

# Why the song of 'los ahujos' sets off alarms: "Either virtuous virgins or whores"

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"Nympho whores" hidden in "burrows" that have to come out to "fuck" like rabbits. Neither the terms chosen nor the construction of this phrase sung, as "tradition", by the men of the Elías Ahuja residence hall in Madrid are free. To one side, dozens of *Boys* opening shutters and bellowing synchronously; to the other, the university students who live in Santa Mónica recording them. "On the contrary, they, as an available object that you can address in humiliating language, because with 'nymphomaniac whore' you have a clear perception of the subject you are addressing and what sexuality implies. It leads to that traditional division of women: either virtuous virgins or whores, with no middle ground. We are still installed there", Octavio Salazar, an expert jurist in gender, summarizes a lot. In that conception of "locked up" women who go out to be "available" for men. Still "today", Salazar also says. Friday, October 7, 2022, the day that the *law of only yes is yes*, which aims to shield the sexual freedom of women with explicit consent as the axis.

Building of the Colegio Mayor in Madrid. Photo: THE COUNTRY | Video: EFE

He also says that it is "magnified because it is recorded and shared", but it happens in "very varied spaces" in a "normalized" way. The video of that university folklore has been spreading for 48 hours through the networks, the media and was even present at the plenary session of Congress this Thursday. But it is an example, just one, of what happens every day and of what reports, studies and statistics collect: that there is a reaction to the advance of feminism, and that sexist violence, in all its forms, also understood as *mildare* more widespread among young men.

And for "decades ago", Marisa Soletto, director of Fundación Mujeres, elaborates, "the data that has to do with sexual behavior and youth, and what educational experts have been saying, is that the breeding ground where the first relations is characterized by rape culture, as the context of the cultural pieces in which they move, early access to pornography and the absence of sexual education". An affective sexual and gender equality education that has already incorporated, as mandatory, the Law of Sexual Freedom; and so will, when it is processed, the abortion reform.

That education also to change the perspective on these behaviors. "Humiliation is an element that is integrated without any problem in the construction and maintenance of those first relationships," emphasizes Soletó. It is so much a part of certain attitudes and behaviors that about this choir and its *performance* Words like "normal" have been repeated or it has been said that "it has been going on for years". They wield it as an argument, the women of Santa Monica to whom the "nymphomaniac whores" was directed. "They don't offend us. Poor things, it's a tradition," they said this Thursday.

"Appealing" to that tradition is "tyranny", says Mar Venegas, professor of Sociology at the University of Granada and author of a sociological analysis of affective-sexual politics in adolescence. "By tradition I killed her because she was mine," she adds. Or "my husband beats me normally", adds Salazar, recalling the book by the former delegate against gender violence Miguel Lorente. In addition, Venegas continues, in them, in the women of Santa Mónica you see "that conscience of apology" in the face of macho and patriarchal behavior.

"Still" we must remember that "neither a man is a macho for the fact of being a man nor a woman a feminist for the fact of being a woman"; and that population group, "now represented in a political party like Vox, has not arrived today; they were already there and they reflect a part of society anchored in stereotypes and obsolete ideas". Obsolete but current. The figures, in general, speak of important advances in Spanish society, but still far from eradicating machismo and patriarchal structures. Just a few days ago, a study by the Women's Institute said that more than half of young women between the ages of 18 and 25 have had sex without desire.

Salazar, who dealt with the subject this Thursday in one of his law classes at the University of Córdoba, tells how "the structure itself, where one and the other also contribute to the construction" of "power", came up in the conversation. An "obvious structural violence, which also explains why they talk about entertainment". The submissive also accept the subjugation, they excuse it. "Manual patterns of something that we see as very obvious, but it is not." Or not so much depending on the contexts in which they occur. From now on —without retroactive effect— the law of the only yes is yes includes, typified as a crime, issues such as street harassment, or chemical submission as an aggravating circumstance.

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For Soletó, "if as a society we are shocked by this behavior, we have to accept the conclusions of these studies as good, that there is an emergency in a specific intervention to eradicate all the elements that make rape culture the context in which it is they build [las relaciones de los jóvenes]".

Is there something positive in the video, its viralization, in the articles and programs that have been dedicated to it in the last few hours? "That it becomes visible", affirms Lourdes Gaitán, doctor in Sociology and founder of the Group of Sociology of Adolescence and Childhood (GSIA). "If this has been going on for so many years and now it is being reported, it means that our level of tolerance for disrespect for dignity is much lower." The problem, "the naturalization" of behaviors such as that of *ahujos* it is something, according to Gaitán, "unsustainable".

The solution, according to the sociologist, must go beyond affective-sexual education —in which everyone agrees that it is not only necessary, but also urgent—: "Awareness is not only formed in the classroom. Also in homes, it is not enough to say, you have to practice, and for that you need to educate children, but also adults ". In this education, rather re-education, according to a statement from the center, at Elías Ahuja university students will have to attend a course on gender equality and participate in solidarity activities.

And in other fields, such as the legislative, María Concepción Torres Díaz, doctor and professor of Law, recounted this Thursday in a column the applicable legislation in cases like this. Something "necessary", she added. "Laws that —such as the Equality Law of 2007— conceptualize sexual harassment and gender-based harassment as discriminatory behavior and oblige public administrations, as well as non-state agents, to act within the framework of the so-called due diligence".

In addition to Law 3/2022, of February 24, on university coexistence, which classifies harassment and gender-based violence behaviors within the framework of the disciplinary regime as "very serious". and the one of *only yes is yes*, that of Sexual Freedom, in force now, from this Friday. A law that was born six years ago *case of the herd*, of the judicial process that followed, of what it provoked in Spanish society and of the terrain that the feminist movement removed. A law also to which Salazar returns to recall the particular vote of one of the judges, Ricardo Javier González, in one of the sentences, that of the Provincial Court of Navarra in April 2018, and how it resembles "the initiatory spree with the one that cannot be disguised" what has happened in Elías Ahuja with "the revelry and joy" of that vote.

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