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Violência Doméstica na 3ª Idade

Que respostas sociais existem para as mulheres idosas vítimas de violência doméstica no distrito do Porto?

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Abstract

This research explores the concepts on the issue of domestic violence and aging, in order to know the answers that society has for older women experiencing domestic violence.

Violence against the elderly is a relatively recent concept in our society, the research was practically nonexistent until the early 1990s (Dias 2005).

This study was qualitative, seeking to know what social solutions there are for elder victims of domestic violence in the district of Porto. For that matter, it were done seven semi-structured interviews to professionals who work daily with victims of domestic violence in the context of care and / or shelter. Through content analysis of these data, we attempted to ascertain the actual existing responses to this target audience.

The results from this sample, although not generalizable to a national level indicate that there are indeed responses directed to these elderly victims of domestic violence in the district of Porto. However, responses are diverted to other than those indicated for the situation they find themselves. In interviews, we can discern that, on one hand, there a need of affection in the views of most of the interviewed , and secondly, a defense of human rights perspective of the victim. There is also a contradiction very strong in the interviews, regarding the approach to the victims, ranging on the one hand, the philosophy that "each case is unique," and secondly, that " all are the same and so handled in the very same way".

Finally, the conclusions of this investigation show the need to look more in depth the needs and expectations of older women experiencing domestic violence, in order to build effective responses to compensate and dignify women.

Keywords: elderly, domestic violence, and social responses;