

# Perpetrator Programmes as part of the response system to victims of domestic violence



# What kind of programmes are present in Europe?

- Social- educational feminist models
- Criminological models
- Psychotherapeutic models
- Family models



# What do perpetrator programmes do?

- Intake and assessment
- Evaluation of risk factors and screening for violence
- Pro active contact with partner (through partner service or in collaboration with WSS)
- Groups
- Individual counselling
- Evaluation of intervention



# What is the perpetrator programmes' viewpoint on violence ?

- The system matters: we need a coordinated community response to be effective in ending violence against women
- Men are responsible for the violence. They need to be visible and they need to be held accountable
- Perpetrator programs are an important part of making perpetrators visible and accountable
- We need to change the communication on violence: we need to engage men in a different non-shaming way because we want men as allies. Men need to understand the impact of violence and we want them to become accountable if they don't



# Definitions of violence adopted by perpetrator programmes - 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 of women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life - **Art. 3 Definitions**
- First international legally binding document aimed at protecting women and prosecuting perpetrators
- Requires parties to take the necessary legislative or other measures to set up or support programs aimed at teaching perpetrators of domestic violence to adopt non-violent behavior in interpersonal relationships with a view to preventing further violence and changing violent behavioral patterns - **Art.16**

# International and national legal references on working with perpetrators of domestic violence

**United Nations declaration, Violence against women, 1993**

**Council of Europe Rec 5, 2005**

**EU Resolution 4/4/11 on priorities and definitions on violence against women, point 24**



# Coordinated Community Response/Marac

**Focusing on the safety and well-being of women and children affected by violence is a priority** at every stage of engaging with men

This means at all phases of the work with perpetrators we must also make sure that there is a focus on specific issues concerning the victims



The system matters: it is important that the system responds to domestic violence in appropriate and coordinated ways, be this with a Coordinated Community Response, or with a Marac



# Good practice for victim safety

- Make sure all information provided by a victim remains confidential and recognise the effects of violence
- Beware of expectations that women may have about perpetrators' change and impact on their decision to leave
- Avoid any form of couple counselling, therapy or mediation
- Beware of the manipulation perpetrators often pose on service providers
- Make sure the man is held accountable for his violence and avoid any form of victim blaming
- Provide support of specialised support services for victims for risk assessment, empowerment and safety planning





# Guidelines to Standards for Perpetrator Programs

- Extending definitions of violence to include coercive control
- Collaboration with specialised victim support services and intervention systems
- Defining the theoretical understanding of violence as a complex gender-based phenomena
- Safety of women: partner contact and services for victims
- Ensuring children's safety
- Risk Assessment
- Staff training
- Quality assurance and evaluation
- For integral document see: [https://www.work-with-perpetrators.eu/fileadmin/WWP\\_Network/redakteure/Guidelines/WWP\\_EN\\_Guidelines for Standards v3 2018.pdf](https://www.work-with-perpetrators.eu/fileadmin/WWP_Network/redakteure/Guidelines/WWP_EN_Guidelines_for_Standards_v3_2018.pdf)

