tired and frightened.
“[...] latterly he had begun to threaten her and say what he would do to her only for her dead mother’s sake.”	
“He said she used to squander the money, that she had no head, that he wasn't going to give her his hard-earned money to throw about the streets, and much more, for he was usually fairly bad on Saturday night.”	

Robert Browning, MY LAST DUCHESS, 1842



LITERARY REFERENCES	VIOLATIONS OF ART.1, 2 OF UDHR AND ART.3 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC
“That’s my last Duchess painted on the wall, Looking as if she were alive. I call That piece a wonder, now; Fra Pandolf’s hands Worked busily a day, and there she stands.”	In the very first lines, the Duchess had been objectified by the Duke. He considered her inferior. At the same time the adjective “my” underlines the Duke’s possessive attitude towards her.
“[...] Paint Must never hope to reproduce the faint Half-flush that dies along her throat.”	The Duke ordered to kill the duchess because of his inability to patronise her as he wanted and to have her under his control.
“I gave commands; Then all smiles stopped together.”	

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Conclusions

LITERARY TEXTS	VIOLATION/S OF ARTICLE 3
Jeanette Winterson, <u>FranKissStein</u> , 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lord Byron treated women and their thoughts as inferior;- Men playing with the sexbots could make women lose their dignity;- The transgender Ry had been violented by a man in a bar
Sally Rooney, <u>Normal People</u> , 2018	Marianne suffers from domestic violence by her brother Alan
James Joyce, Eveline from <u>Dubliners</u> , 1914	Eveline's father is often verbally abusive towards her
Robert Browning, <u>My Last Duchess</u> , 1842	The Duchess had been objectified by the Duke, who ordered to kill her because of his inability to patronise her as he wanted