

Domestic Violence

Objective: To raise awareness about domestic violence
To listen for specific information
Note-taking practice
To infer meaning, identify a rhetorical position, analyze authorial bias, and examine audience
Appositives

Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPzVUGE3dds>

Level: Intermediate & Up

Procedure (listening): Since this is a sensitive topic it's good to be rather indirect when speaking about it, especially as it's very likely domestic violence is a part of many of your students' lives. Put a definition of domestic violence on the board. Ask your students if they think it's a problem in their country. Explain that this is a very big problem in many countries and brainstorm reasons why this may be so.

Do auxiliary vocabulary.

With weaker classes, hand out the questionnaire. In groups have them try to predict the answers.

With stronger classes, have them take notes and then hand out the questionnaire later and have them fill in the answers by using their notes (in groups or with a partner).

Focus question: Was this speaker involved in a domestic violence situation? As abuser or abused?

Play the listening. Twice if needed.

After the answers are checked or the groups are satisfied. Play the listening a final time.

Extension: Brainstorm various elements of society that could combat domestic violence (i.e. the government, the family, women, men, private organizations like women's shelters). In groups have the students decide ultimately which section of society should deal with this problem and why.

Auxiliary Vocabulary – an aspect, misery, stalking, to be exposed, to diminish, to attempt, to shed blood, to provoke, to spearhead

Answers to the listening questions:

1) Why did/does domestic violence continue?

Because the family sees it as embarrassing or shameful. Nobody does anything to stop it even though they know it's happening.

2) What are some effects that domestic violence has on the family?

Physical wounds, scars, and blood. Intense psychological and emotional pain.

3) How does domestic violence specifically affect children?

It presents a horrible role model for relationships and male responsibility. Usually children will become violent in their future relationships as well.

4) Was the speaker's experience of domestic violence especially bad? How do you know?

Relatively speaking, no. The speaker says domestic violence in other countries is much more destructive than what he experienced.

5) What's the speaker's opinion of the behavior of police officers and doctors?

It's a problem because it only serves to perpetuate the issue. They claim it's the woman's fault.

6) Who does the speaker think should be responsible for combating this problem?

The government.

7) Why do you think the speaker mentions anti-smoking campaigns at the end?

Because the government spends tons of money on these and they are everywhere. They treat it as a very big problem, so it's ironic or even deplorable that this kind of money and effort is not put towards anti-violence campaigns.

Procedure (reading): Ask the students about domestic violence in Turkey. In groups have them list reasons why this might or might not be a problem in their country.

Do any auxiliary vocabulary that you think may be necessary.

This reading can be done as practice with appositives, practice inferring meaning, or both. The appositives practice also doubles as a reading comprehension check as the students have to understand the content and organization structure to match the noun phrases to the blanks.

Hand out the reading to pairs of students and have them do the chosen task. I usually set a time limit of 10-15 minutes on this.

Bring the students together as a class and have them give and explain their answers. Students should all agree on an answer before moving to the next one. They must be able to defend their choice and point out their reasoning to the other students. It's often a good idea to designate a leader to keep the answer check going.

Extension: The reading and listening are good opportunities to discuss more meta issues like audience, rhetorical function, authorial bias, etc. Depending on the level of your class and how much you have covered these topics previously you can have a discussion around these matters and have the students use their notes and the reading to defend their views. The discussion questions on the last page can be used as a jumping off point.

According to the speaker:

- 1) Why did/does domestic violence continue?

- 2) What are some effects that domestic violence has on the family?

- 3) How does domestic violence specifically affect children?

- 4) What's the speaker's opinion of the behavior of police officers and doctors?

- 5) Who does the speaker think should be responsible for combating this problem?

- 6) Why do you think the speaker mentions anti-smoking campaigns at the end?

Turkey's shocking domestic violence statistics

Four in 10 women are beaten by their husbands, according to a recent study. Only a handful speak out.

By [Nichole Sobecki](#)

Published: February 20, 2009 10:54 ET

ISTANBUL — A woman in the studio audience stands up and, with the spotlight highlighting her covered head, announces to the crowd that her husband abuses her but that she doesn't know how to react and still be a good Muslim.

The host of this popular Turkish TV show, "Islam in Our Life," Professor Faruk Beser, is — from his trimmed mustache to his tailored suit — the image of a modern, successful Turkish man. But as he approaches the woman, his answer is far from progressive.

Looking her in the eye, Beser urges the woman to "carry this pain within you and keep living with your husband," prescribing constant prayer over divorce, and reminding the woman of the rewards she will receive in heaven for her suffering.

What is shocking about this scene is not so much the reaction of the host, a man known for his conservative interpretation of Islam in a country that is 99 percent Muslim, but rather that the woman had the courage to speak up at all.

Four out of 10 women in Turkey are beaten by their husbands, according to the recent study entitled "Domestic Violence against Women in Turkey," which has collected the first official statistics on this topic in Turkey. Even more disturbing, the study reveals that a significant number of abused women, almost 90 percent, do not seek help from any organization.

"This is such a silent problem that most people don't believe you when you give them the numbers," said Henriette Jansen, team leader of the study, which was conducted by the General Directorate of the Status of Women (KSGM). "It shows how much women suffer alone and the huge stigma attached to violence against women."

In this, Turkey is by no means alone. Violence against women exists in every country in the world, often behind closed doors and more likely than not unreported. How to address the problem however, needs to be tailored to the underlying causes that foster the problem.

"In Turkey it's the patriarchal power relationship. When there is an issue of power in a family or relationship, violence will be in the middle," said Meltem Agduk, Gender Project Coordinator for UNFPA Turkey.

"If the gender stereotypes continue like this violence against women will always be with us."

Compared to European counterparts, the Turkish government took its time before beginning to take seriously the struggle to combat violence against women. It was only in 1998 that the country's supreme court overturned a law that criminalized adultery, and just last year there was a major push in Parliament to revive the edict.

"Until the government says, 'OK, I have zero tolerance towards violence against women,' then its going to be very difficult to get women to speak out," Agduk said.

Still, progress has been made. Passage of the Law for the Protection of the Family (1998) and changes to the Civil Law (2001) and Penal Code (2004) have all helped to combat both the violent action and the tacit social acceptance of violence against women.

In 2004, Turkey took its most publicized step of introducing mandatory life sentences for those who carry out honor killings, a long-awaited action thought to be an effort to combat a crime that had marred its quest to join the EU.

“The definition of honor, in the Turkish, more eastern, sense, is always defined within the sexuality of women,” Agduk said. “Men believe that when they marry a woman, they possess her. They see a woman just like a car.”

Such wide-ranging changes to the penal code have been helpful in curbing the practice of allowing murderers to plead family honor as an extenuating circumstance to justify killings, and there have been several successful prosecutions for the crime. Most recently, on January 13, 2009, a Turkish Court sentenced five members of the same Kurdish family to life imprisonment for the "honor killing" of Naile Erdas, 16, who got pregnant as a result of rape.

The legal realm is not the only area where progress has been made. A number of government and non-government programs have sprung up in recent years to address the topic.

An advocacy campaign, initiated by Ankara and supported by UNFPA, made great leaps in focusing public attention and shaping a national dialogue on violence against women. One of the most influential elements of the campaign was the involvement of the country’s major league soccer players who spread the message — "Stop violence against women" – during half-time shows and in film spots across the country; a bold move in a society known for its machismo.

The popular Turkish newspaper Hurriyet has also played a unique role in the fight, leveraging their opinion-making position as a newspaper to push the issue to the agenda through their Stop Violence Against Women Campaign, as well as establishing a hotline for women facing domestic violence with round-the-clock legal and psychological support.

Despite these efforts, experts agree that Turkey has a long way to go, starting at the highest levels of government.

Women MPs from the pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Party (DTP), the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), and the Democratic Left Party (DSP) have complained in parliament that there has been too little attention paid to the struggle against violence towards women.

“The positive intention is there but implementation is weak because of a lack of resources and capability,” said Temucin Tuzecan, Director of the Stop Violence Against Women Campaign.

“We cannot solve this problem in its totality. It’s a very big ocean and we try to care for women who are caught in our nets.”

Original Article:

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/turkey/090219/turkeys-shocking-domestic-violence-statistics>

Further Reading:

<http://www.stopvaw.org/Turkey.html>

<http://www.wwhr.org/images/CEDAWingilizce.pdf>

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/EUR44/013/2004/en/176dcc64-d5ed-11dd-bb24-1fb85fe8fa05/eur440132004en.pdf>

http://www.omct.org/pdf/VAW/Publications/2003/Eng_2003_09_Turkey.pdf

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/EUR44/013/2004/en/1a0d2faf-d5ed-11dd-bb24-1fb85fe8fa05/eur440132004en.html>

<http://www.amnesty.ca/amnestynews/upload/turkeyappeal1.pdf>

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2080475/>

In Turkish:

<http://www.morcati.org.tr/>

http://www.ksgm.gov.tr/tdvaw/doc/Ana_Rapor_Mizan_1.pdf

<http://www.kadinayoneliksiddet.org/>

Auxiliary Vocabulary – to urge, to seek, to marr, to curb, to spring up, to plead, an advocacy, a stereotype, an implementation, a stigma, an edict, patriarchal, tacit, extenuating, mandatory

Answer Key – Appositives (Total 6)

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- a) a man known for his conservative interpretation of Islam in a country that is 99 percent Muslim**
- b) Director of the Stop Violence Against Women Campaign**
- c) team leader of the study**
- d) the host of this popular Turkish TV show**
- e) the popular Turkish newspaper**
- f) Gender Project Coordinator for UNFPA Turkey**

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. In the 2nd paragraph the author says, “But as he approaches the woman, his answer is far from progressive.” Why is “but” used in this sentence. What is the author trying to say?

- 2 . According to the author, what’s shocking about the scene between the host and the abused woman?

3. What is significant about society’s silence regarding domestic violence?

4. The author states that solutions to the problem of domestic violence need to be tailored to the underlying causes in a given country or culture. According to the article, what are some of the underlying causes in Turkey?

5. What progress has been made in Turkey regarding violence against women?

6. The article states that the government has instituted several new laws, famous football players starred in commercials, and a major newspaper published news in its paper all to combat violence against women. Which do you think is the most effective for raising public awareness?

Questions for discussion and analysis.

- 1) Who are the audiences for the listening and the reading? Are they different? Why? How do you know?

- 2) Does the speaker have a personal interest in the topic? How does it affect his speech?

- 3) Does the writer possess any biases? If so, how do they affect her writing?

- 4) Does the speaker portray Britain negatively, positively, or neutrally?

- 5) Does the writer portray Turkey negatively, positively, or neutrally?

- 6) The speaker outlines several issues that exacerbate the problem of domestic violence in Britain. Do you agree with his opinions?

- 7) The writer outlines several issues that exacerbate the problem of domestic violence in Turkey. Do you agree with his opinions?

- 8) How are the underlying causes of domestic violence in Britain and Turkey different? How are they the same?