

# **Women's living with or having lived with gender violence situations and their children's health care model**

## **Executive summary**

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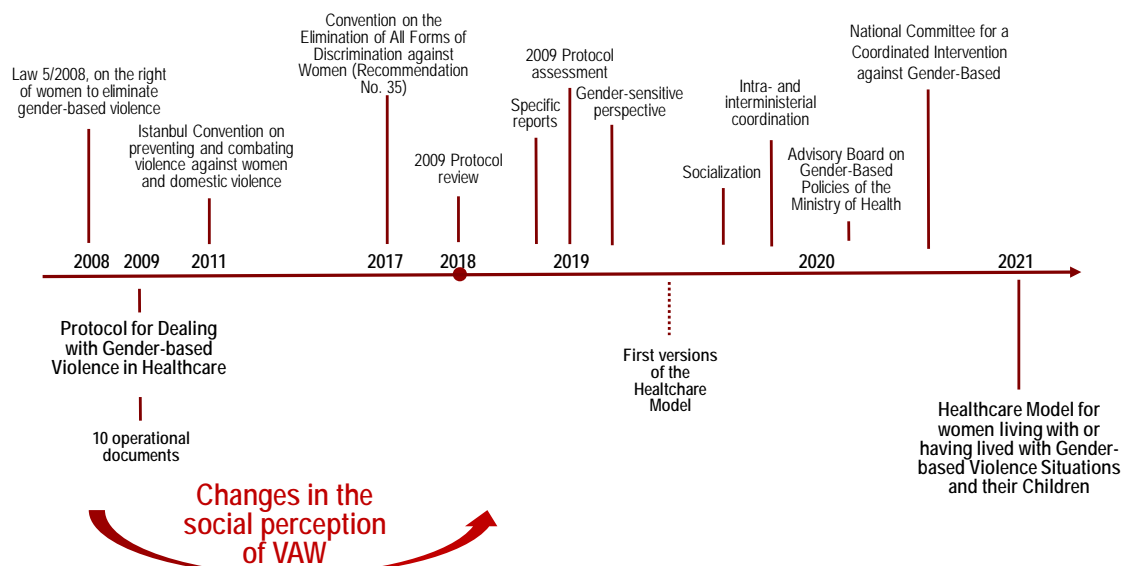
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## Executive summary

The *Women's living with or having lived with gender violence situations and their children's health care model*<sup>1</sup> is the result of last decade's experience, which has as reference Law 5/2008, of 24 April, on the right of women to eliminate gender-based violence and the *Protocol for Dealing with Sexist Violence in the Healthcare Field in Catalonia* published in 2009.

The structure and content of the *Model* is based on the last decade's legislative developments, different documents made over the last two years in collaboration with health professionals, women's organisations, and gender-based violence and health experts –some still to be published–, and a new interpretative framework as a result of changes in the social perception of gender violence.



<sup>1</sup> From now on referred to as the *Model*.

The *Model* has three types of objectives:

- Strategic objectives
  - To create and establish a shared culture for addressing gender-based violence guaranteeing health care for women in gender-based violence situations and their children.
  - To establish the political position of the Ministry of Health on gender violence.
- Tactical objectives
  - To define a resource network to transfer effectively the *Model* into the practice of health care for women in gender-based violence situations and their children.
  - To guarantee the material conditions to promote the link of women in gender-based violence situations and their children to the health system.
  - To provide the required human resources for a gender-based violence approach based on professional practice.
  - To begin to make efforts to design a strategy for addressing gender-based violence aimed at male aggressors care.
- Impact objectives
  - To improve the biopsychosocial approach to the health of women living with or having lived with gender-based violence and their children.
  - To improve the health (physical and psychological well-being) of women living with or having lived with gender-based violence situations and of their children.

Each type of objective corresponds to a series of actions enabling to achieve a truly effective implementation of the *Model*:

- The strategic actions proposed should encourage to establish a shared culture for addressing gender-based violence based on values promoting responsible professional practice and enabling to overcome beliefs detected as the main barriers in the care of the health of women in gender-based violence situations.
- Tactical actions are those actions required to give a feasibility context and framework to impact objectives. These actions are based on guiding principles to enable the transformation of health system's structures, organizations and resources and prevent responsibility for health from resting with professionals.
- The impact actions are focused on health care for women in gender-based violence situations and are aimed at both professionals and women treated

in health services. Care must be offered in an environment of trust and safety for professionals and women to guarantee their bond with people who care for them and the health system as a whole.

The *Model* poses challenges for the immediate future, among which the following stand out:

- The opportunity to generate a process of health system transformation based on a movement towards the creation of a culture for addressing gender-based violence, shared by all professional teams of the public health system in Catalonia.
- The creation of a specific team by the Ministry of Health to keep the *Model* alive with the incorporation of changes, the inclusion of learning, the exclusion of elements operating dysfunctions, and the modification of parameters for data systematization.
- The need to have resources so that health professionals can carry out their work. These resources must be sufficient and adaptable to allow individualized care for women, taking into account the different realities of women in gender-based violence situations.

The purpose of the *Model* is reaching the very heart of the system; it requires rethinking and making explicit values and principles governing health care for women in gender-based situations. In this sense, the *Model* defines the responsibility and commitment of the Ministry of Health in the fight for the eradication of gender-based violence within its competences, contributing to the detection of this violence and the accompaniment to the recovery of the health of women living with or having lived with it.

The wording of this document closes just after the adoption of Law 17/2020, of 22 December, modifying Law 5/2008, on the right of women to eliminate gender-based violence. It is a satisfaction to see that amendments and new features introduced by the Law to broaden and guarantee the protection of women who are victims of gender-based violence fully coincide with the values and principles inspiring the *Model*.

We've both arrived at the same time!

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