

Workshop

A human rights perspective on domestic and gender based violence

*Exchange of best practices from Norway in working with victims of
domestic and gender based violence*

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Domestic and Gender Based Violence within Norwegian Financial Mechanism
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Norway – a small country with a low incidence of violence

- A small country – that compared to many other countries, has a low level of violence.
- Statistics Norway – surveys of living conditions: about five per cent of adults report being exposed to violence or threat of violence during the course of one year.

What is violence?

- Physical violence
- Sexual violence
- Psychological violence
- Material violence
- Latent violence

(Per Isdal, 2000)

And...

- Structural violence
- Economic violence
- Neglect (children)

- New issues are included, e.g. honour-related violence, forced marriages, genital mutilation
- As well as hate crimes, digital violence; prostitution, trafficking, pornography...

Violence is ...

- Concrete actions
- Intentions behind the actions
- Effects and consequences for those subjected to violence, but also for perpetrators.

WHO

- «The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation».

Violence is ...

- Contextual and interpreted in different ways by those affected – read prevalence studies and statistics with caution!
- We know more about violence in public spaces than about violence in close (intimate) relations. Why ?
- The first prevalence study on violence in close relations in Norway in 2005.
- Violence in close relations first included in public statistics in Norway in 2006.
- Statistics and prevalence studies do not give us the whole picture – the majority of those exposed to violence in close relations do not report it.

Development from the 1970s until today:

- 1970s: Violence against women in the family – a «hidden problem».
- «The private is the political!»: Politicization and agenda-setting by the New Women's Movement. First shelter (Oslo) 1978.
- 1970s-1980s: Rapid growth of the shelter movement,
- The issue enters the policy agenda and academia.
- Close relations researchers-activists-practitioners.
- The first European intervention programme for abusive men (ATV) established in Norway in 1987.

- From 'women's struggle' to a problem related to public health, criminal justice, gender equality and human (women's) rights.
- **What's in a name?** (Men's) violence against women – domestic violence – intimate partner violence – gender-based violence - family violence – violence in close relations....
- Institutionalisation in the welfare state (Action Plans, White Papers, legislative reforms; research & prevalence studies; public prevention, support and treatment services) (1990s onwards).
- Today we have in Norway a functioning structure/framework for support services for victims, treatment services for perpetrators, as well as for knowledge development.
- Yet, problems of coordination and cooperation remain.

Norway is no «Paradise»...

Prevalence study 2014 (Hjemdal & Thoresen)

- Severe physical violence and sexual abuse are prevalent in Norway, and often occur for the first time at an early age.
- Women are far more exposed to sexual abuse than are men. Women also seem to have a heavier total burden of violence and sexual abuse.
- Prevalence of rape (lifetime): **9,4 % for women**; 1,1% for men.
- Half of the women who reported rape had been raped before the age of 18.
- Perpetrators of sexual abuse are almost exclusively men.
- Few women had a medical examination or treatment the first weeks after being raped; almost a third had never told anyone.
- As for physical violence, **as many men (16,3 %) as women (14,4 %) report “less severe” violence from (ex)partner** (lifetime), e.g. pinching, scratching, hair pulling, slapping.
- When it comes to **“more severe” forms of physical violence, significantly more women (8,2 %) than men (1,9 %) report** (lifetime) **violence**, e.g. kicking, strangling, beating up.
- **Violence is still a “hidden issue” in Norway** – few search for help or go to the police, some never tell anybody about their experiences.

«New» issues enter the scene:

- children as witnesses/victims of violence;
- violence against the elderly and people with disabilities;
- violence against men by other men/by women;
- violence in LGBT-relationships; hate crimes;
- «digital violence»;
- violence in ethnic minority families/relationships;
- genital mutilation; trafficking & prostitution, forced marriage,
- honour crimes.

Thank you for your attention!

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