

Curation of sources and equality narratives in the media agenda

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Abstract

This is an analysis of the work of equality journalists in the Spanish digital press, with an emphasis on the curation of documentary sources and content topics. The study is based on a corpus of 316 articles published during the first half of 2024 in two traditional newspapers (*El País* and *El Periódico*) and four digital native outlets (*eldiario.es*, *El Salto*, *Infolibre*, and *Público*), all of which currently employ journalists specialized in equality. The identification of topics was carried out through exploratory reading of headlines and full texts, followed by a frequency analysis of tags and keywords in each article, organized into a codebook. For source analysis, the CAS method (Curation Analysis System) was applied, which allowed classification of all curated links in each article according to type of organization: media outlets, official sources, corporate sources, or citizen sources. The results show that journalists perform a rich curation of documentary sources to support reports, craft headlines, and highlight inequalities. Four major themes were identified: gender inequalities and violence; advances and tensions in feminist movements and reproductive rights; monitoring of the Ministry of Equality and its policies; and progress and challenges regarding rights and violence toward the LGBTQ+ community. This study highlights the strategic role of these professionals in consolidating rights based narratives within the media agenda and documenting equality policies in Spain.

Keywords

Content curation; Documentation; Gender editors; Digital press; Equality; Media agenda; Documentary sources.

1. Introduction

In recent decades, there has been a decline in the prominence of traditional media in favour of the major technological giants. This phenomenon has contributed to the emergence of an information ecosystem marked by the rise of “platform capitalism,” the proliferation of pseudo-media outlets, and the spread of hate speech that denies inequalities on social networks (Pan et al., 2025; García-García, 2025).

In light of this reality, it is essential to analyze how media content aimed at promoting gender equality is produced and disseminated, with equality understood as fairness in rights, responsibilities, and opportunities between women and men, as well as among girls, boys, and people with diverse gender identities (UN Women, 2025).

In this context, the work of journalists specializing in equality currently faces multiple challenges. These professionals are frequently questioned for curating and editing news content with a rights-based and gender-equality perspective — particularly when working for progressive media outlets — and mainly by ultra-conservative sectors (Bennett & Livingston, 2018; Reuning et al., 2022).

There is also a growing distrust toward official sources in Spain. This skepticism is instigated and amplified by certain far-right political groups, such as Vox. The situation complicates the practice of journalism specialized in equality, within a context governed by a progressive executive.

The erosion of trust in institutions, in turn, weakens the credibility of official information and of traditional media outlets where equality journalists work. This fuels the search for unverified “alternative” sources.

These alternative sources are often associated with far-right strategies such as the “manosphere,” a network of online communities focused on discussions of masculinity, frequently critical of feminism and traditional media (García-Mingo & Díaz-Fernández, 2023).

Finally, the authority of these professionals is also undermined by their being women journalists, as noted by various international organizations (UNESCO, 2019; Amnesty International, 2024).

In this scenario, documentary curation journalism has become a key strategy to ensure quality and rigour in reporting (Guerrini, 2013; Guallar, 2014; Cui & Liu, 2017; Lopezosa et al., 2023). This journalistic work is conceived as a set of practices aimed at selecting, linking, and contextualizing verified sources, with the goal of providing accurate, accessible, and socially relevant information (Guallar & Codina, 2018).

The present study analyzes the source-linking practices of equality journalists in the Spanish digital press. This object of study was chosen because, although the rise of social networks and other digital platforms has partly displaced the centrality of traditional media (Waisbord, 2018; Bailo, 2021), digital press still plays a key role as an agent in shaping the public agenda (Virgili & Puche, 2019). This makes it a crucial space for influencing social perceptions as well as the formulation of policies and legislative frameworks related to gender equality.

Moreover, the content of the digital press is not limited to its own environments, but also circulates widely across social networks. Even among those who do not turn to these platforms for informational purposes, incidental exposure to news is common and is associated with increased online news consumption (Feezell, 2017; Fletcher & Nielsen, 2017).

On the other hand, although previous research has addressed the role of equality journalists in newsrooms — focusing on aspects such as the inclusion of gender editors, their functions, and their ability to influence editorial lines across different sections of the media outlet (Spinetta, 2022; Irazo-Cabrera et al., 2023) — there is still a lack of in-depth analysis of the content produced by these professionals. By examining the linking of documentary sources, this study explores how they seek to position headlines and materials related to gender inequalities and violence, as well as women’s and LGBTIQ+ rights, within the Spanish media agenda. This work may be of interest to journalists and researchers seeking strategies to promote equality focused content and counter hate speech in the media.

2. Materials and methods

The content analysis is based on a corpus of 316 articles published by gender journalists during the first half of 2024, in two traditional Spanish newspapers (*El País* and *El Periódico*) and four digital-native outlets (*ElDiario.es*, *El Salto*, *Infolibre*, and *Público*), which are currently the ones that have these positions.

Of the six media outlets analyzed, three — *ElDiario.es*, *El País*, and *El Salto* — have gender editors who hold strategic decision-making positions within the management team. These professionals supervise, manage, and improve gender representation in the content across all sections of the outlet. The other three media outlets — *El Periódico*, *Público*, and *Infolibre* —

have heads of the equality section but they do not currently act as gender editors in the strict sense. Their work is mainly focused on creating and writing specific content for the equality section.

A sample of articles by gender journalists published in the first half of 2024 was selected from these outlets, a period marked by significant events. During this time, Spain ranked as the fourth-best performing European country in terms of gender equality (EIGE, 2023), and the Ministry of Equality transitioned from Irene Montero to Ana Redondo (Ministry of Equality, 2023), both within the progressive political spectrum but with different approaches to managing the portfolio. In this period, debates on trans rights, LGTBQ+ issues, and gender equality intensified, alongside the rise of denialist discourses from politics, youth, and social media (CIS, 2024; Europa Press, 2024).

Table 1 presents the six media outlets analyzed and the journalists responsible for the equality sections. It includes their roles, links to their author profiles, and the total number of articles published between January and June 2024. These articles make up the study sample.

Table 1

Media outlets with gender journalists and their published content

Newspaper	Name	Role	Author profile	Articles
El Diario.es	Anna Requena	Gender editor	https://www.eldiario.es/autores/ana_requena_aguilar/	53
El País	Isabel Valdés	Gender editor	https://elpais.com/autor/isabel-valdes-aragones/	48
El Periódico	Patricia Martín	Head of section	https://www.elperiodico.com/es/autor/patricia-martin	29
El Salto	Patricia Reguero	Gender editor	https://www.elsaltodiario.com/autor/patricia-reguero	31
Infolibre	Sabela Rodríguez	Head of section	https://www.infolibre.es/autores/sabela-rodriguez/	76
Público	Candela Barro	Head of section	https://www.publico.es/author/candela-barro	79
Total				316

The methodology was an exploratory reading of headlines and full texts to analyze the themes. This was followed by a frequency analysis of tags and keywords used by gender journalists to classify and position each article. The results were organized into a codebook following Braun and Clarke (2006) and Krippendorff (2018). The CAS (Curation Analysis System) method was applied to analyse documentary sources, as it had already been used in studies on journalistic curation (Guallar et al., 2021; Lopezosa et al., 2023; Guallar et al., 2025).

Outgoing links from each article were classified according to the type of organization: media outlets, official sources, corporate sources, and citizen sources.

During the analyzed period, four main themes were identified: (1) gender inequalities, discrimination, and violence; (2) advances, setbacks, and tensions in feminist movements, with a focus on reproductive rights; (3) monitoring of the Ministry of Equality and the implementation of its policies and laws; and (4) progress and challenges regarding the rights and violence faced by the LGTBQ+ community.

In addressing these themes, documentary sources — media outlets, official documents, corporate reports, and tweets or citizen statements — were central. They were used both to craft headlines and support reports, as well as to analyze the construction of public debates and the monitoring of equality policies. The analysis was structured into five sections as follows:

- Some Characteristics of Source Curation
- How to Curate Gender Inequalities and Violence
- How to Curate Sources and Resources from Feminist Movements
- How to Curate Equality Laws and Policies
- How to Curate Advances and Setbacks in LGTBQ+ Rights

3. Some characteristics of source curation

During the first half of 2024, gender journalists linked to over two thousand documents (external links), focusing mainly on outlets such as El País and Público, followed by Infolibre, ElDiario.es, El Periódico, and El Salto. This demonstrates that gender-perspective curation is concentrated on a few media outlets that aim to influence the news agenda.

Regarding the type of linked sources, El País and Infolibre primarily rely on official sources to cover violence, inequalities, and public policies, while El Salto prioritizes community perspectives and feminist movements, curating corporate sources (organizations, collectives, and NGOs). El Periódico and Público combine official, corporate, and citizen sources (individuals), although the latter are used to a limited extent. Additionally, these outlets include links to third-party content from various information sources to cover cases uncovered by others, denounce journalistic malpractice, or address local and international issues related to feminism.

The timing of the content is mostly retrospective, with curation of links to materials and sources over a month old and, in some cases, up to 10 years old. Since these are retrospective links, the digital preservation of the documents is particularly important.

The curation techniques employed include summarizing and contextualizing, allowing editors to trace relationships, construct timelines, and define key concepts, as well as analyze structures of violence and inequality and advances in feminist and LGTBI rights, while also integrating the Ministry of Equality's agenda.

Regarding the morphology of sources, websites predominate, followed by secondary sources and social media, while blogs have minimal presence, reflecting a focus on verified content.

4. How to curate gender inequalities and violence

When addressing gender-based violence — including sexist, femicide, sexual, vicarious, institutional, and economic violence — journalists engage in documentary curation, linking and analyzing sources to show how these forms of violence are sustained by social structures. They also craft headlines, provide coverage, and link sources to highlight inequalities in work, health, intimate relationships, caregiving, motherhood, work–family balance, and the political participation and leadership of women and dissenting groups.

Figure 1
(15/02/2024). News article by Anna Requena, gender editor at *ElDiario.es*, on the economic cost of gender based violence in Spain. The headline is based on data from a 2022 study by the Ministry of Equality.



These reports highlight antifeminist discourses circulating from the far-right and the “manosphere” on social media, which seek to delegitimize equality policies by presenting them as an “ideological invention.” Thirty percent of the articles analyze how these discourses are constructed and contested, gaining presence in the media, digital platforms, and institutional politics, especially with the rise of Vox in Spain.

Official sources predominate in the documentation used to cover gender-based violence and inequalities. Institutions such as the Ministry of Equality and its Government Delegation against Gender-Based Violence publish key statistical reports on the [Gender Violence Statical Portal](#).

These reports serve as a reference, and their links are consulted and published when producing information on femicides, complaints, protection orders, and gender-based, sexual, and vicarious violence.

These articles also include curated sources relevant to the prevention and monitoring of gender-based and sexual violence. Among them, a contact email is provided for inquiries and complaints: 0016-online@igualdad.gob.es. Additionally, links to documents explaining programs for assisting abused women, such as the program [VioPet](#), which provides temporary shelter for the pets of women who are victims of gender based violence.

From these pieces, state level meetings on violence are highlighted, such as the [State Meeting on Vicarious and Gender-Based Violence](#), which facilitate the exchange of experiences and the coordination of public policies on the subject.

Another key official source is the [BOE](#) (Official State Gazette) which allows the public to consult updated regulations on gender equality through the use of its [Digital Legal Library](#). Regulations include reforms such as *Article 709* of the Criminal Procedure Law, which prohibits revictimizing questions to victims of sexual violence, and *Article 681*, which allows the court to bar offensive questions, among other provisions. These articles serve as an example of documentary sources that facilitate the analysis of legal advances and the oversight of the real implementation of these regulations in the courts.

Reports from the Observatory of the [General Council of the Judiciary](#) (CGPJ) are also a valuable documentary source; the analysis of court rulings provides journalists with the opportunity to produce reports on impunity or barriers to accessing justice.

An example of this was the journalistic coverage of the “Dani Alves case.” The former Brazilian footballer was accused in 2023 of raping a young woman in Barcelona, sentenced in 2024 to four and a half years in prison, and ultimately acquitted in 2025 by the High Court of Justice of Catalonia, which determined that there was insufficient evidence. The case sparked significant controversy in Spain.

Figure 2

(15/01/2024). Headline produced by Ana Requena based on an official documentary source: a survey by the Center for Sociological Research (CIS) on men’s perceptions of equality policies in Spain.

The image shows a screenshot of a news article. The main headline reads: **El 44% de los hombres cree que las políticas de igualdad han ido demasiado lejos y que son ellos los discriminados**. Below the headline, a sub-headline states: **— El 44% de los hombres cree que las políticas de igualdad han ido demasiado lejos y que son ellos los discriminados**. The article text indicates that a survey by CIS shows women spend three hours a day on household tasks, while men spend 6.7 hours. The article includes social media sharing icons (WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Print), a 'Foto IGUALDAD' tag, and a photo of a protest. A sidebar advertisement for 'elDiario.es' is visible on the right, with the text 'Apoya el periodismo independiente desde 3,33 €/mes' and a 'Hazte socio/a' button. The author's name 'Ana Requena Aguilar' and the date '15 de enero de 2024' are at the bottom.

In this process, another key documentary source was the Protocol “No Callem” from the Barcelona City Council, implemented during Ada Colau’s term to prevent sexual assaults in night-life venues. Its application in this case had international relevance and demonstrated how an official documentary source can guide immediate security and emergency service actions, as well as become news and feature in various headlines.

When covering antifeminist discourses, reports from other official sources are consulted, such as those from the [Center for Sociological Research \(CIS\)](#). Their results are reflected in news articles and reports, such as the survey showing that 44% of men believe equality policies have progressed so much that they now feel discriminated against.

At the international level, notable sources include curated links to the [Instambuul Convention](#), which requires states to prevent and punish violence against women, and to campaigns and resources from [UN Women](#), such as the “[16 Ways to Challenge Rape Culture](#),” which aim to raise awareness and prevent gender-based violence globally. Reports and sessions from international organizations, such as the document from the [74th CEDAW](#) session, serve as a framework for policies and reports on violence.

Alongside official sources, journalists curate links to corporate sources, such as reports from [Aspacia](#), an organization established in Spain in 2020 to coordinate social and equality policies. These organizations, supported in some cases partly with public funds, provide resources such as [violencia-sexual.info](#), guides for psychological, legal, and social support for victims of sexual assault, often linked in gender journalism pieces.

Additionally, journalists incorporate sociological reports — such as surveys conducted by the social research consultancy 40dB for [El País](#) and [la SER](#) — which help contextualize generational gaps regarding feminism and equality, along with studies from organizations such as [Save the Children](#), which warns of the high exposure of young people to digital sexual violence.

Tweets and resources from citizen sources are also curated on X (formerly Twitter) and the web, where expert voices on the subject are highlighted. Among these, the curation of tweets from [Victoria Rosell](#), the former Government Delegate against Gender-Based Violence and a jurist specializing in women’s rights, or [Julia Humet](#), lawyers and political scientists specializing in gender-based violence; as well as documents and reports produced by [Sonia Vaccaro](#), a clinical and forensic psychologist known for her work on gender-based violence and for coining the concept of “vicarious violence.”

In terms of documentary sources from media outlets, journalists link to academic studies that provide evidence on sexuality and justice. For example, [Measuring fe-male genital functions](#) by Roy J. Levin (2004) examines methods for assessing female genital functions. This study helps debunk myths about consent and revictimization. Another study, [Does the sex of judges matter?](#) by Arantegui, Romero, and Tamarit (2024), analyzes how the gender of judges influences sentences for sexual offenses in Spain. The results show that female judges tend to impose harsher penalties.

At the same time, articles from other traditional media outlets are selected and curated to address topics of local or international interest or to complement information, such as headlines highlighting the greater strictness of female judges in sexual offense penalties ([El País](#)), the first law in Castilla-La Mancha against the gender pay gap ([Periódico CLM / Público](#)), the

video *El violador eres tú* (La Nación, Argentine digital outlet), and guidance from the Ministry of the Interior on sexual assaults (20 Minutos).

Apart from gender-based violence, journalists specializing in equality draw on a wide range of documentary sources to cover and craft headlines about the multiple forms of inequality affecting women in various areas: In education and employment, links to official documentary sources are curated, such as the National Institute of Statistics (INE), Eurostat, and the State System of Education Indicators (2023), which provide data on educational segregation, [school dropout rates](#), and [unequal access to employment](#).

Similarly, the Active Population Survey (EPA) and the INE's Wage Structure Surveys are essential for analyzing labour and economic gaps. Likewise, the INE Fertility Survey (2018) provides key insights on motherhood, work–life balance, and delayed childbearing, which are crucial for understanding demographic and labor inequalities.

At the corporate source level, the [GWL Voices](#) report, produced by an organization of nearly 80 women leaders worldwide, served gender journalists in creating various headlines highlighting a key fact: only 67 of the 523 leaders in global organizations over the past 79 years have been women, revealing the glass ceiling in international representation.

In the area of motherhood, journalists draw on resources produced by organizations such as *Yo no renuncio* (yonorenuncio.com) and *Familias Monomarentales* (familiasmonomarentales.es) to highlight gender inequalities in work–life balance, single mothers' rights, and caregiving burdens, supporting their articles with reliable data and testimonies. This work of documentation and data analysis — combined with data visualization tools and accessible microdata — strengthens gender journalism, allowing complex figures to be transformed into understandable narratives that highlight persistent inequalities.

To further explore the practice of gender journalism, it is essential to consider how sources and resources produced by feminist movements are selected and organized.

5. How to curate sources and resources from feminist movements

News coverage on feminism focuses on the struggles and achievements of feminist movements, with particular emphasis on reproductive and social rights in Spain, and to a lesser extent, in other European and Latin American countries. Internal debates within Spanish and European feminist issues are also addressed, such as the regulation of prostitution, the implications of the so-called “trans law,” LGBTBIQ+ inclusion, and the interpretation of sexual consent under the “Only Yes Means Yes” law, which legally redefines this concept. Interviews with feminists from cultural, political, and activist spheres are also included, providing perspectives and reflections on the current challenges facing feminist movements.

Figure 3

(04/04/2024). Headline produced by Sabela Rodríguez Álvarez for InfoLibre on the initiative of feminist activists from eight European countries, including Spain, to guarantee the right to free, safe, and legal abortion across the EU.

IGUALDAD

Abortar en España si en Polonia no se puede: mujeres europeas se organizan para blindar sus derechos

- ▶ Feministas de ocho países lanzan una iniciativa para que la Unión Europea sufrague el desplazamiento entre estados miembros y garantizar la libre interrupción del embarazo
- ▶ "En vez de actuar cuando nos quiten nuestros derechos, la idea es decirles que los vamos a blindar", dice la escritora Cristina Fallarás, una de las impulsoras de 'Mi voz, mi decisión'
- ▶ Exclusivo para socias y socios.

 3 COMENTARIOS



Manifestación en 2022 contra la reforma del aborto en Polonia. EP

 **Sabela Rodríguez Álvarez**
[X@SabelaRuiña](#)

4 de abril de 2024 - 20:57h Actualizado el 05/04/2024 - 06:00h



These pieces are based on a feminist genealogy that contextualizes current struggles and debates within a broader historical framework. Beyond the more punitive feminist perspective or coverage of gender-based violence, they also highlight proactive initiatives that open new positive frameworks.

Figure 4

(02/03/2024). Headline produced by Isabel Valdés for El País on a decade of feminist mobilization in Spain, from the Tren de la Libertad to its influence on social media.



Various sources are compiled, including official sources, [reports](#) from the Ministry of Health on pregnancy terminations, as well as links to European initiatives such as [My Voice, My Choice](#) (ICE), which aims to ensure safe and accessible abortion across the European Union. Nevertheless, significant visibility is given to corporate and citizen sources that support these rights.

Links to materials produced by feminist collectives are highlighted. Examples include: [FemBloc](#), which provides support [resources](#) for women and LGTBIQ+ people facing digital violence; studies by the [CATS Association](#), which defends the rights of sex workers and offers social and health services; and publications by [Punt6](#), which promote a more inclusive and equitable feminist urbanism.

There is also extensive publication of articles on feminist movements in Spain highlighting how debates over the prohibition of prostitution and the rights of trans people have divided them. In 2024, for the third consecutive year, the demonstrations were held separately, including in Madrid, with two simultaneous marches:

[El Movimiento Feminista de Madrid](#) called for the prohibition of prostitution and rejected gender self-determination. For its part, the [8M Commission](#) defended trans rights and the eradication of trafficking. It also supported the participation of sex workers in debates that affect them, although it did not take a position on prostitution. In this regard, journalists specializing in equality compiled and curated links to the position papers of both movements to facilitate consultation and analysis.

In terms of curated links to other media, interviews with feminists published in various newspapers are included, along with books from different publishers and external reports.

These links are used to develop a feminist genealogy, that is, to explore how ideas about women and gender have been historically constructed including links to books from feminist publishers such as [La Bella Varsovia](#), [Virus Editorial](#), and [Sudakasa](#), highlighting literature written by women. References to web projects related to historical memory and the visibility of women, such as [Nietas de la Memoria](#), profiles of feminist figures and experts on Wikipedia, and collaborative platforms such as [Mujeres en Red](#), that aim to make women more visible and reduce the gender gap in the digital encyclopedia are collected. Journalistic initiatives that reconstruct the life and work of notable women are included, such as the article by [Vanitatis](#) in *El Confidencial* about Emilia Pardo Bazán, a writer and advocate for women's rights, or local historical memory reports, such as those produced by *Newtral* on Ana Orantes, a victim of gender-based violence whose case prompted legislative changes in Spain.

Similarly, articles, reports, and interviews from other media that highlight pro-abortion activists are included, such as [Justyna Wydrzynska](#), an activist in Poland, a country with very restrictive abortion laws. Her work was reported by media outlets such as *El País* and later cited by other outlets included in the sample.

These progressive media occasionally include statements from outlets on the conservative spectrum, such as [COPE](#), in order to illustrate positions opposing abortion and to contextualize their origins.

Finally, and to a lesser extent, citizen sources are curated, with links to experts and communicators such as the Twitter profile of [Isabel Mellén](#), a philosopher, art historian, and writer, or the Instagram profile of [Júlia Salander](#), a feminist activist and political scientist; both are feminist communicators.

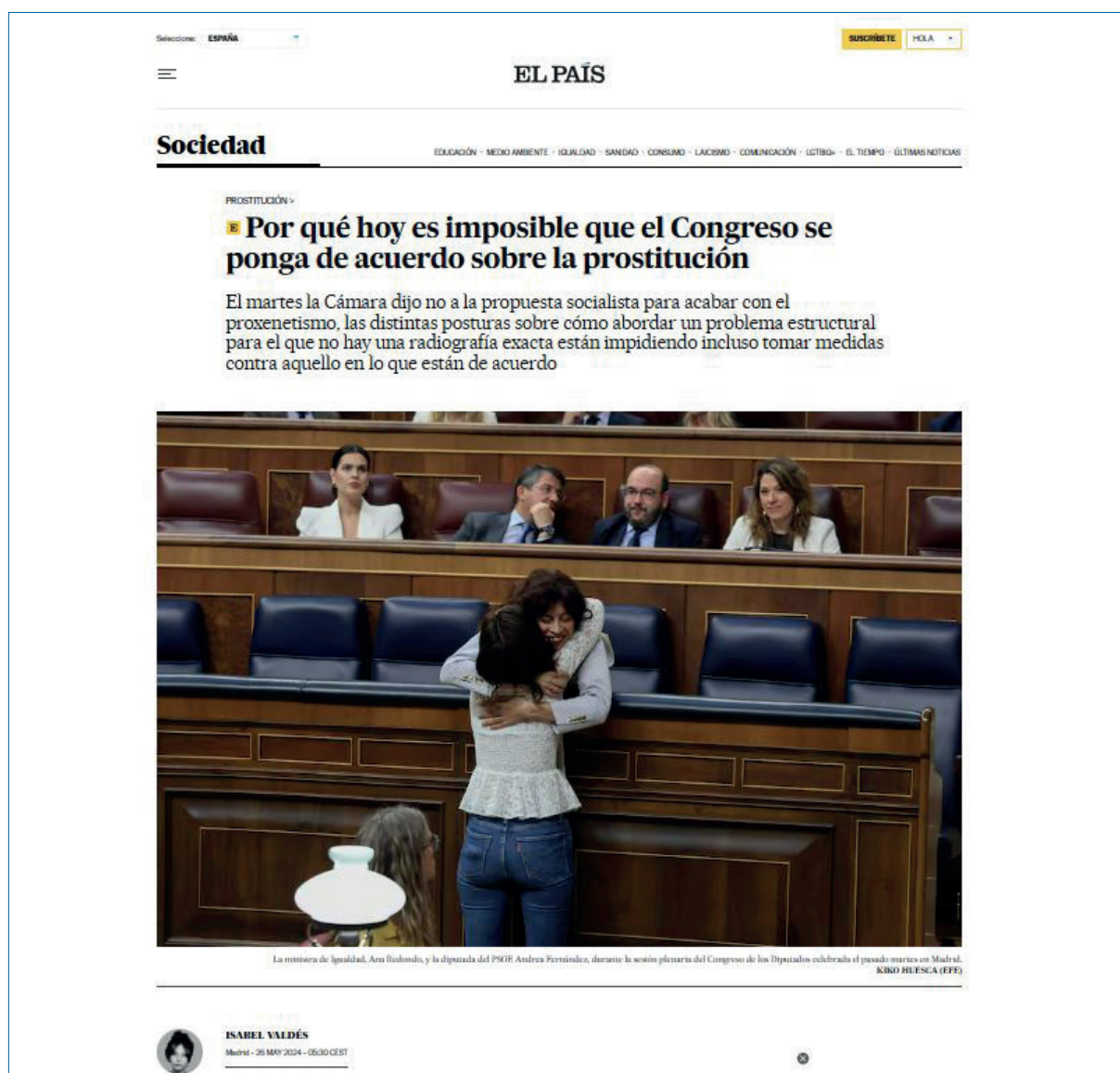
In addition to these voices, curation extends to the regulatory sphere and public policies. These contents are introduced in the following section.

6. How to curate equality laws and policies

The articles in this thematic block report on the institutional processing of key laws such as legislation on prostitution, abortion, and the Trans Law, as well as on the activity of the Ministry of Equality and the political stances regarding equality legislation. They analyze how these laws are being implemented and monitor whether they are effectively applied or face delays. They also cover the social and political debates they generate, showing which parties support them, which propose changes, and who oppose them, thus assessing their political and social impact.

Figure 5

Headline produced by Isabel Valdés for *El País* on the political and feminist divisions that hinder consensus in the Spanish Congress regarding prostitution.



When addressing these topics, mainly official sources are collected, especially documents published in the Press Rooms of political party websites and the Ministry of Equality, as well as the regulations published in the BOE. Among these sources are recent legislative initiatives, such as the [proposal of the PSOE to prohibit pimping \(2024\)](#) and the [Plan Camino \(2022\)](#), approved by the Ministry of Irene Montero (Unidas Podemos), which aims to provide economic, labor, and social alternatives to victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Links to documents from corporate sources are also included, such as the letter from [Human Rights Watch](#) to Congress or the publications of [Amnesty International](#), which highlight the impact of punitive laws on the rights of sex workers and contribute human-rights-focused perspectives to media coverage. In particular, those related to sexual legislation, the rights of sex workers, and the reports of [International Planned Parenthood Federation](#), an international organization dedicated to sexual and reproductive health.

Figure 6

(11/06/2024). Headline written by Ana Requena Aguilar for eldiario.es about the autonomous communities that do not provide the emergency contraceptive pill for free, in violation of current law.



In addition to monitoring parliamentary debates on the policies of the Ministry of Equality, the actual implementation of these policies is analyzed through document curation. To this end, links to official sources such as the [BOE](#), but also to corporate sources, such as the report from the [Federación de Planificación Familiar \(SEDRA\)](#), which shows how access to contraception varies across the autonomous communities of Spain, or [Mujeres Juristas Themis](#), which provides reports and legal resources to highlight and combat gender inequality in the legal field. Additionally, it is proposed to include union reports, such as those from [CCOO](#), which analyze gender equality in the workplace and the gender pay gap, as a complement to more comprehensively assess the implementation and impact of equality policies.

Likewise, some citizen and publicly accessible sources are collected and curated, such as the Twitter account of [Elizabeth Duval](#), as well as the Wikipedia entries on [Marina Subirats](#) and [Marisa Soletto](#), which provide relevant contextual and biographical information for the analysis of debates and actors in the field of gender equality. This same logic of source selection and curation is also key for analyzing advances and setbacks in [LGTBIQ+](#) rights.

7. How to curate advances and setbacks in [LGTBIQ+](#) rights

The news in this section deals with the situation of rights and the violence affecting [LGTBIQ+](#) people. They report, for example, on setbacks in the care and protection of this community, especially following the change of leadership in the Ministry of Equality.

Figure 7

(09/02/2024). Headline written by Patricia Reguero Ríos for *El Salto* about the difficulties faced by foreign trans people in updating their documents one year after the Trans Law in Spain.



These articles also include links to official sources, such as [Law 4/2023](#), of February 28, for the real and effective equality of trans people and the guarantee of the rights of the LGTBQ+ community. However, there special mention of corporate and citizen sources that defend these rights. For example, editors of media outlets such as *Público* or *El Salto* include links to [petitions from LGTBQ+](#) activists requesting the removal of Isabel García as director of the Institute of Women, due to her statements being considered transphobic and her opposition to the Trans Law. Among corporate sources, links are included to information published by LGTBQ+ organizations, such as the State Federation of Lesbians, Gays, Trans, and Bisexuals (FELGTBI+) on the Ministry of Equality's commitment to the State Pact against hate speech toward vulnerable groups ([felgtbi.org](#)), and the Euforia portal, which provides documentation on the legal recognition of non-binary identities ([euforia.org.es](#)).

Figure 8

(25/01/2024). Headline written by Candela Barro for *Público* about hate campaigns against trans women on Twitter, according to a study by FELGTBI+ and 40dB.



The image shows a screenshot of a news article from the website *Público*. The article is titled "Las campañas de odio se ceban con las mujeres trans en Twitter a pesar de que el 86% de los usuarios apoya el Orgullo". The author is Candela Barro, and it was published on 25/01/2024 at 15:28. The article includes a sub-headline: "Los usuarios lgtbifóbicos, la mayoría asociados a cuentas falsas, muestran más su odio en comentarios y lo hacen, sobre todo, contra las mujeres trans, según un estudio sobre la red social X de la FELGTBI+ junto a 40dB." There are two images: one showing a tweet with a red 'X' over it, and another showing a Domino's Pizza advertisement. The article is categorized under "SOCIEDAD" and includes navigation links for "Educación", "Sanidad", "Migración", "Medio Ambiente", "Sucesos", and "Gente".

Additionally, citizen sources from the community are given visibility, such as the inclusion of links to interviews with LGTBQ+ activists like Alan Moreno, a Colombian LGTBQ+ activist exiled in Spain after facing threats for being a trans man and for speaking out against sexual harassment and sexism.

Links to other media outside the ecosystem, selected by gender editors, are also curated. For example, among local media, newspapers such as *El Diario de Cantabria* are included, which reports on the complaint by the Student Council of the University of Cantabria regarding messages of LGTB-phobia, sexism, and hate directed at university students (eldiariocantabria.publico.es), as well as *El Periódico*, which reports on the increase in LGTB-phobic incidents during 2023 (elperiodico.com).

Similarly, international media are linked, such as *The New York Times*, which covers cases of discrimination in U.S. universities, for example, the situation of a non-binary student in Oklahoma (nytimes.com) and other related reports (nytimes.com).

Information from external media, both local and international, is carefully curated to complement in-house coverage, offer different perspectives, and provide reliable context on situations of discrimination and LGTB-phobia. This allows gender editors to provide readers

with a broader and well-documented overview of the issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community in different environments and geographies.

8. Importance of the documentary work of gender journalists

To conclude, it is important to highlight that this research shows the scarcity of specialized roles in gender journalism in Spain, with the presence of gender editors limited to three digital newsrooms and only six journalists in managerial positions dedicated to equality sections in national press outlets, reflecting the limited incorporation of these professionals in the media.

The lack of resources and recognition is aggravated by hostility, where gender journalists face harassment, censorship, and questioning of their work, especially from ultraconservative sectors, some digital media, and the so-called “manosphere” on social networks. In addition, mistrust toward official sources and women journalists make their work even more difficult.

Despite this, Spanish journalists continue to carry out rigorous source curation, highlighting equality issues and challenging discourses that deny inequality. This is a form of documentary journalism that demonstrates that gender-based violence remains central to the media agenda, while 30% of the articles produced by gender journalists during the analyzed period address the growth of discourses that deny these inequalities and forms of violence.

As for source curation, during the first half of 2024, more than two thousand documents were curated. Professionals relied primarily on official sources, complemented by corporate, citizen, and media sources. However, a potential ultraconservative government, such as PP or Vox, could limit the production and reliability of these sources, making it necessary to diversify curation in order to guarantee the future continuity of coverage on equality and gender-based violence.

This study analyzes the current practices of gender journalism, pointing out that, although progress has been consolidated, these are situational dynamics and future challenges persist. Among them is the need to strengthen alternative documentary networks that ensure critical, rights-based journalism even in adverse scenarios, as well as the creation of safe spaces to work and support networks with colleagues, lawyers, and health professionals, fostering alliances and rejecting self-censorship.

Although all the selected media outlets curate a diversity of documentary sources, variations in their approaches are observed: while journalists at El País and Infolibre prioritize official sources on violence, inequalities, and public policies, the editor at El Salto emphasizes proactive, community, and feminist perspectives, whereas professionals at El Periódico and Público combine official, corporate, and citizen sources, though with limited use of the latter.

Content curation focuses on retrospective links, some dating back as far as ten years, which underscores the importance of digital preservation. This practice ensures access to verifiable sources and allows for maintaining the continuity and integrity of analyses on inequalities and denialist discourses. However, a recurring challenge is the poor preservation of digital documents, as over time many links break, making verification and the reconstruction of debates difficult.

These documentary sources are linked through techniques of summarization and contextualization, which facilitate the construction of chronologies, the definition of key concepts, and the analysis of structures of violence, inequality, and advances in feminist and LGBTQ+ rights, while also incorporating the agenda of the Ministry of Equality.

Likewise, monitoring the Ministry's activity, the implementation of its policies and regulations, and the proper management of allocated funds — at the state, regional, and municipal levels — together with tracking the progress and challenges in rights and violence affecting the LGTBQ+ community, contributes to institutional accountability. This makes it possible to highlight achievements, point out shortcomings, and demand responsibility in the promotion of equality.

Regarding the morphology of these sources, websites predominate, followed by secondary sources and social networks, while blogs have minimal presence, reflecting an emphasis on verified content.

Although all the media outlets analyzed target progressive audiences, each editor develops a distinct approach to feminism and gender inequality. While *Público* and *El Salto* compile more materials on trans rights, migrants, and the participation of sex workers, other outlets also include debates on the abolition of prostitution and opposition to gender self-determination, while maintaining, in all cases, a pro-rights stance and respect for the diversity of feminist currents.

This source-curation journalism fulfills informative, educational, and strategic functions, providing tools and arguments to those who promote equality. Although it does not seek to persuade denialists, it strengthens rights-based narratives and supports policies, content, and critical reflections. In this way, journalists position the equality agenda in the public sphere, consolidating coverage that highlights violence and inequalities while also proposing solutions and new frameworks for thought.

From this research, new lines of study emerge, notably the analysis of themes and source curation by journalists across different periods, countries, or political contexts, which would enrich comparison and lead to a better understanding of the global dynamics of gender journalism.

It would also be relevant to examine the curation and use of documentary sources in media lacking specialized gender-equality roles, as well as in those closer to far-right positions, to understand how such conditions affect coverage, source selection, and topic treatment. It should be noted that this research has focused exclusively on content published by six journalists holding editorial leadership positions; therefore, it would be valuable to expand the study to other works produced by professionals in equality sections and, furthermore, to interview them in order to explore their topic selection and source-curation practices in greater depth, thereby complementing the information presented in this chapter

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