



## Executive Summary: CONTINGENCY PLAN TO COMBAT GENDER VIOLENCE DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS

**Estamos contigo**

LA VIOLENCIA DE GÉNERO  
LA PARAMOS UNIDAS

**#Todo Saldrá Bien**

**#ESTE VIRUS LO PARAMOS UNIDOS**

**016**

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA  
MINISTERIO DE IGUALDAD

SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO DE IGUALDAD Y VIOLENCIA DE GÉNERO  
DELEGACIÓN GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA PARA EL TERRITORIO DE MADRID

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## 1. Why has the Spanish Ministry of Equality prepared a Contingency Plan to combat gender violence during the crisis stemming from Covid-19?

Gender violence is a serious violation of human rights which occurs in all political and social contexts, as a structural part of the historical discrimination against women. Furthermore, the World Health Organization recognises that violence against women is the greatest health problem facing the world (28 March 2020) with its prevalence increasing in times of emergencies, including serious epidemics.

More specifically, the WHO warns that COVID-19 and the measures adopted to halt the pandemic may exacerbate the risk of suffering gender violence or the impossibility of leaving an abusive partner, exposing women to situations of vulnerability, a situation which all States must address immediately. As stated by the United Nations Human Rights Council (March 2020), “States must take additional measures of social protection to ensure that this support reaches those persons who are disproportionately at greater risk due to the COVID-19 crisis”.

In Spain, the [Royal Decree 463/2020](#), of 15 March, declared a state of emergency for the management of the health crisis situation caused by COVID-19, setting forth a number of measures such as the “restriction of the freedom of movement of persons” (Art. 7). In light of the adopted measures set forth in the RD, the Government of Spain and the Ministry of Equality, aware of the need for extraordinary actions to protect women and their children from gender violence, immediately decided to put into action a **“Contingency Plan to combat gender violence during the crisis stemming from Covid-19”**. This contingency plan has been created to support actions already in place under normal circumstances and to implement new ones adapted to the added difficulties women and their children face during confinement.

## 2. How has the Spanish Government legally set in motion and implemented the Contingency Plan to combat Gender Violence?

Via the approval by the Ordinary Council of Ministers of 31 March 2020, of [Royal Decree Law 12/2020, of 31 March, establishing urgent measures for the protection of and assistance to victims of gender violence](#)

RDL 12/2020 establishes a series of essential measures with regard to gender violence which are to be observed by the General Administration of the State, all Autonomous Communities and Local Bodies, in order to protect victims of gender violence during the state of emergency declared as a result of COVID-19. As stated in the RDL, “a series of measures are to be adopted in order to **maintain and adapt integrated assistance and protection services, establishing organisational measures that will guarantee the correct functioning of services targeting their protection, as well as adaptation of the modes of provision of these services to these exceptional circumstances (...)**”.



### 3. What measures have been included in the Contingency Plan to combat gender violence during the crisis stemming from Covid-19?

The measures included in the RDL 12/2020 have been set out in the instrument which the Ministry of Equality and the Government Delegation for Gender Violence have entitled “**Contingency Plan to combat gender violence during the crisis stemming from COVID-19**”.

In light of this exceptional situation and under the inescapable responsibility of the Government to protect and guarantee the rights of women victims of gender violence in accordance with the *Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence* (2011), *Organic Law 1/2004 on Integrated Measures of Protection against Gender Violence* and the *State Pact Against Gender Violence* (2017), the following measures were deemed necessary in order to reinforce these commitments in the fight against gender violence:

1. Declaring the **specialised services that protect and assist victims of gender violence and their children essential**. When these specialised services are designated as essential, their adequate functioning is guaranteed; their modes of provision are adapted to the exceptional circumstances, and interventions and work carried out with women and children in this regard will continue, unchanged.

These services are as follows:

- The 016 telephone helpline (available 24 hours a day/7 days a week) for information, referrals and legal assistance.
  - ATENPRO Service.
  - Online services monitoring compliance with restraining orders.
  - Emergency centres, shelter houses and any safe accommodation prepared for women as well as their children.
  - If there are no available places in the regular shelter houses, tourist accommodation will be made available.
2. Implementation of a new **instant messaging service via WhatsApp available 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week**, for advice and immediate emotional and psychological counselling for victims. The service is run by a team of women psychologists specialising in gender violence.
  3. **Launching of a prevention and awareness campaign** against gender violence during the confinement period, targeting the general public and women victims of gender violence: “*Estamos contigo, la violencia de género la paramos unidas*” (*We are with you; together we will stop gender violence.*).



The goal of this campaign is to raise awareness and alert the public that it cannot lower its guard against gender violence during this exceptional situation experienced by women in their homes, as well as raising awareness on treating others well during the period of confinement.

The campaign was broadcast on all media channels, social media and online, adapting campaign materials to various formats (posters, banners, etc.).

Campaign material is available on the Ministry of Equality website, so that the general public as well as establishments, businesses, community associations, etc. can download and contribute to the campaign goals:

⇒ **Materials**, click [here](#)



#### 4. Drafting and publication of the “**Guide for women suffering gender violence under domicile confinement stemming from the state of emergency resulting from COVID-19**”

The publication and dissemination of this guide (part of the campaign) addresses the principal questions posed by women suffering gender violence.

This guide contains a list of questions, procedures, and information about this situation and on resources such as integrated services, emergency assistance, State and



Autonomous Community shelters, as well as support provided by state security forces and the Spanish justice system. In this guide women can also find all the information concerning the exceptional measures put into place as a result of the state of emergency, letting them know that integrated assistance, emergency, and accommodation services are still operational, as well as information about new measures.

Of the resources included in this Guide that have been reinforced as a result of the RDL, the **ALERTCOPS App** for women in emergency situations who cannot call the police has also been reinforced; this app sends an emergency signal to the police with the victim's location.

⇒ Link to Guide, click [here](#)

