

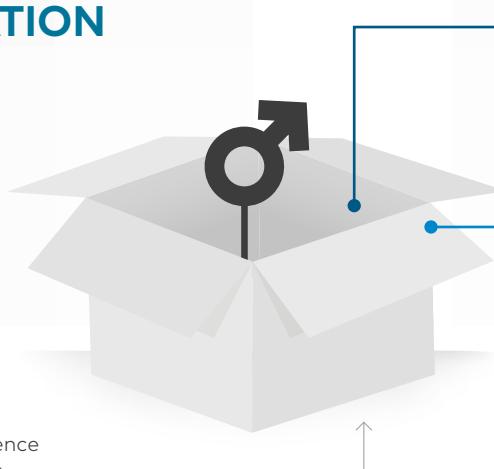
# THE MASCULINITY BOX IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY

## CONSTRUCTION, ATTITUDES, AND IMPACT OF MASCULINITIES ON THE BASQUE POPULATION

The masculinity box is an **analytical concept** used to explain the degree of proximity or distance individuals have from the most traditional and conservative view of masculinity.

The **indicators** of the "masculinity box" are measured quantitatively through a questionnaire, asking respondents about their level of agreement with 17 indicators related to masculinity, divided into five thematic areas:

- Avoiding vulnerability and legitimizing violence
- Embracing traditional gender roles and values
- Normalizing hypersexualization
- Rejecting diversity in sexual orientation
- Criticizing the care of physical appearance



Based on agreement with 17 items (rated on a scale from 1 to 4), cases are classified as "inside," "outside," or "on the edge" of the box.

### INSIDE

Individuals who strongly adhere to the hegemonic masculinity model, **excessively exalting masculinity** and traditional gender mandates.

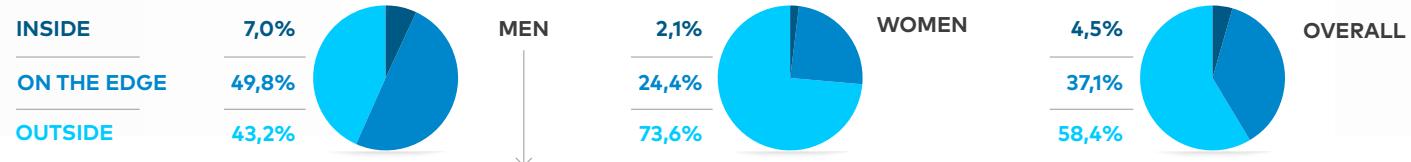
### ON THE EDGE

Those who do not fully agree with traditional mandates but have **not yet fully embraced egalitarian masculinity**.

### OUTSIDE

Those who consciously and firmly reject traditional hegemonic masculinity and strive to adopt gender models based on **empathy and equality**.

### DISTRIBUTION OF THE BASQUE POPULATION



There are significant differences between age groups, with **men under 20 years** old being the most aligned with the masculinity box.

### TRADITIONAL MASCULINE MANDATES THAT PERSIST AMONG BASQUE MEN

The Basque population largely rejects traditional hegemonic masculinity, especially women.

	MEN	WOMEN
Not defending oneself from abuse is a sign of weakness	<b>30.1%</b>	<b>14.0%</b>
"Real men" are heterosexual	<b>22.5%</b>	<b>10.0%</b>
It is normal for a man to flirt with a woman he does not know in a public space if he finds her attractive	<b>20.6%</b>	<b>9.0%</b>
A real man can never be effeminate	<b>20.3%</b>	<b>9.2%</b>
Going to prostitution to have sex is normal	<b>19.5%</b>	<b>7.1%</b>
If a man does not have enough sex with his partner, it is understandable that he would cheat	<b>17.3%</b>	<b>5.6%</b>

### IMPACT OF GENDER VIOLENCE

There is widespread rejection of gender violence in the Basque population. 80.3% state that gender violence is a very serious social problem.

	MEN	WOMEN
Men have lost the presumption of innocence	<b>43.1%</b>	<b>26.4%</b>
Gender violence is a ideological invention	<b>14.9%</b>	<b>6.7%</b>
You deserve to know where your partner is at all times	<b>14.1%</b>	<b>12.2%</b>
Gender violence is a very serious social problem	<b>72.6%</b>	<b>88.0%</b>

**Gender violence is a very serious social problem**

BY AGE GROUPS	15 TO 29	30 TO 49	50 TO 65
	<b>71.9%</b>	<b>79.2%</b>	<b>86.4%</b>

**SOURCE:** "The Masculinity Box in the Basque Country. Construction, attitudes, and impact of masculinities on the Basque population," a study conducted by the Reina Sofía Center of Fad Juventud for Emakunde. 2024.