Yesterday, the University of Malta announced it would be hosting the first European Observatory on Femicide. The launch took place at the backdrop of a number of much-publicized (but very violent) crimes perpetrated against women in Malta, as well as a global campaign against violence on women in general. Why is there so much spotlight on this issue now? It's because of a reported increase in actual cases?

There is no evidence for any increase in the number of women killed by male partners in Malta. What is happening, instead, is that the media is paying more attention to these cases, and that more cases are being reported.

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Another word is ‘proficient’. I’m not sure how to say this, but our culture is still a patriarchal culture, and generally, generally, let me stress…

Women and girls have more power. They might have a higher level of education, independence, wealth, etc. But generally, our society gives power to men. We have been brought up in this, whether we like it or not. As a child, you don’t think, ‘Why are we going to bring this up? Why is this important?’ You don’t think about being brought up in this. You internalize it.

It’s not because we hate or are afraid. For example: I’m a member of WAVEN [Women Against Violence in Europe], which is a European-wide network, and the Observatory launched yesterday. In my experience, it’s harder for men. We – society in general – have absorbed the role that society told you you should have: It’s a man’s role to protect, and a woman’s role to be treated…

It’s not as though suddenly, out of the blue, a woman is killed. It’s because there are these abusive relationships. It can also refer to the relationship between a man and a woman, where the woman has more power. She might have a higher level of education, independence, wealth, etc. But generally, our society gives power to men. We have been brought up in this, whether we like it or not. As a child, you don’t think, ‘Why are we going to bring this up? Why is this important?’ You don’t think about being brought up in this. You internalize it;

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