Work with Perpetrators of Gender Based Violence

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Heinrich Geldschläger

Associació Conexus

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The Istanbul Convention

Article 16 - Preventive intervention and treatment programmes

• 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 ...

• 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
Programme for men who use violence (PAI-H)

- Started in 2011
- Part of the integrated programme against gender based violence (PAI)
- For men who assist voluntarily, not court-ordered
- Following WWP-EN guidelines
- Constructive-narrative approach
- (Scarcely) funded by provincial and regional governments (plus a symbolic contribution by those men who can)
Programme for men who use violence (PAI-H)

- Pro-active partner contact
- Support for partners and children provided in integrated programme (PAI-D / PAI-MI) or by partner organisations
- Collaboration with women’s services, child protection services, social services, health services (primary care, mental health, substance abuse), police, justice system, men for gender equality movement
- Members of local platforms against GBV, MenEngage, founding member of WWP-EN
Programme for men who use violence (PAI-H)

**Intake**
- 4-8 individual sessions (1 to 3 months)
- Assessment
- Partner contact

**Treatment**
- 25 weekly group sessions (6 to 8 months)
- 6 - 10 men, 2 facilitators
- Non manualized, process - oriented

**Follow-up**
- At 6 months, 1 and 2 years
- Individually and/or in group
- Also with (ex) partners
Why proactive contact and parallel work with partners?

To reduce a possible negative impact of men’s participation in the programme on women partners’ safety

- Creates / increases hope for change
- Makes promises (“won’t happen again”) in cycle of violence (honeymoon) more believable
- Can contribute to not taking decisions or safety measures they’d otherwise take

Research by Gondolf (1988):

- men’s participation in a programme most important factor for women in shelter to return to him
Proactive contact with partners (also ex- and new partners)

- Voluntary and totally confidential for women
- Doesn’t suppose any responsibility or implication in his process / participation

Goals:
- Inform about the programme
- Prevent manipulations / abuse
- Offer support service
- Ask for information on violence (risk assessment / evaluation)
- Offer possibility to contact
- Explain contact in case of danger or man’s drop out
Thank you very much for your attention!

Heinrich Geldschläger

heinrich@conexus.cat