



Unravelling the labyrinth of femicide in Ecuador and weaving a future of equality

Desentrañando el laberinto del femicidio en Ecuador y tejiendo un futuro de igualdad

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ABSTRACT

Femicide in Ecuador is a social emergency that transcends statistics, revealing deep roots in gender inequality. This phenomenon cannot be tackled solely from a policing perspective; it requires a systemic approach that challenges entrenched cultural norms. Humanising victims highlights their pain and the need to change attitudes at the grassroots. Education emerges as a transformative tool to dismantle stereotypes. The call to action demands not only condemnation, but the implementation of effective policies and legal changes. Ecuador faces a monumental challenge, but a commitment to gender equality is essential to build a future where women live without fear and contribute fully to society.

Descriptors: gender-based violence; domestic violence; hate speech. (Source: UNESCO Thesaurus).

RESUMEN

El femicidio en Ecuador es una urgencia social que trasciende las estadísticas, revelando profundas raíces en la desigualdad de género. Este fenómeno no puede abordarse únicamente desde una perspectiva policial; requiere un enfoque sistémico que desafíe las normas culturales arraigadas. La humanización de las víctimas destaca su dolor y la necesidad de cambiar actitudes desde la base. La educación emerge como una herramienta transformadora para dismantelar estereotipos. El llamado a la acción no solo exige condena, sino la implementación de políticas efectivas y cambios legales. Ecuador enfrenta un desafío monumental, pero el compromiso con la equidad de género es esencial para construir un futuro donde las mujeres vivan sin miedo y contribuyan plenamente a la sociedad.

Descriptores: violencia de género; violencia doméstica; discurso de odio. (Fuente: Tesoro UNESCO).

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Letter to the editor



The Maze of Femicide in Ecuador and Weaving a Future of Equality

Femicide in Ecuador is a dark shadow that looms over the reality of many women in the country, an issue that cannot be ignored or relegated to the background. Gender violence manifests itself brutally through these acts, which are the most extreme result of a society that is still struggling to eradicate gender inequality (Paredes, *et al.* 2020).

On the Ecuadorian social canvas, femicide paints a harrowing scene where women's vulnerability is exacerbated by cultural, economic and social factors. The chilling figures of femicide are like alarm bells ringing in the collective conscience, reminding us that gender equality is far from being a palpable reality (Ramirez, *et al.* 2020).

It is vital to recognise that femicide is not just a policing problem, but a reflection of the deep roots of gender inequality. The fight against femicide cannot be limited to enforcing stricter laws; it must address entrenched attitudes, harmful stereotypes and structures that perpetuate discrimination (Castro-Aniyar, *et al.* 2020).

Ecuadorian women must not become cold and distant statistics; each femicide is a human tragedy that leaves indelible scars on the families and communities affected. It is a reminder that gender equality is not just a slogan, but an urgent commitment that must permeate all aspects of society (Carrillo, 2018).

Hope lies in the ability of Ecuadorian society to unite against this senseless violence. From education that challenges gender roles to the promotion of female leaders in all spheres, it is time to stain the social canvas with colours of equality and respect. Femicide should not define the narrative of Ecuador, but be a catalyst for change, a wake-up call that inspires the construction of a future where all women can live without fear and with dignity (Albarran, 2015).

In the previous text, the issue of femicide in Ecuador is approached with a perspective that highlights the seriousness of the situation and the need to address



the root causes of this gender-based violence (Abarca-Carrasco, *et al.* 2021). The analysis can focus on several key aspects:

Systemic approach: the text suggests that femicide is not simply a police problem, but has deeper roots in society. An analysis could explore how cultural, economic and social norms contribute to gender-based violence. For example, examining how entrenched gender stereotypes can fuel attitudes that lead to violence.

Challenging gender inequality: The analysis could highlight the importance of challenging not only the overt symptoms of femicide, but also the structures that perpetuate gender inequality. This could involve discussing how to improve gender education, promote equal opportunities and change entrenched perceptions of women's role in society.

Humanising victims: The text strives to see women not as mere statistics, but as human beings with stories and connections. An analysis can explore how humanising victims can be an effective strategy for mobilising empathy and social action. It could also discuss how society can support affected families and advocate for meaningful change.

The role of education: The mention of education that challenges gender roles highlights the importance of addressing the problem from an early age. An analysis could delve deeper into how education can be a powerful tool to change attitudes and behaviours that lead to gender-based violence.

Call to action: The text concludes with a call to action, urging society to unite against gender-based violence. An analysis could explore how this call to action can be translated into concrete policies, changes in legislation and a broader social movement.

In short, the analysis could delve deeper into the interconnectedness of factors contributing to femicide in Ecuador, highlight effective strategies to address the problem, and reflect on how society can work collectively to build a more equal and secure future for women.



Closing reflections

The problem of femicide in Ecuador is an emergency call that demands a comprehensive and profound approach. This phenomenon cannot be reduced to mere numbers or isolated cases; it is a reflection of entrenched structures in society that perpetuate gender inequality. The need for a cultural change is evident, where gender-based violence is not simply condemned, but prevented at its roots.

The humanisation of the victims is an essential element in this process, as they are not just numbers, but individuals with truncated lives and communities that suffer the consequences. Education emerges as a transformative tool, capable of challenging gender stereotypes from an early age and shaping mindsets towards equity.

The call to action at the end of the analysis is presented as a beacon of hope. Ecuadorian society is at a crucial moment where uniting against gender-based violence can be the catalyst for needed change. This call not only invokes reflection, but also the implementation of concrete policies, the revision of existing laws and the construction of a social fabric that promotes equality and eradicates impunity.

The challenge is monumental, but the commitment to gender equality is not only essential, but also imperative for the construction of an Ecuador where women not only survive, but flourish without fear, contributing fully to a just and respectful society. The eradication of femicide is not just a goal; it is a collective responsibility that requires deep and sustained change at all levels of Ecuadorian society.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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