

The objective of the project is to carry out a theoretical, empirical, multifaceted analysis of the phenomenon of violence experienced by women with disabilities. This phenomenon has not yet been studied in Poland. Due to their gender and level of ability, women with disabilities belong to at least two groups that are particularly exposed to violence and degrading treatment. We assume that the confluence of these interdependent identities not only puts women at greater risk of experiencing violence and perpetuates this violence, but also makes this group experience different forms of violence than women without disabilities or men with disabilities. The results of the few international studies on violence against women with disabilities show that they are twice as likely to experience violence as women without disability. Its spectrum is very wide and includes physical and sexual, psychological or financial violence, but also abandonment and neglect, forced social isolation, refusal of medical treatment, forced psychiatric treatment or forced sterilization.

The project focuses on the analysis of intersectional – resulting from the intersection of disability and gender – determinants of violence against women with disabilities and placing them in the socio-cultural context of Poland and Central and Eastern Europe. The project will allow to study and describe the forms of violence experienced by women with disabilities, to study and describe ways to deal with violence. We also want to reflect on the methodological challenges faced by researchers in the field of disability studies who choose to study the phenomenon of violence.

In order to achieve the stated goal, the project includes the following research activities:

1. Individual interviews with women with disabilities who have experienced violence.
2. Expert individual interviews with representatives of institutions to which violence is reported and organisations working in the field of preventing violence against women.
3. A Critical Discourse Analysis, includes: (a) analysis of available public statistics in the context of disability and violence and analysis of gaps in these statistics, (b) the analysis of the legal status of women with disabilities in the light of international and national law, analysis of strategies, programmes on counteraction and protection from domestic violence in terms of their inclusion of intersectional coupling of gender and disability, (c) (3) the analysis of legal proceedings (civil, criminal, family relations), which involve women with disabilities, (d) analysis of accessibility of the support system for women with disabilities experiencing domestic violence.
4. A qualitative metanalysis that aims to reveal methodological challenges that arise from designing and conducting inclusive intersectional research in the field of disability studies, including methodological issues on the implementation of the accessibility principle in research.