

ABUSE

by Abuse Abuse

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Abuses of Women

The term woman abuse refers to any kind of abuse subjected to a woman simply because she is a woman. Woman abuse is also referred to as “gender-based abuse”¹ or “gender-based violence.” Sexual violence, including sexual assault and sexual harassment, is gender-based violence. It should be noted that woman abuse does not only mean physical violence. It is broader and includes emotional, sexual, financial and psychological abuse. When abusing women, it is usually intentional since the use of abuse by the perpetrator is to gain and maintain power and control over the female gender. “This is done by use of sexual or physical force or even by threatening to use force.” (Ford, Hannah, pg. 34)

Women abuse dates back in early times and did not emergence recently. It has always been existing. During medieval times, women were exposed to different forms of abuse which led to a lot of suffering. One of the common forms of abuse was silence. In the Bible’s New Testament in the letter to Timothy from St Paul, he makes a pronouncement that is a non-negotiable because of women moral corruption and inherent sinfulness hence they cannot teach. The saint declares women will only communicate their sense of self or faith on a public platform. Women are abused through being silenced as it is the femininity essence as it is a woman condition.

Women were also abused as they were made unwanted sexual predation objects. When women resisted and spoke up against harassment, they were subjected to more physical

violence. When the son of a Roman dignitary tried to seduce St Agnes, for instance by saying she was to remain a virgin and serve God, she had to undergo punishment. Her vociferous rejection made her be subjected to cruel assaults series from violent threats and attempted rape to exsanguination as her form of death.

Women abuse was also related to power domination. Power was dangerously connected to sexual predation. The rulers' rights to a woman body were dominant position and part and parcel of their masculinity unquestioningly. The leaders' privileged social positions blinded them to the dignity of a woman and self-determination right. Women were abused by being reduced to commodities as a mirror of reflecting back the sense of superiority and dominance by the predator. Women hence faced difficult times in relation to abuse which led to patriarchy domination. (Ford, Hannah, pg. 78)

In conclusion, the current forms of women abuse are not different from what was done in early times. The best strategies should be taken to reduce women abuse since it is violence against women rights and should not exist at this time and age.

References

Ford, Hannah. *Women Who Sexually Abuse Children*. Chichester, England: Wiley, 2006.

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