

Safety-Focussed Perpetrator Programmes

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(WWP EN)

Our background

- Recommendations from Daphne II project conducted between 2006 and 2008.
- European Network for Work with Perpetrators founded as an informal network in 2009 in Berlin.
- Formally set up in 2014.
- European Commission and Oak Foundation funding.

Who we are

- A membership association of organisations directly or indirectly working with people who perpetrate violence in close relationships.
- Membership: perpetrator programmes; victim/survivor support (or their management organisations); umbrella organisations and research departments.
- Affiliate status for individuals.
- Started with 18 member organisations from 13 countries, now 47 members in 23 countries.

What we do

- Foster knowledge transfer and best practice exchange (national reports, newsletter, papers, social media, other resources).
- Training opportunities and discussion platforms/events (e.g. study visits, annual workshops, regional/national meetings, webinars).
- Contribute to the development and implementation of EU law and policy (e.g. promoting messages of Istanbul Convention, especially Article 16).
- Raise awareness with public; stakeholder and policy makers.

WWP EN/programme goal

- The overall mission is to prevent violence in close relationships as a gender-based phenomenon and to foster gender equality.
- Specifically, the mission is to improve the safety of women and their children at risk from violence in close relationships, through the promotion of effective work with those who perpetrate this violence, mainly men.

Istanbul Convention

Article 16 – Preventive intervention and treatment programmes:-

16.1: 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.

16.2: 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.

Article 16 (continued)

16.3: 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.”

- This should be established, not only as an abstract principle, but for every single victim concerned (WWP EN statement).

Istanbul Convention - Recognising:

- violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations, which have led to domination over, and discrimination against, women by men;
- the structural nature of violence against women as gender-based violence;
- women and girls are often exposed to serious forms... ..which constitute a serious violation of the human rights of women and girls and a major obstacle to the achievement of (sex) equality;
- women and girls are exposed to a higher risk than men and domestic violence affects women disproportionately;
- men may also be victims, children may be victims, including as witnesses.

Also of note:-

- Article 48 – Prohibition of mandatory alternative dispute resolution processes or sentencing

Case study – Juliet and Romeo

At the end of the course –

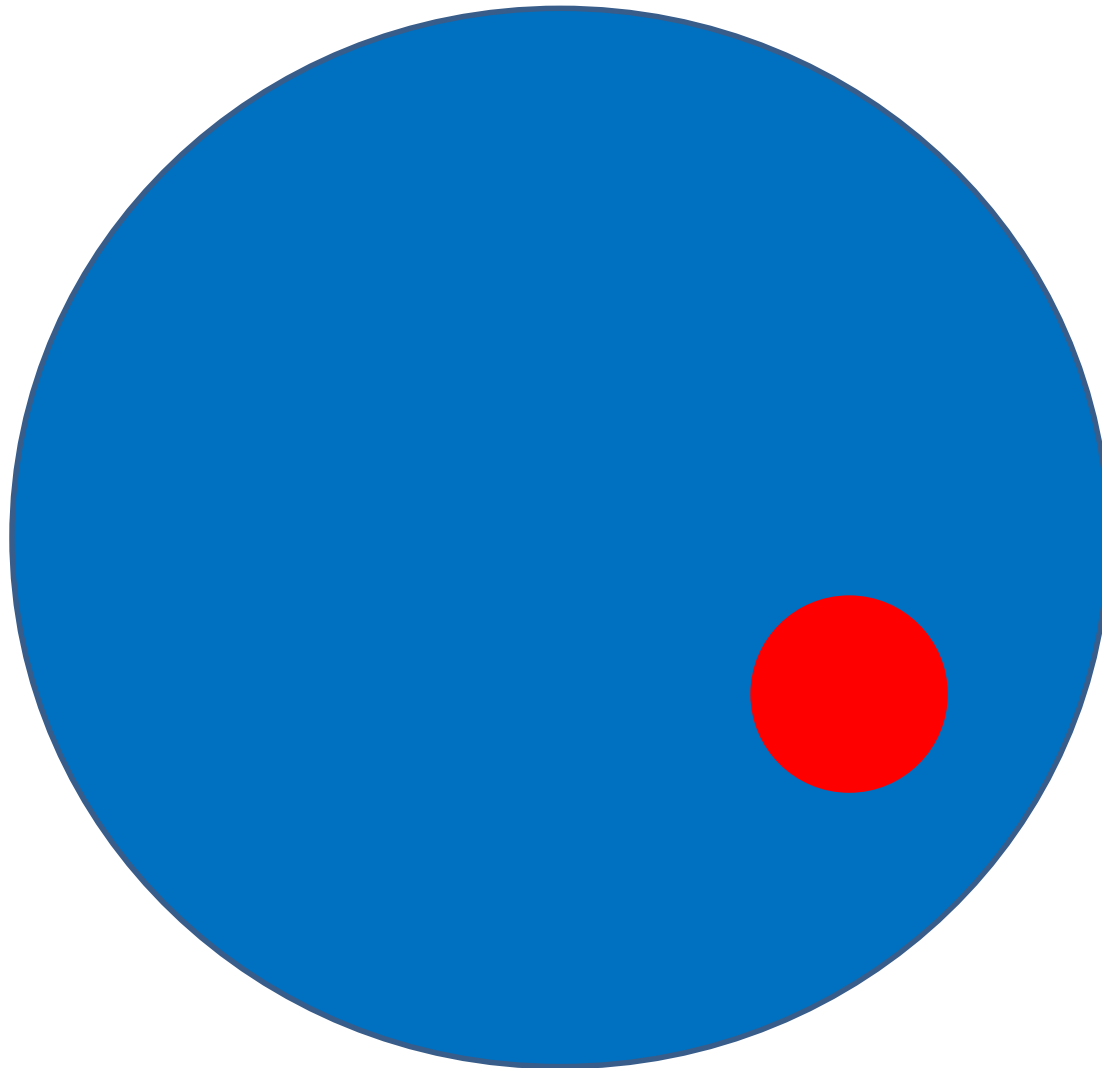
Romeo says that he „only hit his wife once“ in their marriage. They are still together and have 3 children.

He has completed a programme previously but believes that he „could learn more“. He says that: his grown children say he is miserable; his wife drinks to excess and is an alcoholic and that he knows that he worries a lot, and always thinks the worst in every situation. He says things are worse now that he does not work and is retired. He talks about the „arguments we had“. He believes he is calmer.

Case study – Juliet and Romeo

At the end of the course –

Juliet says Romeo held her up against the wall by her throat once, she has never dared question him about anything since. She also tells you that the grandchildren, who she cares for, are sometimes too scared to leave her in the day to go to school. He texts her many times throughout the day to check where she is and what she is doing, he lets her have an allowance (which he has „upped“ since the start of the course). He gives her „that look“ when he wants her to shut up. She no longer sees her family or friends as he has made it too difficult for her to do so. She does not work, as she says she needed to take care of their children.



**All domestic
violence/abuse**

**Acts
that
count as
crimes**

Istanbul Convention

- “violence against women” is understood as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women and shall mean all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life;
- “domestic violence” shall mean all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit or between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim;
- Article 33 – Psychological abuse/violence
- Article 34 - Stalking

Kelly and Westmarland (2016), Project Mirabal:

“... framing domestic violence in terms of incidents—whether in research, policy definitions or practice responses—reflects how violent men describe their behaviour rather than what we know from survivors. What women describe is an ongoing, ‘everyday’ reality in which much of their behaviour is ‘micro-managed’ by their abuser: this includes what they wear, where they go and who they see, household management and childcare. None of these are ‘incidents’, nor would they be considered crimes ...” (p114)

What is success?

1. An improved relationship between men on programmes and their partners/ex-partners which is underpinned by respect and effective communication.
2. For partners/ex-partners to have an expanded 'space for action' which empowers through restoring their voice and ability to make choices, whilst improving their well being.
3. Safety and freedom from violence and abuse for women and children.

(Westmarland, Kelly and Chalder-Mills, What counts as success? 2010, Respect)

What is success?

4. Safe, positive and shared parenting.
5. Enhanced awareness of self and others for men on programmes, including an understanding of the impact that domestic violence has had on their partner and children.
6. For children, safer, healthier childhoods in which they feel heard and cared about.

(Westmarland, Kelly and Chalder-Mills, What counts as success? 2010, Respect)

The WWP EN Impact Toolkit



- Partnership with University of Bristol – roll-out in the U.K.
- The design of the Toolkit allows both clients' and (ex-)partners' reports of behaviours to be assessed
- Outcomes measured ***over time*** (with women and men):

Man	Woman
1. Referral route and motivation (T0-1), change perception (T2-3)	1. Hopes for the programme (T0-2) and challenges (T0-1), change perception (T3)
2. Relationship behaviours – emotional/physical/sexual; impact on her; <i>motivation for behaviour (only him)</i> ; Police call outs	2. Client’s relationship behaviours – emotional/physical/sexual; impact of his behaviour; Police call outs
3. Children – impact and situation	3. Children – impact and situation
4. Current partner fear; relationship status and hopes	4. <i>Well-being (only her)</i>
5. Final thoughts	5. Current fear; relationship status and hopes
	6. Final thoughts

Outcomes for her might be...

- Nothing has changed and he is still using violence
- Nothing has changed and he is still abusive
- Things have generally got worse between us
- He stopped using violence
- He stopped using abusive behaviour
- My children are no longer afraid of him
- My children are still afraid of him
- We have ended or can end the relationship amicably
- We can work well together on the upbringing of our children
- I feel safe around him
- I feel less safe around him than before
- His parenting is improved
- His parenting is just the same
- His parenting is worse
- Something else – please say what:

Responsibility... why do you think you did these things?

- To stop her from doing something
- Made you feel in control
- Because she was laughing at you
- Because she betrayed/rejected you
- To make her do something you wanted her to do
- Because you didn't trust her
- Because of your alcohol/drug use
- To stop her from leaving you
- Didn't feel good enough/felt insecure
- Because you were jealous/possessive
- Some other reason – please say what:

*** AND What do you think you need to change to be non-abusive in an intimate relationships?**

Thank you...



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