



**Title:** Violence against women: the witness dilemma

**Acronym:** VAW-TWD

**Project leader:** Ariadna García-Prado

**Host organisation:** Universidad Pública de Navarra (UPNA)

**Main purpose of the project:**

The main purpose of this project is to evaluate whether and to what extent the possibility of reporting violence against women without identifying the aggressor (“soft reporting”) promotes overall witness reporting. We will also identify witness preferences, beliefs and personality traits to understand the mechanisms that promote reporting.

**Design/methodology/approach:**

We perform an incentivized survey experiment, an established methodology that combines an experimental design with a survey. The experiment will be contextualized and will introduce monetary costs in order to mimic real-life decisions. To achieve generalized results, we focus on two regions of Spain with different VAW incidence levels.

**Potential results:**

The introduction of soft reporting could increase overall willingness to report or it could merely change the preferred mode of reporting. We expect willingness to intervene to decrease with the costs faced by the witness, and also to be contingent on the type of VAW.

**Social relevance of the research:**

This project can contribute to the development of policies that motivate witness intervention, mitigating the extent and intensity of violence against women in Spain. Our results could also be applied in other countries, as the introduction of soft reporting in Spain has led other European countries to explore this option.

**Originality/value of the project:**

Our project is one of the first to focus on witnesses—most studies and policies have focused on victims or aggressors. Because there is no administrative data about witness soft reporting in Spain, our methodology will allow us to identify the causal effect of soft reporting on witness intervention.