

## **Invisible violence: normativity and normalisation of violence against people with motor, sensorial and intellectual disabilities**

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Disabled children and adults are at least twice as often victims of sexual abuse and other violent acts than non-disabled persons; among them, the most abused are females with a diagnosis of mental<sup>1</sup> disability. The article deals with violence in the private sphere and public institutions and addresses the question of why disabled people have for so long been absent from already well researched groups of victims, more vulnerable to violence than others. Their invisibility is connected with the fact that many of them do not have either formal or active civil rights (as for example the right to testify before a court). Violence against disabled people has therefore to be ranged among hate crimes, which have a long historical continuity and is a consequence of social rejection and spatial segregation. An analysis of existing research studies proves that disabled people are more often represented as criminal offenders than victims, that violence against them tends to be minimised and limited to individual cases and that they are denoted in many studies as implicit culprits of the violence they experience.

**Keywords:** violence, abuse, physically or mentally disabled persons, victims, children, institutional violence, hate crime, rights of disabled people

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