

## What do young people think about gender-related violence?

***The data show a large increase in the percentage of young people who consider any type of abuse a very serious offence.***

To mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the [Basque Youth Observatory](#) would like to mention that its [Statistics](#) include data on young women who have been victims of gender-related violence. According to these data provided by the Department for the Attention to Victims of Gender-Related Violence of the Basque Government, [seven out of every one thousand women aged 15 to 29 in the Basque Autonomous Region reported being the victim of gender-related violence](#) on one or several occasions in 2011.

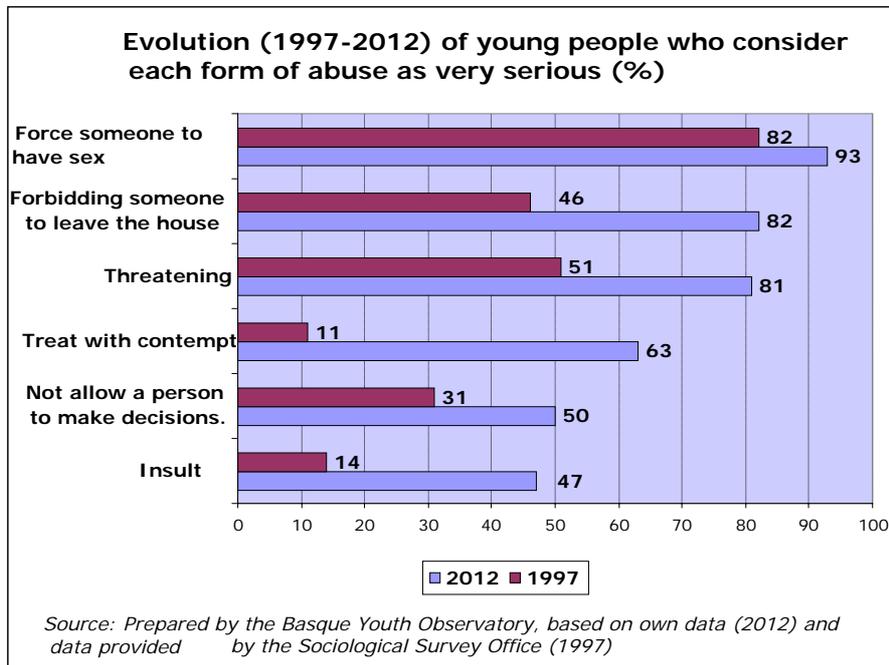
In addition, at the Basque Youth Observatory we want to delve into what young people in the Basque Autonomous Region, men and women, understand by abuse within a relationship and how serious they consider different behaviours that are identified with abuse.

With this in mind, a survey was conducted by the Basque Youth Observatory in March 2012 involving 1,233 young people aged 18 to 29 from the Basque Autonomous Region, in which a number of questions that had been asked [fifteen years ago](#) were submitted with a view to determining the seriousness young people attribute to each one of the situations proposed and whether that perception has increased or not over the years.

Forcing a partner to have sex against their will, forbidding a partner to leave the house and/or threatening that person are considered very serious forms of abuse by more than 80% of Basque youths. Nearly two out of three young people also believe that treating a partner with contempt is a very serious form of abuse. Half of young people consider that not allowing that person to decide things is a very serious form of abuse. Almost half think that insulting your partner is a very serious form of abuse.

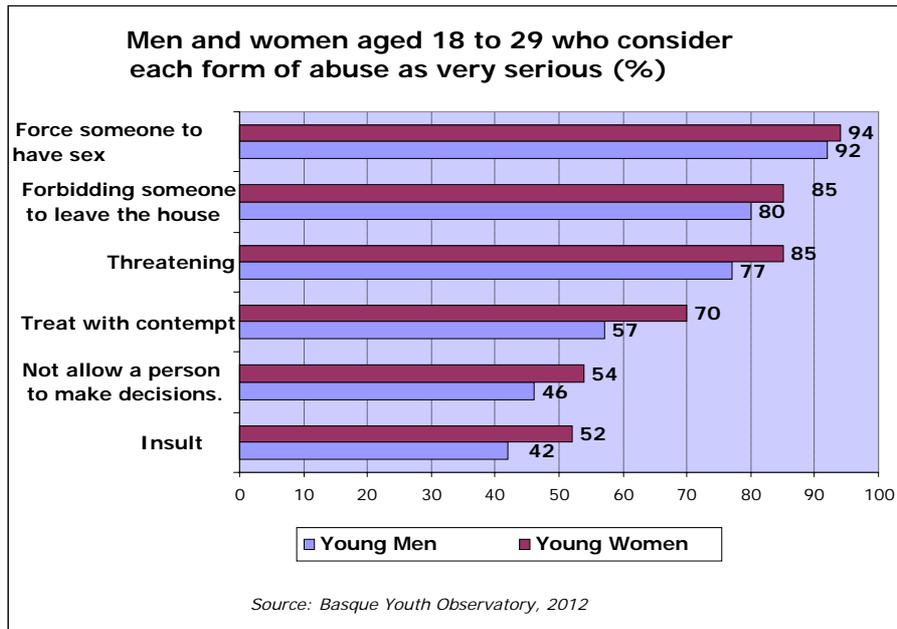
<b>HOW YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE BASQUE AUTONOMOUS REGION VALUE THE SEVERITY OF DIFFERENT FORMS OF ABUSE</b>						
<b><i>Do you consider this abuse? How serious is it?</i></b>	Very serious	Quite serious	Not very serious	Not serious abuse	Dk/Na	TOTAL
<b>Forcing someone to have sex</b>	93	6	1	0	0	100
<b>Forbidding someone to leave the house</b>	82	14	2	1	1	100
<b>Threatening</b>	81	18	1	0	0	100
<b>Treat with contempt</b>	63	32	4	1	0	100
<b>Not allow a person to make decisions</b>	50	38	9	2	1	100
<b>Insult</b>	47	38	11	3	1	100
<i>% horizontal</i>						

The consideration of the severity of each of these forms of abuse has increased dramatically over the last fifteen years. This reflects a positive development in the recognition of the seriousness of any form of abuse and rejection by young people in the Basque Autonomous Region.



But not only has the number of those who consider each of the situations proposed as very serious increased, the percentage of young people who did not use to consider these situations as abuse has also fallen dramatically. In 1997, 9% did not consider contempt or not allowing people to decide things as abuse (1% and 2% respectively in 2012), and 8% did not consider forbidding someone from leaving the house or insulting someone as abuse (1% and 3% in 2012).

When analysing the differences in perception between young men and women, we find that a majority of the latter consider all the forms of abuse proposed as very serious, ranging from 94%, in the case of those who consider forcing someone to have sex against their will, to 52%, in the case of those who consider an insult as a very serious form of abuse.



At the opposite end, we have 2% of young women in the Basque Autonomous Region who consider that insults or not letting partners decide is not abuse and 1% who do not classify forbidding someone from leaving the house as abuse.

We can conclude that, despite the success of the awareness policies developed by Emakunde and other public administrations, it is essential to continue putting forward policies in favour of equality that allow us to build relationships based on tolerance and respect.

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