

Risk assessment by police of intimate partner violence against women

Victim safety is a priority of intimate partner violence interventions, as the risk of repeated violence is highly probable in incidences of this specific form of violence against women. Risk assessment approaches aim to protect victims of gender-based violence from further victimisation.

More specifically, in the context of intimate partner violence, risk assessment evaluates the level of risk of harm a victim (or others connected to the victim) may be facing, including the likelihood of repeated and/or lethal violence, allowing professionals to prioritise cases, and allocate available resources to where they are most needed. Police play a lead role in assessing the risk to a victim of intimate partner violence, as their involvement often indicates the seriousness of the pattern of abuse, as in general most incidences of intimate partner violence remain unreported.

In order to support EU Member States to improve their responses to combating intimate partner violence, and to protect victims from further victimisation, EIGE is currently conducting the study, Risk Assessment by Police of Intimate Partner Violence against Women. Research on existing risk assessment procedures and tools among EU Member States, as well on risk management strategies, has been undertaken in conjunction with interviews with stakeholders and consultation meetings with experts from the field of risk assessment and risk management. This work aims to analyse the current situation in the EU of assessing risk and protecting victims from further harm, identifying challenges and proposing solutions to overcome them.

By the end of 2019, EIGE will publish a guide on risk assessment and risk management on intimate partner violence against women, for police. The guide will consolidate EIGE's research into effective approaches to risk assessment and risk management, and will provide recommendations and guidelines for police across the EU in carrying out comprehensive and coordinated responses to protecting victims of intimate partner violence.

The guide will act as a reference tool for ensuring that approaches to victim safety are grounded in

the awareness of the individual needs of each victim and are conducted in a gender-sensitive manner that takes into account the root cause of gender inequality within incidents of intimate partner violence against women.

Metadata

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