

Presentation

Work with Perpetrators of Gender Based Violence

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The Istanbul Convention

Article 16 - Preventive intervention and treatment programmes

- Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to set up or support programmes aimed at teaching perpetrators of domestic violence to adopt non-violent behaviour ...
- Parties shall ensure that the **safety of, support for and the human rights of victims** are of primary concern and that where appropriate, these programmes are set up and implemented in **close co-ordination with specialist support services for victims**

Programme for men who use violence (PAI-H)

- Started in 2011
- Part of the integrated programme against gender based violence (PAI)
- For men who assist voluntarily, not court-ordered
- Following WWP-EN guidelines
- Constructive-narrative approach
- (Scarcely) funded by provincial and regional governments (plus a symbolic contribution by those men who can)

Programme for men who use violence (PAI-H)

- Pro-active partner contact
- Support for partners and children provided in integrated programme (PAI-D / PAI-MI) or by partner organisations
- Collaboration with women's services, child protection services, social services, health services (primary care, mental health, substance abuse), police, justice system, men for gender equality movement
- Members of local platforms against GBV, MenEngage, founding member of WWP-EN

Programme for men who use violence (PAI-H)

Intake

- 4-8 individual sessions (1 to 3 months)
- Assessment
- Partner contact

Treatment

- 25 weekly group sessions (6 to 8 months)
- 6 - 10 men, 2 facilitators
- Non manualized, process - oriented

Follow-up

- At 6 months, 1 and 2 years
- Individually and/or in group
- Also with (ex) partners

Why proactive contact and parallel work with partners?

To reduce a possible negative impact of men's participation in the programme on women partners' safety

- Creates / increases hope for change
- Makes promises (“won't happen again”) in cycle of violence (honeymoon) more believable
- Can contribute to not taking decisions or safety measures they'd otherwise take

Research by Gondolf (1988):

- men's participation in a programme most important factor for women in shelter to return to him

Proactive contact with partners (also ex- and new partners)

- Voluntary and totally confidential for women
- Doesn't suppose any responsibility or implication in his process / participation
- Goals:
 - Inform about the programme
 - Prevent manipulations / abuse
 - Offer support service
 - Ask for information on violence (risk assessment / evaluation)
 - Offer possibility to contact
 - Explain contact in case of danger or man's drop out

**Thank you very much
for your attention!**

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