

## NO BODY

### AYA BEN RON

11:35 min, 2017

*No Body* by Aya Ben Ron is a video about abuse in the family. After many years of silence, she tells her story in her own terms. In a combination of video and animation, and the structure of a fairytale, Ben Ron confronts her childhood trauma. This video is Ben Ron's testimony.

**Aya Ben Ron** is a multidisciplinary artist. A professor at Haifa University and Hadassah Academic College, Jerusalem, Israel. Her work ranges from site specific projects and installations to moving-image, documentary and film, and includes collaborations with medical institutions and hospitals. Ben Ron is founder and director of Field Hospital X.



Writer, Director, Editor: **Aya Ben Ron**  
 Director of Photography, Production Manager: **Oded Kimhi**  
 Animation: **Batia Kolton, Aya Ben Ron**  
 Music: **Shira Yasur**  
 Sound Design, Music, Mix: **Binya Reches**

#### Theme Song

(Based on The Girl Without Hands by The Brothers Grimm)

Lyrics: **Aya Ben Ron**

Music: **Shira Yasur, Binya Reches**

Vocals, Melodica, Ukulele, Metallophone: **Shira Yasur**

Mix: **Binya Reches**

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## ABUSE IN THE FAMILY

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**Text by Avi Lubin**

Domestic violence includes different forms of sexual and physical abuse. Various international studies show that a quarter of all adults report experiencing physical abuse as children, regardless of their economic status or education level. According to these studies, 1 in 5 women and 1 in 13 men report experiencing childhood sexual abuse. The majority of childhood sexual abuse is carried out by family or friends.

In Israel, like in many other countries, there is a legal obligation to report child abuse, and yet different studies show that 85% of cases of abuse in the family go unreported. Many of the victims do not have the words to describe or understand what is happening to them, especially if they are very young. Even when they do have the ability to talk, many are protective of their family and keep silent out of the fear of what might happen to their loved ones when they tell someone about what had happened.

Silence surrounds the subject of child abuse, especially within the family. It seems that in many cases the immediate environment - family, neighbors, teachers, pediatricians - are not quick to act. One reason is that people who can see and understand, are reluctant to read the signs. In some cases, the reason is self-denial, or a defense mechanism that makes it difficult for us to see what is happening in front of us. In other cases, it is the taboo that still exists about interfering with things that happen within the family.

Abuse in the family is a social phenomenon. Nevertheless, many people prefer to see it as a private problem and attribute it to the attacker's personal pathology. This allows for denial of the collective character and cultural roots of this social problem.



## SECOND OPINIONS

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**Shai Lavi**

Shai Lavi is a professor of law at Tel Aviv University and the Director of the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute. Prof. Lavi received his Ph.D. from the Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program, University of California, Berkeley. He is currently working on the regulation of authority over the body in Israel, Turkey and Germany, and tensions between religion and secularism.

**Sagit Arbel Alon, MD**

Dr. Sagit Arbel Alon is a mother of four, a physician and a poet. Arbel Alon is a gynecologist, and the founder and first director of Bat Ami Center for the treatment of sexually abused women and men in Jerusalem. She is currently the Deputy Director of Reuth Rehabilitation Hospital. Arbel Alon volunteers for Physicians for Human Rights. In 2009 she won the Ofer Lider prize for poetry.