



# Alliance for Hope and Empowerment



## *Working with Families and Perpetrators in European Family Justice Centers*

One Safe Place For Hope and Empowerment:  
a holistic multidisciplinary approach of domestic violence and  
child abuse, and the work with perpetrators

*SAN DIEGO, MARCH 21, 2019*

Pascale Franck & Bert Groen, European Family Justice Center Alliance

Lienja Van Eijkern & Matthieu Goedhart, Mutsaersstichting



[www.efjca.eu](http://www.efjca.eu)



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## European FJC movement

- EFJCA = Recognized European Network of Family Justice Centers and related multidisciplinary centers, aimed at tackling domestic violence and child abuse
- Regulatory framework in Europe = Mandatory directive for all European countries: **Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.**

### *‘The Istanbul Convention’*

*Article 7 – Comprehensive and co-ordinated policies*





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## *Article 7 – Comprehensive and co-ordinated policies*

*Parties shall take the necessary legislative and other measures to adopt and implement State-wide effective, comprehensive and **co-ordinated policies** encompassing all relevant measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention and offer a holistic response to violence against women.*



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## OUR EUROPEAN MISSION

Eliminating genderbased violence,  
domestic violence and child abuse

&

Empower survivors and restoring hope in the life of  
survivors and their families

by

Working on a high quality interdisciplinary and  
holistic approach





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## VISION of the EFJCA



A future where all professionals work together to ensure safety and a better life for survivors of domestic violence, child abuse and sexual violence.

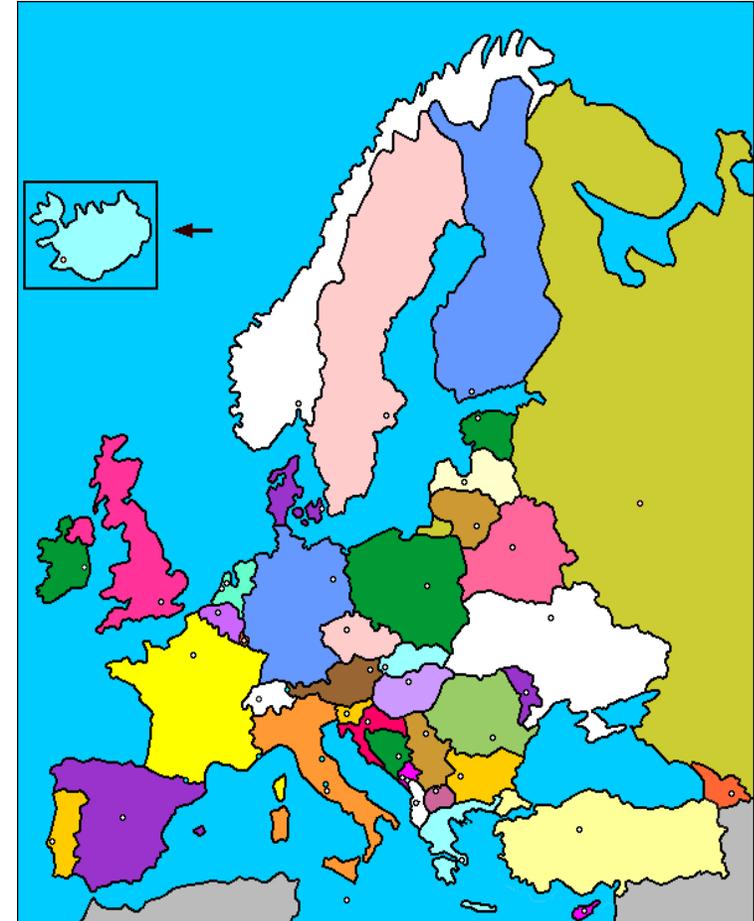


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- Pilot projects 2013-2015:  
The Netherlands: Tilburg and Mutsaers  
Belgium: Antwerp  
Germany: Berlin  
Italy: Milan  
Poland: Warsaw
- Further development since 2015:  
Sweden: Malmo  
Belgium: Limburg and Mechelen  
Northern Ireland: Derry  
Iceland: Reykjavik  
France: Paris and Bordeaux
- Under construction: various regions in the different parts of Europe, b.e. Moldova

## FJC's in Europe:





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## Approach in European FJCs

- Holistic approach = taking care of all life-domains and with carefull attention well-being of body, mind and spirit
- Working with all family members, including perpetrators: Belgium & The Netherlands



Justification for this approach:

***Article 16 – Preventive intervention and treatment programmes***





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## *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 in interpersonal relationships with a view to preventing further violence and changing violent behavioural patterns.*
- *Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to **set up or support treatment programmes aimed at preventing perpetrators, in particular sex offenders, from re-offending.***
- *In taking the measures referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, 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.***





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## Restorative Justice

Justice as tool to stimulate healing and repair damage and suffering instead of (only) punishment of behavior.

Restorative justice offers:

- Recovery for victims
- Possibility for the perpetrator to compensate the damage and suffering done to the victims and an option work towards rehabilitation of the perpetrator

Restorative Justice can have a meaning in the work of FJCs, if the conditions of Restorative Justice are taken into account:

- the dynamics of domestic and genderrelated violence, including power and control
- the impact of on the survivors and children
- the need for installing ongoing safety
- the profile of the perpetrators





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## IN THIS WORKSHOP

2 casestudies:

- FJC Antwerp (Belgium)
- Multifocus-methodology of the Mutsaers foundation (The Netherlands)





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## Practice of the Family Justice Center Antwerpen, Belgium

Pascale Franck, co-director



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## Family Justice Center Antwerpen

### Partner organisations in the FJC

Police

Prosecutor's office

Women's aid, Victim services

Crisis team

Services for child abuse

Social Service of Youth Court

Youth Care

Services for social welfare

Counseling

Centre for mental health

Services for job seeking

Probation

Perpetrator programs

Local and national authorities





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## Family Justice Center Antwerpen



### On site services

Service for (preventing) genital mutilation

Service for alcohol and drug abuse

Service for debts

Medical Service

Service for Foreign affairs

Lawyers

Peer group support (survivors)

Volunteers

Self-defense courses

Yoga, sport

Self care courses





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## Main goals in working with perpetrators:

1. Stop the violence: safety comes first
2. Prevention of recidivism
3. Perpetrator accountability: including perpetrators taking responsibility, behavioural change, change of mind-set
4. Increase protective factors
5. Recovery to children: impact on intergenerational effects





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## Conditions for breaking the violence

1. Working together on safety:  
included in the work with perpetrators  
Importance for ongoing monitoring of the safety
2. Specialized multidisciplinary approach:  
including probation and perpetrator programs
3. Result focused work:  
Follow-up of undertaken steps of Plan of Action





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## Conditions for breaking the violence 2

4. Developing an integral plan of action: Including perpetrator approach
5. Intensive case-management in high risk situations
6. Binding commitment between partners:  
together responsible for out-come, together responsible for adaption of  
action plan where needed, mutual support between cooperators and  
services in action plan activities
7. Sharing information: Informed consent of perpetrators





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## High Risk team

- A Family Justice Center needs a high risk team onsite.
- The risk assessment during the intake is an important instrument to go into the depth of the situation and the possible aftermaths of the disclosure.
- High risk cases also need a strong and intensive case management, including police and justice department involvement.
- In high risk cases, share all information needed to ensure the victim's safety.



dreamstime.com





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## Conditions for result orientated work

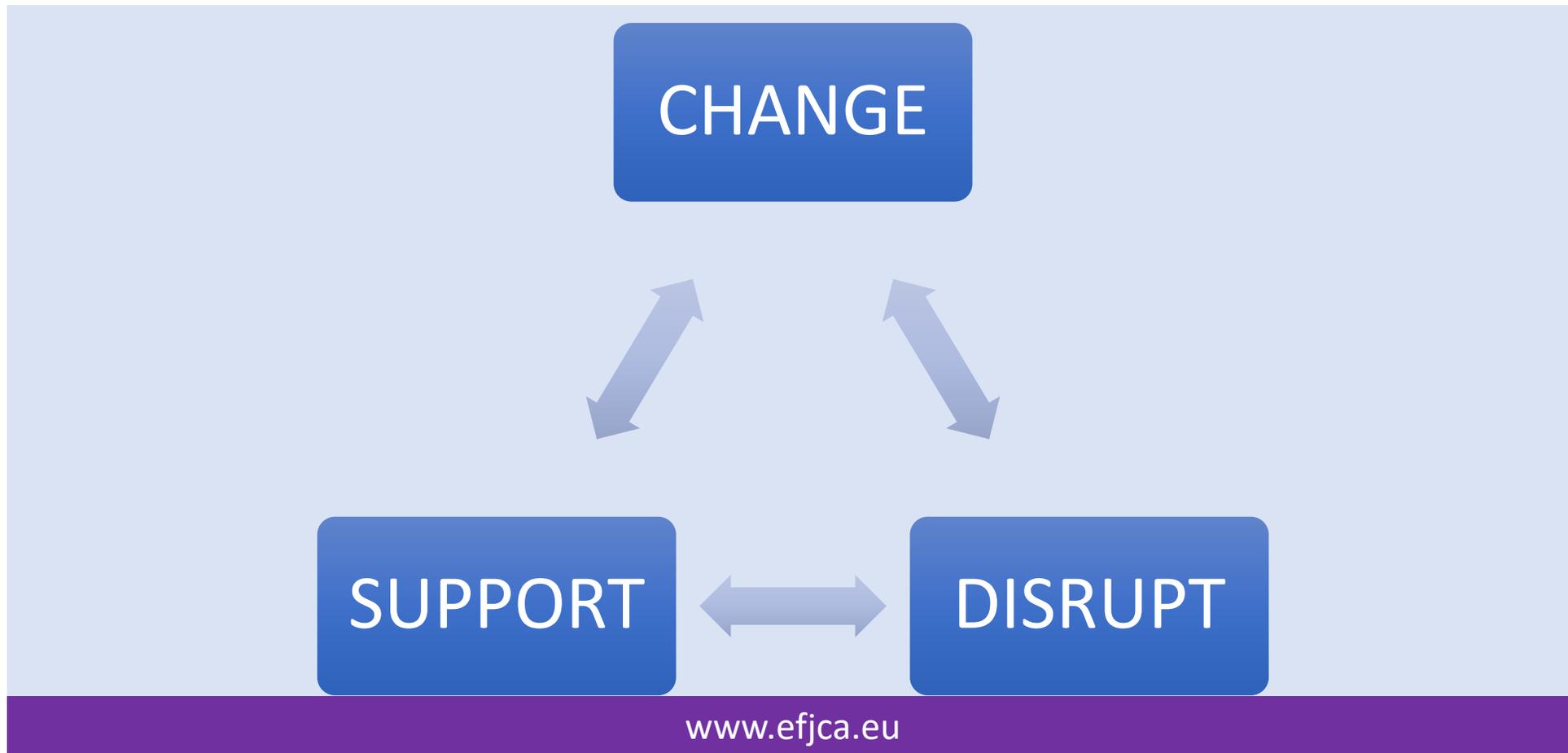
1. Goals in plan of action defined
2. Ongoing work until goals are met
3. Outreaching work when contact is difficult
4. Regularly check on meeting goals with all partners involved in the plan of action
5. Re-contact after decided timing
6. Main focus: empowering of survivors





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Triangel in working on accountability with perpetrators of gender-based & domestic violence





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## Change

- Insight in own behavior and impact on victims
- Change of behavior: stop violence, recidivism, threats, use of power and control,...

Perpetrator programs (different kinds): group work and individual sessions, emotion regulation, Time Out methodology, ...





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## Change: perpetrator programs

1. As part of an interdisciplinary approach and in a holistic view
2. Exchange with the case manager and partner organisations in case consult: sharing of information needed
3. Action Plan starting from safety planning and including ongoing safety monitoring
4. Starting with behavior control to stop the recurring violence or threats
5. Offering more therapeutical approach after installing safety and behavioral control





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## Disrupt

- Barring order
- Protective measures by police and justice, towards victim and/or children (no contact, visit of children in supervised conditions "contact House",...)
- Loss of custody or parental authority
- Probation conditions (following a range of rules during 3 to 5 years – different modules possible)
- Electronic monitoring
- Prison
- ...

-> Measurements who "disrupt" the normal life of the person, as warning and/or as limiting freedom and having an impact on conduct





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## Support : Increase protective factors

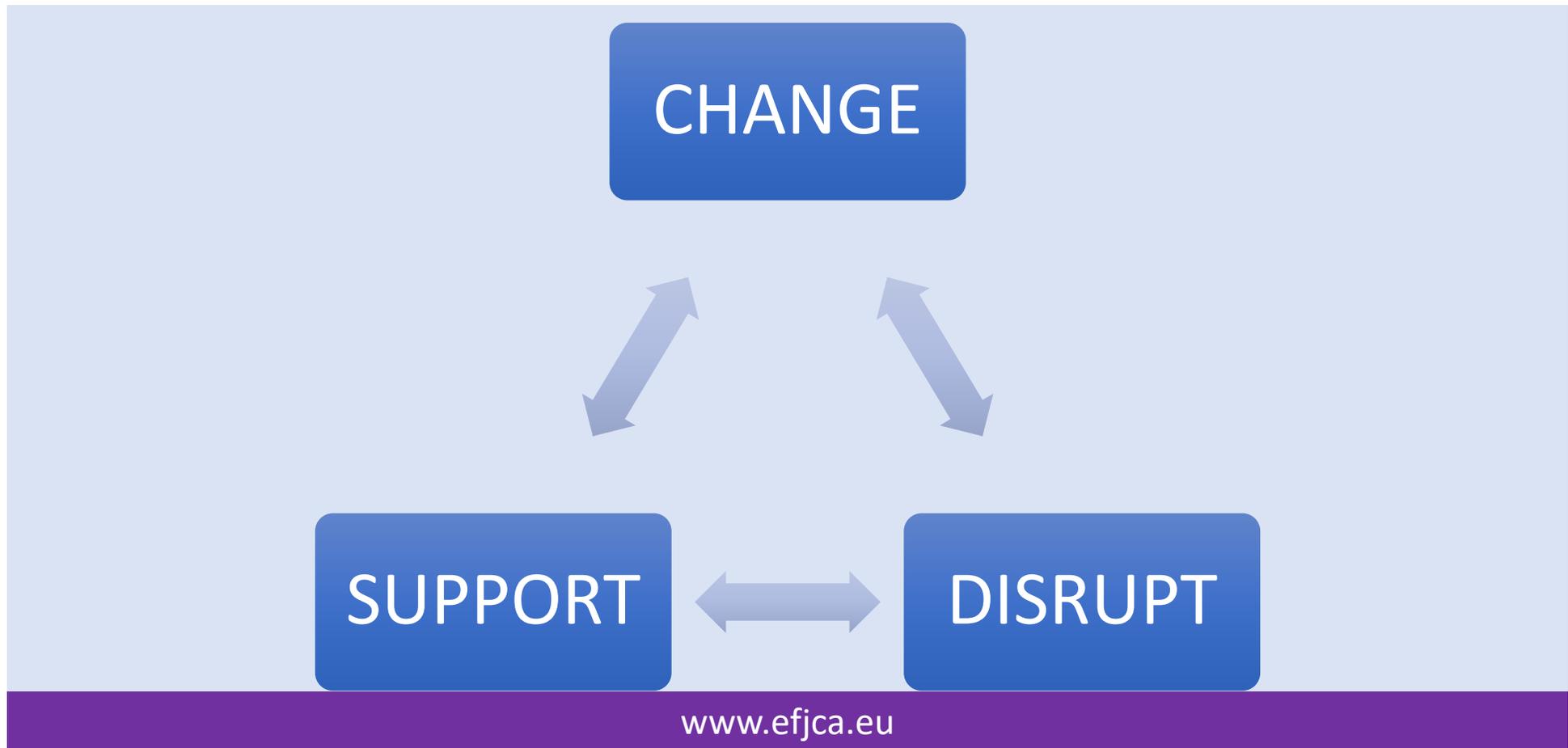
- Aggression management
- Traumatic experiences
- Financial situation and debts
- Work
- Relationship
- Housing
- Physical health
- Mental health
- Social network, isolation
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Migration situation
- Psychological disorders
- Education and child care
- Gender related problems
- Honor related problems
- Cultural related problems
- Legal status, documents and refugee status
- Mental handicap
- ...





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## Working with perpetrators in a holistic approach

- In case families stay together (different reasons)
- In case both parents keep custody over the children (often the case)

Working with all family members in an ongoing safety guarding

Good practice: Multifocus





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## Multi-focus: a system orientated approach of Gender Based Violence

Lienja van Eijkern & Matthieu Goedhart, Mutsaersstichting  
Venlo, The Netherlands





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## Content

- FJC Mutsaersstichting
- Multi-focus
- One vision and shared values
- Guiding principles
- Different types of perpetrators and violent relationships
- Intensive Case management
- What does an Intensive Casemanager do?
- Questions to ask
- Examples





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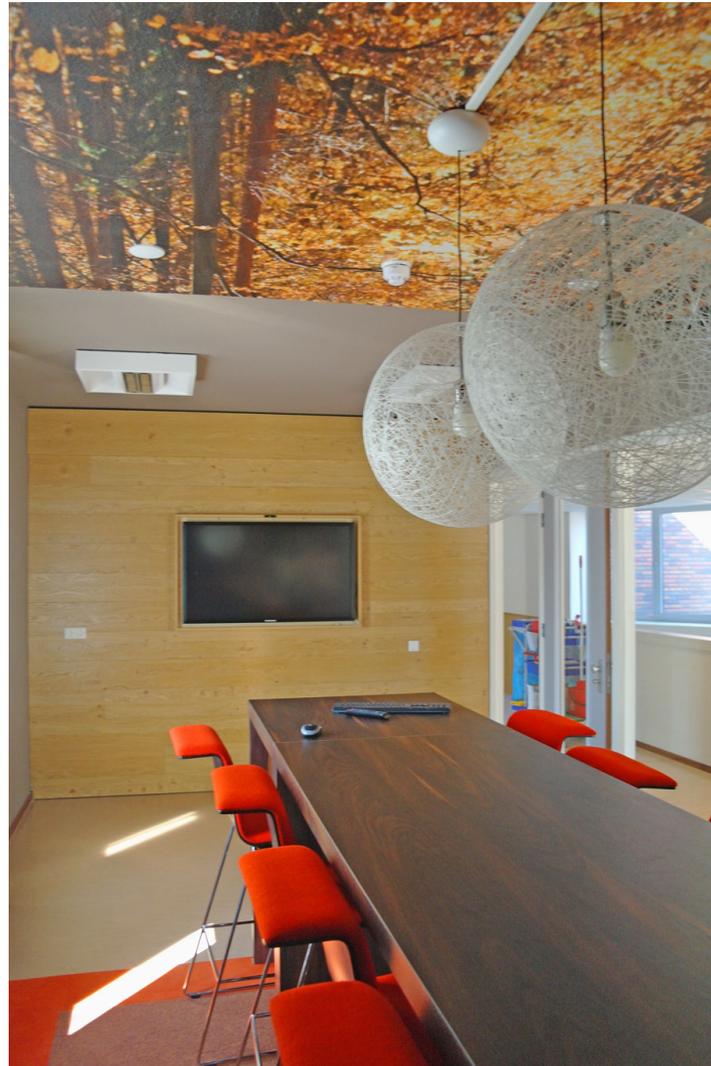


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## MULTI-FOCUS

Short-Term Perspective = safety

Long-term perspective = sustainable safety for victims and breaking the transgenerational pattern

This presentation focusses on when a woman and eventually her children are brought in to our woman's shelter because they were victim of domestic violence





# FJC Mutsaersstichting, the Netherlands





# FJC Mutsaersstichting, the Netherlands





# FJC Mutsaersstichting, the Netherlands





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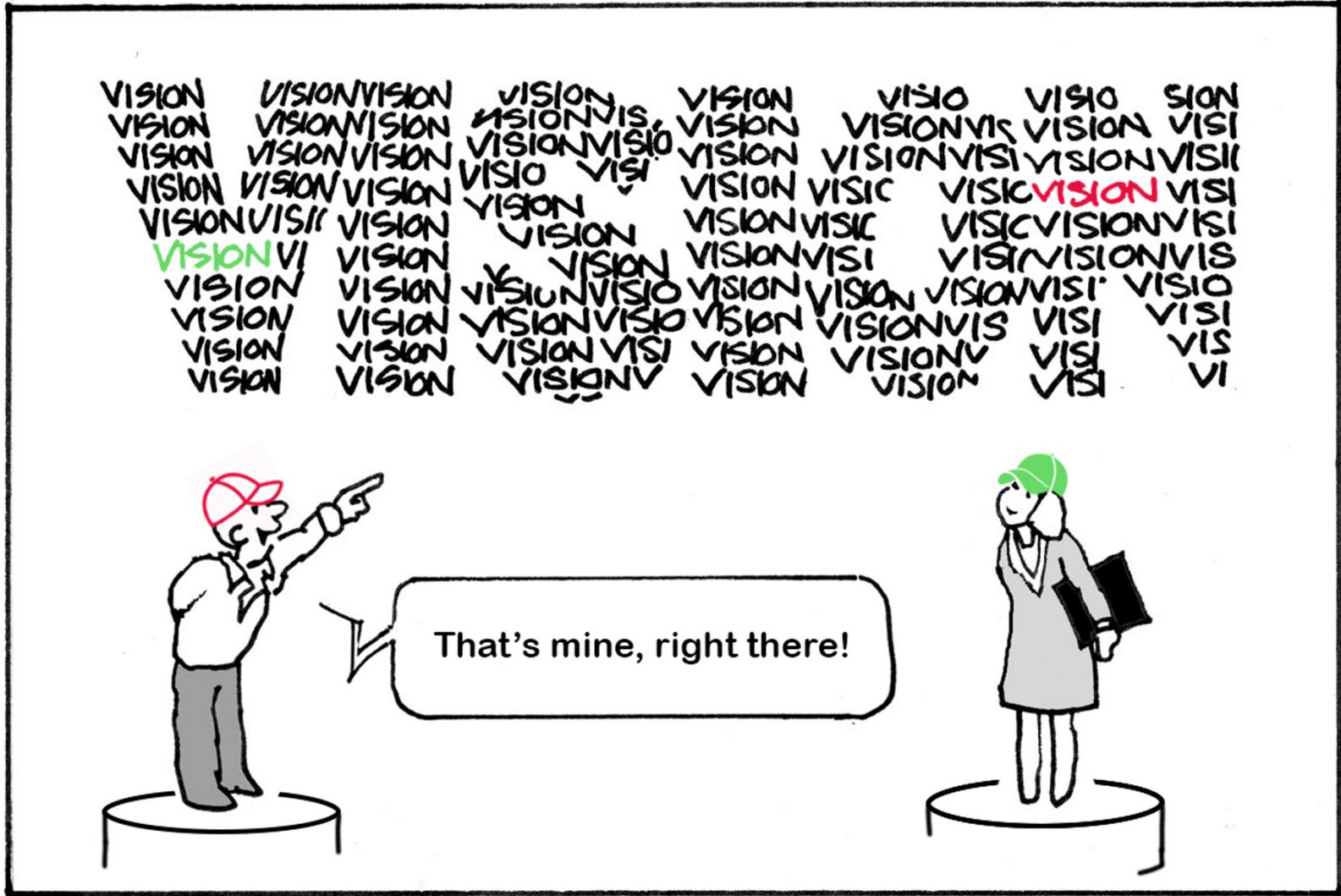


## One vision and shared values

- Domestic violence, as a complex issue, requires a multidisciplinary approach
- We work together with: police, justice department, probation officers, mental healthcare, youth services, trauma specialists, addiction specialists, etc.
- The cooperation requires one vision and shared values



# One VISION?





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## Guiding Principles:

**In order to ensure quality and consistency when handling cases, it is necessary that:**

- Violence stops!
- Safety comes first
- Direct action is undertaken with 24-hour availability
- Results matter, not effort
- The type and pattern of the violence is recognized





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## Different type of perpetrators

We have experienced:

- Violence is not always one-sided but often reciprocal
- Power and control *can* play a role but that's not always the case
- There are different types of perpetrators and they have their own problems and risks





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## Different violent relationships

Michael P. Johnson,  
Penn State (2008):

Common Couple Violence  
Mutual Violent Control  
Violent Resistance  
Intimate Terrorism

Coercive control (Andy Myhill, College of Policing, UK)





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## Multifocus, the intensive casemanager

- A multidisciplinary approach requires coordination
- For collaboration both with professionals and with families
- Multi-focus = a system based intervention
- Core of Multi-focus: an Intensive Case Manager to organize and facilitate the intervention





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## The Intensive Casemanager

This Intensive Casemanager needs to have:

- A respectful attitude
- Leadership qualities
- A narrative approach: listening to all the story's and hearing them without judging
- Knowledge of circular patterns, different typologies of perpetrators and relationships





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## What does a casemanager do?

- Within 24 hours: talking to the victim, the children and... the perpetrator
- Protects and empower victims
- Disapproves and condemns violence by perpetrator (behavior not person)
- Holds perpetrators accountable
- Positions him(or her)self as reliable: says what he/she does and does what he/she says
- Gathers information from professionals already involved





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## Questions to ask

- Which factors play a role and maintain the violence?
- What type of violence is taking place?
- Was there violence in the history of the family?
- Does the perpetrator take responsibility for the violence?
- Is the victim capable to prevent putting herself at risk?
- Etc...





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- Analyzing the information
- Plan of action: Support? Disruption? Both?
  - Intimate Terrorism: disruption
  - Common couple violence: support (and sometimes functional disruption)





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- Together with cooperation partners: what can they contribute that will help to achieve the goals: safety and prevention trans-generational transference?
- Treatment
- 1 year following if needed





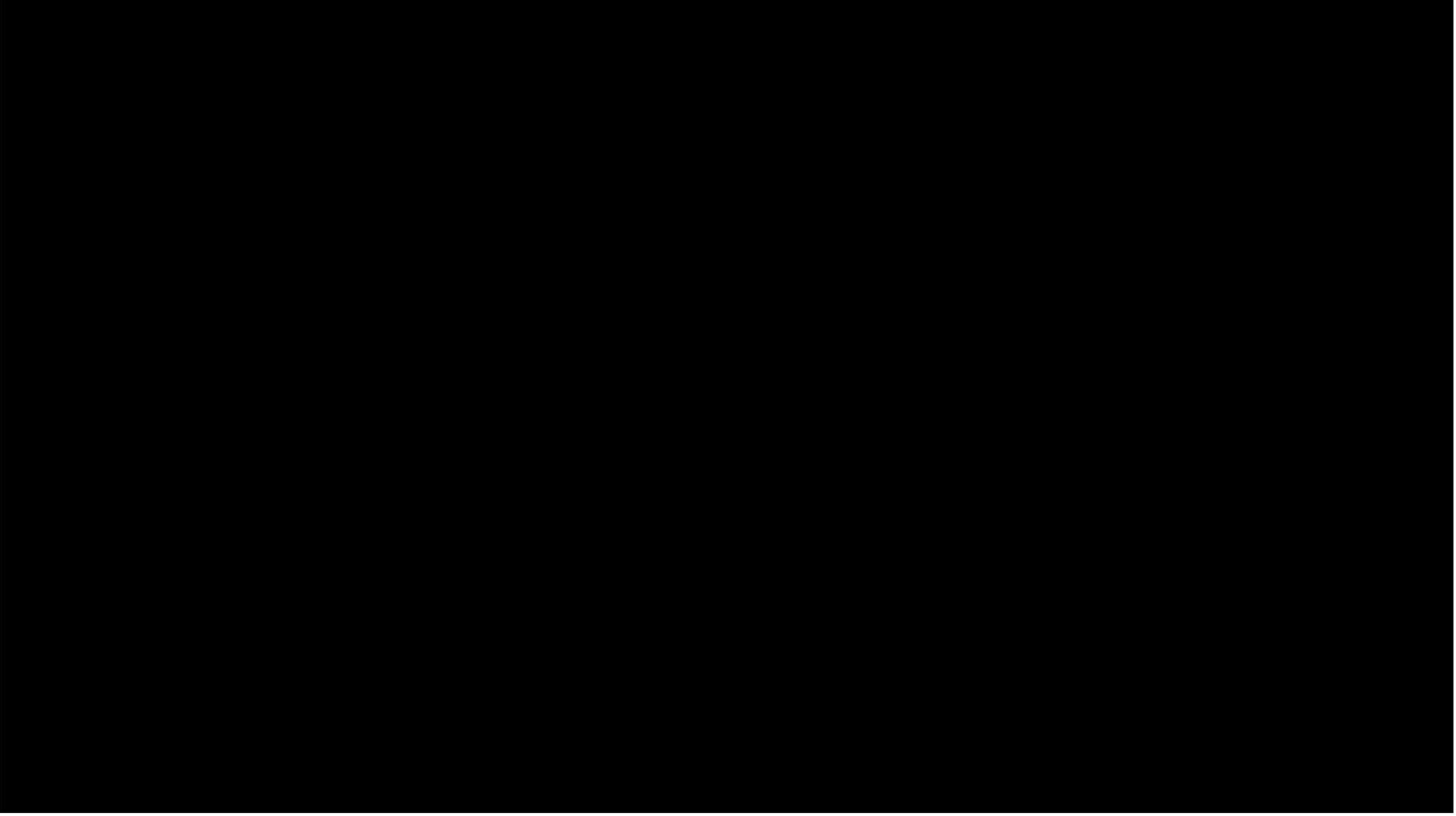
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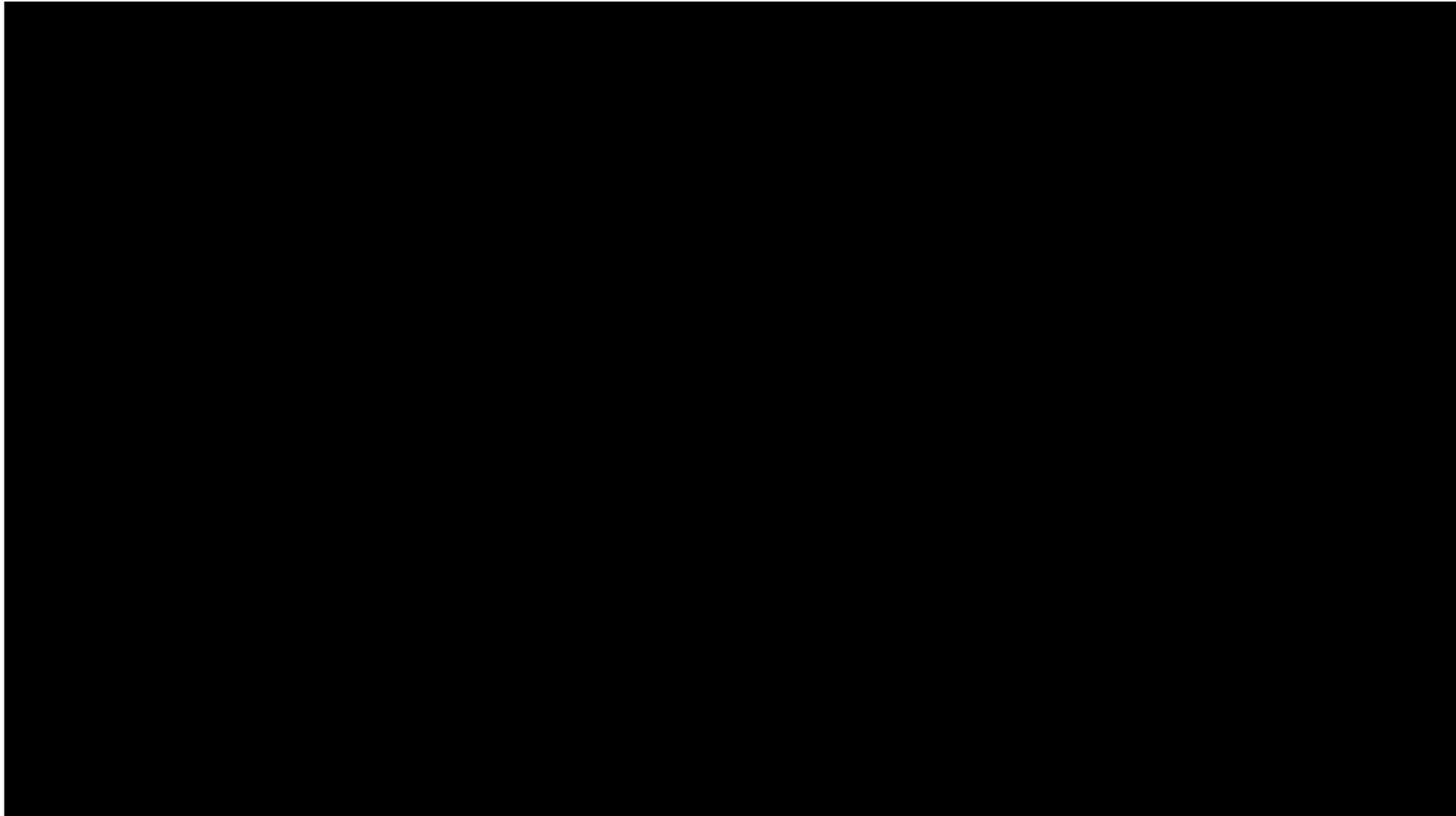


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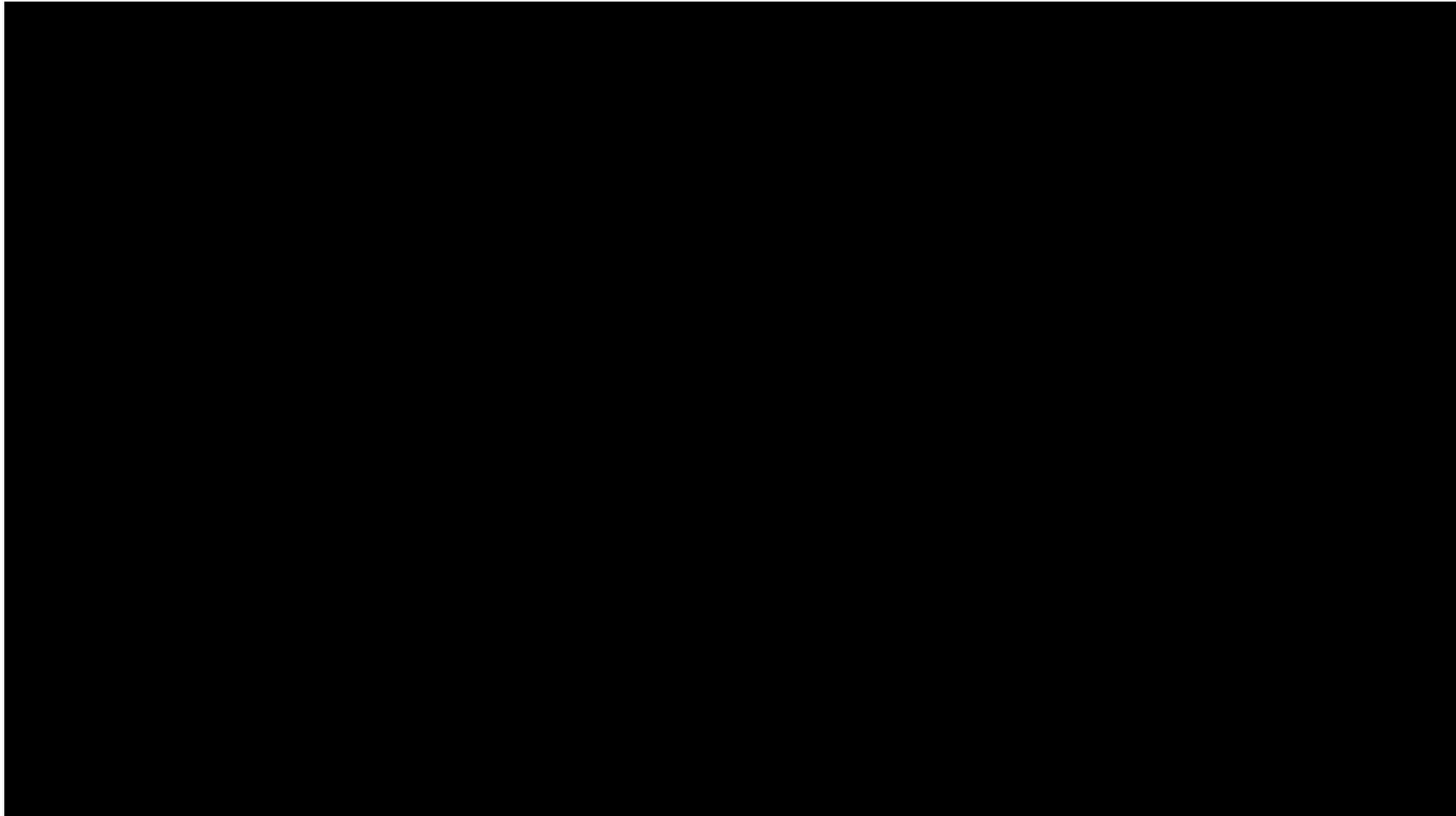


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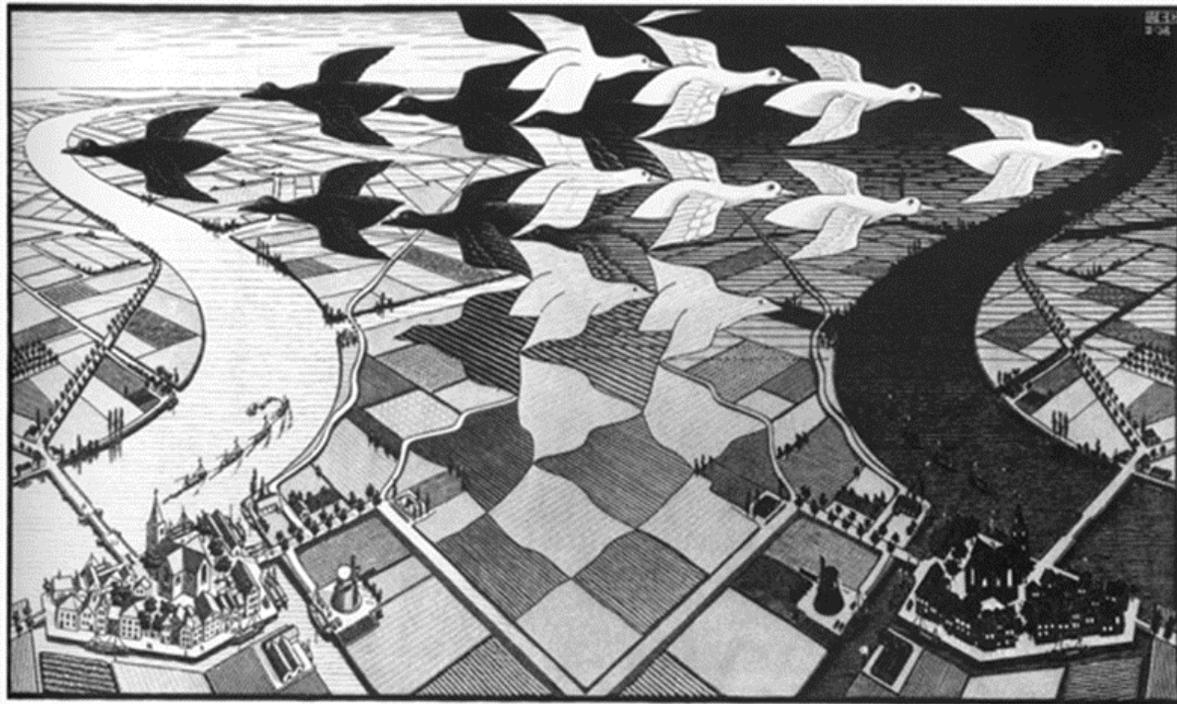




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Every story has multiple sides. Although any form of partner violence is unacceptable, it is important to approach both partners with an open mind and not to draw your conclusions too quickly.





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“Domestic Violence is a package deal. If you do not see the big picture, you are not as effective as you could be.”

Dr. Linda Chamberlain

ANY  
QUESTIONS  
?





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Mutsaersstichting



Thank you for listening!

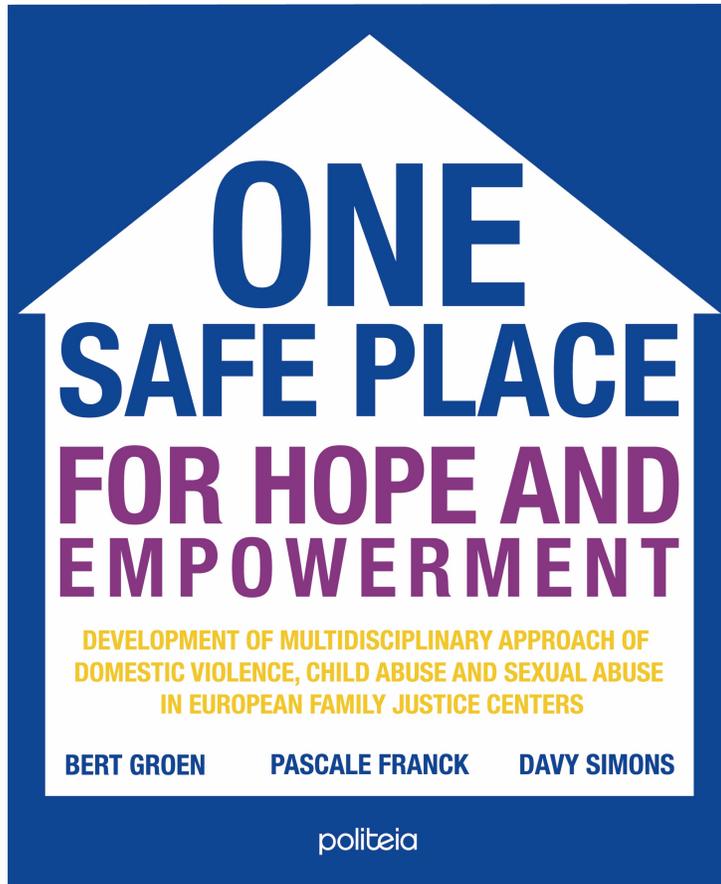
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## European literature about Family Justice Centers



<http://www.politeia.be/nl-be/book/one-safe-place/15893.htm>

Politeia: One Safe Place





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**Thank you for your attention**



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