

Demonstrations against domestic violence

7 May 2020

Hundreds of women protested on 6 May across the country against violence against women.

The protesters called the Israeli government to act urgently. The demonstrations were led by 'Emergency Feminist Coalition' (which Na'amat-Histadrut Women Movement is part of) following the rise in violence since the beginning of the Corona crisis.

Since the lockdown began, five women were murdered, two more put an end to their lives. Due to the violence, the hotlines and shelters report an increase in inquiries.

Hundreds of women went out on Wednesday morning, May 6, to protest against the phenomenon of the murder of women, at a number of demonstration centers around the country: Tel Aviv-Jaffa, Beersheba, Haifa, Jerusalem, Bat Yam, Herzliya, Holon, Lod, Mateh Yehuda, Kiryat Shmona, Rishon Lezion, Rehovot and Ra'anana. Two women were murdered in the past week, five since the lockdown began, and two more women put an end to their lives against the background of gender violence. The protesters: "We call the government to act urgently and via all the means to prevent the next murder."

The rise in the cases of violence against women during the Corona crisis raises the issue of gender violence to the top of the public agenda. Only in the past week Mastwal Alaza and Tatiana Chaikin were murdered by their spouses. Many women are forced to shut themselves up in their homes, which are not always a safe space for them.

Recently, two women committed suicide due to the violence from which they suffered, nine women and a 10-month-old toddler were murdered by men – spouses or other relatives. Five women were murdered in seven weeks, since the lockdown was announced in the shadow of the Corona crisis. The hotlines and shelters all over the country are reporting on an increase in inquiries and difficulty in providing a comprehensive response following the stress that was created.