

Violenza domestica e libertà come non-oppresione

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Abstract: In this article I consider the hidden phenomenon of *Intimate Partner Violence* (IPV) and show how individual acts of violence are made possible, conceivable and even acceptable in “normal” institutionalized social contexts like our own. Accordingly, I maintain that the classical dichotomy between negative and positive freedom is theoretically inadequate to detect the specific “internal” and “external” forms of unfreedom systematically suffered by women victim of IPV. Then, I draw the main lines of a model of freedom as non-oppresione that borrows and combines some elements from both positive and negative conceptions of freedom and focuses on the complex social contexts in which inner and outer barriers are created, have meaning and operate. This revised and widened account allows theorists to better understand and address women’s experience and recognize whether battered women are effectively free, or “free” to choose only among severely constrained options.

Keywords: Battered women, Intimate Partner Violence, Freedom as non-oppresione, Positive vs negative freedom.