Day 13: December 7th - Femicide

Femicide is a sex-based, hate crime term, broadly defined as "the intentional killing of women or girls because they are females."

Ana Clara’s Story
Ana Clara was thirty and lived on the periphery of Porto Alegre, Brazil. She was in a relationship with a partner for six years and had one daughter. The relationship was very unstable and there was a lot of conflict and violence which resulted in repeated break-ups. On New Year’s Eve 2007, Ana Clara was stabbed to death by her partner. (Femicide: Narratives of Gender Crimes: SN Meneghel - 2013)

What is my reaction to this true story?

Global Facts
- A large proportion of femicides are committed by current or former partners. (WHO - http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/)
- The highest number of Femicides occurs in South Africa, South America and Central America. https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis
- In 2012 intentional homicide took the lives of almost half a million people https://www.unodc.org/gsh/
- Family members commit 66% of Femicide attacks. (Femicide: A Global Problem, 2012).

In ‘Laudato Si’ Pope Francis states: ‘It is clearly inconsistent to combat trafficking in endangered species, while remaining completely indifferent to human trafficking, unconcerned about the poor, or undertaking to destroy another human being... (91)

UN Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
3 - Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security.
5 - No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment
7 - All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to protection of the law.

CEDAW (Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women)

Articles 1-16 outline what governments must do to end discrimination against girls and women. It also lists specific areas where discrimination against girls and women must end i.e. in law, marriage, education, health care, and employment.

“States shall recognise, encourage and support the work of relevant NGOs and of civil society active in combating violence against women and establish effective cooperation.” (Article 9: Council of Europe’s Convention) https://rm.coe.int/168008482e

ACTION
Raise awareness of Femicide and lobby for justice wherever this occurs.
Work for gender equality in every country.

Prepared by ‘Future We Need’ (FWN) a faith based group with members from the Columbans, Franciscans, Josephites, Mercy, Presentation, Salesians
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN is a systematic and widespread human rights violation. It cuts across age, socio-economic, educational and geographic boundaries.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence...

Countries have no laws to protect women from domestic violence.

CHILD MARRIAGE....

15 million girls under the age of 15 are married each year.

See: www.mercyworld.org