



Title: Exploring Intersectionality of Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence: Needs, Impact and Services Effectiveness

Acronym: IntersectVAW&DV

Project leader: Mariana Gonçalves

Host organisation: Universidade do Minho, Portugal

Main purpose of the project: To study diversity within social groups to identify the complexity of victims' experiences, i.e., exploring the interacting effects of gender, ethnicity, class, immigrant status, and other characteristics (victims' social location) in violence against women and domestic violence; to analyze the professional skills, culturally and trauma-informed concordant support victim services and approaches (critical analysis of institutions).

Design/methodology/approach: Using a quantitative methodology, this project will collect primary data with victims (study 1) to understand their needs and victimization impact through an intersectional approach; and with professionals (study 2) to understand practices in the protection system in Portugal (e.g., cultural competences and intersectional trauma-informed care).

Potential results: This project pretends to contribute to the development and integration of indicators of intersectional categories in data collection about VAWDV in Portugal; To inform the already recognized need to review risk assessment tools; and to contribute to more inclusive and adjusted practices in the Portuguese victim protection system.

Social relevance of the research: To contribute to some millennium goals, specifically producing knowledge and ameliorating practices in Portugal to reduce all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, and to promote professional practices anchored in social justice and equity.

Originality/value of the project: Traditionally the study of VAWDV is based on individualized and dichotomized approaches (e.g., gender-based) that fail to recognize the power dynamics and structural inequalities. The originality/value of this project is to adopt a more comprehensive and integrative perspective, capable of considering the role of structural, social and institutional processes to explain victimization, impact and address professional practices.