


Linking violence against women to the economy: an
analysis of domestic violence laws in the EU-27+2




MIEKE VERLOO

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Violence as one of the major domains/structures in society

- Innovative addition of Walby to a classic triad of polity, economy and civil society
 - Understood as a system in itself that functions in a complex system of systems where each system is a relevant environment for the other systems
 - Each system has its own discursive and material institutions (rules and bodies)
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Some challenges to the conceptualisation of the four domains I

- Polity, economy, violence: no major challenge
- Civil society: is both culture and social movements which is confusing (for a political scientist)
- There might be more: cathexis/ sexuality/ intimacy

Some challenges to the conceptualisation of the four domains II

- There might be more:
- cathexis/ sexuality/ intimacy [institutions on relationships, reproduction, the sex industry)
- Knowledge and truth [preferred over education, legitimised institutions varying from religion to academia, R&D and media]

Looking at the interrelatedness of domains: starting from violence

- Polity: discursive institutions define what counts as violence, what it is when (a problem? And asset?), who is allowed to deploy violence when and how, what are the wanted and unwanted consequences, what should be done about it by who and how.
- Given the 'monopoly of states on violence' this relationship is obvious and very visible
- Material polity-based institutions on the link are existing for long time. On gender-based violence they are more recent, but still growing.

Looking at the interrelatedness of domains: starting from violence

- Economy: now starting from empirical data.
- Data: 36 laws on domestic violence, as coded in the QUING database (one for each of the EU-27+2, except for Latvia; plus the Daphne decision EU text, and explanatory memoranda for AT, GR, HU, PL, RO, TR), + 2 for the Rape Law in HU (parts on marital rape)
- Codes used: problem location, and objective location, as well as summary codes on presence of references to economic development

Which domains are addressed in these laws?

Diagnosis

Intimacy	21
Polity	13
Economy	3
Civil society	1

Objective

Polity	26
Intimacy	20
Economy	3
Civil society	3

How is the link between violence and economy made? Diagnosis

Croatia: **problem:** family violence
passiveactor: family | family members
why: destroys victims in financial sense | (....)

Romania: **activeactor:** Family member
problem: (...) intentional physical action causing material prejudices (...)

Daphne Decision: **problem:** violence
passiveactor: society
why: high social costs | high economic costs

How is the link between violence and economy made? Prognosis

- Spain:
- **targetgroup:** women victims of violence
goal: To guarantee economic rights
why: To become independent of aggressors
quoteenglish: To guarantee women victims of gender violence with scarce economic means some social aids, when such victims are not going to improve their chances to get a job, due to their age, lack of general specialized training and to other social circumstances.
- Two **policy actions** related to this: Measures for economic support (To guarantee unemployment benefits in case of voluntary career break), + Programme for [re]integration into labour market

How is the link between violence and economy made? Prognosis

- Spain :

targetgroup: Women victims of gender violence

goal: To guarantee labour rights

why: To reconcile the right to work and special circumstances of victims

Policy action related to this:

responsible: public authorities

targetgroup: Women victims of gender violence

motivation: To justify labour absences | To make relocation easier | To make termination of contract easier

How is the link between violence and economy made? Prognosis

- Romania:

targetgroup: family

goal: develop and strengthen material support among family members (...)

underlyingnorm: patriarchy | family as the basic unit of the nation | family as the basic unit of the organization of social and economic life

- EU Daphne Decision:
- Prevention and protection is coded as having also location in economy, not sure why.

Are there more links in civil society texts?

Diagnosis

Intimacy 28

Polity 27

Economy 13

Civil society 15

■ Prognosis

Intimacy 24

Polity 13

Economy 3

Civil society 9

Links violence-economy at EC and EWL

EC

Morillo: fighting VAW a priority for the EC because of its unacceptable cost in human, social and economic terms (p.45)

Pavan-Woolfe: to sustain a dynamic full-employment economy (...) we simply have to adopt a zero tolerance policy on violence and trafficking in human beings

■ EWL

It is not only unemployment but structural problems in labour market and patriarchal society such as VAW that contribute to poverty and social exclusion of women (p.51)

The effectiveness of the Lisbon strategy (...) depends on a broader framework of conditions, such as child care and addressing VAW, to enable full participation in the labour market (p.53)

Why so few links to economy?

- Higher number of occurrences in civil society texts suggest that linking domestic violence to economy is contested. There are definitely more ideas around.
- Illusion of romance?
- Need to spell out the link between economic (gender) inequality and domestic violence