



European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination

FLASH REPORT

Country:	Spain
Title:	The popularity of the ultra-right party "Vox" in Andalucía and its possible consequences for the protection against gender-based violence
Date:	28 June 2019
Expert:	María – Amparo Ballester-Pastor
Context	
Issue at stake:	The ultra-right party "Vox" adopts as one of its first measures in the Andalusian Parliament the inquiry about the qualification of specialists in gender violence contracted by the Andalusian Government
Grounds of discrimination:	Gender
Field of application:	Other field
Source:	Policy development
Applicable law:	Organic Law 1/2004, of 28 December 2004, regarding Comprehensive Protection Measures against Gender Violence

Content

Policy development: On 2 December 2018, the elections for the Andalusian Parliament were held. After the elections the government of Andalusia was no longer presided by the socialist party. The new government is a coalition composed of the conservative party and the liberal party "Ciudadanos" and it is supported by the ultra-conservative party "Vox".

During the electoral campaign, the Vox party expressed its opposition to Spanish legislation on gender violence and repeatedly expressed its willingness to repeal it. During their campaign, Vox claimed that many of the allegations of gender violence made by victims were false and that the money invested by the institutions in the fight against gender violence was, in their opinion, being used to pay the salaries of people with ties to the Andalusian Government.¹ These allegations were not supported by evidence and were based on false data.

When the new coalition government was established in February 2019 in Andalusia, one of the first actions of Vox was to request a list of workers for the previous Government (of the socialist party) which were hired to combat gender based violence and assist victims of gender based violence.²

They alleged that they required these data to verify the qualification of the workers hired for these actions. The data was delivered to Vox in May 2019 and during the same month Vox requested more specific additional data from the same people. The new information

¹ https://elpais.com/politica/2018/12/03/actualidad/1543828526_382772.html.

² https://elpais.com/sociedad/2019/02/22/actualidad/1550840170_396252.html.

was supposedly requested to check if the persons hired are members of the professional psychologists' association. Membership of this association is not mandatory by Spanish law to provide assistance victims of gender violence. All the workers employed by the Andalusian Government were qualified and received specific training at university level to carry out their activity. They were hired following an objective and impartial procedure. 48 women were killed in Spain by their partners or ex-partners during 2018. This attitude of the right-wing party, which for the first time has accessed Spanish institutions, is worrying in light of the continuation of policies against gender based violence.

Key points of analysis The fact that Vox is now represented in public institutions is beginning to have an impact on policies against gender violence. A clear manifestation of this, is that the deputies of Vox in the Andalusian Parliament have requested the Andalusian Government to provide them with the list of workers dedicated to the assistance of victims of gender violence. Once the data proving their qualification was provided, Vox requested additional information about their membership of the professional psychologists association which is not a mandatory requirement for professional practice. It seems that the intention of VOX was not to detect illegalities but give the false impression that gender violence does not exist and that the hiring of what they consider false specialists was simply a way through which the previous Government was hiring people close to them.

Internet link source:

https://elpais.com/politica/2018/12/03/actualidad/1543828526_382772.html,
https://elpais.com/sociedad/2019/02/22/actualidad/1550840170_396252.html.