

## GENDER VIOLENCE

# Silent march raises hopes for future

**T**O coincide with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women), AMUCAN (the women's association of Candelaria) organised a silent march.

A group of about 20 people of all ages started their walk at the organisation's headquarters in Candelaria. The one hour tour through the streets of town passed the famous Basilica and ended at the council. Several students from the two last grades of Santa Ana High School also attended the march to represent the school and to show their support.

According to Olivia Pérez Díaz, Candelaria's Councillor of Social Services, the main goal of this event was to raise awareness in Candelaria's inhabitants about the importance of fighting against gender violence these days. Pérez reported

that the department of Social Services has been organising workshops and talks over the last years on this topic. The majority of the participants had been women, although the attendance of male participants has slightly increased over the years. This represents a slow but necessary change, as only if men also realise the importance of this issue, changes will become possible. The Councillor also pointed out that although women mainly are the victims of Gender Based Violence, the fewer cases in which men have been victimized are even less likely to become public.

Padre Jesús Mendoza González, sub-prior of Candelaria's Basilica and Santa Ana's vicar, also gave a comment, talking about the Church's opinion on female abuse and their attempts of avoiding this type of violence with all means. "From a religious point of view, each death caused by gender violence is lamentable and sadly only few people stand up energetically against it", said Mendoza. The sub-prior also expressed his gratitude towards the young students who showed their attendance, stating that the youth provides the biggest change in this scope, and therefore, emphasized the importance of providing this social group with proper information.

After Jesús Mendoza's speech and Pérez's declaration of the manifest; Domingo Ramos, Candelaria's temporary mayor, made an official statement, summarising the main issues of the event.

The releasing of 54 violet balloons, representing the 54 Spanish women who have lost their life at the hands of their partner so far this year and a minute of silence in respect for the victims, finished the act. The participants remained thoughtful, but also holding on Mendoza's hopeful statement: "let's hope, work, and look forward to not needing to release a single violet balloon next 25th of November".



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## BOGUS EMAILS

# Password alert after "phishing" fraud

**S**PANISH police have issued an urgent alert after intercepting a massive computer "phishing" fraud involving scores of Canary Islands' residents.

They are warning that you should never answer an email asking for details of your bank account, credit card or password for on-line banking, no matter how authentic it looks.

Under "Operation Navi", it has taken months to investigate an internet fraud masterminded by Romanians living across Spain. They sent out more than 300,000 emails asking for bank or credit card details and then used the information to order goods which were intercepted before they reached their destination. These articles would then be sold on for cash, also on the web.

Police believe the gang

has managed to swindle more than 1.3 million euros in Spain and Italy and so far, more than 350 victims have been identified, mainly in the Canaries. It is thought the successful operation has prevented another seven million euros from being swindled. Eight arrests were made and investigations are continuing in Italy and Canada.

When officers raided the ring-leader's home in Madrid, they found numerous documents, computer equipment, software and even an illegal wifi antenna with a range of five kilometres to pick up police signals and hence avoid detection.