

# 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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# WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE DO VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE NEED MOST?

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## THE «SHELTER CONCEPT»

- First Norwegian (and Nordic) shelter/crisis centre (Oslo) 1978.
- Rapid growth of the shelter movement. (1970s and 1980s)
- Low threshold – accessible and flexible
- «Home-like»
- Available also for victims' children
- Physical protection and possibility to stay over night
- No treatment services – but referral to ordinary services and the police
- Non-hierarchical structure («women help women»), volunteers important (gradual professionalisation)
- Strong link to the Women's Movement (but variation!)

## Continues...

- The shelters are still today the only available type of services that have victims of domestic violence as primary target group.
- All Action Plans by the Norwegian governments since the 1990s give strong support to the shelters as a key strategy.
- From 1978 to 2010 (when municipalities took over the management of shelters), they were fully funded by public authorities.
- 2010: Law on shelters
- New user group - men.
- Funding of shelters is part of the municipalities' budgets
- User surveys since the 1980s.
- The number of shelters today around 50.

- 2010: Act about shelters
- New user group mentioned in the law - men.
- Funding of shelters is now part of the municipalities' budgets.
- The number of shelters (2014): 44.

## User surveys since the 1980s

- Last survey from 2014:
- 70 % of users younger than 40 years of age
- Many users have a loose attachment to the labour market
- Many lack social networks
- Rapid increase of users with ethnic minority background.

## Why shelters – are not ordinary services sufficient?

- The shelter movement argued that battered women are not always taken seriously in the ordinary help apparatus or the police.
- Much has changed – but we know that still today domestic violence is not always seen as a problem in its own right.
- The methods used in the ordinary help services may not always be suitable.
- Often battered women have nowhere else to go – e.g. in night time.
- Today we have a functioning structure for support services for victims. Increasing cooperation between shelters, agencies, social/health care services and the police – but problems with coordination remain.

# Services to protect victims of domestic violence/gender-based violence

## Istanbul convention

- Protection measures
- Integrated policies



## Co-ordination and co-operation

NKVTS study from 2014:

- *Cooperation is a key strategy for successful support of victims of domestic violence*

## Evaluation of shelters (2014)

- The Shelter Act 2010
- Municipalities are responsible for providing shelters
- Overall conclusion: «We are on the right track» - but some problems remain.

Thank you for your attention!

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