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La Laguna, 4 September 2025

REVIEW

**of the doctoral dissertation written by Mr. José Antonio González Costa
entitled “The Victim of Gender-Based Violence: A Comparative
Perspective of the European Union, Spain, and Italy”**

Doctoral Supervisor: Dr. Joanna Banach-Gutiérrez, University of Warmia and Mazury,
Olsztyn.

Second Supervisor: Dr. Iván Domingo González Barrios, University of La Laguna,
Spain.

Legal basis for the review

According to Articles 183, 187, and 190, section 2, of the Law on Higher Education and
Science of July 20, 2018 (Journal of Laws of 2023, item 1668, as amended), and in

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connection with the SWPS University entrusting me with the review of Mr. José Antonio González Costa's doctoral thesis, I hereby present my review of his doctoral dissertation.

1. Selection of the topic of the doctoral dissertation

The topic chosen by the doctoral candidate, "The Victim of Gender-Based Violence: A Comparative Perspective of the European Union, Spain, and Italy", is appropriate and relevant. The candidate clearly defines the research field, focusing on gender-based and domestic violence—particularly in Spain after the entry into force of the 2004 Gender Violence Law—and its relevance in comparison with other EU countries.

2. Substantive evaluation of the doctoral dissertation

2.1 Structure of the dissertation

The thesis consists of an introduction and three chapters. In the introduction, the author explains the research problem and objectives, offering a coherent solution. The first chapter analyses the concepts, types, and modalities of violence. The second chapter discusses the legal status of the victim and the legal consequences, with some observations regarding "induced consent". The third chapter explains the need for a common EU regulation and discusses mediation as a legal tool. The thesis justifies the research topic, formulates problems, and applies adequate methods. The analysis of Spanish legislation is critical and insightful, and the comparison with Italy is comprehensive. The author defends the need for a universal legal framework protecting all victims, regardless of gender. The interdisciplinary approach is innovative, and the conclusions are coherent, though the title could include the concept of mediation.

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2.2 Substantive evaluation of the research problem

The author discusses different meanings of violence in the family context and notes the lack of consensus among countries, complicating the creation of a common EU regulation. However, the dissertation could provide more detailed sources and literature in some sections. Despite this, the omissions do not significantly affect the findings. The analysis of mediation could have better addressed the lack of regulation in some European jurisdictions. The dissertation nonetheless demonstrates the candidate's ability to conduct independent scientific research, with coherent argumentation and sound methodology. The annexes and bibliography meet academic standards.

2.3 Formal assessment

The reviewed dissertation meets the formal and methodological criteria for a doctoral thesis. The candidate employs a sound methodology, well-constructed footnotes, and diverse sources. His legal analysis is well grounded in both doctrine and case law.

3. Final conclusions

The doctoral dissertation submitted by Mr. José Antonio González Costa entitled "The Victim of Gender-Based Violence: A Comparative Perspective of the European Union, Spain, and Italy", meets both the substantive and formal requirements for the degree of Doctor of Law and it was written at an adequate academic level.

In light of the above, the dissertation fulfills the conditions specified in Article 187 of the Law on Higher Education and Science (Act of July 20, 2018; Journal of Laws of

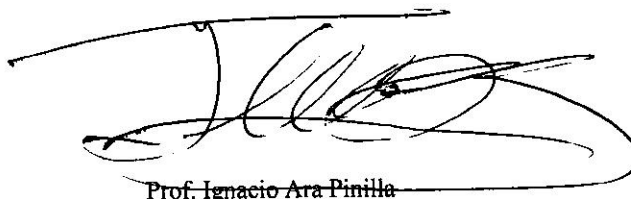
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2023, items 742 and 1668, as amended). It provides a scientific solution to the research problem, demonstrates the candidate's theoretical knowledge in legal sciences, and confirms his ability to conduct independent research. Therefore, I recommend that the doctoral candidate be admitted to the subsequent stages of the doctoral procedure.



Prof. Ignacio Ara Pinilla

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