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Silent Scream: Perception of Violence and Willingness to Intervene

Eleonora Clerici[1], Nevena Kulic[1], Francesco Scervini[1]

[1] University of Pavia

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Corso Strada Nuova, 65
27100 – Pavia (Italy)

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Abstract

This study examines how individuals perceive and respond to different forms of gender-based violence (GBV) that may fall within the grey zone of behaviour. Drawing on feminist theory, theories of normalization processes, and bystander intervention models, we investigate how the characteristics of behaviours, the gender of victims and offenders, and contextual cues shape evaluations of GBV's perceived societal acceptance, individual perceptions of normality, and willingness to intervene. Using a vignette-based survey experiment with 2,000 respondents in Italy, we find that violence perpetrated by men against women is generally evaluated more negatively than violence perpetrated by women against men, providing limited support for expectations derived from a feminist perspective. However, non-verbal violence, such as threatening looks and yanking, can amplify gender differences in perceptions, but victim's perception and reaction do not moderate these. Similarly, respondents are more willing to intervene when the offender is a man and the victim is a woman. This is moderated by the victim's reaction, but not by the type of violence or the victim's perception. Findings also distinguish between perceived societal acceptance and individual perceptions of normality, showing that what individuals perceive as socially tolerated does not necessarily correspond to what they personally consider normal.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Gender-based violence (GBV) refers to harm inflicted on an individual or group because of their actual or perceived sex, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity (Council of Europe, 2011). Although both men and women may experience GBV (Carlton et al., 2016), women and girls bear a disproportionate share of its burden (Archer, 2000; Council of Europe, 2011; Bradbury-Jones et al., 2019). Globally, nearly one in three women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at least once in their lifetime (UN Women, 2025). Given this marked gender asymmetry, the terms "gender-based violence" and "violence against women" are often used interchangeably, although they are conceptually distinct (Bradbury-Jones et al., 2019).

The scale of the phenomenon is also evident in Europe. The European Union monitors GBV, with a particular focus on violence against women, through the EU Gender-Based Violence Survey (EU-GBV). Although cross-country comparisons remain challenging because of differences in data availability and collection procedures, the 2021 wave of the survey estimates that 30.7% of women in the EU-27 have experienced physical violence or threats and/or sexual violence during their

lifetime, perpetrated by any offender. In Italy, the corresponding figure is 31.7% (FRA, EIGE, Eurostat, 2024). Italy is therefore not exempt from the broader European pattern, and violence against women remains a persistent social problem (Amnesty International Italia, 2021; Eures, 2021; Istat, 2025). More recently, a series of high-profile femicide cases has generated widespread public debate and renewed attention to the persistence and severity of gender-based violence in the country (Degani, 2025). Against this background, Italy represents an important setting in which to investigate not only the prevalence of GBV, but also how individuals perceive and respond to behaviours that may constitute or signal such violence.

Understanding these perceptions is particularly important because violence does not necessarily occur in situations that are immediately recognized as abusive. From a sociological perspective, feminist theory emphasizes the gendered nature of violence against women and identifies historically embedded systems of male dominance as an important source of control and aggression in intimate and social relationships (Dobash et al., 1992). Such perspectives are complemented by theories of normalization, which draw attention to the processes through which behaviours become viewed as ordinary, tolerable, or socially acceptable within particular contexts (May and Finch, 2009). This suggests that perceptions of GBV may depend not only on the behaviour itself, but also on how the situation is framed and contextual cues surrounding it.

A growing empirical literature has examined how individuals perceive and respond to violence against women, including perceptions of abusive behaviours (e.g., Agüero and Frisancho, 2020; Kuijpers et al., 2021; Gibson and Gouws, 2022; Groggel and Rojas, 2023), bystander intervention (e.g., Graham et al., 2023), sexual harassment (e.g., Goh et al., 2022), and victim-blaming responses (e.g., Hall et al., 2024; León and Aizpurua, 2025). In Italy, related research has examined awareness of GBV among young people (Gini et al., 2025), responsibility attribution towards female victims of intimate partner violence and its relationship with willingness to help (Cinquegrana et al., 2018), and the personal and situational factors associated with whether bystanders perceive a female victim as deserving support (Pagliaro et al., 2020). This literature provides important evidence on how people evaluate violence and victims, as well as on the conditions under which they may be willing to intervene.

However, important questions remain unanswered. First, existing research has largely focused on clearly identifiable forms of physical or psychological violence (for a review, see Bradbury-Jones et al., 2019), while comparatively less attention has been devoted to ambiguous or “grey-zone” situations (Carstensen, 2016), in which behaviours may be subtle, socially normalized, or open to

competing interpretations. These situations are particularly relevant because the boundary between ordinary interpersonal behaviour and violence may not always be clear to observers. Second, perceptions of GBV may be shaped by the interaction between the behaviour itself and the social and contextual characteristics in which it occurs. For example, the same behaviour may be evaluated differently depending on the gender of the victim and offender, the location in which it takes place, or the perceived seriousness of the incident. Yet these dimensions have rarely been examined simultaneously within a common experimental framework. Third, although perceptions of violence and willingness to intervene are closely related, they are not equivalent. Recognizing a behaviour as problematic does not necessarily imply a willingness to act, and relatively little is known about how the same situational characteristics influence both evaluations of GBV and intentions to intervene.

The present study addresses these gaps by integrating feminist theory (Dobash et al., 1992), theories of normalization processes (May and Finch, 2009), and bystander intervention models (Latané and Darley, 1970; Weitzman et al., 2020). We use a national vignette experiment with 2,000 participants in Italy to examine how individuals perceive and respond to different manifestations of GBV. We use GBV as the broader conceptual framework while focusing primarily on violence directed towards women. Specifically, we investigate how the form of the behaviour (non-verbal, verbal, or physical), relational characteristics (e.g., the gender pairing of the victim and offender and the type of relationship between them), and contextual features (e.g. the victim's response or perception) shape perceptions of the normality of GBV and willingness to intervene. By experimentally varying these dimensions across vignettes, the study allows us to identify how particular features of a situation contribute to the perceived normality of potentially violent behaviours and to observers' willingness to intervene.

The focus on bystander intervention is particularly important from a prevention perspective. Public intervention can represent an important step towards preventing and interrupting GBV, particularly when violence occurs in social settings where third parties are present (Alfredsson et al., 2016). Examining willingness to intervene alongside perceptions of normality therefore allows us to distinguish between two potentially different responses to GBV: how individuals perceive and evaluate a behaviour and whether they are prepared to act upon that evaluation. To our knowledge, this is among the first national-level survey experiments in Italy to examine these two dimensions jointly, while systematically varying the behavioural, relational, and contextual characteristics of GBV scenarios.

The paper is structured into four main sections. The first section presents the theoretical framework from which the study's hypotheses are derived, and reviews the relevant empirical literature. The

second section describes the vignette experiment, including the experimental design and the operationalization of the main variables. The third section presents the data, methodology, and analytical strategy. The fourth section reports the empirical findings, combining descriptive analyses with regression models. The paper concludes with a discussion of the results in relation to the existing literature, followed by a consideration of their main theoretical and practical implications and the study's limitations.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The present study is grounded in the feminist perspective, as developed by Dobash et al. (1992), which conceptualizes violence against women as an expression of gendered power relations embedded in patriarchal social structures. From this perspective, violence against women is characterized by a gender asymmetry in which men are considered the typical offenders and women the typical victims of the violence (Dobash et al., 1992). The motives for this male-perpetrated violence are often related to domination and control over female partners (Dobash and Dobash, 1979; Walker, 2009). In patriarchal societies, femininity is constructed as passive and submissive, while masculinity is associated with dominance and aggression (Butler, 1990). These gendered assumptions contribute to the perception that male aggression is natural, thereby normalizing male violence against women (Messerschmidt, 2012; Rodelli et al., 2022). Consequently, the feminist perspective posits that GBV is fundamentally a gender issue that must be analysed with gender as a central component (Dobash and Dobash, 1979; DeKeseredy and Dragiewicz, 2007).

Such gendered assumptions derive and are reproduced through cultural norms and public attitudes, which shape the acceptance and understanding of GBV. Normalization refers to the processes through which ideas, behaviours, and norms become established and accepted as "normal" within a society (May and Finch, 2009). What is considered normal stems from both individual and socio-cultural values and norms (Gibson and Gouws, 2022), which are transmitted through processes of primary and secondary socialization, as well as through institutions (e.g., education), media, and public discourse. In relation to GBV, understanding what is considered and perceived as normal is essential for assessing which behaviours are viewed as acceptable within society and under what circumstances they prompt intervention. Indeed, as Waltermaurer (2012) notes, when a community regards intimate partner violence against women as justifiable, such behaviour ceases to be socially deviant and instead becomes normative. Violence-supportive attitudes, such as accepting the violence directed at women, victim-blaming, minimization, and perpetrator justification (Gracia et al., 2020), can thus function as cultural mechanisms that sustain gendered violence.

Consequently, misconceptions and stereotypical views can function as psychological barriers to intervention (Alfredsson at al., 2016). Indeed, according to Ajzen and Fishbein (2000), attitudes and behavioural perceptions are predictive of actual intervention. Thus, if individuals witness or experience violence but do not recognize it as such, they are unlikely to intervene or report the incident. While silence may sometimes be interpreted as complicity, it can also reflect a lack of skills, confidence, or knowledge necessary to act effectively. Within this discourse, a growing body of literature (Baldry et al., 2015; Labhardt et al., 2017; Pagliaro et al., 2020; Graham et al., 2023; Bolton et al., 2024; D'Urso et al., 2024; Nielsen et al., 2025) emphasizes the crucial role of third parties, such as bystanders and allies, in both preventing and responding to gender-based violence. Bystanders are individuals who witness an act of violence, such as GBV, and may respond by intervening, remaining passive, or even exacerbating the situation (Guidi et al., 2024). The classic situational bystander intervention model developed by Latané and Darley (1970) has been widely used to investigate bystander behaviour in cases of sexual assault and intimate partner violence (Weitzman et al., 2020). According to this model, a bystander's decision to intervene in an emergency unfolds through five sequential stages: (1) noticing the event, (2) interpreting it as a situation requiring intervention, (3) assuming personal responsibility, (4) deciding on the most appropriate course of action, and (5) enacting that decision. Nevertheless, many bystanders choose not to intervene and remain passive in situations involving GBV (McDonald et al., 2016). Hence, understanding the factors that motivate or hinder individuals from helping victims of GBV is crucial for reducing its prevalence (Guidi et al., 2024). According to Baldry et al. (2015), relatively little attention has been devoted to social perceptions of GBV and the helping behaviours associated with them. Although public intervention alone may not be sufficient to eliminate violence or prevent women from being abused or even killed, it can serve as a deterrent to abusers and encourage victims to seek help and feel less alone. Consequently, understanding what makes a victim deserving of social support has important implications for prevention strategies, including those aimed at addressing severe crimes such as femicide (Burn, 2009; McMahon and Banyard, 2012).

2.1 Factors shaping perceptions of gender-based violence and intervention

Perceptions of and willingness to intervene in GBV situations depend on both individual and circumstantial characteristics. Circumstantial characteristics encompass situational features of the incident itself, including the characteristics of the individuals involved, the severity of the violence, and how the situation is understood and interpreted (Kuijpers et al., 2021). Regarding the incident itself, an important factor concerns the type of violence employed. The literature is largely consistent in showing that more severe or serious acts of intimate partner violence (IPV), such as physical forms

of partner abuse, are judged more negatively compared with relatively milder forms, such as psychological or emotional partner abuse (Sorenson and Taylor, 2005; Sorenson and Thomas, 2009; Kuijpers et al., 2021). Moreover, people tend to focus primarily on physical violence while overlooking psychological and sexual violence (Lewis et al., 2005; Alfredsson et al., 2016). However, within this broader discussion, only a limited number of studies (e.g., Carstensen, 2016; Goh et al., 2022) have examined so-called "grey zone" situations, in which the boundaries between acceptable and unacceptable behaviour are less clearly defined.

Regarding the interpretation of the situation, acceptance of GBV situations also depends on how behaviours are perceived by the targets. Particularly in scenarios where ambiguity is inherent to certain forms of violence, such as sexual harassment, behaviour is interpreted as harassment only when the targeted individual perceives it as unwanted (McDonald, 2012; Montesanti, 2015; Carstensen, 2016). Perceptions of the victim are central to recognizing that sexual harassment has occurred and that claims are appropriate for adjudication. However, these perceptions are frequently contested, as potentially harassing incidents may be dismissed as welcome or attributed to benign motives (Crocker and Major, 1989; Pickel and Gentry, 2017).

Perceptions of GBV, however, do not necessarily translate into a willingness to intervene. Previous research indicates that individuals are often reluctant to intervene personally in situations involving GBV (West and Wandrei, 2002; Gracia and Herrero, 2006). At the same time, victims may be unable to stop or escape abusive situations without external assistance (Anderson and Saunders, 2003), making third-party intervention an important component of efforts to prevent and address GBV (Carlson and Worden, 2005; WHO, 2021). Research on bystander behaviour suggests that the severity of aggression is an important determinant of willingness to intervene. For example, Ermer et al. (2021) found that, although most participants considered aggression unacceptable, its severity influenced whether intervention was perceived as necessary. Similarly, Fischer et al. (2011) showed that the more severe aggression was generally associated with greater support for intervention, although this further depends on the roles of the people involved (Ermer et al., 2021). The literature thus highlights the importance of considering both the characteristics of the individuals involved and the characteristics of situations.

2.2 Hypotheses

Drawing on the theoretical framework and previous research outlined above, the study advances two hypotheses concerning (1) the perceived normality of violence against women and (2) willingness to intervene. In this study, perceived normality refers to the extent to which such behaviours are

perceived as socially legitimate or morally acceptable, and contrasts it to the actual acting upon evaluation.

This research tests the feminist assumption that patriarchal norms may contribute to the normalization of male-perpetrated violence against women, i.e., that male aggression may be considered more acceptable and normal. The study expects that respondents' perceptions of the normality of violence against women will vary depending on the type of violence involved, the individuals involved, the victim's perception of the situation, and the victim's response. Specifically:

- **H1**: Respondents will be more likely to perceive the situations as more normal where the victim is a woman and the offender is a man, particularly when the victim does not respond, remains indifferent, and the violence is non-physical.

Similarly, the second hypothesis concerns willingness to intervene. This research tests the feminist assumption that patriarchal norms may shape such decisions by framing male aggression as more acceptable and thereby reducing the likelihood of intervention. The study expects that respondents' willingness to intervene will further vary depending on the severity of the interaction and the victim's response. Specifically:

- **H2**: Respondents will be less likely to intervene in situations where the victim is a woman and the offender is a man, particularly when the victim does not respond, remains indifferent, and the violence is non-physical.

In analysis we distinguish between perceived societal acceptance - the perception that a behaviour is conventionally accepted within society - and perceived normality - the extent to which respondents regard the behaviour as normal (e.g. morally acceptable). This distinction allows us to examine potential gaps between perceived societal norms and personal moral judgments.

3. VIGNETTE EXPERIMENT

The study relies on a vignette experiment, a method which is widely used to study intentions and perceptions (Auspurg and Hinz, 2015). The method consists of experimental manipulation of scenarios that are randomly administered to individuals. Each scenario contains multiple dimensions whose combinations make scenarios unique. Vignette experiment allows participants to feel comfortable when discussing sensitive issues (Ross et al., 2021) and it helps reduce social desirability in their responses (Cerdán-Torregrosa et al., 2023).

In the current experiment, vignette descriptions are made based on the combination of the features that prior literature considered important in perceiving gender-based violence and the subsequent

intention to intervene. The experimental design involves seven randomized dimensions. More specifically, we define the type of violence employed and the context in which it occurs. Regarding the type of violence, gender-based violence is a deliberately broad term, recognizing violence as sexual violence, physical, psychological or by other means (Bradbury-Jones et al., 2019). The current study focuses on more subtle and nuanced dynamics that are also recognized as GBV. To this end, we include four types of violence and one baseline condition. The baseline, "jokes with", does not represent violence itself, whereas the four types of violence reflect a gradient of explicitness, ranging from non-verbal to verbal and physical forms. These are: "looks threateningly at", "belittles", "shouts at", and "yanks". Regarding the context where the dynamic happens, previous studies indicate that a significant proportion of GBV occurs in private settings (Istat, 2025). Yet, violence also happens in public spaces and includes work environments. For this reason, we include three settings of the context in which it occurs: private, public and workplace.

The variables related to the individuals involved in the GBV incident refer to the gender of the victim and offender, and their relationship. Regarding the gender of the individuals involved, we include both men and women for each role. Although, historically, GBV has predominantly been viewed as an issue affecting heterosexual women, we go beyond the dichotomy of women as victims and men as offenders, including both genders as victim and offender. To signal gender in the vignettes, we used four common Italian names (Laura, Giovanni, Veronica, Pietro), avoiding foreign names to minimize prejudice and reduce the impact of overlapping dimensions. Regarding their relationship, data show that the most severe forms of violence are often perpetrated by partners, relatives, or friends (UNODC and UN Women, 2025). Hence, we include four types of relationships: acquaintance, friend, colleague, and partner, although these are not considered in the main analyses.

Finally, the variables related to the perceptions of the GBV incident include both how the victim seems to perceive and reacts to the incident. Both the victim's perception and reaction are essential conditions for interpreting an act as GBV. Indeed, when the victim perceives the behaviour as undesirable or actively reacts to it, the interaction is more likely to be identified as GBV by external observers (Carstensen, 2016). Hence, we include two types of victim perception: remains indifferent and is visibly uncomfortable. Conversely, if the victim appears indifferent or does not react, it becomes more difficult for observers to interpret the interaction as an instance of GBV. Therefore, we include two types of victim reaction: the victim does not say anything and states that what is happening is not appropriate. The analyses of this study rely on a selection of variables in line with the pre-registration.

The perceived normality of GBV and willingness to intervene are tested through two questions posed after each vignette. The first question refers to whether actions of the offender are conventionally

considered accepted for society as well as normal for respondents, on a 5-point scale from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree". These questions allow for a deeper examination of respondents' perceptions, what they think society perceive as accepted, and the difference between the two levels. As already mentioned, in this study, normalization is defined as the extent to which certain behaviours are perceived as socially legitimate or morally acceptable, distinguishing between societal acceptance (what is believed to be accepted by society) and perceived normality (what the individual personally considers normal). This distinction makes it possible to examine potential gaps between perceived social norms and personal moral judgments. The second question deepens in the conditions that could lead or not to intervene in a scenario. As previously described, respondents are asked whether they would intervene in the described scenario. In doing so, the study explores which characteristics of the behaviour and gender combinations influence this decision.

By combining seven attributes with their levels (see Table 1), a total of 960 combinations is included. Each respondent randomly receives four vignettes with randomized characteristics. The method used for allocation is random allocation of vignettes with replacement, which means that each respondent has a unique deck of scenarios, and that each feature can be drawn more than once. The main variables used in the current analysis are in Italics. The information on correlation matrix, and vignette related details are in the Supplementary Material (Tables S1–S4).

Table 1. Vignette's attributes and their levels.

Attributes	**Levels**
Context	You are at a dinner hosted at [victim]'s house with a few guests. Everyone is enjoying the evening, eating, drinking, and chatting.
	You are at work, and a team meeting is about to start in the office. All the components of the team are in presence and sit around a circular table.
	You are at the bar, drinking coffee at your table. Most of the clients are at the counter waiting for their orders, while others are sitting at the tables around the place.
Gender of the victim	*Laura (Female victim)*
	Giovanni (Male victim)
Gender of the offender	*Veronica (Female offender)*
	Pietro (Male offender)
Relationship between victim and offender	Acquaintance
	Friend
	Colleague
	Partner

Type of violence	*[offender] jokes with [victim]*
	[offender] looks threateningly at [victim]
	[offender] belittles [victim]
	[offender] shouts at [victim]
	[offender] yanks [victim]
Victim's perception	*[victim] is visibly uncomfortable*
	[victim] remains indifferent
Victim's reaction	*Does not say anything [offender]*
	States that what is happening is not appropriate to [offender]

Note: In Italics are the attributes that are used in the analysis.

4. DATA AND ANALYTICAL STRATEGY

The survey experiment on GBV perceptions is performed on 2000 participants as a part of a broader national cross-sectional survey (Computer Assisted online survey, CAWI) with 12000 respondents, targeting the population aged 18-70 and reflecting the entire Italian population according to gender, employment status, macro-region, age and level of education (Kulic et al., 2025). The survey relies on a non-probability sampling method known as quota sampling, with quotas related to age, gender, macro-region, education, and employment status. The descriptive statistics of the sample according to quota variables is given in Table 2.

Table 2. Descriptive analysis of the respondents across five quotas (N = 2,000).

Variable	**Freq.**	**Percent**	**Variable**	**Freq.**	**Percent**
Gender			*Education*		
Man	1,040	52.00	Low	634	31.70
Woman	958	47.90	Medium	882	44.10
Other	2	0.10	High	484	24.20
Age			*Employment status*		
18-24	209	10.45	Employed	1,163	58.15
25-34	320	16.00	Unemployed	171	8.55
35-44	380	19.00	Inactive	604	30.20
45-54	483	24.15	Other	62	3.10
55-64	438	21.90			
65-70	170	8.50			
Macro-region					
North-West	539	26.95			

North-East	374	18.70
Center	397	19.85
South and Islands	690	34.50

4.1 Analyses

The most straightforward identification strategy to address the research questions of this study and test the associated hypotheses is to estimate a linear regression model. The main equation is specified as follows:

$$y_{i,v} = \alpha + \beta X_{i,v} + \gamma Z_{i,v} + \eta_i + \varepsilon_{i,t}$$

where $y_{i,v}$ is the dependent variable, corresponding to individual i response to vignette v in relation to the following questions: 1a ("The action of [offender] in the scenario is conventionally accepted in our society"), 1c ("I would consider this situation normal"), and 2 ("If you were present in this scenario, would you intervene?"); $X_{i,v}$ is a vector of vignette-level characteristics — namely the context, type of violence, gender of the victim and offender, their relationship, the victim's perception, and the victim's reaction, as described in the previous subsection; $Z_{i,v}$ represents the individual-level socio-demographic characteristics as respondent level variables, such as gender, education, age, occupation, and region of residence. Since the vignette dimensions and individual characteristics are orthogonal by design, the inclusion of $Z_{i,v}$ does not bias the estimates of β. In line with our hypotheses, in our models, we analyze an interaction term between two or three vignette dimensions, which are part of $X_{i,v}$. The interpretation is straightforward: the coefficient of the interaction captures the heterogeneous effect across the multiple vignette dimensions (gender, type of violence, victim's perceptions and reaction).

Two key methodological issues need to be addressed. First, the data structure resembles a perfectly balanced panel: each respondent i evaluates four different vignettes v. To control unobserved individual heterogeneity, we estimate models including either individual random effects or fixed effects. The choice between these approaches hinges on the assumed correlation between the individual-specific component η and the covariates X and Z. In fixed effects models, this correlation may be arbitrary, while in random effects models it must be zero. However, only the random effects specification allows us to estimate the coefficients on Z, which are constant across vignettes for a given individual. Since Z and η are independent by construction in the experimental design, we take

the random effects model as our baseline specification. Importantly, results do not differ significantly when using fixed effects (see robustness checks in the Supplementary Material).

Second, the dependent variables are not continuous: questions 1a and 1c are measured on a 5-point Likert scale (from “strongly disagree” to “strongly agree”), while question 2 is binary. Although ordered or binary response models may be theoretically more appropriate, it is common practice to treat Likert scales as continuous variables, provided the interpretation of the coefficients remains consistent. Ordinary Least Squares models are computationally more tractable — particularly when including individual effects — and allow for greater flexibility in model specification (Angrist and Pischke, 2009). As for the dichotomous variable, the OLS model is commonly interpreted as a linear probability model, where the coefficients represent the marginal effect on the probability that the dependent variable takes the value 1.

Table S7a in the Supplementary Material reports estimates from several linear regression model specifications for one of the three dependent variables, ranging from the most general to the most parsimonious. Table S7b in the Supplementary Material presents the analogous estimates from non-linear models (see the Supplementary Material for further details). Results are consistent across specifications in terms of the sign and statistical significance of the coefficients, suggesting that the findings are robust. Based on this consistency and the ease of interpretation, we adopt the linear model with individual random effects and only vignette dimensions (column 4 of Table S7a in the Supplementary Material) as our baseline model (Auspurg and Hinz, 2015). Results from this model are reported in Tables 3a and 3b whereas models with three-way interactions between attributes are available in the Supplementary Material (Table S10). Moreover, the results concerning interactions are presented in the form of predicted values for combinations of multiple vignette dimensions. To limit the influence of social desirability bias on our results and fatigue effects, we conducted a robustness check using models based only on the first vignette for each respondent (see Tables S11 to S14 in the Supplementary Material). This specification yielded largely similar results, with some discrepancy in interaction effects for models of perceived normality regarding male victim-female offender violence.

Table 3a. Estimates from random-effects multilevel models with a respondent-level random intercept for perceived societal acceptance (M1 – M4) and normality of violence (M5 – M8) (n = 8,000): main effects of vignette attributes (M1 and M5) and interactions of offender–victim gender pairing with type of violence (M2 and M6), victim's perception (M3 and M7), and victim's reaction (M4 and M8).

	Perceived societal acceptance				**Perceived normality**			
	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8

Office (Ref: Bar)	-.013	-.014	-.013	-.014	.002	.002	.002	.002
	(.025)	(.025)	(.025)	(.025)	(.025)	(.025)	(.025)	(.025)
Dinner at home (Ref: Bar)	-.015	-.015	-.015	-.015	-.009	-.008	-.008	-.009
	(.025)	(.025)	(.025)	(.025)	(.025)	(.025)	(.025)	(.025)
Friend (Ref: Acquaintance)	.014	.014	.014	.014	-.001	-.002	-.001	-.001
	(.028)	(.028)	(.028)	(.028)	(.029)	(.029)	(.029)	(.029)
Colleague (Ref: Acquaintance)	.007	.007	.007	.007	-.011	-.012	-.011	-.011
	(.028)	(.028)	(.028)	(.028)	(.028)	(.028)	(.028)	(.028)
Partner (Ref: Acquaintance)	-.019	-.019	-.019	-.019	-.007	-.008	-.007	-.007
	(.028)	(.028)	(.028)	(.028)	(.028)	(.028)	(.028)	(.028)
Looks threateningly at (Ref: Jokes with)	-.294***	-.252***	-.294***	-.294***	-.397***	-.266***	-.397***	-.397***
	(.032)	(.063)	(.032)	(.032)	(.032)	(.063)	(.032)	(.032)
Belittles (Ref: Jokes with)	-.297***	-.308***	-.297***	-.297***	-.450***	-.408***	-.450***	-.451***
	(.032)	(.063)	(.032)	(.032)	(.032)	(.063)	(.032)	(.032)
Shouts at (Ref: Jokes with)	-.468***	-.444***	-.468***	-.468***	-.527***	-.451***	-.527***	-.527***
	(.032)	(.063)	(.032)	(.032)	(.032)	(.063)	(.032)	(.032)
Yanks (Ref: Jokes with)	-.522***	-.529***	-.522***	-.522***	-.558***	-.463***	-.558***	-.558***
	(.032)	(.063)	(.032)	(.032)	(.032)	(.063)	(.032)	(.032)
Is visibly uncomfortable (Ref: Remain indifferent)	-.076***	-.076***	-.060	-.076***	-.099***	-.100***	-.086**	-.099***
	(.020)	(.020)	(.040)	(.020)	(.020)	(.020)	(.041)	(.020)
Tells [offender] is not appropriate (Ref: Doesn't say anything)	-.030	-.030	-.030	-.037	.037*	.038*	.037*	.066
	(.020)	(.020)	(.020)	(.040)	(.020)	(.020)	(.020)	(.040)
Laura vs. Pietro (Ref: Laura vs. Veronica)	-.128***	-.030	-.102**	-.138***	-.275***	-.186***	-.262***	-.239***
	(.028)	(.063)	(.040)	(.040)	(.028)	(.063)	(.041)	(.040)
Giovanni vs. Veronica (Ref: Laura vs. Veronica)	.020	.008	.028	-.008	-.027	.021	-.032	-.019
	(.028)	(.063)	(.040)	(.040)	(.028)	(.063)	(.040)	(.040)
Giovanni vs. Pietro (Ref: Laura vs. Veronica)	.008	-.041	.007	.034	-.014	.122*	.005	.000
	(.028)	(.063)	(.040)	(.040)	(.028)	(.063)	(.040)	(.040)
Looks threateningly at × Laura vs. Pietro		-.181**				-.191**		
		(.090)				(.090)		

Looks threateningly at × Giovanni vs. Veronica	.018				-.072		
	(.089)				(.089)		
Looks threateningly at × Giovanni vs. Pietro	-.003				-.261***		
	(.089)				(.089)		
Belittles × Laura vs. Pietro	-.087				-.009		
	(.089)				(.090)		
Belittles × Giovanni vs. Veronica	.039				-.050		
	(.089)				(.089)		
Belittles × Giovanni vs. Pietro	.093				-.109		
	(.090)				(.090)		
Shouts at × Laura vs. Pietro	-.044				-.069		
	(.090)				(.090)		
Shouts at × Giovanni vs. Veronica	-.075				-.100		
	(.089)				(.090)		
Shouts at × Giovanni vs. Pietro	.021				-.135		
	(.090)				(.090)		
Yanks × Laura vs. Pietro	-.185**				-.184**		
	(.089)				(.090)		
Yanks × Giovanni vs. Veronica	.079				-.016		
	(.089)				(.090)		
Yanks × Giovanni vs. Pietro	.134				-.175*		
	(.089)				(.089)		
Is visibly uncomfortable × Laura vs. Pietro		-.051				-.026	
		(.057)				(.058)	
Is visibly uncomfortable × Giovanni vs. Veronica		-.015				.010	
		(.057)				(.057)	
Is visibly uncomfortable × Giovanni vs. Pietro		.003				-.038	
		(.057)				(.057)	
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Laura vs. Pietro			.020				-.071
			(.057)				(.057)

Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Giovanni vs. Veronica				.058				-.015
				(.057)				(.057)
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Giovanni vs. Pietro				-.051				-.028
				(.057)				(.057)
Constant	3.244***	3.235***	3.235***	3.247***	2.991***	2.923***	2.984***	2.977***
	(.041)	(.054)	(.045)	(.045)	(.042)	(.055)	(.046)	(.046)
Observations	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Number of groups	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000

Standard errors in parentheses

*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Note: The dependent variables are "*The action of [offender] in the scenario is conventionally accepted in our society*" and "*I would consider this situation as normal"*. The female victim is Laura, while the male victim is Giovanni. The female offender is Veronica, while the male offender is Pietro.

Table 3b. Estimates from random-effects multilevel models with a respondent-level random intercept for willingness to intervene (n = 8,000): main effects of vignette attributes (M1) and interactions of offender–victim gender pairing with type of violence (M2), victim's perception (M3), and victim's reaction (M4).

	Willingness to intervene			
	M1	M2	M3	M4
Office (Ref: Bar)	.113***	.113***	.113***	.113***
	(.011)	(.011)	(.011)	(.011)
Dinner at home (Ref: Bar)	.127***	.127***	.126***	.127***
	(.011)	(.011)	(.011)	(.011)
Friend (Ref: Acquaintance)	.001	.001	.001	.001
	(.013)	(.013)	(.013)	(.013)
Colleague (Ref: Acquaintance)	.016	.016	.016	.016
	(.013)	(.013)	(.013)	(.013)
Partner (Ref: Acquaintance)	-.048***	-.048***	-.048***	-.048***
	(.013)	(.013)	(.013)	(.013)
Looks threateningly at (Ref: Jokes with)	.091***	.056**	.091***	.091***
	(.014)	(.029)	(.014)	(.014)
Belittles (Ref: Jokes with)	.200***	.208***	.200***	.200***
	(.014)	(.028)	(.014)	(.014)
Shouts at (Ref: Jokes with)	.196***	.203***	.196***	.196***
	(.014)	(.029)	(.014)	(.014)
Yanks (Ref: Jokes with)	.227***	.253***	.227***	.227***
	(.014)	(.028)	(.014)	(.014)
Is visibly uncomfortable (Ref: Remain indifferent)	.081***	.081***	.066***	.081***
	(.009)	(.009)	(.018)	(.009)

Tells [offender] is not appropriate (Ref: Doesn't say anything)	.001	.001	.001	-.016
	(.009)	(.009)	(.009)	(.018)
Laura vs. Pietro (Ref: Laura vs. Veronica)	.092***	.080***	.072***	.067***
	(.013)	(.028)	(.018)	(.018)
Giovanni vs. Veronica (Ref: Laura vs. Veronica)	-.048***	-.058**	-.053***	-.058***
	(.013)	(.028)	(.018)	(.018)
Giovanni vs. Pietro (Ref: Laura vs. Veronica)	-.012	.018	-.018	-.010
	(.013)	(.029)	(.018)	(.018)
Looks threateningly at × Laura vs. Pietro		.067		
		(.041)		
Looks threateningly at × Giovanni vs. Veronica		.057		
		(.040)		
Looks threateningly at × Giovanni vs. Pietro		.012		
		(.040)		
Belittles × Laura vs. Pietro		-.018		
		(.040)		
Belittles × Giovanni vs. Veronica		.025		
		(.040)		
Belittles × Giovanni vs. Pietro		-.044		
		(.041)		
Shouts at × Laura vs. Pietro		.016		
		(.040)		
Shouts at × Giovanni vs. Veronica		.007		
		(.040)		
Shouts at × Giovanni vs. Pietro		-.050		
		(.040)		
Yanks × Laura vs. Pietro		-.001		
		(.040)		
Yanks × Giovanni vs. Veronica		-.044		
		(.040)		
Yanks × Giovanni vs. Pietro		-.065		
		(.040)		
Is visibly uncomfortable × Laura vs. Pietro			.040	
			(.026)	
Is visibly uncomfortable × Giovanni vs. Veronica			.009	
			(.026)	
Is visibly uncomfortable × Giovanni vs. Pietro			.012	
			(.026)	
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Laura vs. Pietro				.051**
				(.026)

Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Giovanni vs. Veronica				.020
				(.026)
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Giovanni vs. Pietro				-.003
				(.026)
Constant	.286***	.285***	.294***	.295***
	(.019)	(.024)	(.020)	(.020)
Observations	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Number of groups	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000

Standard errors in parentheses

*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Note: The dependent variable is "*If you were present in this scenario, would you intervene?*". The female victim is Laura, while the male victim is Giovanni. The female offender is Veronica, while the male offender is Pietro.

5. DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSES AND RESULTS

Table 4 presents the descriptive statistics for the dependent variables for this study. The mean for the societal acceptance of the action depicted in the vignette, captured through the question "*The action of [offender] in the scenario is conventionally accepted in our society*", is 2.84. The mean for the individual normality of the action depicted in the vignette, captured through the question "*I would consider this situation as normal*" is 2.49, slightly lower compared to the societal acceptance. Further, in half of the vignette evaluations (55%), respondents affirmed that they would intervene in the scenarios depicted and, among them, 56% stated that they would do so by talking to the [offender].

Table 4. Descriptive analysis of the dependent variables (n = 8,000).

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
The action of [offender] in the scenario is conventionally accepted in our society.	2.84	1.06	11.93% 954	24.93% 1,994	34.62% 2,770	24.14% 1,931	4.39% 351
I would consider this situation as normal.	2.49	1.12	23.21% 1,857	28.00% 2,240	29.19% 2,335	15.90% 1,272	3.70% 296

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.	Yes	No
If you were present in this scenario, would you intervene?	.55	.5	55.01% 4,401	44.99% 3,599

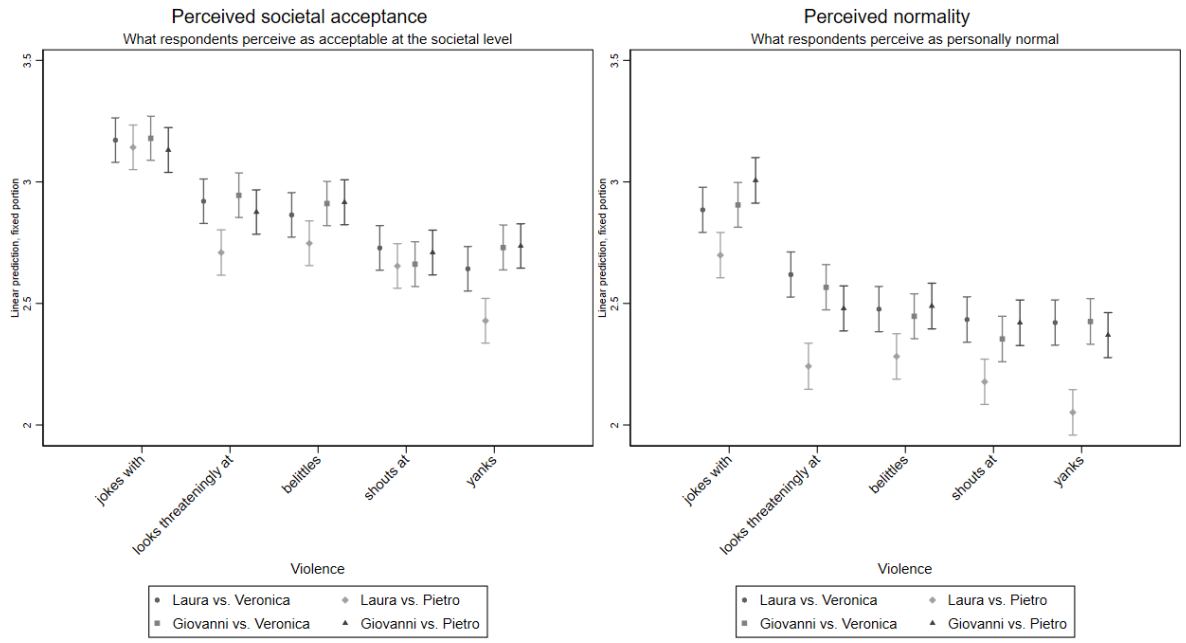
5.1 How does gender pairing of the victim and offender shape the perceived acceptance and normality in cases of GBV?

According to the feminist perspective, the gender of the victim and of the offender are a central component in the GBV scenarios. The general expectation was that respondents would be more likely to perceive the scenarios as more normal when the offender is a man and the victim is a woman.

Figure 1 presents the predicted values of what respondents perceive to be societally acceptable and individually normal regarding the behaviour depicted in the scenarios, focusing on the interaction between the type of violence and the gender of both victim and offender.

Figure 1. Predicted values of the *perceived societal acceptance* and *perceived normality* of the action depicted in the scenario by the interaction between the type of violence employed and the gender of the victim along with their 95% confidence intervals from the random effect regression (n=8,000)**.**

Alt text: Two panels of dot plots with 95% confidence intervals showing predicted perceived societal acceptance (left) and perceived normality (right), on a 1–5 scale, for five types of behaviour (jokes with, looks threateningly at, belittles, shouts at, yanks) by four victim–offender gender pairings. Scores decrease from joking to yanking, and pairings with a male offender and female victim show the lowest values.



Note: The dependent variables are "*The action of [offender] in the scenario is conventionally accepted in our society*" and "*I would consider this situation as normal"*. The results refer to Models 2 and 6 in Table 3a, which includes only vignette's dimensions. The female victim is Laura, while the male victim is Giovanni. The female offender is Veronica, while the male offender is Pietro.

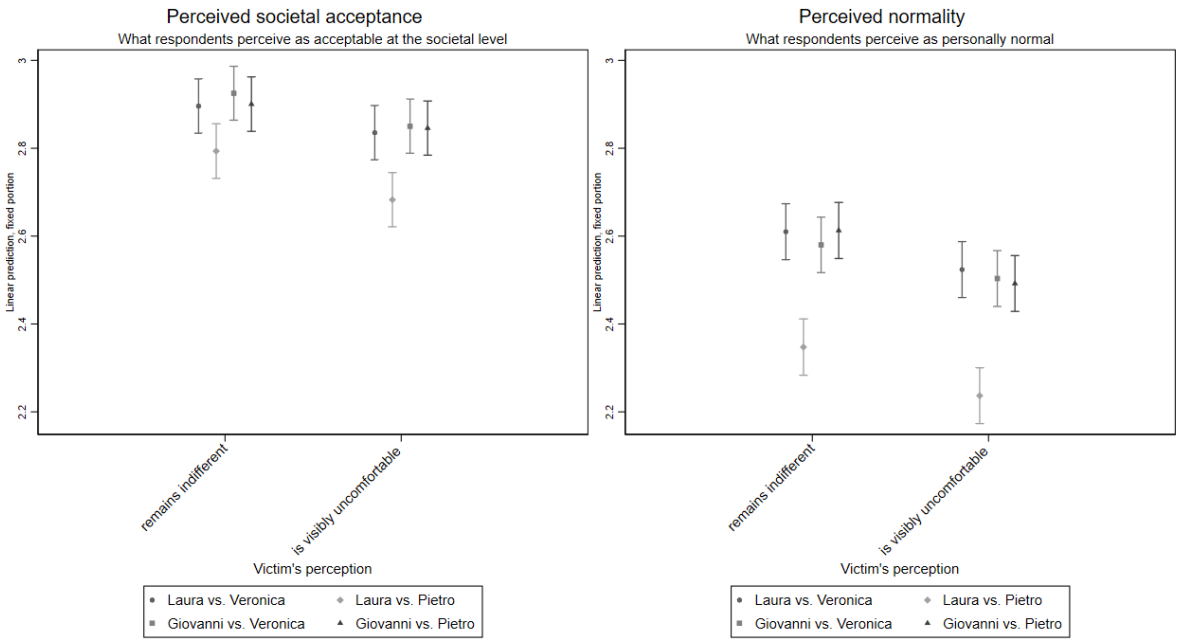
The results for perceived societal acceptance show that a gender pattern emerges particularly in the case of "looks threateningly" and "yanks" (Figure 1 on the left). When the man is the offender and the woman is a victim, this is considered less societally acceptable by 0.13 points compared to the reference situation of having two women as the offender and the victim or any other gender pairing.

Specifically, when the victim is a woman and the offender is a man, the evaluation is significantly lower in the cases of looking threatening at (-0.18, $p<0.05$) and yanking (-0.18, $p<0.05$) compared to all other gender pairings. However, no significant differences between different pairings are observed in the cases of "jokes with", "belittles", and "shouts at" which are considered examples of verbal violence. For what they perceive to be normal for them (Figure 1 on the right), the same general pattern is found although the scores are on average lower (e.g. less normal) in comparison to perceived societal acceptance, and the difference between pairings are more pronounced. Again, respondents consistently evaluate behaviours as less normal when the victim is a woman and when the offender is a man than in any other pairings across all forms of violence. Yet, when the victim is a woman and the offender is a man, the evaluation is significantly lower in cases of looking threateningly (-0.19, $p<0.05$) and yanking (-0.18, $p<0.05$), but this is also the case when two men appear in pairing for looking threateningly (-0.26, $p<0.01$) and yanking (-0.18, $p<0.1$) in comparison to the pairing of two women. Interestingly, there is significant gender difference in what concerns joking too, which is evaluated as less normal between male offender and female victim than in any other scenario, and particularly between two men (Figure 1). The effects range from 0.1 to 0.2 standard deviations, indicating modest effect sizes.

Further, Figure 2 and Figure 3 examine how what respondents perceive to be societally acceptable and individually normal varies depending on the interaction between (a) the victim's perception and gender of the victim and offender, and (b) the victim's reaction and gender of the victim and offender.

Figure 2. Predicted values of the *perceived societal acceptance* and *perceived normality* of the action depicted in the scenario by the interaction between the victim's perception and the gender of the victim and offender along with their 95% confidence intervals from the random effect regression (n=8,000).

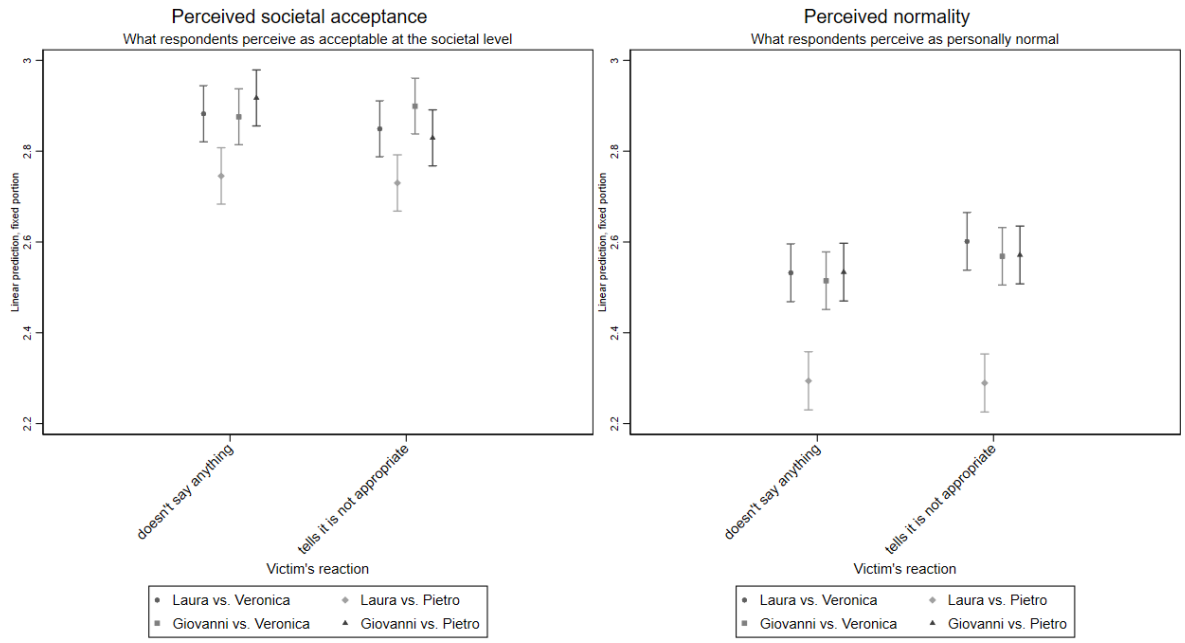
Alt text: Two panels of dot plots with 95% confidence intervals showing predicted perceived societal acceptance (left) and perceived normality (right), on a 1–5 scale, for two types of victim's perception (remains indifferent, is visibly uncomfortable) by four victim–offender gender pairings. Scores remain quite stable across pairing, except when the male is the offender and the female the victim which show the lowest values.



Note: The dependent variables are "*The action of [offender] in the scenario is conventionally accepted in our society*" and "*I would consider this situation as normal"*. The results refer to Models 3 and 7 of Table 3a, which includes only vignette's dimensions. The female victim is Laura, while the male victim is Giovanni. The female offender is Veronica, while the male offender is Pietro.

Figure 3. Predicted values of the *perceived societal acceptance* and *perceived normality* of the action depicted in the scenario by the victim's reaction and the gender of the victim and offender along with their 95% confidence intervals from the random effect regression (n=8,000).

Alt text: Two panels of dot plots with 95% confidence intervals showing predicted perceived societal acceptance (left) and perceived normality (right), on a 1–5 scale, for two types of victim's reactions (doesn't say anything, tells it is not appropriate) by four victim–offender gender pairings. Scores by the type of reaction remain quite stable across pairing.



Note: The dependent variables are "*The action of [offender] in the scenario is conventionally accepted in our society*" and "*I would consider this situation as normal"*. The results refer to Models 4 and 8 of Table 3a, which includes only vignette's dimensions. The female victim is Laura, while the male victim is Giovanni. The female offender is Veronica, while the male offender is Pietro.

Specifically, Figure 2 presents the interactions between victim's perception and the gender pairing of the victim and offender in the assessment of what respondents perceive to be societally acceptable (on the left) and individually normal (on the right). The type of perception does not seem to moderate the previously established gender difference. In both conditions (i.e., "remains indifferent" and "is visibly uncomfortable"), respondents evaluate the scenarios as less acceptable or normal when the victim is a woman and the offender is a man, with no significant differences depending on the type of perception. Figure 3, instead, reports the interactions between the victim's reaction and the gender pairing of the victim and offender in respondents' perceptions of societal acceptability (on the left) and individual normality (on the right). The type of reaction does not appear to moderate the established gender difference in perceived societal acceptability. In both reaction conditions (i.e., when the victim "doesn't say anything" and when the victim "tells [the offender] it is not appropriate"), respondents perceive the scenarios as least acceptable when the victim is a woman and the offender is a man. Although the gap in perceived normality appears descriptively somewhat larger when the victim explicitly states that the behaviour is not appropriate, the corresponding interaction terms are not statistically significant.

Overall, the results show the opposite pattern to H1, as scenarios involving a male offender and a female victim are evaluated as less, not more, acceptable and normal than any other gender pairing.

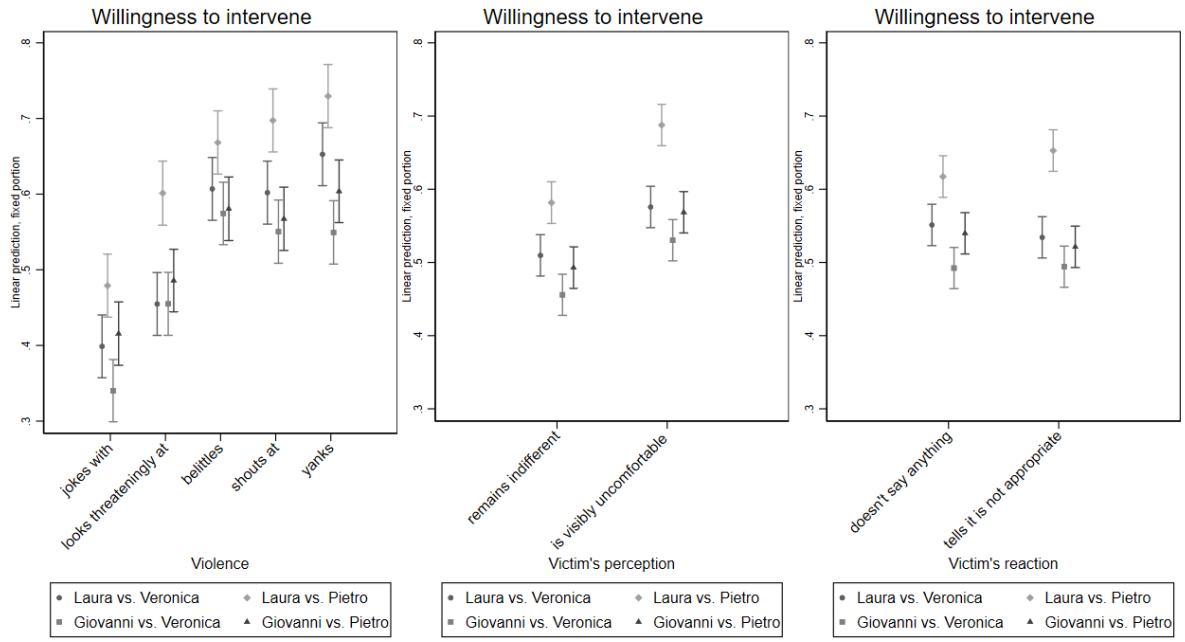
We also hypothesized that this difference would be strongest for non-physical violence, when the violence is not perceived and when the reaction is not present. However, the results are less clear-cut, as yanking still elicits the strongest reaction in the opposite direction, alongside what we considered a milder form of non-verbal physical violence, such as looking threateningly at someone. Also, the gender patterns in perceptions of violence remain rather stable independent of the victim's perception and reaction.

5.2 Does gender pairing of the victim and offender influence willingness to Intervene in GBV?

As with the evaluation of perceived normality, we also developed gender-related hypotheses regarding the willingness to intervene. Figure 4 reports the predicted likelihood of intervening, examining interactions between (a) type of violence and gender pairing, (b) victim's perception and gender pairing, and (c) victim's reaction and gender pairing.

Figure 4. Predicted values of the *willingness to intervene* depicted in the scenario by the type of violence and by the interaction between the type of violence employed and the gender of the victim and the offender, by the interaction between the victim's perception and the gender of the victim and offender, and by the victim's reaction and the gender of the victim and offender along with their 95% confidence intervals from the random effect regression (n=8,000)**.**

Alt text: Three panels of dot plots with 95% confidence intervals showing predicted willingness to intervene, on a 0–1 scale, for five types of behaviour (jokes with, looks threateningly at, belittles, shouts at, yanks) (left), for two types of victim's perception (remains indifferent, is visibly uncomfortable) (centre), and for two types of victim's reactions (doesn't say anything, tells it is not appropriate) by four victim–offender gender pairings (right). Scores increase from joking to yanking, and pairings with a male offender and female victim show the highest values. For victim's perception and reaction, the scores remain quite stable across pairing, except when the male is the offender and the female the victim which show the highest values.



Note: The dependent variable is "*If you were present in this scenario, would you intervene?*". The results refer to Models 2, 3 and 4 of Table 3b, which includes only vignette's dimensions. The female victim is Laura, while the male victim is Giovanni. The female offender is Veronica, while the male offender is Pietro.

We find that, regardless of the violence described, respondents are more likely to intervene when the victim is a woman and the offender is a man (0.09, $p<0.01$), and less likely to intervene when the victim is a man and the offender is a woman (-0.05, $p<0.01$) compared to all the other combinations. Although the gap appears larger for some behaviours, such as looking threateningly, none of the interactions between gender pairing and type of violence is statistically significant. Similarly, the gender difference in the willingness to intervene is more pronounced when the victim is visibly uncomfortable compared to being indifferent, but this difference is not statistically significant. Differently, the reaction of victim is found to moderate significantly the gender difference when the victim tells the offender that the behaviour is not appropriate increasing the willingness to intervene. In such situation, the probability to intervene increases by 5 percentage points when the offender is a man and a victim is a woman. As with perceived societal acceptance and perceived normality, the effect sizes in these models are relatively modest, although their direction (Ermer et al., 2021) and size (Kuijpers et al., 2021) are consistent with the existing literature on the determinants of perceptions.

The results contradict H2, derived from a feminist perspective, as the respondents are more, not less, willing to intervene when the victim is a woman and the offender is a man. H2 also expected this gap to be strongest for non -verbal violence, or when the victim does not react and remains indifferent, which is not confirmed.

6. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The present study examined which behaviours are perceived as normal and which situations elicit a willingness to intervene in cases of gender-based violence (GBV), using a vignette-based survey experiment with 2,000 respondents in Italy. By integrating feminist theory (Dobash et al., 1992), theories of normalization processes (May and Finch, 2009), and bystander intervention models (Latané and Darley, 1970; Weitzman et al., 2020), the study provides an integrated framework for examining how the characteristics of GBV situations shape perceived societal acceptance, perceived normality and individuals' willingness to intervene.

More specifically, the study investigated how the characteristics of the behaviour, the individuals involved, and the broader context shape perceptions of GBV and willingness to intervene, with particular attention to the gender of the victim and offender. While previous research has largely focused on clearly identifiable forms of violence, this study extends the analysis to include both "grey-zone" situations, such as subtle non-verbal and verbal behaviours, and physical acts in which the meaning and seriousness of the behaviour may be open to competing interpretations (Carstensen, 2016). Given the limited empirical attention devoted to such situations (e.g., Carstensen, 2016; Goh et al., 2022), the study contributes to the literature by providing evidence on how ambiguity may shape evaluations of GBV.

The findings provide limited support for the expectations derived from a feminist perspective. H1 expected that scenarios involving a male offender and a female victim would be evaluated as more acceptable and normal than any other gender pairing. Instead, the findings indicate that violence perpetrated by men against women is generally evaluated more negatively than violence perpetrated by women against men, in line with previous empirical research (Harris and Cook, 1994; Archer, 2000; Seelau and Seelau, 2005; Cormier and Woodworth, 2008; Rhatigan et al., 2011). This pattern is consistent with evidence suggesting that male-perpetrated violence tends to be perceived as more severe, injurious, and serious (Harris and Cook, 1994; Archer, 2000), while male victims may be perceived as less legitimate victims of violence than female victims (Kuijpers et al., 2021). One possible interpretation of our findings is therefore that respondents' evaluations reflect a prototypical representation of GBV. In other words, violence against women perpetrated by men may be more readily recognized as constituting "gender-based violence" precisely because it corresponds more closely to dominant representations of the phenomenon. Further, H1 expected the gender gap to be strongest in the most ambiguous conditions, such as non-physical violence and when the victim remains indifferent or does not react. This expectation is only partly reflected in the data. The gap was instead more pronounced for non-verbal physical behaviours, such as looking threateningly, but

also for the most explicit physical behaviours, such as yanking. Moreover, this pattern does not vary significantly with the victim's perception or reaction.

The findings concerning willingness to intervene provide a complementary perspective. The majority of vignette evaluations reported that they would intervene in the scenarios presented. However, willingness to intervene varied substantially according to the circumstantial characteristics of the situation. Contrary to our expectations (H2), respondents were not significantly less likely to report a willingness to intervene when the victim was a woman and the offender was a man. Neither the type of violence nor the victim's perception significantly moderated this gap, whereas the victim's reaction did, although not robustly across specifications. The result is however consistent with some previous research suggesting that bystanders may be more likely to intervene when the victim is female than when the victim is male (Bethke and DeJoy, 1993; Chabot et al., 2018). As in the case of perceived normality, one possible explanation is that intervention decisions may be influenced by prototypical representations of GBV. Gendered assumptions that construct women as more vulnerable and men as more capable of coping with aggression may increase the perceived need to protect female victims. Thus, greater willingness to intervene in situations involving female victims may also reflect perceptions of vulnerability and protection.

An additional contribution of the study is its distinction between perceived societal acceptance and individual assessments of the normality of situations. The results suggest that these two levels of evaluation do not necessarily coincide. What individuals perceive as socially tolerated does not necessarily correspond to what they personally regard as acceptable, and this distinction may be particularly important in grey-zone situations. Indeed, individual judgments were more sensitive to the ambiguity inherent in certain forms of violence and were stricter, consistent with research showing that the interpretation of ambiguous behaviours depends on how the behaviour is experienced and understood by an individual (McDonald, 2012; Montesanti, 2015; Carstensen, 2016). The sensitivity to gender violence was more pronounced in individual perception of normality than perceived societal acceptance. Distinguishing between perceptions of what “people in general” would consider acceptable and respondents' own evaluations therefore provides a more nuanced understanding of normalization processes.

These findings also have potential implications for GBV prevention. The relatively high level of recognition of problematic behaviours and willingness to intervene observed in some scenarios may partly reflect increasing public awareness of GBV, potentially reinforced by media coverage and awareness-raising campaigns.

Finally, these findings are presented in the context of some limitations. First, the sample is a non-probability quota sample on individuals aged 18-70, which does not guarantee representativeness on unobserved characteristics. For this reason, generalization to the wider population should nonetheless be made with caution. Second, although vignette experiments are found to mitigate social desirability bias (Cerdán-Torregrosa et al., 2023), they do not eliminate it. The tendency to evaluate as less acceptable the scenarios involving a woman as victim and a man as offender might mirror it. Third, by research design, our experiment was fully randomized and, as a result, it might have generated scenarios that may be perceived as incoherent (for instance, "remains indifferent" together "states it's not appropriate"). Fourth, stated willingness to intervene should not be interpreted as equivalent to actual intervention. The gap between hypothetical preferences and behaviour in real-life situations remains an important issue, particularly because intervention decisions may be affected by fear, uncertainty, emotional responses, perceived social costs, and the presence or absence of other bystanders (Ajzen and Fishbein, 2000). Future research should therefore investigate whether the patterns identified in hypothetical scenarios are reproduced in more behaviourally realistic settings. Yet, our study provides a foundation for future research on the social mechanisms that sustain or challenge GBV and on how interventions and awareness campaigns might be designed to strengthen both the recognition of harmful behaviours and effective bystander action for all genders involved.

Data availability

The data generated and analysed in this study are currently under institutional embargo and are not publicly available. Data access may be granted on a case-by-case basis for academic research purposes. Requests should be directed to the corresponding author. The code and materials needed to reproduce the analyses will be deposited in a public repository.

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SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL – GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN THE GREY ZONE: PERCEPTIONS AND WILLINGNESS TO INTERVENE

Table S1. Gender-based violence module: vignette description and examples, and follow-up questions.

Before the vignette:
Imagine, hypothetically, you are present and observing the following scenario:

Vignette structure:
[Context]. Among those present is [offender], who is a [relationship] of [victim]. While you are there, [offender] [Type of violence]. From what you can see, [Victim's perception of what happened] and [Victim's reaction].

Vignette example:
You are at a dinner hosted at Laura's house with a few guests. Everyone is enjoying the evening, eating, drinking, and chatting. Among them is Pietro, who is an acquaintance of Laura. While you are there, Pietro gives Laura a threatening look. From what you can see, Laura is visibly uncomfortable and does not say anything to Pietro.

After each vignette:

1. Could you please rate on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means "Strongly disagree" and 5 means "Strongly agree", how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

	Strongly disagree	Rather disagree	Neither disagree nor agree	Rather agree	Strongly agree
The action of [offender] in the scenario is conventionally accepted in our society.					
The reaction of [victim] in the scenario is rather normal in our society.					
I would consider this situation as normal.					

2. If you were present in this scenario, would you intervene?
   a) Yes
   b) No

[Q2 = Yes]

3. How would you intervene?
   a) By calling the police
   b) By intervening physically
   c) By talking to the [offender]
   d) By talking to the [victim]
   e) By gossiping
   f) By escorting the [offender] out

After the vignettes / out of the loop

4. In the past year, have you or someone you know been subjected to any of the following situations?

	Yes	No	I do not know	I don't want to answer
Domestic violence or abuse.				

Economic violence, such as denying access to money or banning attendance at school or work.				
Psychological violence by his/her partner, such as acts, words, threats and intimidation used as a tool of coercion and oppression				

5. In the past year, have you or someone you know been subjected to the following situations while carrying out your work?

	Yes	No	I do not know	I don't want to answer
Verbal abuse				
Unwanted sexual attention				
Threats				
Humiliating behaviour				
Physical violence				
Sexual harassment				
Bullying / harassment				

6. On a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means "Very rare" and 5 means "Very common," how common or rare do you think these types of violence are in Italy?

	Very rare	Rare	Neither rare nor common	Common	Very common
Violence against women due to their gender.					
Violence against men due to their gender.					
Violence against the LGTBQIA+ community due to their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.					

Table S2. Correlation matrix of the vignette dimensions.

	Context	Victim	Offender	Relationship	Type of violence	Victim's perception	Victim's reaction
Context	1.000						
Victim	-.001	1.000					
Offender	.005	-.001	1.000				
Relationship	.002	.004	.002	1.000			
Type of violence	-.003	-.002	-.004	-.004	1.0000		
Victim's perception	-.004	-.002	-.001	-.003	-.002	1.000	
Victim's reaction	.001	-.002	.003	.001	-.005	.001	1.000

Table S3. Distributions of all vignette levels (n=8,000).

Attributes	Levels	n	%
Context	Bar	2,649	33.11
	Office	2,682	33.52
	Dinner at home	2,669	33.36
Victim	Laura	3,987	49.84
	Giovanni	4,013	50.16
Offender	Pietro	3,984	49.80
	Veronica	4,016	50.20
Relationship	Acquaintance	2,002	25.02

	Friend	1,991	24.89
	Colleague	2,009	25.11
	Partner	1,998	24.98
Type of violence	Jokes with	1,612	20.15
	Looks threateningly at	1,597	19.96
	Belittles	1,601	20.01
	Shouts at	1,592	19.90
	Yanks	1,598	19.98
Victim's perception	Remains indifferent	3,992	49.90
	Is visibly uncomfortable	4,008	50.10
Victim's reaction	Doesn't say anything	3,992	49.90
	Tells [offender] is not appropriate	4,008	50.10

Note: The female victim is Laura, while the male victim is Giovanni. The female offender is Veronica, while the male offender is Pietro.

Table S4. Number of visualizations for each vignette (n=8,000).

	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
1	8	0.10	0.10
2	9	0.11	0.21
3	9	0.11	0.32
4	8	0.10	0.42
5	9	0.11	0.54
6	9	0.11	0.65
7	8	0.10	0.75
8	9	0.11	0.86
9	7	0.09	0.95
10	8	0.10	1.05
11	8	0.10	1.15
12	9	0.11	1.26
13	8	0.10	1.36
14	9	0.11	1.48
15	8	0.10	1.58
16	8	0.10	1.68
17	9	0.11	1.79
18	8	0.10	1.89
19	9	0.11	2.00
20	8	0.10	2.10
21	8	0.10	2.20
22	8	0.10	2.30
23	9	0.11	2.41
24	9	0.11	2.53
25	8	0.10	2.63
26	8	0.10	2.73
27	8	0.10	2.83
28	10	0.12	2.95
29	8	0.10	3.05
30	8	0.10	3.15
31	9	0.11	3.26
32	8	0.10	3.36
33	9	0.11	3.48
34	8	0.10	3.58
35	8	0.10	3.68
36	8	0.10	3.78
37	9	0.11	3.89
38	9	0.11	4.00
39	8	0.10	4.10
40	9	0.11	4.21
41	9	0.11	4.33

42	9	0.11	4.44
43	8	0.10	4.54
44	8	0.10	4.64
45	8	0.10	4.74
46	9	0.11	4.85
47	8	0.10	4.95
48	9	0.11	5.06
49	8	0.10	5.16
50	9	0.11	5.27
51	8	0.10	5.37
52	9	0.11	5.49
53	8	0.10	5.59
54	8	0.10	5.69
55	8	0.10	5.79
56	8	0.10	5.89
57	8	0.10	5.99
58	9	0.11	6.10
59	8	0.10	6.20
60	8	0.10	6.30
61	8	0.10	6.40
62	8	0.10	6.50
63	8	0.10	6.60
64	8	0.10	6.70
65	8	0.10	6.80
66	8	0.10	6.90
67	8	0.10	7.00
68	8	0.10	7.10
69	8	0.10	7.20
70	9	0.11	7.31
71	8	0.10	7.41
72	8	0.10	7.51
73	8	0.10	7.61
74	8	0.10	7.71
75	8	0.10	7.81
76	8	0.10	7.91
77	9	0.11	8.02
78	8	0.10	8.12
79	8	0.10	8.22
80	8	0.10	8.32
81	8	0.10	8.42
82	8	0.10	8.52
83	11	0.14	8.66
84	9	0.11	8.77
85	9	0.11	8.89
86	8	0.10	8.99
87	9	0.11	9.10
88	9	0.11	9.21
89	8	0.10	9.31
90	8	0.10	9.41
91	8	0.10	9.51
92	8	0.10	9.61
93	8	0.10	9.71
94	8	0.10	9.81
95	9	0.11	9.92
96	8	0.10	10.02
97	9	0.11	10.14
98	8	0.10	10.24

99	8	0.10	10.34
100	9	0.11	10.45
101	9	0.11	10.56
102	8	0.10	10.66
103	8	0.10	10.76
104	8	0.10	10.86
105	8	0.10	10.96
106	8	0.10	11.06
107	9	0.11	11.17
108	9	0.11	11.29
109	8	0.10	11.39
110	8	0.10	11.49
111	9	0.11	11.60
112	9	0.11	11.71
113	8	0.10	11.81
114	8	0.10	11.91
115	9	0.11	12.02
116	8	0.10	12.12
117	9	0.11	12.24
118	8	0.10	12.34
119	8	0.10	12.44
120	8	0.10	12.54
121	9	0.11	12.65
122	8	0.10	12.75
123	8	0.10	12.85
124	8	0.10	12.95
125	9	0.11	13.06
126	9	0.11	13.17
127	9	0.11	13.29
128	9	0.11	13.40
129	8	0.10	13.50
130	8	0.10	13.60
131	8	0.10	13.70
132	9	0.11	13.81
133	8	0.10	13.91
134	8	0.10	14.01
135	8	0.10	14.11
136	8	0.10	14.21
137	8	0.10	14.31
138	8	0.10	14.41
139	8	0.10	14.51
140	8	0.10	14.61
141	8	0.10	14.71
142	8	0.10	14.81
143	8	0.10	14.91
144	8	0.10	15.01
145	8	0.10	15.11
146	9	0.11	15.22
147	8	0.10	15.32
148	8	0.10	15.42
149	9	0.11	15.54
150	9	0.11	15.65
151	8	0.10	15.75
152	9	0.11	15.86
153	9	0.11	15.97
154	8	0.10	16.07
155	8	0.10	16.17

156	8	0.10	16.27
157	8	0.10	16.37
158	8	0.10	16.47
159	9	0.11	16.59
160	8	0.10	16.69
161	8	0.10	16.79
162	8	0.10	16.89
163	8	0.10	16.99
164	9	0.11	17.10
165	8	0.10	17.20
166	9	0.11	17.31
167	8	0.10	17.41
168	8	0.10	17.51
169	8	0.10	17.61
170	9	0.11	17.73
171	8	0.10	17.83
172	9	0.11	17.94
173	9	0.11	18.05
174	8	0.10	18.15
175	8	0.10	18.25
176	8	0.10	18.35
177	8	0.10	18.45
178	8	0.10	18.55
179	8	0.10	18.65
180	8	0.10	18.75
181	8	0.10	18.85
182	8	0.10	18.95
183	8	0.10	19.05
184	8	0.10	19.15
185	9	0.11	19.26
186	8	0.10	19.36
187	9	0.11	19.48
188	8	0.10	19.58
189	9	0.11	19.69
190	8	0.10	19.79
191	8	0.10	19.89
192	9	0.11	20.00
193	8	0.10	20.10
194	11	0.14	20.24
195	8	0.10	20.34
196	9	0.11	20.45
197	8	0.10	20.55
198	8	0.10	20.65
199	8	0.10	20.75
200	8	0.10	20.85
201	8	0.10	20.95
202	9	0.11	21.06
203	8	0.10	21.16
204	8	0.10	21.26
205	8	0.10	21.36
206	9	0.11	21.48
207	8	0.10	21.58
208	8	0.10	21.68
209	8	0.10	21.78
210	9	0.11	21.89
211	8	0.10	21.99
212	8	0.10	22.09

213	9	0.11	22.20
214	8	0.10	22.30
215	8	0.10	22.40
216	8	0.10	22.50
217	9	0.11	22.61
218	8	0.10	22.71
219	8	0.10	22.81
220	8	0.10	22.91
221	8	0.10	23.01
222	8	0.10	23.11
223	8	0.10	23.21
224	8	0.10	23.31
225	8	0.10	23.41
226	8	0.10	23.51
227	9	0.11	23.63
228	8	0.10	23.73
229	8	0.10	23.83
230	9	0.11	23.94
231	9	0.11	24.05
232	8	0.10	24.15
233	9	0.11	24.26
234	8	0.10	24.36
235	8	0.10	24.46
236	9	0.11	24.58
237	8	0.10	24.68
238	8	0.10	24.78
239	8	0.10	24.88
240	8	0.10	24.98
241	8	0.10	25.08
242	8	0.10	25.18
243	8	0.10	25.28
244	9	0.11	25.39
245	8	0.10	25.49
246	8	0.10	25.59
247	8	0.10	25.69
248	9	0.11	25.80
249	9	0.11	25.91
250	8	0.10	26.01
251	8	0.10	26.11
252	8	0.10	26.21
253	8	0.10	26.31
254	8	0.10	26.41
255	8	0.10	26.51
256	8	0.10	26.61
257	8	0.10	26.71
258	8	0.10	26.81
259	8	0.10	26.91
260	9	0.11	27.03
261	8	0.10	27.13
262	8	0.10	27.23
263	8	0.10	27.33
264	8	0.10	27.43
265	8	0.10	27.53
266	8	0.10	27.63
267	8	0.10	27.73
268	8	0.10	27.83
269	8	0.10	27.93

270	8	0.10	28.03
271	8	0.10	28.13
272	8	0.10	28.23
273	9	0.11	28.34
274	9	0.11	28.45
275	9	0.11	28.56
276	8	0.10	28.66
277	8	0.10	28.76
278	8	0.10	28.86
279	8	0.10	28.96
280	8	0.10	29.06
281	8	0.10	29.16
282	9	0.11	29.28
283	8	0.10	29.38
284	8	0.10	29.48
285	8	0.10	29.58
286	8	0.10	29.68
287	9	0.11	29.79
288	8	0.10	29.89
289	8	0.10	29.99
290	8	0.10	30.09
291	8	0.10	30.19
292	9	0.11	30.30
293	8	0.10	30.40
294	8	0.10	30.50
295	8	0.10	30.60
296	8	0.10	30.70
297	8	0.10	30.80
298	9	0.11	30.91
299	8	0.10	31.01
300	8	0.10	31.11
301	11	0.14	31.25
302	8	0.10	31.35
303	9	0.11	31.46
304	8	0.10	31.56
305	8	0.10	31.66
306	8	0.10	31.76
307	8	0.10	31.86
308	8	0.10	31.96
309	8	0.10	32.06
310	8	0.10	32.16
311	8	0.10	32.26
312	8	0.10	32.36
313	9	0.11	32.48
314	8	0.10	32.58
315	8	0.10	32.68
316	9	0.11	32.79
317	9	0.11	32.90
318	8	0.10	33.00
319	8	0.10	33.10
320	8	0.10	33.20
321	8	0.10	33.30
322	8	0.10	33.40
323	11	0.14	33.54
324	8	0.10	33.64
325	9	0.11	33.75
326	9	0.11	33.86

327	8	0.10	33.96
328	8	0.10	34.06
329	9	0.11	34.18
330	8	0.10	34.28
331	8	0.10	34.38
332	8	0.10	34.48
333	8	0.10	34.58
334	8	0.10	34.68
335	8	0.10	34.78
336	9	0.11	34.89
337	8	0.10	34.99
338	9	0.11	35.10
339	9	0.11	35.21
340	8	0.10	35.31
341	9	0.11	35.43
342	9	0.11	35.54
343	8	0.10	35.64
344	8	0.10	35.74
345	8	0.10	35.84
346	8	0.10	35.94
347	9	0.11	36.05
348	8	0.10	36.15
349	8	0.10	36.25
350	8	0.10	36.35
351	8	0.10	36.45
352	8	0.10	36.55
353	8	0.10	36.65
354	9	0.11	36.76
355	8	0.10	36.86
356	9	0.11	36.98
357	9	0.11	37.09
358	8	0.10	37.19
359	8	0.10	37.29
360	8	0.10	37.39
361	8	0.10	37.49
362	9	0.11	37.60
363	8	0.10	37.70
364	9	0.11	37.81
365	9	0.11	37.93
366	8	0.10	38.03
367	8	0.10	38.13
368	8	0.10	38.23
369	9	0.11	38.34
370	8	0.10	38.44
371	8	0.10	38.54
372	8	0.10	38.64
373	8	0.10	38.74
374	7	0.09	38.83
375	8	0.10	38.93
376	8	0.10	39.03
377	8	0.10	39.13
378	9	0.11	39.24
379	8	0.10	39.34
380	9	0.11	39.45
381	8	0.10	39.55
382	8	0.10	39.65
383	9	0.11	39.76

384	8	0.10	39.86
385	9	0.11	39.98
386	8	0.10	40.08
387	8	0.10	40.18
388	9	0.11	40.29
389	8	0.10	40.39
390	8	0.10	40.49
391	8	0.10	40.59
392	8	0.10	40.69
393	9	0.11	40.80
394	8	0.10	40.90
395	8	0.10	41.00
396	9	0.11	41.11
397	8	0.10	41.21
398	8	0.10	41.31
399	8	0.10	41.41
400	8	0.10	41.51
401	8	0.10	41.61
402	9	0.11	41.73
403	8	0.10	41.83
404	8	0.10	41.93
405	9	0.11	42.04
406	8	0.10	42.14
407	9	0.11	42.25
408	8	0.10	42.35
409	8	0.10	42.45
410	9	0.11	42.56
411	8	0.10	42.66
412	8	0.10	42.76
413	8	0.10	42.86
414	9	0.11	42.98
415	8	0.10	43.08
416	8	0.10	43.18
417	8	0.10	43.28
418	9	0.11	43.39
419	10	0.12	43.51
420	8	0.10	43.61
421	8	0.10	43.71
422	8	0.10	43.81
423	8	0.10	43.91
424	9	0.11	44.03
425	8	0.10	44.13
426	8	0.10	44.23
427	8	0.10	44.33
428	8	0.10	44.43
429	8	0.10	44.53
430	8	0.10	44.63
431	8	0.10	44.73
432	8	0.10	44.83
433	10	0.12	44.95
434	8	0.10	45.05
435	8	0.10	45.15
436	8	0.10	45.25
437	8	0.10	45.35
438	8	0.10	45.45
439	8	0.10	45.55
440	9	0.11	45.66

441	8	0.10	45.76
442	9	0.11	45.88
443	9	0.11	45.99
444	8	0.10	46.09
445	8	0.10	46.19
446	8	0.10	46.29
447	8	0.10	46.39
448	9	0.11	46.50
449	8	0.10	46.60
450	8	0.10	46.70
451	9	0.11	46.81
452	8	0.10	46.91
453	9	0.11	47.03
454	8	0.10	47.13
455	8	0.10	47.23
456	9	0.11	47.34
457	8	0.10	47.44
458	8	0.10	47.54
459	8	0.10	47.64
460	8	0.10	47.74
461	9	0.11	47.85
462	8	0.10	47.95
463	8	0.10	48.05
464	9	0.11	48.16
465	9	0.11	48.28
466	8	0.10	48.38
467	9	0.11	48.49
468	8	0.10	48.59
469	9	0.11	48.70
470	8	0.10	48.80
471	8	0.10	48.90
472	8	0.10	49.00
473	8	0.10	49.10
474	9	0.11	49.21
475	9	0.11	49.33
476	8	0.10	49.43
477	9	0.11	49.54
478	12	0.15	49.69
479	8	0.10	49.79
480	9	0.11	49.90
481	8	0.10	50.00
482	8	0.10	50.10
483	8	0.10	50.20
484	8	0.10	50.30
485	8	0.10	50.40
486	9	0.11	50.51
487	9	0.11	50.63
488	9	0.11	50.74
489	9	0.11	50.85
490	8	0.10	50.95
491	9	0.11	51.06
492	9	0.11	51.18
493	11	0.14	51.31
494	8	0.10	51.41
495	9	0.11	51.53
496	8	0.10	51.63
497	8	0.10	51.73

498	8	0.10	51.83
499	8	0.10	51.93
500	8	0.10	52.03
501	9	0.11	52.14
502	8	0.10	52.24
503	8	0.10	52.34
504	8	0.10	52.44
505	9	0.11	52.55
506	8	0.10	52.65
507	8	0.10	52.75
508	8	0.10	52.85
509	8	0.10	52.95
510	8	0.10	53.05
511	8	0.10	53.15
512	11	0.14	53.29
513	8	0.10	53.39
514	8	0.10	53.49
515	8	0.10	53.59
516	8	0.10	53.69
517	8	0.10	53.79
518	8	0.10	53.89
519	8	0.10	53.99
520	8	0.10	54.09
521	9	0.11	54.20
522	9	0.11	54.31
523	8	0.10	54.41
524	9	0.11	54.53
525	8	0.10	54.63
526	8	0.10	54.73
527	9	0.11	54.84
528	9	0.11	54.95
529	8	0.10	55.05
530	8	0.10	55.15
531	8	0.10	55.25
532	8	0.10	55.35
533	8	0.10	55.45
534	9	0.11	55.56
535	9	0.11	55.68
536	8	0.10	55.78
537	8	0.10	55.88
538	10	0.12	56.00
539	8	0.10	56.10
540	8	0.10	56.20
541	8	0.10	56.30
542	9	0.11	56.41
543	8	0.10	56.51
544	9	0.11	56.63
545	8	0.10	56.73
546	8	0.10	56.83
547	9	0.11	56.94
548	8	0.10	57.04
549	8	0.10	57.14
550	9	0.11	57.25
551	8	0.10	57.35
552	8	0.10	57.45
553	9	0.11	57.56
554	8	0.10	57.66

555	9	0.11	57.78
556	8	0.10	57.88
557	9	0.11	57.99
558	14	0.18	58.16
559	8	0.10	58.26
560	8	0.10	58.36
561	8	0.10	58.46
562	8	0.10	58.56
563	8	0.10	58.66
564	9	0.11	58.78
565	8	0.10	58.88
566	8	0.10	58.98
567	8	0.10	59.08
568	9	0.11	59.19
569	9	0.11	59.30
570	8	0.10	59.40
571	8	0.10	59.50
572	8	0.10	59.60
573	8	0.10	59.70
574	8	0.10	59.80
575	8	0.10	59.90
576	9	0.11	60.01
577	8	0.10	60.11
578	11	0.14	60.25
579	9	0.11	60.36
580	8	0.10	60.46
581	9	0.11	60.58
582	8	0.10	60.68
583	8	0.10	60.78
584	9	0.11	60.89
585	8	0.10	60.99
586	8	0.10	61.09
587	8	0.10	61.19
588	8	0.10	61.29
589	8	0.10	61.39
590	8	0.10	61.49
591	8	0.10	61.59
592	8	0.10	61.69
593	8	0.10	61.79
594	8	0.10	61.89
595	8	0.10	61.99
596	8	0.10	62.09
597	8	0.10	62.19
598	8	0.10	62.29
599	9	0.11	62.40
600	8	0.10	62.50
601	9	0.11	62.61
602	8	0.10	62.71
603	8	0.10	62.81
604	9	0.11	62.93
605	11	0.14	63.06
606	9	0.11	63.18
607	10	0.12	63.30
608	9	0.11	63.41
609	8	0.10	63.51
610	8	0.10	63.61
611	9	0.11	63.73

612	8	0.10	63.83
613	9	0.11	63.94
614	8	0.10	64.04
615	8	0.10	64.14
616	8	0.10	64.24
617	8	0.10	64.34
618	8	0.10	64.44
619	8	0.10	64.54
620	8	0.10	64.64
621	9	0.11	64.75
622	8	0.10	64.85
623	8	0.10	64.95
624	8	0.10	65.05
625	8	0.10	65.15
626	9	0.11	65.26
627	8	0.10	65.36
628	8	0.10	65.46
629	9	0.11	65.58
630	8	0.10	65.68
631	8	0.10	65.78
632	8	0.10	65.88
633	8	0.10	65.98
634	8	0.10	66.08
635	9	0.11	66.19
636	8	0.10	66.29
637	8	0.10	66.39
638	8	0.10	66.49
639	8	0.10	66.59
640	8	0.10	66.69
641	8	0.10	66.79
642	8	0.10	66.89
643	8	0.10	66.99
644	15	0.19	67.18
645	8	0.10	67.28
646	8	0.10	67.38
647	8	0.10	67.48
648	8	0.10	67.58
649	9	0.11	67.69
650	9	0.11	67.80
651	8	0.10	67.90
652	8	0.10	68.00
653	8	0.10	68.10
654	9	0.11	68.21
655	8	0.10	68.31
656	8	0.10	68.41
657	9	0.11	68.53
658	8	0.10	68.63
659	8	0.10	68.73
660	8	0.10	68.83
661	8	0.10	68.92
662	9	0.11	69.04
663	8	0.10	69.14
664	8	0.10	69.24
665	8	0.10	69.34
666	8	0.10	69.44
667	8	0.10	69.54
668	8	0.10	69.64

669	8	0.10	69.74
670	8	0.10	69.84
671	8	0.10	69.94
672	9	0.11	70.05
673	9	0.11	70.16
674	8	0.10	70.26
675	8	0.10	70.36
676	8	0.10	70.46
677	8	0.10	70.56
678	8	0.10	70.66
679	9	0.11	70.77
680	8	0.10	70.87
681	9	0.11	70.99
682	9	0.11	71.10
683	8	0.10	71.20
684	9	0.11	71.31
685	7	0.09	71.40
686	9	0.11	71.51
687	8	0.10	71.61
688	8	0.10	71.71
689	8	0.10	71.81
690	8	0.10	71.91
691	8	0.10	72.01
692	8	0.10	72.11
693	8	0.10	72.21
694	8	0.10	72.31
695	8	0.10	72.41
696	10	0.12	72.54
697	8	0.10	72.64
698	8	0.10	72.74
699	8	0.10	72.84
700	9	0.11	72.95
701	8	0.10	73.05
702	8	0.10	73.15
703	8	0.10	73.25
704	8	0.10	73.35
705	9	0.11	73.46
706	9	0.11	73.57
707	8	0.10	73.67
708	8	0.10	73.77
709	9	0.11	73.89
710	8	0.10	73.99
711	9	0.11	74.10
712	8	0.10	74.20
713	8	0.10	74.30
714	9	0.11	74.41
715	8	0.10	74.51
716	8	0.10	74.61
717	8	0.10	74.71
718	8	0.10	74.81
719	8	0.10	74.91
720	9	0.11	75.02
721	8	0.10	75.12
722	9	0.11	75.24
723	8	0.10	75.34
724	8	0.10	75.44
725	9	0.11	75.55

726	8	0.10	75.65
727	8	0.10	75.75
728	8	0.10	75.85
729	8	0.10	75.95
730	8	0.10	76.05
731	8	0.10	76.15
732	8	0.10	76.25
733	8	0.10	76.35
734	10	0.12	76.47
735	8	0.10	76.57
736	9	0.11	76.69
737	8	0.10	76.79
738	8	0.10	76.89
739	8	0.10	76.99
740	9	0.11	77.10
741	8	0.10	77.20
742	8	0.10	77.30
743	9	0.11	77.41
744	9	0.11	77.52
745	8	0.10	77.62
746	8	0.10	77.72
747	9	0.11	77.84
748	8	0.10	77.94
749	9	0.11	78.05
750	8	0.10	78.15
751	8	0.10	78.25
752	8	0.10	78.35
753	8	0.10	78.45
754	9	0.11	78.56
755	8	0.10	78.66
756	8	0.10	78.76
757	11	0.14	78.90
758	9	0.11	79.01
759	9	0.11	79.12
760	17	0.21	79.34
761	8	0.10	79.44
762	8	0.10	79.54
763	8	0.10	79.64
764	9	0.11	79.75
765	8	0.10	79.85
766	8	0.10	79.95
767	8	0.10	80.05
768	8	0.10	80.15
769	9	0.11	80.26
770	8	0.10	80.36
771	8	0.10	80.46
772	8	0.10	80.56
773	9	0.11	80.67
774	8	0.10	80.77
775	8	0.10	80.87
776	8	0.10	80.97
777	8	0.10	81.07
778	8	0.10	81.17
779	8	0.10	81.27
780	9	0.11	81.39
781	8	0.10	81.49
782	8	0.10	81.59

783	8	0.10	81.69
784	8	0.10	81.79
785	9	0.11	81.90
786	8	0.10	82.00
787	8	0.10	82.10
788	8	0.10	82.20
789	8	0.10	82.30
790	8	0.10	82.40
791	9	0.11	82.51
792	8	0.10	82.61
793	9	0.11	82.72
794	8	0.10	82.82
795	9	0.11	82.94
796	8	0.10	83.04
797	8	0.10	83.14
798	8	0.10	83.24
799	8	0.10	83.34
800	8	0.10	83.44
801	8	0.10	83.54
802	9	0.11	83.65
803	9	0.11	83.76
804	8	0.10	83.86
805	8	0.10	83.96
806	8	0.10	84.06
807	8	0.10	84.16
808	9	0.11	84.27
809	8	0.10	84.37
810	8	0.10	84.47
811	9	0.11	84.59
812	8	0.10	84.69
813	8	0.10	84.79
814	8	0.10	84.89
815	8	0.10	84.99
816	8	0.10	85.09
817	9	0.11	85.20
818	8	0.10	85.30
819	9	0.11	85.41
820	8	0.10	85.51
821	9	0.11	85.62
822	8	0.10	85.72
823	8	0.10	85.82
824	9	0.11	85.94
825	8	0.10	86.04
826	8	0.10	86.14
827	9	0.11	86.25
828	8	0.10	86.35
829	9	0.11	86.46
830	8	0.10	86.56
831	9	0.11	86.67
832	8	0.10	86.77
833	9	0.11	86.89
834	8	0.10	86.99
835	8	0.10	87.09
836	8	0.10	87.19
837	8	0.10	87.29
838	9	0.11	87.40
839	8	0.10	87.50

840	8	0.10	87.60
841	8	0.10	87.70
842	9	0.11	87.81
843	8	0.10	87.91
844	8	0.10	88.01
845	9	0.11	88.12
846	8	0.10	88.22
847	8	0.10	88.32
848	8	0.10	88.42
849	8	0.10	88.52
850	9	0.11	88.64
851	8	0.10	88.74
852	8	0.10	88.84
853	9	0.11	88.95
854	8	0.10	89.05
855	8	0.10	89.15
856	9	0.11	89.26
857	8	0.10	89.36
858	8	0.10	89.46
859	9	0.11	89.57
860	8	0.10	89.67
861	9	0.11	89.79
862	8	0.10	89.89
863	9	0.11	90.00
864	8	0.10	90.10
865	9	0.11	90.21
866	8	0.10	90.31
867	8	0.10	90.41
868	9	0.11	90.52
869	9	0.11	90.64
870	8	0.10	90.74
871	8	0.10	90.84
872	8	0.10	90.94
873	8	0.10	91.04
874	8	0.10	91.14
875	8	0.10	91.24
876	8	0.10	91.34
877	9	0.11	91.45
878	9	0.11	91.56
879	9	0.11	91.67
880	8	0.10	91.77
881	9	0.11	91.89
882	8	0.10	91.99
883	8	0.10	92.09
884	8	0.10	92.19
885	8	0.10	92.29
886	8	0.10	92.39
887	8	0.10	92.49
888	10	0.12	92.61
889	9	0.11	92.72
890	9	0.11	92.84
891	8	0.10	92.94
892	8	0.10	93.04
893	8	0.10	93.14
894	8	0.10	93.24
895	8	0.10	93.34
896	8	0.10	93.44

897	7	0.09	93.52
898	8	0.10	93.62
899	8	0.10	93.72
900	8	0.10	93.82
901	8	0.10	93.92
902	8	0.10	94.02
903	8	0.10	94.12
904	8	0.10	94.22
905	9	0.11	94.34
906	8	0.10	94.44
907	8	0.10	94.54
908	9	0.11	94.65
909	8	0.10	94.75
910	8	0.10	94.85
911	8	0.10	94.95
912	8	0.10	95.05
913	9	0.11	95.16
914	8	0.10	95.26
915	8	0.10	95.36
916	8	0.10	95.46
917	8	0.10	95.56
918	8	0.10	95.66
919	8	0.10	95.76
920	8	0.10	95.86
921	8	0.10	95.96
922	8	0.10	96.06
923	9	0.11	96.17
924	9	0.11	96.29
925	8	0.10	96.39
926	8	0.10	96.49
927	9	0.11	96.60
928	8	0.10	96.70
929	8	0.10	96.80
930	9	0.11	96.91
931	8	0.10	97.01
932	8	0.10	97.11
933	8	0.10	97.21
934	9	0.11	97.32
935	8	0.10	97.42
936	8	0.10	97.52
937	8	0.10	97.62
938	9	0.11	97.74
939	8	0.10	97.84
940	8	0.10	97.94
941	8	0.10	98.04
942	9	0.11	98.15
943	9	0.11	98.26
944	8	0.10	98.36
945	8	0.10	98.46
946	9	0.11	98.57
947	8	0.10	98.67
948	9	0.11	98.79
949	8	0.10	98.89
950	8	0.10	98.99
951	8	0.10	99.09
952	9	0.11	99.20
953	8	0.10	99.30

954	8	0.10	99.40
955	8	0.10	99.50
956	8	0.10	99.60
957	8	0.10	99.70
958	8	0.10	99.80
959	8	0.10	99.90
960	8	0.10	100.00
Total	8,000	100.00	

Table S5. Descriptive analysis of the sample (N=2,000).

Variable	Freq.	Percent	Variable	Freq.	Percent
Gender			*Education*		
Man	1,040	52.00	Low	634	31.70
Woman	958	47.90	Medium	882	44.10
Other	2	0.10	High	484	24.20
Age			*Employment status*		
18-24	209	10.45	Employed	1,163	58.15
25-34	320	16.00	Unemployed	171	8.55
35-44	380	19.00	Inactive	604	30.20
45-54	483	24.15	Other	62	3.10
55-64	438	21.90			
65-70	170	8.50			
Macro-region					
North-West	539	26.95			
North-East	374	18.70			
Center	397	19.85			
South and Islands	690	34.50			

Table S6. Descriptive dependent variables (n=8,000).

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
The action of [offender] in the scenario is conventionally accepted in our society.	2.84	1.06	1	5
The reaction of [victim] in the scenario is rather normal in our society.	3.19	.99	1	5
I would consider this situation as normal.	2.49	1.12	1	5

Variable	Freq.	Percent
If you were present in this scenario, would you intervene?		
Yes	4,401	55.01
No	3,599	44.99
How would you intervene? (n = 4,401)		
By calling the police	487	11.07
By intervening physically	480	10.91
By talking to the [offender]	2,476	56.26
By talking to the [victim]	624	14.18
By gossiping	43	0.98
By escorting the [offender] out	291	6.61

Table S7a. Comparison of models for *perceived societal acceptance* (OLS, OLS with respondent level characteristics, fixed effects, random effects) (n=8,000).

	Perceived societal acceptance

VARIABLES	OLS	OLS + respondents characteristics	Fixed effects	Random effects
Office (Ref: Bar)	-.022	-.023	-.010	-.014
	(.028)	(.028)	(.026)	(.025)
Dinner at home (Ref: Bar)	-.024	-.023	-.010	-.015
	(.029)	(.028)	(.026)	(.025)
Giovanni (Ref: Laura)	.084***	.083***	.074***	.077***
	(.023)	(.023)	(.021)	(.020)
Veronica (Ref: Pietro)	.067***	.067***	.071***	.070***
	(.023)	(.023)	(.021)	(.020)
Friend (Ref: Acquaintance)	-.002	-.003	.023	.014
	(.033)	(.034)	(.030)	(.028)
Colleague (Ref: Acquaintance)	-.022	-.020	.023	.007
	(.033)	(.033)	(.030)	(.028)
Partner (Ref: Acquaintance)	-.027	-.025	-.016	-.020
	(.033)	(.033)	(.030)	(.028)
Looks threateningly at (Ref: Jokes with)	-.273***	-.275***	-.304***	-.293***
	(.037)	(.037)	(.033)	(.032)
Belittles (Ref: Jokes with)	-.287***	-.289***	-.302***	-.297***
	(.037)	(.037)	(.033)	(.032)
Shouts at (Ref: Jokes with)	-.499***	-.501***	-.452***	-.468***
	(.037)	(.037)	(.033)	(.032)
Yanks (Ref: Jokes with)	-.533***	-.536***	-.516***	-.522***
	(.037)	(.037)	(.033)	(.032)
Is visibly uncomfortable (Ref: Remain indifferent)	-.075***	-.081***	-.077***	-.076***
	(.023)	(.023)	(.021)	(.020)
Tells [offender] is not appropriate (Ref: Doesn't say anything)	-.032	-.034	-.029	-.030
	(.023)	(.023)	(.021)	(.020)
Man (Ref: Woman)		-.016		
		(.024)		
Other (Ref: Woman)		.170		
		(.367)		
25-34 (Ref: 18-24)		-.005		
		(.048)		
35-44 (Ref: 18-24)		-.124***		
		(.047)		
45-54 (Ref: 18-24)		-.141***		
		(.045)		
55-64 (Ref: 18-24)		-.172***		
		(.044)		
65-70 (Ref: 18-24)		-.273***		
		(.054)		
Medium education (Ref: Low)		.049*		
		(.028)		
High education (Ref: Low)		.084**		

		(.033)		
North-East (Ref: North-West)		-.015		
		(.035)		
Center (Ref: North-West)		-.020		
		(.035)		
South and Islands (Ref: North-West)		-.010		
		(.030)		
Unemployed (Ref: Employed)		-.035		
		(.044)		
Inactive (Ref: Employed)		.046		
		(.031)		
Other (Ref: Employed)		-.286***		
		(.068)		
Constant	3.164***	3.263***	3.135***	3.145***
	(.044)	(.067)	(.040)	(.040)
Observations	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Number of groups			2,000	2,000

Standard errors in parentheses
*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table S7b. Comparison of models for *perceived societal acceptance* (Multinomial logit, Fixed effects multinomial logit, Random effects multinomial logit) (n=8,000).

	Perceived societal acceptance														
VARIABLES	Multinomial logit					Fixed effects multinomial logit					Random effects multinomial logit				
	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree Nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree Nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree Nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
Office (Ref: Bar)		.028	-.025	-.005	-.144		-.027	-.059	.057	-.326		.018	-.043	.056	-.277
		(.097)	(.092)	(.098)	(.153)		(.138)	(.142)	(.151)	(.230)		(.108)	(.108)	(.116)	(.200)
Dinner at home (Ref: Bar)		.108	.013	.011	-.064		-.048	.014	-.038	-.132		.067	.040	.006	-.085
		(.097)	(.093)	(.099)	(.153)		(.140)	(.147)	(.154)	(.227)		(.108)	(.109)	(.117)	(.198)
Giovanni (Ref: Laura)		.157**	.288***	.274***	.300**		.327***	.421***	.396***	.475**		.175**	.314***	.289***	.377**
		(.079)	(.076)	(.080)	(.126)		(.114)	(.117)	(.123)	(.186)		(.088)	(.089)	(.095)	(.163)
Veronica (Ref: Pietro)		.224***	.335***	.256***	.292**		.427***	.636***	.521***	.499***		.236***	.429***	.292***	.339**
		(.079)	(.076)	(.080)	(.126)		(.114)	(.118)	(.125)	(.185)		(.088)	(.089)	(.095)	(.163)
Friend (Ref: Acquaintance)		-.189*	-.034	-.070	-.201		-.343**	-.154	-.112	-.244		-.247**	-.047	-.032	-.216
		(.113)	(.108)	(.114)	(.176)		(.159)	(.167)	(.176)	(.264)		(.125)	(.126)	(.135)	(.229)
Colleague (Ref: Acquaintance)		-.148	-.151	-.095	-.203		-.159	-.202	.019	-.181		-.172	-.207*	-.001	-.201
		(.111)	(.108)	(.113)	(.174)		(.156)	(.163)	(.171)	(.252)		(.124)	(.126)	(.133)	(.226)
Partner (Ref: Acquaintance)		-.106	.035	-.110	-.222		-.194	-.178	-.217	-.308		-.118	-.009	-.108	-.242
		(.113)	(.109)	(.115)	(.179)		(.163)	(.168)	(.178)	(.256)		(.126)	(.127)	(.136)	(.228)
Looks threateningly at (Ref: Jokes with)		-.335**	-.746***	-.971***	-.800***		-.596***	-1.127***	-1.526***	-1.626***		-.282*	-.827***	-1.227***	-1.162***
		(.151)	(.140)	(.144)	(.198)		(.204)	(.204)	(.212)	(.300)		(.164)	(.158)	(.166)	(.256)
Belittles (Ref: Jokes with)		-.279*	-.859***	-.911***	-.937***		-.606***	-1.327***	-1.514***	-1.513***		-.229	-1.000***	-1.145***	-1.181***
		(.150)	(.140)	(.143)	(.201)		(.199)	(.204)	(.211)	(.299)		(.163)	(.158)	(.164)	(.258)
Shouts at (Ref: Jokes with)		-.275*	-1.121***	-1.446***	-1.440***		-.711***	-1.678***	-2.213***	-2.241***		-.189	-1.265***	-1.782***	-1.728***
		(.144)	(.136)	(.142)	(.210)		(.195)	(.200)	(.210)	(.307)		(.158)	(.155)	(.165)	(.267)
Yanks (Ref: Jokes with)		-.451***	-1.285***	-1.552***	-1.738***		-.875***	-1.936***	-2.490***	-2.633***		-.359**	-1.447***	-1.944***	-2.100***
		(.143)	(.134)	(.140)	(.216)		(.197)	(.201)	(.211)	(.306)		(.156)	(.153)	(.162)	(.272)

Is visibly uncomfortable (Ref: Remain indifferent)		.037	-.167**	-.113	-.311**		.045	-.162	-.182	-.436**		.062	-.183**	-.158*	-.427***
		(.079)	(.076)	(.080)	(.126)		(.113)	(.117)	(.123)	(.190)		(.088)	(.088)	(.095)	(.164)
Tells [offender] is not appropriate (Ref: Doesn't say anything)		.063	-.094	-.029	-.075		.149	-.008	-.014	-.106		.104	-.082	-.039	-.124
		(.079)	(.076)	(.080)	(.126)		(.113)	(.117)	(.124)	(.186)		(.088)	(.089)	(.095)	(.163)
Observations	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	6,356	6,356	6,356	6,356	6,356	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Number of groups	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,589	1,589	1,589	1,589	1,589	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000

Standard errors in parentheses

*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Note: Base outcome: Strongly disagree. The fixed-effects model excludes respondents with no within-person variation in the outcome (n = 6,356; 1,589 respondents).

Table S8. Estimates from random-effects multilevel models only with main effects of vignette attributes (M1 and M4) and with main effects and respondents' characteristics (M2 and M5), and fixed effects models only with main effects of vignette attributes (M3 and M6) for *perceived societal acceptance* and *perceived normality* (n = 8,000).

	Perceived societal acceptance			Perceived normality		
	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6
Office (Ref: Bar)	-.014	-.015	-.010	.000	.001	-.008
	(.025)	(.025)	(.026)	(.025)	(.025)	(.026)
Dinner at home (Ref: Bar)	-.015	-.015	-.010	-.010	-.009	-.013
	(.025)	(.025)	(.026)	(.025)	(.025)	(.026)
Giovanni (Ref: Laura)	.077***	.077***	.074***	.115***	.116***	.104***
	(.020)	(.020)	(.021)	(.020)	(.020)	(.021)
Veronica (Ref: Pietro)	.070***	.070***	.071***	.131***	.129***	.131***
	(.020)	(.020)	(.021)	(.020)	(.020)	(.021)
Friend (Ref: Acquaintance)	.014	.014	.023	.000	-.001	.004
	(.028)	(.028)	(.030)	(.029)	(.029)	(.030)
Colleague (Ref: Acquaintance)	.007	.007	.023	-.011	-.012	-.006
	(.028)	(.028)	(.030)	(.029)	(.028)	(.030)
Partner (Ref: Acquaintance)	-.020	-.019	-.016	-.009	-.007	-.015
	(.028)	(.028)	(.030)	(.029)	(.029)	(.030)
Looks threateningly at (Ref: Jokes with)	-.293***	-.294***	-.304***	-.395***	-.395***	-.394***
	(.032)	(.032)	(.033)	(.032)	(.032)	(.033)
Belittles (Ref: Jokes with)	-.297***	-.298***	-.302***	-.449***	-.449***	-.444***
	(.032)	(.032)	(.033)	(.032)	(.032)	(.033)
Shouts at (Ref: Jokes with)	-.468***	-.469***	-.452***	-.527***	-.525***	-.501***
	(.032)	(.032)	(.033)	(.032)	(.032)	(.033)
Yanks (Ref: Jokes with)	-.522***	-.523***	-.516***	-.557***	-.557***	-.532***
	(.032)	(.032)	(.033)	(.032)	(.032)	(.033)
Is visibly uncomfortable (Ref: Remain indifferent)	-.076***	-.078***	-.077***	-.099***	-.099***	-.097***
	(.020)	(.020)	(.021)	(.020)	(.020)	(.021)
Tells [offender] is not appropriate (Ref: Doesn't say anything)	-.030	-.031	-.029	.038*	.039*	.034
	(.020)	(.020)	(.021)	(.020)	(.020)	(.021)
Man (Ref: Woman)		-.015			.248***	
		(.035)			(.038)	
Other (Ref: Woman)		.160			-.059	
		(.536)			(.582)	
25-34 (Ref: 18-24)		-.006			-.024	
		(.070)			(.076)	
35-44 (Ref: 18-24)		-.125*			-.139*	
		(.069)			(.075)	
45-54 (Ref: 18-24)		-.143**			-.084	
		(.065)			(.071)	
55-64 (Ref: 18-24)		-.173***			-.187***	
		(.065)			(.070)	
65-70 (Ref: 18-24)		-.274***			-.162*	
		(.079)			(.086)	

Medium education (Ref: Low)		.048			.008	
		(.041)			(.044)	
High education (Ref: Low)		.083*			-.105**	
		(.048)			(.053)	
North-East (Ref: North-West)		-.015			-.007	
		(.051)			(.055)	
Center (Ref: North-West)		-.019			-.047	
		(.051)			(.055)	
South and Islands (Ref: North-West)		-.010			-.042	
		(.044)			(.048)	
Unemployed (Ref: Employed)		-.035			-.089	
		(.064)			(.069)	
Inactive (Ref: Employed)		.045			-.076	
		(.045)			(.049)	
Other (Ref: Employed)		-.286***			-.211*	
		(.100)			(.108)	
Constant	3.145***	3.242***	3.135***	2.789***	2.859***	2.788***
	(.040)	(.085)	(.040)	(.041)	(.091)	(.040)
Observations	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
R-squared			0.557			0.605
Number of groups	2,000	2,000		2,000	2,000	

Standard errors in parentheses
*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table S9. Estimates from random-effects multilevel models only with main effects of vignette attributes (M1) and with main effects and respondents' characteristics (M2), and fixed effects models only with main effects of vignette attributes (M3) for *willingness to intervene* (n = 8,000).

	Willingness to intervene		
	M1	M2	M3
Office (Ref: Bar)	.113***	.114***	.114***
	(.011)	(.011)	(.012)
Dinner at home (Ref: Bar)	.127***	.128***	.124***
	(.011)	(.011)	(.012)
Giovanni (Ref: Laura)	-.076***	-.076***	-.074***
	(.009)	(.009)	(.009)
Veronica (Ref: Pietro)	-.065***	-.065***	-.066***
	(.009)	(.009)	(.009)
Friend (Ref: Acquaintance)	.001	-.000	.001
	(.013)	(.013)	(.013)
Colleague (Ref: Acquaintance)	.016	.015	.017
	(.013)	(.013)	(.013)
Partner (Ref: Acquaintance)	-.048***	-.048***	-.048***
	(.013)	(.013)	(.013)
Looks threateningly at (Ref: Jokes with)	.090***	.090***	.083***
	(.014)	(.014)	(.015)
Belittles (Ref: Jokes with)	.200***	.199***	.186***

	(.014)	(.014)	(.015)
Shouts at (Ref: Jokes with)	.196***	.197***	.189***
	(.014)	(.014)	(.015)
Yanks (Ref: Jokes with)	.227***	.226***	.227***
	(.014)	(.014)	(.015)
Is visibly uncomfortable (Ref: Remain indifferent)	.081***	.081***	.078***
	(.009)	(.009)	(.009)
Tells [offender] is not appropriate (Ref: Doesn't say anything)	.001	.000	.001
	(.009)	(.009)	(.009)
Man (Ref: Woman)		-.002	
		(.017)	
Other (Ref: Woman)		-.224	
		(.251)	
25-34 (Ref: 18-24)		-.082**	
		(.033)	
35-44 (Ref: 18-24)		-.152***	
		(.032)	
45-54 (Ref: 18-24)		-.192***	
		(.031)	
55-64 (Ref: 18-24)		-.188***	
		(.030)	
65-70 (Ref: 18-24)		-.244***	
		(.037)	
Medium education (Ref: Low)		-.019	
		(.019)	
High education (Ref: Low)		-.040*	
		(.023)	
North-East (Ref: North-West)		-.016	
		(.024)	
Center (Ref: North-West)		-.029	
		(.024)	
South and Islands (Ref: North-West)		.047**	
		(.021)	
Unemployed (Ref: Employed)		-.063**	
		(.030)	
Inactive (Ref: Employed)		-.055***	
		(.021)	
Other (Ref: Employed)		-.018	
		(.047)	
Constant	.365***	.549***	.372***
	(.018)	(.039)	(.018)
Observations	8,000	8,000	8,000
R-squared			0.597
Number of groups	2,000	2,000	

Standard errors in parentheses
*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table S10. Estimates from random-effects multilevel models with a respondent-level random intercept with the main effects and interactions of offender–victim gender pairing with type of violence and victim's reaction, and interactions of offender–victim gender pairing with type of violence and victim's perception for *perceived societal acceptance* (M1-M2), *perceived normality* (M3-M4), and *willingness to intervene* (M5-M6) (n=8,000).

	Perceived societal acceptance		Perceived normality		Willingness to intervene	
	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6
Office (Ref: Bar)	-.014	-.013	.002	.002	.113***	.113***
	(.025)	(.025)	(.025)	(.025)	(.011)	(.011)
Dinner at home (Ref: Bar)	-.015	-.015	-.009	-.008	.127***	.127***
	(.025)	(.025)	(.025)	(.025)	(.011)	(.011)
Friend (Ref: Acquaintance)	.013	.014	-.003	-.002	.002	.001
	(.028)	(.028)	(.028)	(.028)	(.013)	(.013)
Colleague (Ref: Acquaintance)	.006	.006	-.013	-.012	.016	.016
	(.028)	(.028)	(.028)	(.028)	(.013)	(.013)
Partner (Ref: Acquaintance)	-.019	-.019	-.008	-.009	-.048***	-.048***
	(.028)	(.028)	(.028)	(.028)	(.013)	(.013)
Looks threateningly at (Ref: Jokes with)	-.293***	-.246***	-.338***	-.280***	.026	.046
	(.089)	(.089)	(.090)	(.089)	(.040)	(.040)
Belittles (Ref: Jokes with)	-.344***	-.393***	-.426***	-.487***	.227***	.244***
	(.090)	(.089)	(.090)	(.090)	(.040)	(.040)
Shouts at (Ref: Jokes with)	-.529***	-.475***	-.552***	-.520***	.212***	.205***
	(.090)	(.089)	(.090)	(.089)	(.041)	(.040)
Yanks (Ref: Jokes with)	-.537***	-.511***	-.478***	-.505***	.221***	.295***
	(.090)	(.089)	(.090)	(.089)	(.040)	(.040)
Is visibly uncomfortable (Ref: Remain indifferent)	-.076***	-.095	-.100***	-.166*	.081***	.093**
	(.020)	(.089)	(.020)	(.089)	(.009)	(.040)
Tells [offender] is not appropriate (Ref: Doesn't say anything)	-.102	-.032	-.012	.036*	-.028	.001
	(.089)	(.020)	(.089)	(.020)	(.040)	(.009)
Laura vs. Pietro (Ref: Laura vs. Veronica)	-.005	-.004	-.159*	-.133	.000	.026
	(.090)	(.089)	(.090)	(.090)	(.041)	(.040)
Giovanni vs. Veronica (Ref: Laura vs. Veronica)	.000	.074	.063	-.008	-.085**	-.086**
	(.089)	(.088)	(.089)	(.089)	(.040)	(.040)
Giovanni vs. Pietro (Ref: Laura vs. Veronica)	.016	.003	.137	.191**	.016	-.020
	(.090)	(.089)	(.090)	(.090)	(.040)	(.040)
Looks threateningly at × Laura vs. Pietro	-.172	-.116	-.179	-.244*	.141**	.114**
	(.128)	(.127)	(.128)	(.127)	(.058)	(.057)
Looks threateningly at × Giovanni vs. Veronica	-.008	-.169	-.068	-.081	.114**	.078
	(.126)	(.125)	(.127)	(.126)	(.057)	(.056)
Looks threateningly at × Giovanni vs. Pietro	-.018	-.057	-.229*	-.351***	.045	.071
	(.126)	(.126)	(.126)	(.126)	(.057)	(.057)
Belittles × Laura vs. Pietro	-.124	-.038	-.024	-.029	.029	.032
	(.127)	(.127)	(.127)	(.127)	(.057)	(.057)
Belittles × Giovanni vs. Veronica	-.006	.027	-.164	-.024	.004	.054
	(.126)	(.125)	(.126)	(.126)	(.057)	(.056)
Belittles × Giovanni vs. Pietro	-.029	.058	-.126	-.127	-.080	-.003
	(.127)	(.127)	(.128)	(.127)	(.057)	(.057)

Shouts at × Laura vs. Pietro	-.066	-.055	-.051	-.171	.079	.076
	(.127)	(.127)	(.128)	(.127)	(.057)	(.057)
Shouts at × Giovanni vs. Veronica	-.075	-.116	-.097	-.022	.028	.073
	(.126)	(.125)	(.127)	(.126)	(.057)	(.057)
Shouts at × Giovanni vs. Pietro	.006	-.051	-.121	-.239*	-.060	.016
	(.127)	(.126)	(.127)	(.127)	(.057)	(.057)
Yanks × Laura vs. Pietro	-.297**	-.268**	-.148	-.202	.086	.008
	(.126)	(.126)	(.127)	(.126)	(.057)	(.057)
Yanks × Giovanni vs. Veronica	.045	.024	-.074	.004	-.014	-.041
	(.126)	(.125)	(.126)	(.126)	(.057)	(.056)
Yanks × Giovanni vs. Pietro	.134	.071	-.201	-.212*	-.036	-.074
	(.126)	(.125)	(.126)	(.126)	(.057)	(.057)
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Laura vs. Pietro	-.050		-.053		.154***	
	(.125)		(.126)		(.057)	
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Giovanni vs. Veronica	.017		-.083		.051	
	(.125)		(.125)		(.056)	
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Giovanni vs. Pietro	-.115		-.034		.002	
	(.126)		(.127)		(.057)	
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Looks threateningly at	.081		.144		.061	
	(.126)		(.127)		(.057)	
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Belittles	.072		.031		-.039	
	(.126)		(.127)		(.057)	
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Shouts at	.168		.197		-.022	
	(.126)		(.127)		(.057)	
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Yanks	.012		.030		.062	
	(.126)		(.127)		(.057)	
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Looks threateningly at × Laura vs. Pietro	-.019		-.031		-.144*	
	(.180)		(.180)		(.081)	
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Looks threateningly at × Giovanni vs. Veronica	.049		-.011		-.109	
	(.178)		(.179)		(.080)	
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Looks threateningly at × Giovanni vs. Pietro	.032		-.065		-.064	
	(.178)		(.179)		(.081)	
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Belittles × Laura vs. Pietro	.074		.034		-.088	
	(.177)		(.178)		(.080)	
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Belittles × Giovanni vs. Veronica	.088		.231		.042	
	(.178)		(.179)		(.080)	
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Belittles × Giovanni vs. Pietro	.246		.038		.074	
	(.179)		(.180)		(.081)	

Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Shouts at × Laura vs. Pietro	.049			-.034			-.121	
	(.178)			(.179)			(.080)	
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Shouts at × Giovanni vs. Veronica	-.001			-.004			-.037	
	(.178)			(.179)			(.080)	
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Shouts at × Giovanni vs. Pietro	.037			-.019			.022	
	(.179)			(.180)			(.081)	
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Yanks × Laura vs. Pietro	.228			-.077			-.167**	
	(.177)			(.178)			(.080)	
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Yanks × Giovanni vs. Veronica	.068			.115			-.057	
	(.178)			(.179)			(.080)	
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Yanks × Giovanni vs. Pietro	.007			.057			-.056	
	(.177)			(.178)			(.080)	
Is visibly uncomfortable × Laura vs. Pietro		-.047			-.102			.104*
		(.126)			(.127)			(.057)
Is visibly uncomfortable × Giovanni vs. Veronica		-.134			.058			.056
		(.125)			(.125)			(.056)
Is visibly uncomfortable × Giovanni vs. Pietro		-.087			-.139			.076
		(.126)			(.127)			(.057)
Is visibly uncomfortable × Looks threateningly at		-.015			.026			.020
		(.125)			(.126)			(.056)
Is visibly uncomfortable × Belittles		.168			.158			-.074
		(.126)			(.127)			(.057)
Is visibly uncomfortable × Shouts at		.064			.139			-.006
		(.126)			(.127)			(.057)
Is visibly uncomfortable × Yanks		-.036			.082			-.081
		(.125)			(.125)			(.056)
Is visibly uncomfortable × Looks threateningly at × Laura vs. Pietro		-.130			.104			-.092
		(.179)			(.180)			(.081)
Is visibly uncomfortable × Looks threateningly at × Giovanni vs. Veronica		.373**			.019			-.043
		(.177)			(.178)			(.080)
Is visibly uncomfortable × Looks threateningly at × Giovanni vs. Pietro		.111			.186			-.119
		(.177)			(.178)			(.080)
Is visibly uncomfortable × Belittles × Laura vs. Pietro		-.099			.037			-.096
		(.179)			(.180)			(.081)
Is visibly uncomfortable × Belittles × Giovanni vs. Veronica		.024			-.055			-.056
		(.178)			(.179)			(.080)
Is visibly uncomfortable × Belittles × Giovanni vs. Pietro		.070			.036			-.081
		(.178)			(.179)			(.080)
Is visibly uncomfortable × Shouts at × Laura vs. Pietro		.019			.197			-.115

		(.179)		(.180)		(.081)
Is visibly uncomfortable × Shouts at × Giovanni vs. Veronica		.082		-.163		-.129
		(.178)		(.179)		(.080)
Is visibly uncomfortable × Shouts at × Giovanni vs. Pietro		.141		.205		-.131
		(.179)		(.180)		(.081)
Is visibly uncomfortable × Yanks × Laura vs. Pietro		.165		.032		-.016
		(.178)		(.179)		(.080)
Is visibly uncomfortable × Yanks × Giovanni vs. Veronica		.109		-.041		-.008
		(.177)		(.178)		(.080)
Is visibly uncomfortable × Yanks × Giovanni vs. Pietro		.125		.077		.017
		(.178)		(.178)		(.080)
Constant	3.271***	3.244***	2.949***	2.957***	.300***	.279***
	(.069)	(.069)	(.070)	(.070)	(.031)	(.031)
Observations	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Number of groups	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000

Standard errors in parentheses

*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Robustness checks

Table S11. Estimates from linear regression models for *perceived societal acceptance* and *perceived normality*, using only the first vignette seen by each respondent (n=2,000). M1 and M3 include only the vignette attributes; M2 and M4 add respondents' characteristics.

	Perceived societal acceptance		Perceived normality	
	M1	M2	M3	M4
Office (Ref: Bar)	-.037	-.038	.042	.045
	(.056)	(.056)	(.061)	(.060)
Dinner at home (Ref: Bar)	-.077	-.070	-.020	-.020
	(.057)	(.056)	(.061)	(.060)
Laura vs. Pietro (Ref: Laura vs. Veronica)	-.211***	-.210***	-.441***	-.447***
	(.065)	(.065)	(.071)	(.070)
Giovanni vs. Veronica (Ref: Laura vs. Veronica)	-.045	-.046	-.011	-.011
	(.066)	(.066)	(.071)	(.070)
Giovanni vs. Pietro (Ref: Laura vs. Veronica)	-.006	-.007	.046	.046
	(.065)	(.065)	(.070)	(.069)
Friend (Ref: Acquaintance)	.032	.035	-.088	-.085
	(.065)	(.065)	(.071)	(.070)
Colleague (Ref: Acquaintance)	.040	.038	-.169**	-.171**
	(.065)	(.065)	(.070)	(.069)
Partner (Ref: Acquaintance)	-.017	-.010	-.089	-.068
	(.065)	(.065)	(.070)	(.069)
Looks threateningly at (Ref: Jokes with)	-.325***	-.332***	-.417***	-.433***
	(.072)	(.072)	(.078)	(.077)
Belittles (Ref: Jokes with)	-.271***	-.267***	-.486***	-.480***
	(.072)	(.072)	(.078)	(.077)
Shouts at (Ref: Jokes with)	-.458***	-.464***	-.683***	-.684***
	(.073)	(.072)	(.078)	(.077)
Yanks (Ref: Jokes with)	-.544***	-.539***	-.678***	-.683***
	(.072)	(.072)	(.078)	(.077)
Is visibly uncomfortable (Ref: Remain indifferent)	-.065	-.066	-.095*	-.083*
	(.046)	(.046)	(.050)	(.049)
Tells [offender] is not appropriate (Ref: Doesn't say anything)	-.085*	-.091**	.049	.049
	(.046)	(.046)	(.050)	(.049)
Man (Ref: Woman)		-.014		.278***
		(.048)		(.051)
Other (Ref: Woman)		-.273		.048
		(.725)		(.773)
25-34 (Ref: 18-24)		.041		.046
		(.095)		(.101)
35-44 (Ref: 18-24)		-.089		.000
		(.093)		(.099)
45-54 (Ref: 18-24)		-.098		-.027
		(.088)		(.094)
55-64 (Ref: 18-24)		-.129		-.131

		(.088)		(.093)
65-70 (Ref: 18-24)		-.273**		-.267**
		(.107)		(.115)
Medium education (Ref: Low)		.049		.055
		(.055)		(.059)
High education (Ref: Low)		.110*		-.062
		(.066)		(.070)
North-East (Ref: North-West)		-.087		-.061
		(.069)		(.074)
Center (Ref: North-West)		-.011		-.127*
		(.068)		(.073)
South and Islands (Ref: North-West)		.008		-.046
		(.060)		(.064)
Unemployed (Ref: Employed)		.000		-.091
		(.086)		(.092)
Inactive (Ref: Employed)		-.019		-.079
		(.061)		(.065)
Other (Ref: Employed)		-.135		-.402***
		(.135)		(.144)
Constant	3.417***	3.487***	3.158***	3.156***
	(.090)	(.137)	(.097)	(.147)
Observations	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000

Standard errors in parentheses
*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table S12. Estimates from linear regression models for *willingness to intervene*, using only the first vignette seen by each respondent (n=2,000). M1 includes only the vignette attributes; M2 adds respondents' characteristics.

	Willingness to intervene	
	M1	M2
Office (Ref: Bar)	.219***	.224***
	(.026)	(.025)
Dinner at home (Ref: Bar)	.218***	.222***
	(.026)	(.026)
Laura vs. Pietro (Ref: Laura vs. Veronica)	.126***	.122***
	(.030)	(.030)
Giovanni vs. Veronica (Ref: Laura vs. Veronica)	-.018	-.022
	(.030)	(.030)
Giovanni vs. Pietro (Ref: Laura vs. Veronica)	.032	.024
	(.030)	(.029)
Friend (Ref: Acquaintance)	.045	.040
	(.030)	(.030)
Colleague (Ref: Acquaintance)	.033	.030
	(.030)	(.029)
Partner (Ref: Acquaintance)	-.023	-.026
	(.030)	(.029)

Looks threateningly at (Ref: Jokes with)	.067**	.060*
	(.033)	(.033)
Belittles (Ref: Jokes with)	.240***	.239***
	(.033)	(.033)
Shouts at (Ref: Jokes with)	.159***	.163***
	(.033)	(.033)
Yanks (Ref: Jokes with)	.165***	.168***
	(.033)	(.033)
Is visibly uncomfortable (Ref: Remain indifferent)	.087***	.085***
	(.021)	(.021)
Tells [offender] is not appropriate (Ref: Doesn't say anything)	.001	-.005
	(.021)	(.021)
Man (Ref: Woman)		.013
		(.022)
Other (Ref: Woman)		-.202
		(.328)
25-34 (Ref: 18-24)		-.074*
		(.043)
35-44 (Ref: 18-24)		-.162***
		(.042)
45-54 (Ref: 18-24)		-.201***
		(.040)
55-64 (Ref: 18-24)		-.199***
		(.040)
65-70 (Ref: 18-24)		-.254***
		(.049)
Medium education (Ref: Low)		-.038
		(.025)
High education (Ref: Low)		-.057*
		(.030)
North-East (Ref: North-West)		-.015
		(.031)
Center (Ref: North-West)		-.028
		(.031)
South and Islands (Ref: North-West)		.070***
		(.027)
Unemployed (Ref: Employed)		-.057
		(.039)
Inactive (Ref: Employed)		-.034
		(.028)
Other (Ref: Employed)		-.037
		(.061)
Constant	.223***	.412***
	(.041)	(.062)
Observations	2,000	2,000

Standard errors in parentheses
*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table S13. Estimates from linear regression models for *perceived societal acceptance* and *perceived normality*, using only the first vignette seen by each respondent (n=2,000): main effects of vignette attributes (M1 and M5) and interactions of offender–victim gender pairing with type of violence (M2 and M6), victim's reaction (M3 and M7), and victim's perception (M4 and M8).

	Perceived societal acceptance				Perceived normality			
	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8
Office (Ref: Bar)	-.037	-.039	-.037	-.037	.042	.042	.043	.042
	(.056)	(.056)	(.056)	(.056)	(.061)	(.061)	(.061)	(.061)
Dinner at home (Ref: Bar)	-.077	-.082	-.076	-.076	-.020	-.022	-.018	-.020
	(.057)	(.056)	(.057)	(.057)	(.061)	(.061)	(.061)	(.061)
Friend (Ref: Acquaintance)	.032	.029	.035	.031	-.088	-.087	-.085	-.088
	(.065)	(.065)	(.065)	(.065)	(.071)	(.071)	(.071)	(.071)
Colleague (Ref: Acquaintance)	.040	.035	.039	.040	-.169**	-.162**	-.168**	-.168**
	(.065)	(.065)	(.065)	(.065)	(.070)	(.070)	(.070)	(.070)
Partner (Ref: Acquaintance)	-.017	-.016	-.017	-.018	-.089	-.082	-.088	-.089
	(.065)	(.065)	(.065)	(.065)	(.070)	(.070)	(.070)	(.070)
Looks threateningly at (Ref: Jokes with)	-.325***	-.102	-.323***	-.323***	-.417***	-.157	-.419***	-.419***
	(.072)	(.145)	(.072)	(.072)	(.078)	(.156)	(.078)	(.078)
Belittles (Ref: Jokes with)	-.271***	-.225	-.267***	-.269***	-.486***	-.314*	-.489***	-.489***
	(.072)	(.149)	(.072)	(.072)	(.078)	(.161)	(.078)	(.078)
Shouts at (Ref: Jokes with)	-.458***	-.369**	-.455***	-.454***	-.683***	-.436***	-.685***	-.686***
	(.073)	(.148)	(.073)	(.073)	(.078)	(.160)	(.078)	(.078)
Yanks (Ref: Jokes with)	-.544***	-.274*	-.543***	-.543***	-.678***	-.395**	-.679***	-.680***
	(.072)	(.152)	(.072)	(.072)	(.078)	(.165)	(.078)	(.078)
Is visibly uncomfortable (Ref: Remain indifferent)	-.065	-.067	-.066	-.084	-.095*	-.099**	-.094*	-.042
	(.046)	(.046)	(.046)	(.094)	(.050)	(.050)	(.050)	(.101)
Tells [offender] is not appropriate (Ref: Doesn't say anything)	-.085*	-.085*	-.158*	-.086*	.049	.054	.010	.049
	(.046)	(.046)	(.094)	(.046)	(.050)	(.050)	(.101)	(.050)
Laura vs. Pietro (Ref: Laura vs. Veronica)	-.211***	.113	-.307***	-.257***	-.441***	-.270*	-.424***	-.400***
	(.065)	(.145)	(.093)	(.092)	(.071)	(.157)	(.100)	(.099)
Giovanni vs. Veronica (Ref: Laura vs. Veronica)	-.045	.089	-.103	-.051	-.011	.344**	-.081	.026
	(.066)	(.145)	(.095)	(.091)	(.071)	(.157)	(.102)	(.098)
Giovanni vs. Pietro (Ref: Laura vs. Veronica)	-.006	.027	.001	.009	.046	.275*	.015	.069
	(.065)	(.145)	(.093)	(.091)	(.070)	(.157)	(.100)	(.098)
Looks threateningly at × Laura vs. Pietro		-.590***				-.303		
		(.206)				(.222)		
Looks threateningly at × Giovanni vs. Veronica		-.197				-.454**		
		(.203)				(.219)		

Looks threateningly at × Giovanni vs. Pietro		-.116				-.278		
		(.202)				(.218)		
Belittles × Laura vs. Pietro		-.203				-.076		
		(.206)				(.222)		
Belittles × Giovanni vs. Veronica		-.011				-.387*		
		(.206)				(.222)		
Belittles × Giovanni vs. Pietro		.035				-.213		
		(.206)				(.223)		
Shouts at × Laura vs. Pietro		-.216				-.191		
		(.205)				(.221)		
Shouts at × Giovanni vs. Veronica		-.140				-.525**		
		(.209)				(.226)		
Shouts at × Giovanni vs. Pietro		.002				-.270		
		(.204)				(.221)		
Yanks × Laura vs. Pietro		-.628***				-.288		
		(.207)				(.223)		
Yanks × Giovanni vs. Veronica		-.333				-.422*		
		(.213)				(.230)		
Yanks × Giovanni vs. Pietro		-.093				-.378*		
		(.206)				(.222)		
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Laura vs. Pietro			.092				-.083	
			(.131)				(.141)	
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Giovanni vs. Veronica			.013				-.077	
			(.133)				(.143)	
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Giovanni vs. Pietro			-.030				-.049	
			(.130)				(.140)	
Is visibly uncomfortable × Laura vs. Pietro				.195				-.037
				(.131)				(.141)
Is visibly uncomfortable × Giovanni vs. Veronica				.113				.137
				(.132)				(.143)
Is visibly uncomfortable × Giovanni vs. Pietro				-.016				.060
				(.129)				(.140)
Constant	3.417***	3.296***	3.452***	3.424***	3.158***	2.962***	3.178***	3.135***
	(.090)	(.123)	(.099)	(.097)	(.097)	(.133)	(.107)	(.105)
Observations	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000

Standard errors in parentheses

*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table S14. Estimates from linear regression models for *willingness to intervene*, using only the first vignette seen by each respondent (n=2,000): main effects of vignette attributes (M1) and interactions of offender–victim gender pairing with type of violence (M2), victim's reaction (M3), and victim's perception (M4).

	Willingness to intervene			
	M1	M2	M3	M4
Office (Ref: Bar)	.219***	.220***	.219***	.220***
	(.026)	(.026)	(.026)	(.026)
Dinner at home (Ref: Bar)	.218***	.218***	.218***	.218***
	(.026)	(.026)	(.026)	(.026)
Friend (Ref: Acquaintance)	.045	.048	.045	.044
	(.030)	(.030)	(.030)	(.030)
Colleague (Ref: Acquaintance)	.033	.036	.032	.033
	(.030)	(.030)	(.030)	(.030)
Partner (Ref: Acquaintance)	-.023	-.020	-.023	-.023
	(.030)	(.030)	(.030)	(.030)
Looks threateningly at (Ref: Jokes with)	.067**	.023	.067**	.066**
	(.033)	(.066)	(.033)	(.033)
Belittles (Ref: Jokes with)	.240***	.317***	.241***	.239***
	(.033)	(.068)	(.033)	(.033)
Shouts at (Ref: Jokes with)	.159***	.213***	.160***	.159***
	(.033)	(.068)	(.033)	(.033)
Yanks (Ref: Jokes with)	.165***	.177**	.166***	.164***
	(.033)	(.070)	(.033)	(.033)
Is visibly uncomfortable (Ref: Remain indifferent)	.087***	.087***	.086***	.118***
	(.021)	(.021)	(.021)	(.043)
Tells [offender] is not appropriate (Ref: Doesn't say anything)	.001	.002	.017	.001
	(.021)	(.021)	(.043)	(.021)
Laura vs. Pietro (Ref: Laura vs. Veronica)	.126***	.084	.128***	.138***
	(.030)	(.067)	(.042)	(.042)
Giovanni vs. Veronica (Ref: Laura vs. Veronica)	-.018	-.011	-.013	-.001
	(.030)	(.067)	(.043)	(.042)
Giovanni vs. Pietro (Ref: Laura vs. Veronica)	.032	.140**	.058	.063
	(.030)	(.066)	(.042)	(.042)
Looks threateningly at × Laura vs. Pietro		.148		
		(.094)		
Looks threateningly at × Giovanni vs. Veronica		.064		
		(.093)		
Looks threateningly at × Giovanni vs. Pietro		-.028		
		(.093)		

Belittles × Laura vs. Pietro		-.060		
		(.094)		
Belittles × Giovanni vs. Veronica		-.074		
		(.094)		
Belittles × Giovanni vs. Pietro		-.170*		
		(.094)		
Shouts at × Laura vs. Pietro		.045		
		(.094)		
Shouts at × Giovanni vs. Veronica		-.069		
		(.096)		
Shouts at × Giovanni vs. Pietro		-.190**		
		(.094)		
Yanks × Laura vs. Pietro		.081		
		(.095)		
Yanks × Giovanni vs. Veronica		.038		
		(.097)		
Yanks × Giovanni vs. Pietro		-.154		
		(.094)		
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Laura vs. Pietro			-.002	
			(.060)	
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Giovanni vs. Veronica			-.011	
			(.061)	
Tells [offender] is not appropriate × Giovanni vs. Pietro			-.050	
			(.059)	
Is visibly uncomfortable × Laura vs. Pietro				-.024
				(.060)
Is visibly uncomfortable × Giovanni vs. Veronica				-.036
				(.061)
Is visibly uncomfortable × Giovanni vs. Pietro				-.063
				(.059)
Constant	.223***	.200***	.214***	.208***
	(.041)	(.056)	(.046)	(.045)
Observations	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000

Standard errors in parentheses
*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1