Title: Detecting gender-based violence from children’s perspective

Acronym: WeAreHere

Project leader: Carme Montserrat

Host organisation: Universitat de Girona

Main purpose of the project: The overall aim of the project is to create an early detection model of gender violence applicable in schools, giving children an active role in detecting this problem in order to boost support that would be useful for them in bringing the violence to an end.

Design/methodology/approach: 4,500 children (aged 8-16) and 100 school directors will be asked to fill an on-line questionnaire to identify which elements at school may help children to talk about situations of violence at a very early stage. Two Child Advisory Groups will participate throughout the research design, implementation and results’ discussion.

Potential results: The project aims to build a model applicable in schools for detecting children suffering violence at home, to raise awareness among children and to contribute to defining new interventions at educational, social and psychological levels. In addition, it becomes even more useful in times of pandemic.

Social relevance of the research: Gender violence and its impact on children is a particularly important social problem in Spain. If we are able to detect violence in the early stages, we can help both mothers and children and spare them suffering, chronicity and life-long consequences.

Originality/value of the project: Using a child-centred approach fills a gap in existing scientific research and in professional practice. This innovative approach to dealing with the issue of gender violence makes sense, not only from the perspective of children’s and women’s rights, but also with regard to effectiveness.