

Community matters!

# “StoP” Community Matters!

A neighborhood based approach to StoP  
intimate partner violence.

AUTHOR

Prof. Dr. Sabine Stövesand, University of Applied Sciences Hamburg

# StoP Model



The StoP Model was developed by Sabine Stövesand PhD  
University of Applied Sciences, Hamburg, Germany

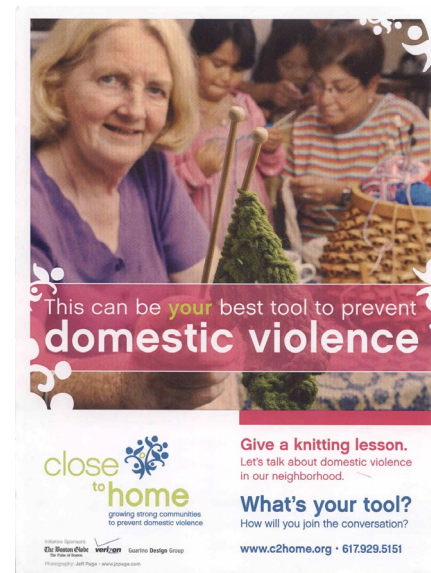
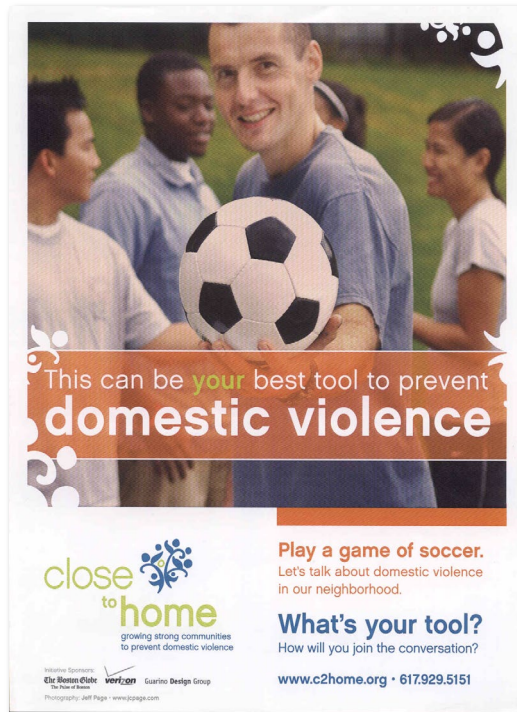
## Milestones:

- practice experiences: shelter for battered women; community organizing in Hamburg
- Pilot in Hamburg 1995-97 („Tarantula“)
- research on existing programs, methods and the „gap“; on social networks, urban neighborhoods, CO, collective efficacy: conceptualizing „StoP“ (dissertation 2006)
- Practice transfer: implementation of 20 StoP-projects in Germany since 2010, 30 in Austria since 2019
- training programs
- ongoing research, international exchange/ cooperation

# Learning from each other: StoP Hamburg – Close to home Boston



Community matters!



# Much has been achieved!



Women's movement scandalized violence against women and pushed for change from the 1970s on:

- public awareness has increased
- silence was (partly) broken
- shelters, hotlines, counselling
- programs for perpetrators
- coordinated community response
- legislative changes
- addressing and training special for professional groups (police, judges...)

→ dominance of approaches at the individual level

→ numbers of domestic violence still high/ increasing



# But:

- Domestic violence is still „normal“, rates do not seem to go down

in the papers every day:

Tausende fliehen vor der Gewalt im Wohnzimmer ins Frauenhaus  
Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband fordert bessere Ausstattung der Zufluchtsorte / Großer Mangel in ländlichen O...

Von Monika Kappus  
Jahr für Jahr fliehen bundesweit rund 17 500 Frauen, meist mit ihren Kindern, vor häuslicher Gewalt in eines der 376 Frauenhäuser. Bei...

kommen bei Verwandten, Bekannten oder in einer anderen Einrichtung unter. Mehr als ein Drittel gehen ohne...

ten, daß sie ihre Perspektiven von... alten Zuhause...

Hamburg 13

Mittwoch, 13. Februar 2002

## Sie ging fremd, da stach er am 41. Geburtstag zu

Ehe-Tragödie auf der Veddel: Werner L. (55) hatte die Tat angekündigt

Rosenmontag. „Die... waren kostümiert... gelacht und miteinander getanzt“, sagt sie. „Von einem Streit keine Spur. Ungefähr um 0.50 Uhr sind die beiden nach Hause gegangen.“ Eine...

„Helga rechnete damit, dass er sowieso bald sterben würde.“ Vor vier Tagen begegnete Sabine A. ihrem Nachbarn Werner L. beim Einkaufen. „So wütend habe ich ihn noch nie erlebt. Er erzählte mir, dass seine Frau fremd...

Zuerst will Sabine A. ihre Freundin warnen, doch am nächsten Tag schon nimmt sie die Sache nicht mehr so ernst. Am Tag nach dem Mord macht sie sich schwere Vorwürfe: „Ich hätte zur Polizei gehen sollen. Jetzt weiß ich, wie ernst er es damals gemeint hat.“



Ermittlungsbeamte untersuchen den Tatort

Hamburg 9

### Drama aus Eifersucht: Kranführer tötet Frau

Es war ein bloßer Verdacht, der Manfred U. (46) in den Wahnsinn trieb. Aus purer Eifersucht erstach der Kranführer seine Frau Margrit (51), wollte sich nach der Bluttat selbst totfahren. Der Versuch misslang, der Mann stellte sich.

Das Drama an der Stralsunder Straße in Tornesch (Kreis Pinneberg). Es war ein furchterliches Gemetzel in der ehelichen...

Inland ■ die tageszeitung. Donnerstag, 22. Juli 1993

## Der Täter kommt aus der F

Abschlußbericht des Projekts „Wildwasser“ für... Streit um Verjährungsfristen zwie...

Das Thema „sexuell... rauch“ hat...

## Männliche Brutalität — häufig verharmlos

Autonome Frauenhäuser...

Der in seiner Ehre zutiefst gekränkte Ehemann beruhigte sich nicht. Dann dieser...

Polizei, soziale Dienste und Gerichte glauben mißhandelten Frauen nicht / Gesetze un... von Frauen zur Hilfe gerufen werden. Sie neigen nach den Erfahrungen... Sexualer Mißbrauch geschieht überwiegend innerhalb der Familie. Bei über der Hälfte der Mädchen, die in der Beratungsstelle von „Wildwasser“ Hilfe suchten, und bei annähernd 90 Prozent der Mädchen aus der Zufluchtswohnung war der Mißbrauch durch Männer aus der Fa...

ungünstig fielen dann auch ihre... Protokolle für die Frauen aus, die... Gewalt reichen von Schlafstörungen bis zu Kontaktproblemen. Ältere Mädchen sind überproportional mit Suchtproblemen und Suizidgedanken belastet. Bei der Vorstellung des Berichtes kündigte Staatssekretärin Cornelia Yzer erneut eine Reihe von gesetzgeberischen Maßnahmen zum Schutz mißbrauchter Mädchen an. Nach den Vorstellungen...

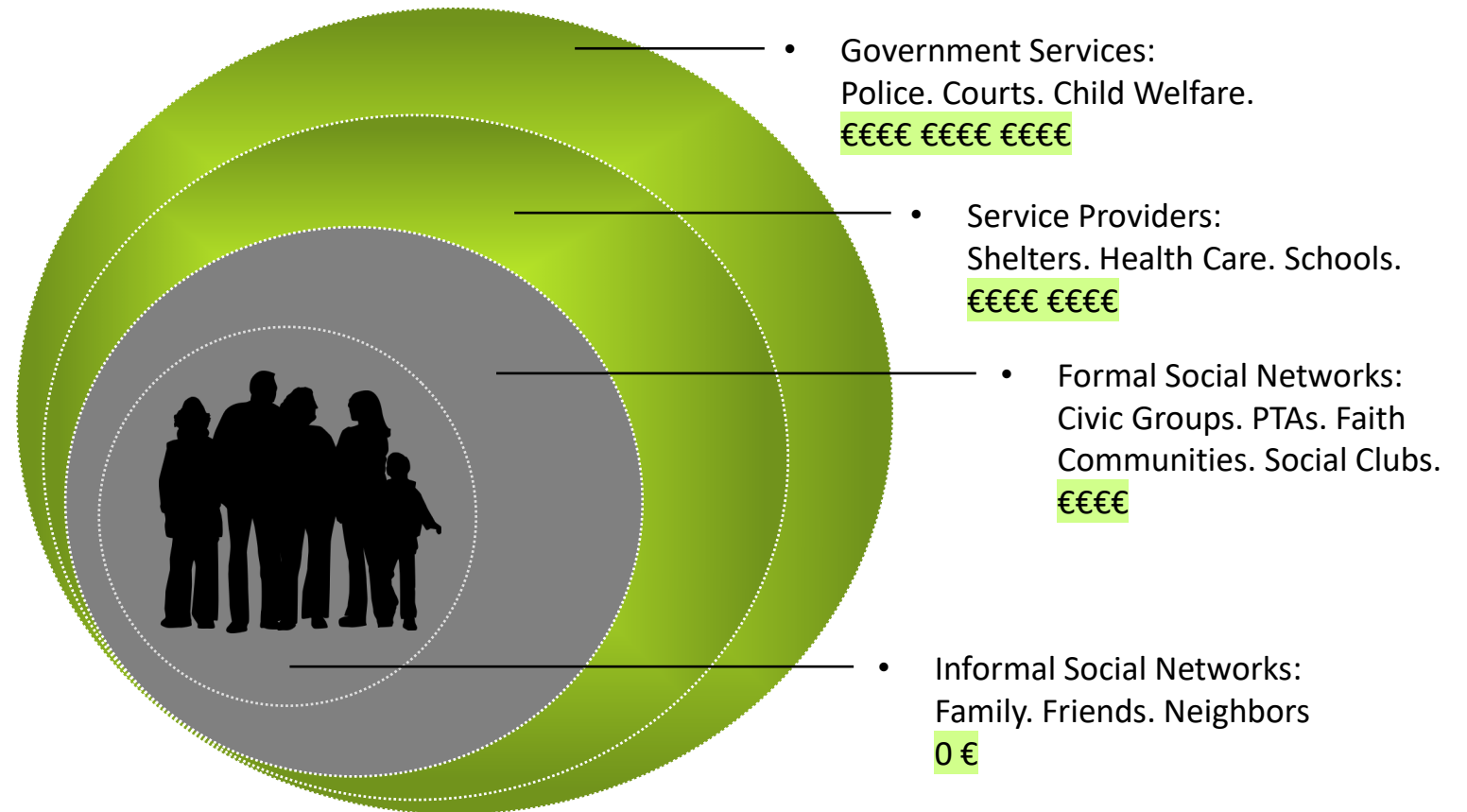
# Limitations



- Domestic violence is a current and massive social problem that has not diminished over the years.
- it mainly affects women\* of all ages and socio-economis bakgrounds and is part of patriarchal traditions and gender hierarchies.
- it mainly takes place in the "private" sphere.
- 67% of the most serious incidents of ipv were not reported to the police or any other organisation (EU 2014)
- there is a gap between support systems and victims/survivors
- the are gaps in the support system

# Current Situation Germany.

## Your country?



Graphic: Credits: Close2Home

# Closing the Gap:

Not much attention has been paid to :

- **Prevention !**

New (additional) focus:

- the place where the violence takes place
- those, who are close to survivors and perpetrator





# StoP: combining primary and secondary prevention



“Violence against women is more about the quality of a community than the quality of a relationship“

(Carol Hagemann-White)



# Community matters!

- people often turn to informal networks of family, friends and neighbors for disclosure and support
- norms and reactions in informal networks are therefore crucial
- neighbours are close by
- they have many reasons to act:
  - self-interest, compassion, political or religious reasons



# Chicago data analyzed by Christopher Browning (2002):



- In neighborhoods where the norm of non-intervention was less strong than in others, the number of women murdered by their male partners was significantly lower; nonlethal but severe violence also dropped
- the existence of an informal supportive social network had a positive effect on the disclosure of conflict in intimate relationships

# Results from SASA!

(see global community matters study)

<https://stop-partnergewalt.org/stoppen-lernen/>

## SASA! prevents violence against women

Women's risk of experiencing physical violence by an intimate partner in the last year reduced by:

52%

## SASA! Prevents Violence

We found that SASA! decreased women's risk of experiencing physical violence from their male partners by 52 percent.

This is a community-level result, meaning the reduction in risk of violence remained true for all women living in SASA! communities, regardless of whether or not they participated in SASA! activities. While we at Raising Voices have always believed in the power of our methodologies, the SASA! Study changed the field. For the first time, we stood on unequivocal evidence that feminist programming can fundamentally transform norms and prevent violence against women. And we learned that these profound shifts do not require generations—they can be realized within the lifespan of a single program when community members lead the way.

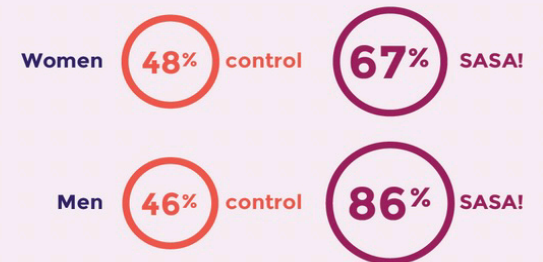
## A Rigorous Evaluation

From 2007 to 2013, we embarked on the SASA! Study with partners the [Center for Domestic Violence Prevention \(CEDOVIP\)](#), the [London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine](#) and [Makerere University](#). The research was designed according to the highest standards of rigor—a randomized controlled trial—to provide solid evidence of SASA!'s impacts in the community.

Over several years of intensive work, we learned the ins and outs of impact evaluations, qualitative research and costing studies. Read more about this journey in our learning paper [Growing as an Activist Organization Through Evaluation Research](#).

## SASA! shifted power in relationships

Women and men who reported they made important decisions jointly with their partner:





# “StoP” approach – general goals:



- making IPV “visible”, a public matter and integral part of community development
- change social norms in local neighbourhoods
- raise consciousness about gender, power relations
- promote and support civic engagement, intervention, practical solidarity with survivors; disclosure and helpseeking

# But how ?

THE ANSWER is:

- Community work / Community organizing

Concept / Methods have been around since more than 100 years (Jane Addams, Saul Alinsky...)



# Community work: characteristics

- Leave your office, do community assessment, talk to people !!!
- participation, community ownership
- No clients!  
Only: Citizens, Neighbors, Activists, Volunteers, Key persons, Leaders...
- mobilization of people and (local) resources
- collective empowerment through education, action, celebration, arts

# Community work: characteristics

- building a power base
- discovering, creating building informal and formal networks
- linking macro- and micro analyses and practices (patriarchal structures, gender relations at home; fight for equal pay – behavioral changes)
- creating sustainable social change





# Community organizing: long tradition, knowledge, experiences

“A process of engaging whole communities — youth and adults; people of all genders; family, friends, and neighbors; professionals and politicians in collectively articulating the problem, developing an expansive vision, building collective power and capacity, and creating both personal and social change.”

(Aimee Thompson, close2home)



# General StoP Principles



- “mainstreaming” the issue of IPV
- participation, bottom up
- community ownership
- working with local people, local language, local symbols
- “a good tactic is one that your people enjoy” (Alinsky)

# Examples from StoP community work

- neighbours don't turn up the volume of their TV if they hear something but go, check the situation, ring the bell, offer shelter, call the police,
- build a support circle
- organize a safety chain (phone numbers, keep an eye, accompaniment)
- repair and strengthen entry door
- help with the flight to a shelter



# StoP Model© - 8 steps

1. find and secure **resources** (**money, people, training, space**)
2. **leave your office**: community assessment and mapping, explore and talk to key persons and leaders
3. bring community members together and **build a (or more) core group** of engaged, conscious, educated neighbours
4. the **group** creates materials, does outreach and research, involving more people, takes **action**





# StoP Model© - 8 steps

5. **networking**: establish cooperations in the community (formal and informal)
6. be able to give **individual support** by establishing reliable contacts to health care, social services and police, make services accessible
7. **stabilize, expand** networks and your work in the community
8. **beyond**: support the activists and leaders to make connections and take action above the level of the local community



# StoP Model© - 8 steps



Community matters!



Photo credits:  
StoP Steilshoop



# Processing what you heard:

Please take notes, words,  
sentences that come to your mind  
without much thinking about it.



# Example HH-Steilshoop:

- multicultural, low-income, stigmatized neighborhood, 18.000 inhabitants



# Pilot: StoP – HH Steilshoop, 2010 - ongoing



- started from the community – StoP was invited
- collaboration between 3 community based organizations and HAW/University
- 2 parttime staff + local social workers gave some additional working hours
- Community assesment 1: 20 one on ones with community stakeholders (30 key persons): they then mobilised participants for kitchen table talks
- Community assesment and mobilisation 2: 695 one on ones with neighbors
- Semistructured interviews with stop activists, 2 focus group interviews, documentation of meetings, action research, recent research on long time changes



# StoP is about:

- Coming together, starting a conversation, learning, taking care of ourselves, inventing, creating!





# Kitchentablemeeting

- Ghana-Steilshoop Group



# Initial Motivation: neighbours voices



- **the issue:** “Before it started I knew things were happening in the neighborhood. Violence is everybody's business. I was very glad for such a project to start here” (Ha, StoP2 )
- **helping others:** “because I am.. against any kind of violence, it naturally spoke to me and immediately I was ready to help these people and to help in our neighborhood” (Ru, StoP1.)
- **person and relations:** “She asked us and we said ok, but because it was Z. and we know her and trust her” (Se., Ze., StoP2)

# Initial Motivation:



- previous experiences with community activism:

“For me it was important to move something in the neighborhood ... there is a good network here and you can easily find allies for ideas, ... there are so many things we already initiated here. .. It is the kind of optimism, that here you can really do something”

# Motivation: Community led



- “What I liked was that the neighbors really matter and it is not like:

Yes, here the professionals are talking and you only are neighbors. We are the main persons the others are ... on second place. I always like it that we receive this appreciation. This way it is even more rewarding: “OK I am here the important person the one who’s talking to the people”

# Action Research as community empowerment:

- doorknocking and outreach in the shopping mall (695 interviews)





# Goals of action research / one on one

1. obtain and give information/ data
2. Making IPV visible,
3. Becoming visible as StoP activists
4. Empowerment and community ownership of knowledge
5. initiating a process of questioning and consciousness raising
6. collecting ideas on what to do
7. mobilizing, finding new activists

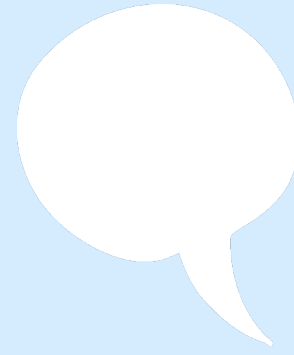




# Questionnaire

(nach Seippel 1976)

- Door Opener
  - Icebreaker
    - Anger (Problem)
      - Hope (Ideen)
        - Action



# 1rst step to create change:

## Visibility!

- making the issue of IPV visible (Thomas Theorem)
- community mainstreaming
- awareness: really naming it
- becoming visible as a StoP activist



Hey, I saw you on this poster.

What's it all about?

It is about us neighbors helping to stop domestic violence! .... Why don't you come along for coffee and cake next Saturday at Agdaz?

I'll be there and we can talk more.



At StoP men are seen as important allies and role models in the struggle for gender equality and non-violence!

We try to adress all genders, involving the whole community.

A U T H O R Prof. Dr. Sabine Stövesand, University of Applied Sciences Hamburg




Anthony Brobbey, Ralf Aunin, Oliver Kretschmann, Jan-Hendrik Blumenthal, Horst Danilow, A. & F. Wagner, Sönke Ulrich, Roman-Rafaele Chirico, Hakan Olcas, Antonio Borralho, Peter Dreiller, Junior Gnininvi, Günther Boldt, Sayed Hassan, Rusty Okorie, Carsten Heeder, Basam Khokhar, Peaceful Nyass, Dennis Paustian, Ali Rezaie

# STOP

## Stadtteile ohne Partnergewalt

*Steilshoop fängt an!  
Wir Männer sind dabei!*

 **StoP** Stadtteile ohne Partnergewalt | Stadtebüro Steilshoop Tel.: 040 / 79 69 68 01

Gefördert von:    

V.i.S.d.P.: Prof. Dr. S. Stövesand, HAW, Alexandersstr. 1, 20099 Hamburg



- Getting bolder: single person public statements
- Outreach: you have to find spaces where they are willing to put up posters.

In order to do that, you have to be able to argue and act as a StoP „Ambassador“



Nuray Sogüt

# StoP

Stadtteile ohne Partnergewalt

StoP ist ein Projekt von vielen, unterschiedlichen Menschen aus Steilshoop. Das Ziel ist, Gewalt in Beziehungen aus der Tabu-Ecke zu holen und nicht länger zu dulden.

Die Würde des Menschen ist unantastbar! (Artikel 1, Abs. 1, Grundgesetz)

Wir tun etwas - wir sagen etwas.

AUTHOR Prof. Dr. Sabine Stövesand, University of Applied Sciences Hamburg



StadtteilbüroSteilshoop  
Tel.: 040/79 69 68 01

Gefördert von:



V.i.S.d.P.: Prof. Dr. S. Stövesand, HAW, Alexanderstr. 1, 20099 Hamburg

Feeling insecure to show face,  
but totally sure about goals and visions!

A U T H O R Prof. Dr. Sabine Stövesand, University of Applied Sciences Hamburg



# StoP

## Stadtteile ohne Partnergewalt

StoP ist ein Projekt von vielen, unterschiedlichen Menschen aus HORN. Das Ziel ist, Gewalt in Beziehungen aus der Tabu-Ecke zu holen und nicht länger zu dulden.

Die Würde des Menschen ist unantastbar! (Artikel 1, Abs. 1, Grundgesetz)

Wir tun etwas - wir sagen etwas.



**StoP** Horn macht mit  
Stadtteile ohne Partnergewalt  
Was tun. Was sagen.

Koordination:  
Züleyha Celebi  
Elternschule Horner Geest  
Spießring 44, 22119  
Tel. 6531382



Behörde für Arbeit,  
Soziales, Familie  
und Integration



Bezirkamt Hamburg-Mitte  
Dezernat Wirtschaft, Baun und Umwelt  
Fachamt Stadt- und Landschaftsplanung

**SAGA** **GWG**

Träger:  
Dogan Kılıckaya  
Jugendzentrum Horner Geest  
Everlingweg 17, 22119 HH  
Tel. 6534005



# “Mainstreaming” in the neighborhood



Mainstreaming the issue: blockparty, fleemarket, end of ramadan party...



Bundesministerium  
für Familie, Senioren, Frauen  
und Jugend

Visibility in unknown spaces  
(Participatory Presentations)





Visibility in higher places: Meeting with the German president and his partner in Berlin



Empowerment - New Horizons  
Being part of 1000000000000000 rising



# Mobilizing, building new relationships

“Yes, if I think of this work during the last two years ... just take our house for example. Are 38 families. Changing of course. But ... it was very anonymous.

And then I took my flyers and got started. And thought, “Will you really ring the bell, will you?” >Laugh< ,Well, you do not like them at all. “Laugh”, and then I said to myself, “No, it shouldn’t be like that. Ring that bell!” Like that.

And now ... now the first contact, right? “I am advocating for this. Have you ever heard of it?” And with three families ... I am so speechless ... we have rejected each other ... not only I them. “Laughing” Also the other way round. And uhm ... so much has come out of it that I am convinced

a) they will spread the word and b) I have a whole different attitude towards these people, because they took a stand, which I would never have assumed ... Or never would have given them credits for. And that is for me ... so that I can say ,yes, it’s worth it ... Go on!!!



when two worlds  
collide ...



# Visiblity + Mobilazation at the Workplace

I stuck it right onto my cart and then the next day ... One colleague ... she says: “You give me such a thing too? I think that's good.” I say, “Of course, all of you can have one.” And now we all have one sticking to our cleaning carts .

(a neighbor working as a cleaning woman, refering to StoP stickers)



# Disclosure and Encouragement

“There she stood (all confident) and spoke up loudly to the public. There was the state senator, there were authorities. I know how I used to feel, how I used to be, hiding myself. That they do have the courage now to say that (incredibly) ...”

(a neighbor commenting on a young woman of the youth group talking about her violent relationship during a public meeting)



## StoP Merchandise



## Trainings





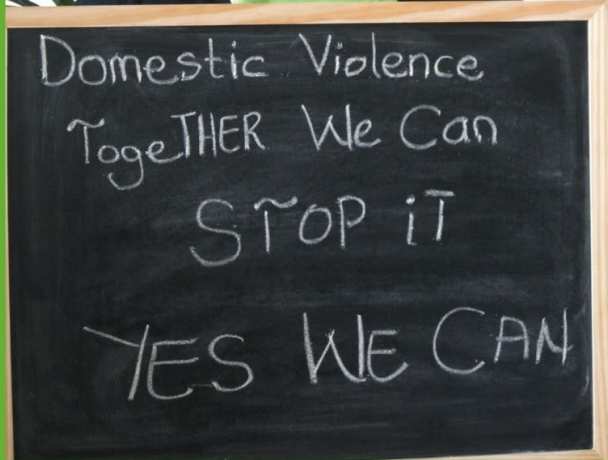
# Community Matters!

If communities don't care, if they don't receive the resources and tools needed for taking action:

No, we cannot end intimate partner violence.

If they do:





**Miriam Kotoka**

# StoP

Stadtteile ohne Partnergewalt

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Die Würde des Menschen ist unantastbar! (Artikel 1, Abs. 1, Grundgesetz)

Wir tun etwas - wir sagen etwas.



StoP Steilshoop trägt an!  
Stadtteile ohne Partnergewalt  
Was tun. Was sagen.

Stadtteilbüro Steilshoop  
Tel.: 040/79 69 68 01

Gefördert von:



Hamburg



Hamburg



Hamburg



Hamburg



Hamburg



Hamburg



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Hamburg



Hamburg



Hamburg



Hamburg





# Mending the Gap: „StoP!“



A neighborhood-based model to prevent Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and create social change.

A work in progress between  
social work practice, and  
research, academia and  
activism...

Questions and  
observations  
generated through  
practice in a  
women's shelter

Why are always women and children  
leaving their homes and communities,  
taking all the hardships? Are we part of  
making violence invisible by taking care of  
it behind closed doors? Can we do  
something else?

## Basics and Starting points

Over the last 40 years much has been achieved:  
the silence around violence against women was  
broken, support systems have been established,  
research has been done and studies published,  
laws changed, so did gender roles and the public  
debate. Official papers recognise, „that violence  
against women is a manifestation of historically  
unequal power relations between women and  
men“ (Istanbul Convention 2011, Preamble).

### But:

- **Prevalence** of genderbased violence, DV/IPV  
is (still) **high** in Germany and all over the EU  
(FRA 2014, BKA 2018)
- **Rate of disclosure and helpseeking** with regard  
to established responses - police, social  
services - is **low and limited** (FRA 2014,  
BMFSFJ 2012; Kavemann 2012)
- there is a **growing anti-feminist backlash** in  
the middle of many societies, proclaiming the  
re-establishment of traditional gender  
hierarchies and concepts
- **responses** to victims/survivors and  
perpetrators are overwhelmingly **confined to  
the tertiary level** of prevention/intervention

## Conclusion with regard to the response system - two gaps, one contradiction and an amendment

- gap between established responses and  
target groups
- gap between the primary level (laws, policy  
making broad public debates and campaigns)  
and the tertiary level (shelters, counseling,  
trainings) of prevention
- contradiction between the insights in  
structural rootcauses of VAW and the  
predominance of responses on individual level
- Developing a model situated on the  
secondary level of prevention/intervention,  
integrating elements of primary and tertiary  
interventions

resulted in a first  
community  
mobilizing project  
on DV/IPV in HH St.  
Pauli (19990ties)

Violence doesn't happen on an isolated island.  
There are eye- and ear witnesses, bystanders,  
neighbors and friends who know. **Community  
matters:** norms, gender concepts, solidarity.  
Combination of knowledge about DV/IPV and  
community work.

study and research,  
conceptualization of  
a community based  
prevention and  
intervention model:  
StoP (2000s)

-**systematic review** of literature and research data  
on IPV, programs on domestic violence and  
services, of social capital and community cohesion,  
different concepts of community work, community  
safety, governmentality studies and the  
transformation of the social and the welfare state.  
-**documentation, structured reflexion** of the co-  
mobilizing done

pilotphase:  
implementing the  
model in a  
multicultural  
neighborhood in  
Hamburg 2009

Initially 20 interviews with community  
stakeholders (30 key persons)  
5 semistructured interviews with stop activists,  
2 focus group interviews, documentation of  
meetings, action research: 695 interviews

## Feed-backs by neighbors:

„Just take our house for example. Are 38 families.  
Changing of course. But .. it was very anonymous.  
And then I took my flyers and got started. ... And  
with three families. I am so speechless .. we have  
rejected each other .. not only I them. Also the  
other way round. So much has come out of it that  
I am convinced a) they will spread the word and b)  
I have a whole different attitude towards these  
people, because they took a stand, which I would  
never have assumed .. And that is for me .. so that  
I can say ‚yes, it's worth it .. Continue‘.“

## What do community members do?

Give information, open their  
door in crisis situations, connect  
to shelters, show face, are  
aware and say something,  
„mainstream“ problem of IPV  
into everyday life of the  
community...

development of a  
StoP curriculum for  
professional social  
workers and  
community activists  
(2013, ongoing)

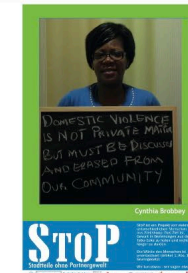
8 trainings, 150 participants, all  
genders, Germany and Austria, 11  
days plus selforganised studies

replication of the  
StoP-model:  
30 neighborhoods in  
2 countries (D/AT,  
2023, ongoing)

Hamburg, Vienna  
Dresden, Salzburg  
Braunschweig,  
Glinde, Linz,  
Berlin, Perg...

International  
exchange, comparati  
ve research on the  
work in different  
communities (first  
steps)

Cooperation welcome,  
resources needed!





# The Story behind the Logo



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmNz0cTcxFU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qAYDmZ19nG4>



# Thank you

for your attention and participation!

## DISCLAIMER

Violence against women\* is the focus of StoP's work – this includes anyone identifying or being perceived as a woman

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