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## The Role of Independent Journalism in Defending Women's Rights: A Case Study of an Interview with a Domestic Violence Survivor

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### ABSTRACT:

This article investigates the role of independent journalism in defending women's rights through a special interview case study with the survivors of domestic violence. This study shows how independent media can provide a platform for the sounds placed in the context where the mainstream outlets are limited by political and economic pressure. Methodological, research is based on qualitative case teaching that analyzes the survivor's first public testimony, journalist's observations and subsequent public response, including the attention of widespread media and the establishment of a supporting organization for women. The findings show that independent journalism enables survivors to share their experiences, but also contribute to social consolidation and human rights progress. At the same time, this case reveals moral challenges such as threats, pressure from powerful artists and the risk of secondary trauma for journalists. The article concludes that independent journalism serves both an informative and social justice tool, which is capable of transforming individual testimony into mass action and stimulating institutional change.

**Keywords:** independent journalism; women's rights; domestic violence; media ethics; advocacy journalism; empowerment; human rights

### 1. Introduction

Journalism is traditionally considered to be one of the major institutions of civil society, which works to declare power, to inform people and protect the rights of weak groups. In terms of challenges regarding gender inequality and the prevalence of domestic violence, the media ability is those who face systemic discrimination and misuse, especially important [1].

Despite the belief of journalism as a means of human rights advocacy, violence is in situations associated with dominant social or cultural nobility, the mainstream media is often subject to political and economic pressure [1,3]. This calms the distortion of sensitive issues or information, which confirms the separation of the victims and eliminates the culture of silence. Under such conditions, independent journalism emerges as an important place for expression and informative vacuum removal.

This article is dedicated to analyzing the role of independent journalism in defending women's rights through the study of the case of publishing a case of domestic violence. This example shows how journalism can not only serve as a recorder of facts, but also serve as a means of social support, start a public debate and contribute to the development of new human rights practices.

### 2. Theoretical Framework and Methodology

The study of the role of journalism in the defense of women's rights is based on an interdisciplinary approach that integrates media studies, sociology, human rights practices and sexual studies. The learned literature emphasizes that journalism not only an informative, but also a ceremony, which contributes to awareness and stimulating social change [1]. Special attention is paid to the concept of journalism, which means the active partnership of the journalist in the process of protecting the rights of weak groups.

The mandatory element of the theoretical foundation is a vision of empowerment, which describes the processes of providing voice to women in the context of the media and strengthening their role in the public field [2]. Human rights -oriented journalism is considered as a form of institutional support that can convert personal experiences into a collective social justice [2].

Methodologically, this study is based on a qualitative approach using the case study method. At the center of the analysis, domestic violence is a survivor story that was able to publicly share their experience in an interview format in the Constitution Constitution. Sources of analysis include interview transcripts, journalists' comments and subsequent public reactions (media coverage, establishment of social media comments and establishment of institutions supporting women).

Special attention is paid to issues of research and professional morality. This study considers such as aspects such as obtaining voluntary consent of the informant, ensuring the safety of both defendants and journalists, and the responsibility for the potential consequences of release. This approach allows us to see only the interviews of journalism

### 3. Case Study: The Survivor's Story

The subject of this study is the case of a woman who has long suffered domestic violence in relation to a big public person. His biography reflects the path to independence from social weakness: after growing up as an orphan, he succeeded in getting education, making a career, buying his own home and providing stability for himself and his child. However, when a relationship with a famous artist, it became subject to systematic physical and mental misconduct.

Extremely obstructed opportunities to disclose from the social status of the abuser. Their voice was not heard through the mainstream means to achieve fear of their impact and the reluctance of the mainstream media [3]. For a long time, women were separated, and their efforts to go to the media were often rejected.

One turn when an independent journalist offers him a platform for his first public testimony. The interview was published on the Channel Neline Channel specialized in human rights issues. In his account, the survivors spoke in detail about the fear of years, his internal conflict with feelings of crime and the impact of misconduct on his relationship with his son.

Release created an important public resonance: the interview saw more than a million times, discussed widespread on social media, and began a public debate on the problem of domestic violence. Subsequently, the survivor established an organization that helped women in the same situation, which shows a change in personal experience in mass action.

### 4. Discussion and Conclusions

Analysis of the case suggests that independent journalism can play an important role in defending women's rights and promoting public debate on issues of domestic violence [1]. Unlike the mainstream means, which are often pushed by corporate interests and political pressure, independent journalists enjoy more freedom in their choice of subjects and are able to provide a platform for voices that may otherwise be heard [4].

In this case, the survivors in the interview do not have the opportunity to reveal their experience, but also the process of social mobility: media debate, public support and establishment of an organization dedicated to helping women [2]. Thus, the intervention of journalism contributed to changing personal testimony in collective action, strengthening the human rights agenda.

At the same time, many moral challenges were highlighted in this case: risk of risks directed on a journalist, pressure from interested parties and secondary trauma of survivors [3]. These factors indicate further discussions of professional standards for journalists operating under the terms of powerful actors.

In conclusion, it should be emphasized that journalism oriented for the protection of human rights is spread beyond the transmission of information. It becomes a method of social justice and a method for protecting weak groups [4]. The case presented confirms that the same interview can also have long-term results: changing public perceptions, strengthening civilian connection and stimulating institutional changes.

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