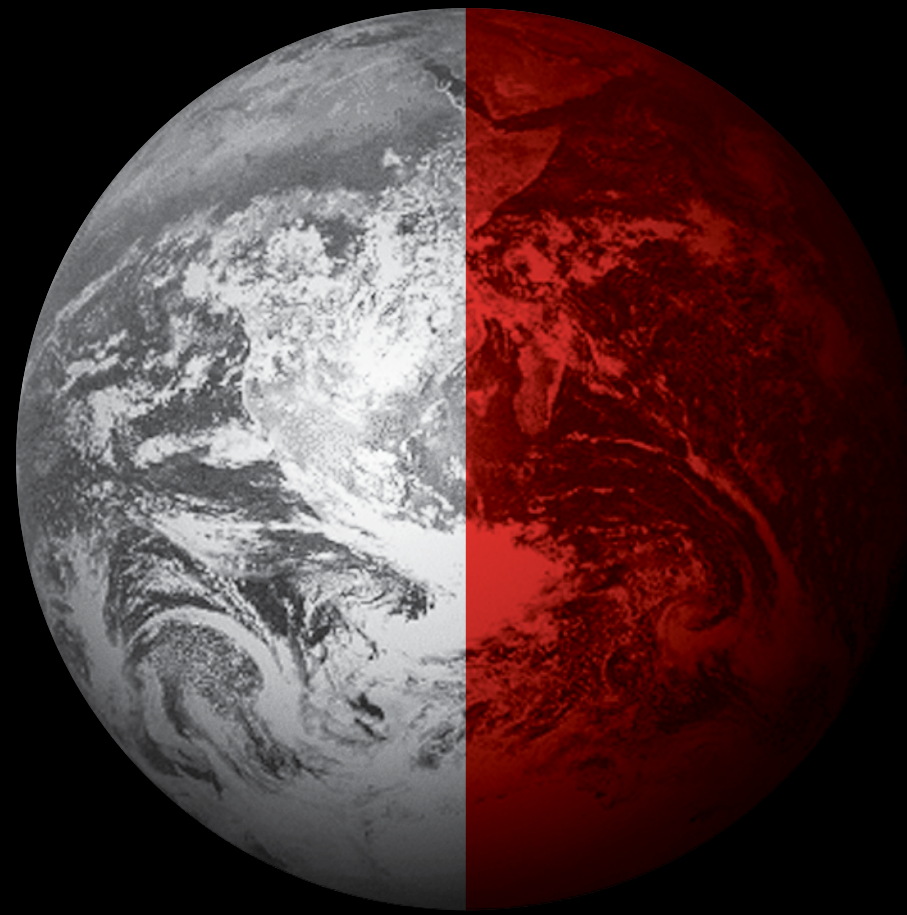


**EXHIBITION**



**CAUSE OF DEATH:** *Woman*

[www.causeofdeathwoman.com](http://www.causeofdeathwoman.com)

# How can I use the exhibition?

The exhibition consists of 45 pages with facts, quotes and photographs. You can decide whether you want to print it all out, or just a selection. Look through the whole exhibition before you make your mind up. Hang the exhibition at your place of work, in your school, or in some other place where people get together. The material can be used freely and free of charge for this purpose. Use of the material for commercial purposes, for example in the form of publication in newspapers, magazines or on the internet, is not permitted. We recommend using the exhibition material as a complement to the course material you will find on [www.causeofdeathwoman.com](http://www.causeofdeathwoman.com).

## Instructions for printing the exhibition

The exhibition is in A2 format. To print the pages in a smaller format, set your printer to modify the printout to the desired paper format. You can also do this manually, by selecting the percentage you want the pages to be printed in.

**The table below shows the percentage to choose for the desired format:**

A2 420 mm × 594 mm: print to 100%  
A3 297 mm × 420 mm: print to 70.7%  
A4 210 mm × 297 mm: print to 50%

# Cause of Death: **Woman**

**Cause of Death: Woman** is an investigative report on violence against women. One in three women around the world is subjected to physical, sexual or some other form of violence during her lifetime. Between 2010 and 2012 we examined the situation in ten countries. In each country we met women who had survived violence and people working for change. With the help of relatives we were also able to tell the story of a woman who had been killed. You can see the result at [www.causeofdeathwoman.com](http://www.causeofdeathwoman.com), where you will find 150 articles from the US, South Africa, Egypt, Sweden, Pakistan, Mexico, Brazil, Congo, Spain and Russia. You can also download course material and a Do-It-Yourself exhibition.

Cause of Death: Woman is owned by the Swedish Association of Women's Shelters and Young Women's Empowerment Centres, SKR. Funding was received from, among others, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Sigrid Rausing Trust.







**Pakistan:** Akhtar was married to Muhammed for 17 years and they have six children. Muhammed beat her constantly, but because Akhtar's older sister was divorced, and her three younger sisters were still unmarried, she could not destroy her family's reputation and her sisters' chances of marriage by leaving her husband. But when her oldest son also started beating his mother, Akhtar gave up. **PHOTO:** Linda Forsell

**“It was the last blow that made me decide. After 17 years.  
That’s when I sought protection here at the women’s shelter.”  
Akhtar, 35, Lahore, Pakistan**

One woman in every three around the world is subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence during her lifetime, most of them by a man she loves or has loved.

Violence against women and girls is possibly the most widespread crime against human rights we know exists today. The violence can be physical, psychological or sexual. It includes human trafficking, forced marriages, genital mutilation and rape as a weapon of war.

For women aged 15-44, rape and violence in the home are believed to be a greater risk factor than cancer, road traffic accidents, war and malaria. How much longer will we accept the global everyday violence that takes women’s lives?

Cause of Death: Woman project ([www.causeofdeathwoman.com](http://www.causeofdeathwoman.com)) is an exposé of violence against women in ten countries. We met women who have survived and want to tell their stories. We have learned from the women – and the men – who are fighting the violence!



Mexico

USA

Brazil

Spain

Sweden

Egypt

Congo

South Africa

Pakistan

Russia





**The Democratic Republic of the Congo:** Emerance was just 14 when the militiamen came to her village in the middle of the night. She was kidnapped and held prisoner in the jungle for eight months. When she finally managed to escape, she was pregnant. Children born after rape are looked down on in Congo, but Emerance is proud of her daughter, whom she has christened Ansima. It means “God loves you.” **PHOTO:** Linda Forsell





**Pakistan:** Pakistan is one of the worst countries in the world, from a woman's perspective. The Thompson & Reuters Foundation's review of the situation of women around the world in 2011, ranked Pakistan as the third worst country. There are many areas in which legislation governing men's and women's human rights differs.  
**PHOTO:** Linda Forsell





**Spain:** Ann's husband started taking cocaine, which made him aggressive. He raped her and threatened to kill her. She moved away but he would not leave her alone. The police took his threats seriously and gave her protection. Now she is free and has found happiness with a new man, but says: "I don't want to stop hating, it's my small revenge. It's my right." **PHOTO:** Linda Forsell



**Russia:** Svetlana is in the midst of divorce proceedings but has to remain in the apartment with the man who beats her and frightens the children. She has nowhere to go. The town of Rostov Don where she lives declined the offer of state aid to open a shelter for abused women, on the grounds that it is not necessary. The authorities claim that the problem of violence against women does not exist. **PHOTO:** Linda Forsell





**Spain:** In Spain, all crimes of violence against women are dealt with in one of around a hundred specialised women's courts. Judge Paloma Marin enjoys her work but the workload is enormous. "I'm supposed to deal with 300 cases a year, but I've had 400 in six months," she says. **PHOTO:** Linda Forsell



**South Africa:** Blessing was only three years old the first time she was sexually abused. She has been raped many times since she grew up. Her daughter is the result of a gang rape. Blessing has found it difficult to love her child, but thanks to the support from the women's shelter she is beginning to feel more hopeful about the future. She is unable to look into the camera, but is determined to tell her story. **PHOTO:** Linda Forsell



“I called the police, who said they would come when I was dead.”

**Tatiana, St Petersburg, Russia**

“I was held captive for three months altogether.”

**Anette, Stockholm, Sweden**



“I was just three years old the first time a man took my pants off.

**Blessing, Johannesburg, South Africa**

“ For the politicians, the murder of women is a reality that does not exist. They simply don’t care about them.”

**Patricia Olamendi, lawyer, Mexiko**





**South Africa:** The first time Elizabeth's boyfriend beat her she was 16. The following day she said she was sorry: "Please forgive me for making you beat me." During her childhood, Elizabeth moved around between her mother, her grandmother and a number of children's homes. Her boyfriend said: "You're a dog. How can you expect anyone to love you when even your own mother doesn't?" **PHOTO:** Linda Forsell





**Mexico:** The violence in Juarez is an everyday occurrence. Ten people are murdered every day. One of those is a woman. She may be involved in the business of the drugs cartels, or she may be killed by her husband, boyfriend, or ex-husband, who arranges the scene of the crime to make it look like an “ordinary drugs murder”.

**PHOTO:** Linda Forsell





**Pakistan:** It is 20 years since Gulnaz' cousin threw acid at her. He wanted her, and when she married someone else he took his revenge. Everyone knew it was him, and he was sent to prison, but after six months he was out again. Gulnaz is still being treated by the city's plastic surgeon, and step by step she is becoming more beautiful. **PHOTO:** Linda Forsell





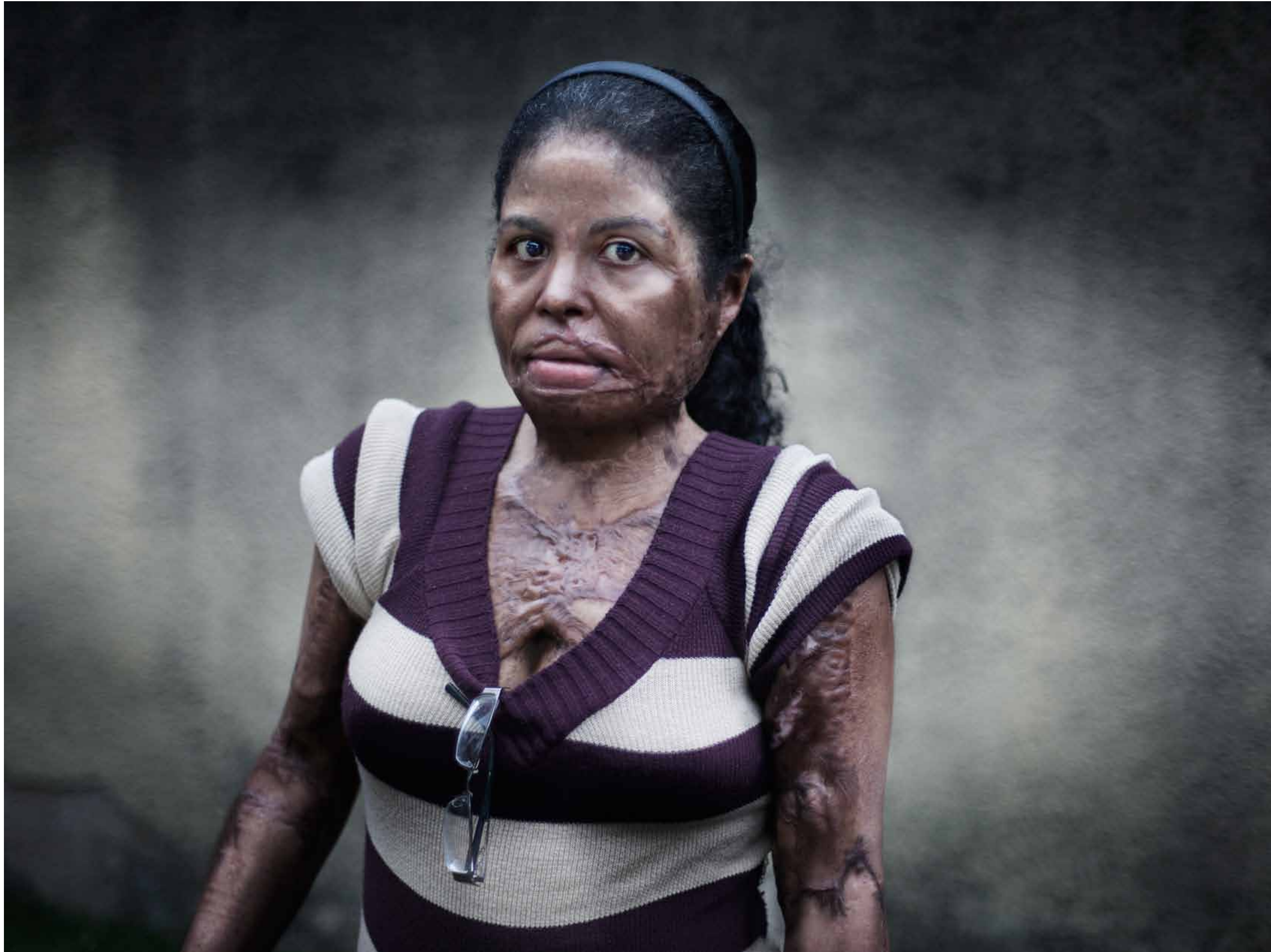
**Brazil:** Luciana is in the reception area at the women's police station in central Rio de Janeiro, waiting for her turn. She has been sent here by the court after her ex-fiancé broke her protection order. The women's police stations only handle reports of violence against women in close relationships, and they have played an important part in encouraging women to report the violence. Here the women are taken seriously. **PHOTO:** Linda Forsell





**The Democratic Republic of the Congo:** Nyabisepele is on her way to the hospital with her daughter Nyota. The 14-year-old girl was raped and her body violated for a whole night, and then the rapist's family tried to pay for the "damage" and hush it all up. Nyabisepele refused and took her daughter to the police. Now the girl will be examined. She may be pregnant. Or infected with HIV. **PHOTO:** Linda Forsell





**Brazil:** Rosângela says she has survived twice. First when her husband threw petrol over her and set her alight – and then the negligence at the hospital. No-one expected her to survive the burns, and they did not even change her bandages, but Rosângela had made her mind up: she wanted to live. Now she travels around and gives talks on violence against women. She has been given a new purpose in life.. **PHOTO:** Linda Forsell





**Sweden:** Carina used her mobile phone to take pictures of her broken face. Even though she reported the assault several months later, the evidence – the photographs and the doctor's certificate - was enough. Her face was fractured in five places. Her ex-husband was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for serious violation of a woman's integrity. It was the third time he had been convicted of assaulting her. **PHOTO:** Linda Forsell





**Pakistan:** The woman at the hospital says it was an accident, an explosion in the kitchen. “It can’t have been,” says our interpreter. “If it was, she would have been at the hospital with her husband, mother-in-law or one of her sisters-in-law. That’s the family she lives in. But she came with her own mother. This was most likely attempted murder, by her husband or parents-in-law.” Women’s groups in Pakistan count ‘kitchen fires’ as a form of violence against women. **PHOTO:** Linda Forsell





**Mexico:** Rosaura Montanez shows us the simple pink wooden cross on what used to be a rubbish tip. This is where her daughter Araceli lay on the 4th of July 1995 among the rubbish, car tyres and dead animals, having been raped and strangled. She was 19 years old. No-one has been arrested for her murder. But there are strong protests against the unsolved women's murders, and the pink crosses, each of which represents a woman who has been killed, can be seen all over Juarez.  
**PHOTO:** Linda Forsell



# Did you know that...

- ... nine out of ten married women in Egypt have undergone female circumcision?
- ... more than 40 per cent of women in South Africa have been raped, but only one rape in ten is reported?
- ... that the police arrive more quickly in the US if the call-out involves a man who has been subjected to violence by another man than if the victim is a woman in a partner relationship?
- ... someone who murders in the name of honour in Pakistan can be “forgiven” by the woman’s family and go free?
- ... every tenth child in Sweden sees their mother being beaten?
- ... in Russia there are 200 beds for women who have been subjected to violence and who need a safe haven – in a country with 142 million inhabitants?
- ... Brazil’s inefficient legal system means it can take tens of years in before sentence is passed?
- ... in practice there is almost total exemption from punishment for the majority of human rights abuse in Congo, not least for violence against women?
- ... there is a state in Mexico where a man who murders his wife can get away with being sent to prison for just three days?
- ... an Egyptian man can take out a divorce whenever he wants, while an Egyptian woman must prove in court that she has been badly treated in the marriage?
- ... Spain has specialised courts for crimes of violence against women
  - but eight out of ten women refuse to testify against their husbands?
- ... every fourth South African man admits to having committed rape?
- ... a woman in Pakistan who has been raped must produce four male witnesses to the assault before she is believed?



**Pakistan:** Plastic surgeon Muhammed Mughese Amin is operating on the face of yet another woman who has been burned by acid. This has nothing to do with cosmetic surgery; the surgeon helps the women so they will be able to eat, drink, speak and move. Mutilations are just as common: a nose or hand which has been cut off, a breast which has been burned. Mutilation is a sign a woman is guilty of – or been accused of – immoral behaviour. **PHOTO:** Linda Forsell





**South Africa:** Jents is a lesbian who lives in the township of KwaThema outside Johannesburg. One evening she was attacked by two men. They raped her and beat her unconscious with bricks. Jents is one of many homosexual women who have been subjected to 'corrective' rapes. The rapists say that they will show the lesbians "what it is like to be with a real man." **PHOTO:** Linda Forsell





**Pakistan:** At the Dastak women's shelter in Lahore (Dastak means 'knock' in Urdu), there are also moments of happiness and togetherness. The women have fled from an immediate danger, and most of them will face serious problems when they leave the shelter, but right now, here and with each other, they can find a reason to laugh. **PHOTO:** Linda Forsell





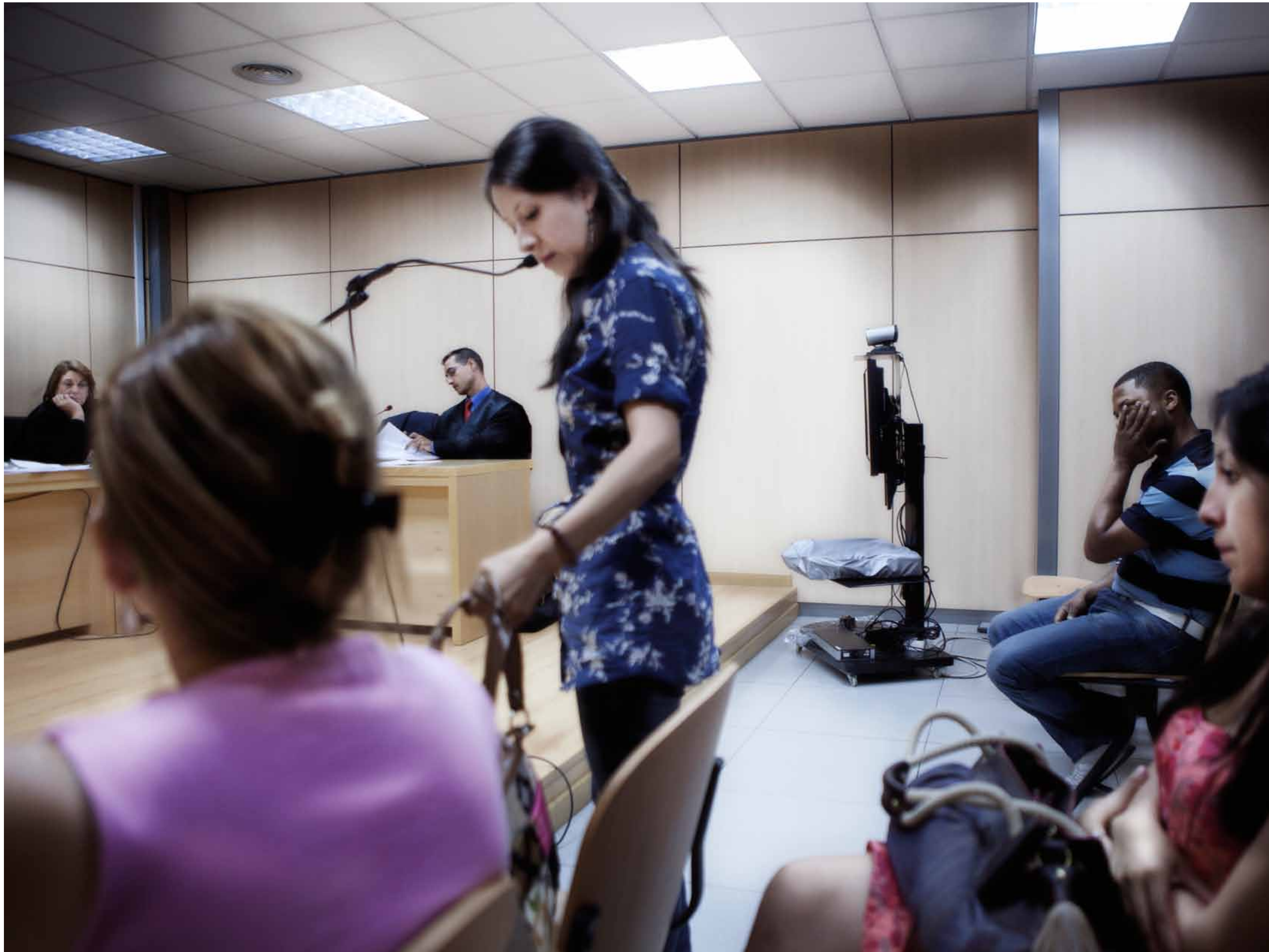
**Pakistan:** The psychologist at the Dastak women's shelter in Lahore is an important person. In a country where women are not expected to complain, or even tell anyone, when they are beaten at home, the chance to talk about their lives to someone who listens is a fantastic gift. **PHOTO:** Linda Forsell





**Russia:** Violence in the home is common but invisible. It is considered to be a private family matter and is not even described in Russian law. Yet surveys show that seven out of ten Russian women experience physical, psychological, economic or sexual violence at some time in their lives. **PHOTO:** Linda Forsell





**Spain:** The majority of women do not want to give evidence against their husbands. This is a strong tradition, and a Spanish woman is still expected to put the good of her family before her own. But the law on violence against women is strict, and eight cases out of ten end with a conviction. **PHOTO:** Linda Forsell





**Egypt:** Nine out of ten girls in Egypt are circumcised in areas where the tradition is strong – but it has also proved possible to change the way people think. The custom has nothing to do with religion, and education campaigns have led to a fall in the number of circumcisions in the villages. In this village, only one girl in ten is circumcised. “They said we were being circumcised to maintain our modesty, but that’s not true, it just makes us frightened,” say the girls. **PHOTO:** Linda Forsell





**Brazil:** The children who arrive at Queen Silvia's Home for Young Mothers (Abrigo Rainha Silvia) in Rio de Janeiro with their mothers are often hungry for physical contact and tenderness. Their mothers have been completely taken up with trying to stave off the violence from their abusers, and the children have had to look after themselves. The child psychologist has treated many traumas: "There are children who have stopped talking." **PHOTO:** Linda Forsell





**Brazil:** There are many women at an advanced stage of pregnancy at Queen Silvia's Home for Young Mothers (Abrigo Rainha Silvia) in Rio de Janeiro. Not all the women have been subjected to direct physical violence; some have been thrown out of their homes, others have always lived on the streets. Here they can live under protection and plan for a future for themselves and their children. **PHOTO:** Linda Forsell





**The Democratic Republic of the Congo:** The drum therapy at Panzi Hospital is very popular. The women sing and laugh, low like cattle, cluck like hens, put on short plays. "We all have our problems, including me," says the social assistant. "But joy, music and song help us to carry our burdens. Are you there?" "Yes, we're here. When we hear the drums we're happy." **PHOTO:** Linda Forsell





**Russia:** The hope lies with the young, that they will have greater success with love. Every year, nine thousand Russian women are the victims of murder or attempted murder. **PHOTO:** Linda Forsell



“Our goal is that the children will grow up without feeling bitter.” **Marisela Ortiz, activist, Juarez, Mexico**



“The media are hugely important.  
What we don’t show doesn’t exist.”

**Marta Gomez, journalist, Madrid,  
Spain**



“I used to circumcise up to twenty girls a day. When I look back on it, I feel genuine regret and compassion.”

**Enayat Abdelhanid, midwife, Minya,  
Egypt**



“We needed specialised stations and police officers who were trained to listen and understand. It worked.”

**Marta Rochas, Chief of Police,  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**



“The self-defence course is tmainly about helping women to raise their awareness, so that they feel empowered.” **David Ruz Cerezo, police officer, Cordoba, Spain**



“Despite everything, the war has given us a chance to change traditions and to question the discrimination.”

**Justin Kabanga, Professor of  
Psychology, Bukavu, Congo**





**USA:** Nicole has lived a hard life, with drug abuse, mental illness and many violent relationships. Now she has decided to deal with her life – not just to survive, but to start to thrive. “My abusers will win if I don’t make something of my life.” **PHOTO:** Linda Forsell



