In order to achieve pacific and inclusive societies it is necessary to work from the concept of continuum of violence against women, which goes from gender-based violence during wars, to daily male violence suffered by all women, both having their origins and basis on the patriarchal system. In times of crisis, conflicts and wars, these violences can increase, but we cannot lose sight of the fact that most violence occurs during “peacetime”.

- One in three women in the European Union will have suffered psychological and/or sexual violence before turning 15.*
- More than nine million European women have been raped and 33% have suffered physical or sexual violence.*
- 75% of women in the European Union have suffered sexual abuse at the workplace.*
- One in 10 women in the European Union have suffered sexual abuse through the new technologies.*
- Only in the Spanish state, 112 women were murdered by men in 2015. **

Feminisms have extended the traditional concept of peace into that of positive peace. The concept of positive peace refers to the broad notion of an absence of armed conflict or war. The concept of positive peace includes the eradication of all male violence suffered by women merely because they are women. It has its origins on discrimination and a situation of inequality, within the framework of a power relations system of men above women. These violences occur both in times of “peace” and “war”. During the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing (1995), feminist and women’s movements signaled that peace, positive peace, is closely bound up with equality between men and women.

As women, we all suffer to a greater or lesser extent some kind of violence: economic, political, social and institutional (violence). Since this violence is naturalized and invisibilized, impunity is a key factor.

The continuum of violence reports and makes visible that domestic space is one of the spaces where women suffer most assaults and threats, and it has to be a core element for addressing violence if we want to promote pacific and inclusive societies. However, as women gain power and space, new scenarios for violence appear (femicide, violence in the virtual world...).
How are patriarchy, neoliberalism and violence against women related?

If we want to promote pacific and inclusive societies for sustainable development, it is necessary to identify the interrelationship between violence, patriarchy and neoliberalism. Violence against women is one of the historical mechanisms of social control, discrimination and breakdown of social fabric in order to maintain the political and economic interest of the groups holding power. We talk about “expressive violence” (Rita Laura Sega­to) highlighting the exemplary role of violence against women to the control of societies. A few examples of the relationship between patriarchy, neoliberalism and violence against women are:

- Extractive and mining industry projects in the Mesoamerican region. These projects entail the militarization of territories, boosting violence in societies and specially against women.
- The maquila model in Mexico, where “exemplifying violence” against women is carried out. This violence guarantees control of the entire society.
- Coltan mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo where sexual violence against women is one of the main reasons of forced displacement, thus facilitating the access of mobile technology multinational companies to mining resources at a much lower economic cost.

How do we, women, resist?

In Latin America we find diverse examples of struggles in defense of territory and the collective sphere that deal with transnational companies, which are supported by local and national governments. These are local struggles that face increasingly bloody situations of violence, and they have pointed out two relevant aspects: the importance of territory as a space of resistance and the massive presence of women leading these fights. Women who link the defense of territory to the defense of women’s bodies.

Male violences are a violation of women’s Human Rights, therefore a serious obstacle if we want to achieve pacific and inclusive societies for sustainable development.

Catalunya Legislation
- Law 17/2015, of July 21, ‘Effective equality between women and men’.
- Law 11/2014, of October 10, to guarantee the rights of lesbians, gays, transgender and intersexual people, and to eradicate homophobia, biphobia and transphobia.

Honduras Legislation

In Honduras, from 2009, the year of the coup d’état, femicide increased by 62%. The murders of Berta Cáceres, indigenous leader, environmentalist and feminist and that of her partner Leslie Yaneth Urquía, exemplify the violence that feminist activists have to face in the fight for Human Rights and the defense of the territory against transnational megaprojects. Berta Cáceres and Leslie Yaneth Urquía leaded, along with their partners from the Civil Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (Copinh), the fight against Agua Zarca Hydroelectric Project.