

European Family Justice Center Alliance

**One Safe Place for Hope and Empowerment**

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Valletta - Malta

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**"Taking the best of what you already have and bring it all together" – Casey Gwinn**



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**What is an integrated multidisciplinary approach?**

A coordinated community response in which social service agencies, health care providers and criminal justice providers join forces to work together to tackle domestic violence.

**Ending domestic violence is everyone's responsibility = Multi agency approach**




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**Many advantages, but...**

Multidisciplinary collaboration has already shown encouraging results, but there are still important obstacles:

- Survivor often still have to travel from organization to organization
- Survivors often have to tell their 'story' several times

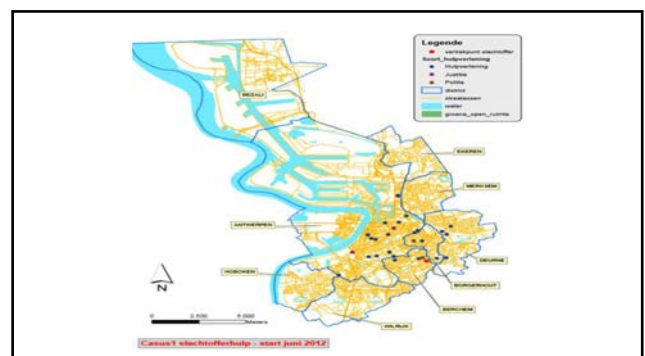




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**“Survivors should not have to adapt to what is offered by the service providers or systems”**

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**What is a Family Justice Center?**

Co-location of a multidisciplinary team of professionals who are cooperating under one roof to offer help and support to victims of family violence and their children.

*A place where professionals come together and survivors come first – A SAFE PLACE*

All services survivors and their children need are under one roof.



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**GUIDING PRINCIPLES (1)**

- **Safety comes first**  
Increase safety (direct and stable)
- **Victim-centered**  
Provide victim-centered services that promote victim autonomy and increases empowerment





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**GUIDING PRINCIPLES (2)**

- **Survivor-driven**  
Shape services to clients by asking them what they need
- **Empowered**  
Offer survivors a place to belong even after crisis intervention services are no longer necessary

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**GUIDING PRINCIPLES (3)**

- **Relationship-based**  
Maintain close working relationships among all collaborators/agencies
- **Offender-accountability**  
Increase offender accountability through evidence-based prosecution strategies and/or evidence-based treatment programs.


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**Conditions for breaking the violence**

1. Working together on safety
2. Specialized multidisciplinary approach
3. Result focused work
4. Developing an integral plan of action
5. Intensive case-management in high risk situations
6. Sharing information

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## Safety

1. Safety plan including all family members
2. Not only safety planning at the start, ongoing check of the safety
3. In severe/high risk cases: High risk team
4. Involving social network in safeguarding and breaking social isolation

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## MAIN FEATURES OF FJC (1)

- Survivors don't need to tell their story to many different persons and agencies
- More information about the actions taken in the approach, the case manager has an overall view
- Reduce the number of domestic/family violence, serious incidents and murders
- Reduce child abuse incidents

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## MAIN FEATURES OF FJC (2)

- Quicker response is possible when new incidents, threats or changing circumstances occur
- Security is increased within a FJC
- Within the FJC there is a clear vision about the problem

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## MAIN FEATURES OF FJC (3)

- Improved access and confidence in the delivery of Justice
- Professionals learn more about the possibilities of colleagues from other agencies
- Improving working environment

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## Saving Lives – Reducing Costs

1 domestic violence murder will cost approximately £1.1 million



1 domestic violence murder prevented per year would provide savings equal to the total costs required to run the Family Justice Center for a year – including all key partner agency staffing costs

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## FJC's in Europe:

- The Netherlands: Tilburg
- Poland: Warsaw
- Germany: Berlin
- Belgium: Antwerpen/Hasselt/ Mechelen/Turnhout
- N. Ireland: Derry
- Iceland: Reykjavik
- Sweden: Malmö
- France: Paris



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FJC Paris, La Maison des Femmes



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FJC Reykjavik



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FJC Derry







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FJC's in Europe

The movie

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Practice in the Family Justice Centrum Antwerpen, Belgium



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**FJC Antwerpen**




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**On site partners of FJC Antwerp**

- 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
- Medical services
- Services for housing
- Probation
- Perpetrator programs
- Local and national authorities



**On site services:**

- Peer groups
- Support by voluntary cooperators
- Self-defense courses
- Services for migrants and asylumseekers
- Legal advice
- Advice on debts
- Focus groups
- Medical examination
- Wellness: yoga
- Social integration

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**On site partners in FJC Antwerp:**

- > 50 cooperators detached to the FJC
- + Experts intensive case management
- + cooperators of all services on case level





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**Working on all live domains – empowerment:**


|   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Aggression management</li> <li>▪ Traumatic experiences</li> <li>▪ Financial problems and debts</li> <li>▪ Work related problems</li> <li>▪ Relationship</li> <li>▪ Housing</li> <li>▪ Physical health</li> <li>▪ Mental health</li> <li>▪ Social network, isolation</li> <li>▪ Drug and alcohol abuse</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Migration problems</li> <li>▪ Psychological problems</li> <li>▪ Education and child care</li> <li>▪ Gender related problems</li> <li>▪ Honor related problems</li> <li>▪ Undocumented and refugee status</li> <li>▪ Mental disorder</li> <li>▪ ACEs</li> </ul> |
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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 need a strong and intensive case management, including police and justice department involvement.
- Strong and intensive case management aiming at empowerment of survivors



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**FJC Antwerpen: High Risk team on site**

- Police and justice on site: restraining orders, custody of perpetrators, safe houses for controlled parental visiting,...
- All information needed to ensure the survivor's safety is shared
- Multidisciplinary approach with joined responsibility shared by all organisations on board
- No non-binding commitments
- Committed involvement of perpetrator work

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Services FJC Antwerpen



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FJC Antwerp on site

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peer groups for survivors</li> <li>• Survivor support by voluntary cooperators</li> <li>• Self-defense courses</li> <li>• Services for migrants and asylumseekers</li> <li>• Legal advice by lawyers</li> <li>• Advice on debts</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voices and storytelling</li> <li>• Medical examination by trained GPs</li> <li>• Wellness: yoga, sport,...</li> <li>• Social integration services</li> <li>• Hope project 11-17</li> <li>• Counseling female genital mutilation</li> <li>• ....</li> </ul> |
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2 HOW TO START A FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

10 steps to build a Family Justice Center



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DREAM BIG – START SMALL



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HOW TO START?

- Keep calm and create a sense of urgency
- It's not about the building. It's about the cooperation
- Form a coalition




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COOPERATION: SHARE A COMMON GOAL

Stop the violence,  
prevent recurrence of  
violence  
and  
empower your clients



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**FIRST FOLLOWER:  
LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM A DANCING GUY**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fW8amMCVAIQ>

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**STRUCTURE YOUR ORGANISATION**

- Strategic Plan
- Processes
- Describes roles
- Decision Structure
- Script



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**IT'S NOT ONLY ABOUT NUMBERS,  
IT'S ESPECIALLY ABOUT PEOPLE**

- Climate & Culture
- Trust




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**CREATING A 'WE' CULTURE**

**Shared VALUES:**

- Work Together
- Client focused
- Integrity
- Safety first
- Transparency




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- Communication
- Bringing Services
- Safety





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- Financing & Funding
- Be creative
- Keep on growing





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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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### OUR LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN EUROPE = REQUIRED DIRECTIVE FOR ALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

**Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence**



*Istanbul, 2011*  
*'The Istanbul Convention'*

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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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### What do we offer

- The central platform for FJC's and related multidisciplinary models in Europe
- Provide mutual support and cooperation among members
- Creating and organizing a platform for conversation, consultation and exchange of ideas, expertise and good practices in the approach to domestic violence
- Organizing a yearly conference
- Supporting and following up new Family Justice Centers in Europe

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### PRODUCTS

- Offering a 'how to start a FJC' package.
- Book on how to start a FJC (One Safe Place)
- Developing and providing trainings and instruments on a range of methodologies and products focusing on ACE, Trauma-informed care, Polyvictimization and Hope.
- Offering regular webinars on topics of interest for the FJC's and Multi Agency models.

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### THE FJC AFFILIATION PROCES

The EFJCA offers two levels of affiliation, each designed to reflect the individual needs of local communities, while ensuring adherence to best practices and trauma-informed approaches in service provision.

The levels of affiliation include:

- Affiliated Multi-Agency Models
- Affiliated Family Justice Centers

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