

Community matters!

What StoP is about:

Breaking the silence and stopping, preventing
Domestic Violence / Intimate partner Violence.

AUTHOR

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

Trigger warning!

- This Presentation contains descriptions of Violence & Trauma.

This training addresses sensitive issues related to domestic violence. The discussions can trigger traumatic memories or be emotionally stressful. If you feel uncomfortable or need support, you can always ask for a break or a conversation, or retreat to the small room.



Domestic violence, partner violence and gender

Domestic violence is defined as violence between adults

- who are in a close social relationship and
- in its most severe and diverse forms, predominantly affects women.
- The term “partner violence” has been deliberately chosen to represent the most common form, which is also the focus of StoP's work.

GENDER

Gender is understood as a social construct as well as a social and physical reality of people.

- Gender is identity and physically more diverse than traditional gender duality suggests.
- At the same time, the categories of man and woman are still of fundamental importance today:
 - a) as social structural categories (analytically, politically and in terms of social placement)
 - b) in relation to the individual self-understanding of the vast and clear majority of people in neighbourhoods, communities and villages.

This requires a complex **double movement** of deconstruction and recognition is needed.

StoP

StoP emerged from the work of women's shelters and sees itself as part of a feminist movement for the comprehensive democratization and transformation of gender relations.

With the horizon of a non-violent, non-hierarchical society that does not divide and separate, but in which being human can be lived without fear in diversity, StoP wants to contribute to people no longer being discriminated against as women or queer people, but empowered.



What is the definition of Violence?

“Violence is the threatened or actual use of physical force or power, whether against oneself, against other people, or against a group or community, that results in, or is likely to result in, injury, death, psychological harm, developmental delay or deprivation”.

(WHO 2002)



Genderbased violence

“Any violation of the physical or mental integrity of a person, which is related to the gender of the victim as well as of the perpetrator and is inflicted by the structurally stronger person taking advantage of a power relationship.”

(Hagemann-White 1997: 29)



It is happening every day everywhere anytime ...

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 den ...

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

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. ... Streit keine ... Ungefähr um 0.50 ... sind die beiden nach ... 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 Täter

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: Polizei, soziale Dienste und Gerichte glauben mißhandelten Frauen nicht / Gesetze un...

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

von Frauen zur Hilfe gerufen werden. Sie reizen nach den Erfahrungen mit Sexualerkrankungen: Sexueller 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 ... reichen von Schlafstörungen bis zu Kontaktproblemen. Ältere Mädchen sind überproportional mit Suchtproblemen und Suizidge-danken belastet. Bei der Vorstellung des Berichtes kündigte Staatssekretärin Cornelia Yzer erneut eine Reihe von gesetzgeberischen Maßnahmen zum Schutz mißbrauchter Mädchen an. Nach den Vorstellungen

Partner violence is relationship violence, is domestic violence. It mainly affects women.

- **Women and girls:** Most victims are relatives or acquaintances. Murder and people slaughter in particular, but also sexual violence, offences against personal freedom and bodily harm, are committed in the private sphere.
- **Men:** Overall, they experience physical violence much more often than women. Patterns are different: they are much more at risk in public spaces and the perpetrators are less likely to be from close social circles.
- The suspects in both areas are **(over) 80% male.**
- A common cause and challenge to all of us: **We have to Change traditional gender concepts - and relations: they are no good for men either!**
- **What about your countries? Same situation?**

** Woman or man: anyone who defines themselves or/and is perceived as such*

Facts:



Community matters!

Europe:

- Every 5th woman experiences physical and/or sexual violence from the age of 18.
- Every 3rd woman is sexually harassed from the age of 18.
- Every 7th woman is affected by stalking from the age of 18.
- Every 4th woman is affected by violence in her partnership.

Germany:

- almost every day an (ex-)man tries to kill his (ex-)partner.
- Nearly every 2nd day a killing is completed.
- according to the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA), there was an overall increase in criminal offences in violence against women of 17,5% since 2019

Similar Situation in your country?

Source: FRA/EIGE Study 2024 <https://fra.europa.eu/en/content/eu-gender-based-violence-survey>.

Violence against queer people



- According to the Federal Ministry of the Interior, a total of 204 offences were registered for 2020,
- 40 violent offences in the sub-theme field “gender/sexual identity”. This refers to transphobically motivated offences.
- In the sub-theme field “sexual orientation”, a total of 578 offences were registered, of which 114 were violent offences. These offences are considered homophobically motivated.
- Consequently, a total of 782 hate crime offences against LGBTI people were registered in 2020, including 154 violent offences. This is an increase of 36% compared to 2019. Three homophobically motivated murders are not included in the statistics.
- In 2022, the registered cases of hate crime against LGBTIQ* continued to increase. For example, 1005 offences were recorded in the sub-theme area “sexual orientation” (of which 227 were violent offences) and 417 offences were recorded in the sub-theme area “gender diversity” (of which 82 were violent offences).

<https://www.lsvd.de/de/ct/3958-Alltag-Homophobe-und-transfeindliche-Gewaltvorfaelle-in-Deutschland>

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/queerfeindliche-hasskriminalitaet-und-gewalt-besser-bekaempfen-227188>

Diverse of victims/ survivors of domestic violence:

Partner violence in same-sex relationships:

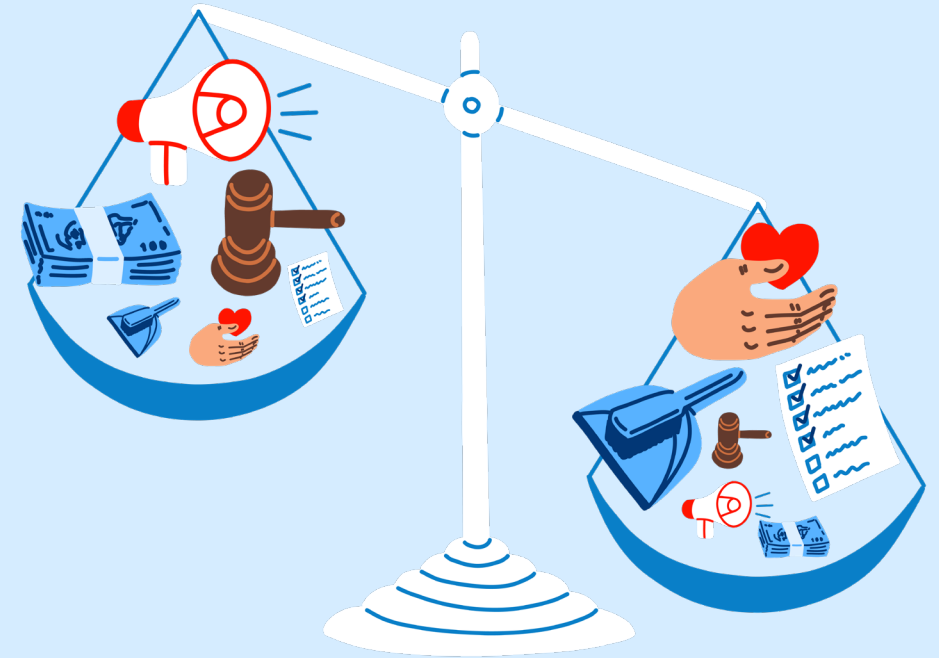
- A study from Great Britain (Donovan/Hesters 2015) as well as other international studies show that partner violence and especially sexualized and psychological violence is a considerable problem:
- 44% of lesbian women and 26% of gay men have experienced sexual, physical violence and/or stalking by their partner (cited in Ohms 2020,p.83).



Diverse of victims/ survivors of domestic violence:

- with the victim characteristic “disability”, a total of 302 victims (74.8 % female and 25.2 % male) were registered in 2021
- with the characteristic “frailty/age/illness/injury” 530 victims (73.4 % female and 26.6 % male) were registered

(BKA 2022: 13)



Diverse of victims/ survivors of domestic violence:

- **Children** are usually massively affected by domestic violence if they live in the household.
- The majority of them are involved both indirectly (hearing) and directly (being there, being attacked themselves) in the violent situation, with drastic consequences for their upbringing and health.

(de Andrade/Gahleitner 2020, Henschel 2019).



Facts on intimate partner violence: Perpetrators and victims

are overwhelmingly (2/3) German



- the victims of completed and attempted partner violence offences were predominantly German nationals. Their share of all victims of intimate partner violence was 70.0% in 2021, as in the previous year.
- Among non-German victims, Turkish nationals dominated with 3.7 % (5,361) of all German and non-German victims of intimate partner violence (143,604), ahead of Polish nationals with 3.2 % (4,584).
- 65.6% of the suspects recorded for completed and attempted partner violence offences were German nationals.

Situation in your country?

BKA 2022

Facts:

- no significant correlation was found between the incidence of violence, education and income (BMFSFJ 2010).
- Women of all age groups and social classes are affected, most of them do not have a migration background.
- Women who suffered violence at the hands of their partner were twice as likely to have experienced violence as children or to have witnessed violence between their parents than those who had not.
- Alcohol played a role in approx. 23% of the suspects (BKA 2021, p. 22)

Facts Germany:



- Around 2/3 of violent men live in households with middle or upper incomes (BMFSFJ 2009).
- Women under 35 are more likely to suffer violence if both partners are in a difficult social situation.
- Women over 45 suffer violence more often if they have higher educational qualifications or are equal or superior to their partner in this respect.



Not all partner violence is the same

1. **Situational partner violence:** neither partner is fundamentally violent or controlling, there are isolated incidents of violence in emotionally acute situations (M and W,).
2. **Reciprocal violence or mutual violent resistance:** both partners are equally violent and controlling (M and W, rarely)
3. **Terrorism in private, intimate relationships:** one partner is violent and controlling, the other is not. (M/W)
4. **“Violent resistance”:** one partner is violent and controlling, the other responds with counter-violence, but not controlling (M/W)

Crucial: (unequal) power and control as an ongoing pattern.

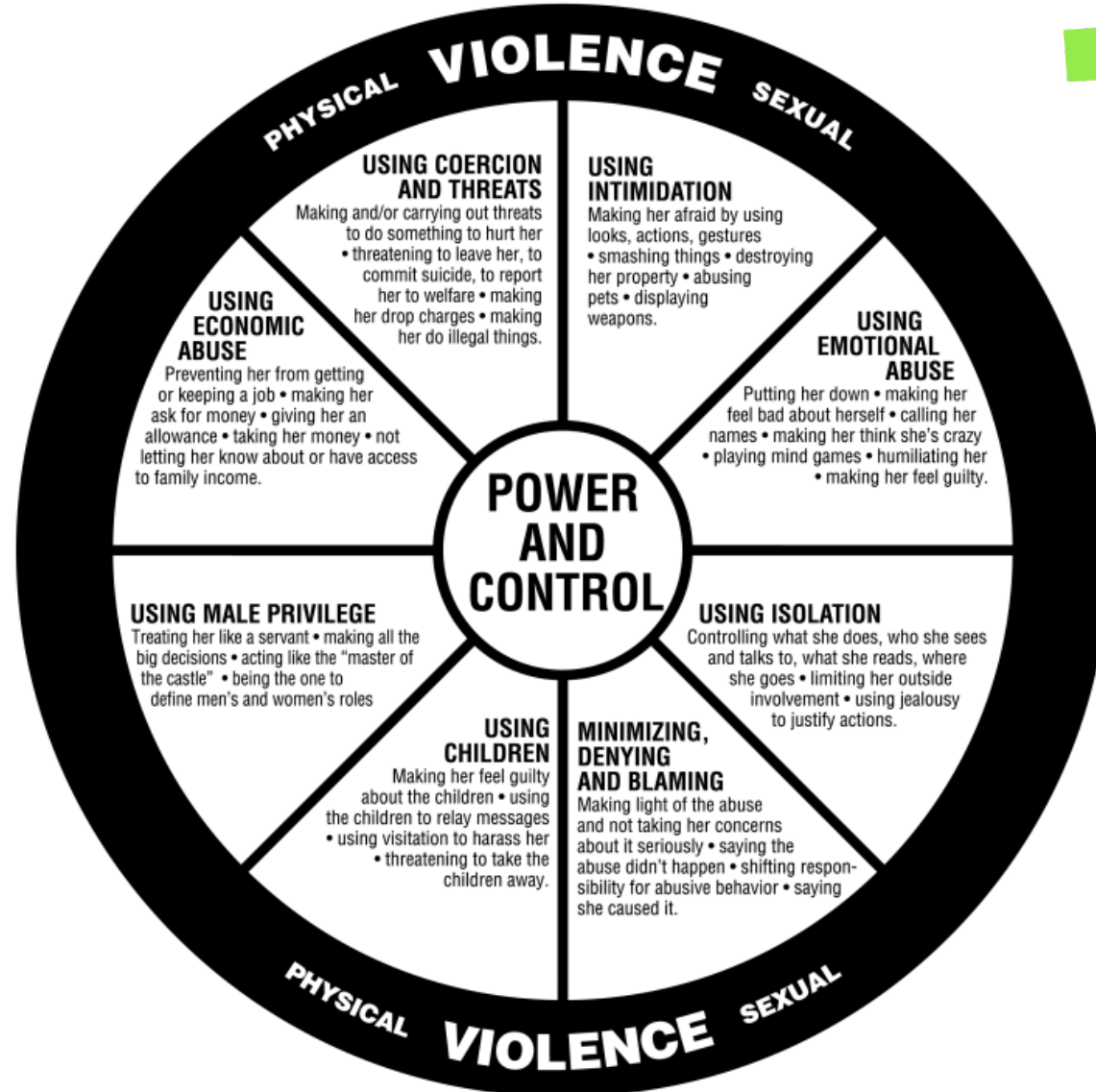
Not all partner violence is the same



- When the number of physical, one-off conflicts is measured, the number of female perpetrators and male victims is relatively high.
- When it comes to repeated, systematic abuse in a climate of control, fear and isolation, the victims are predominantly female and the perpetrators male.
- Women are two to three times more likely than men to suffer repeated attacks, injuries and other consequences.
- The issue of self-defence must be included, as well as victim blaming (“my wife is the problem”).

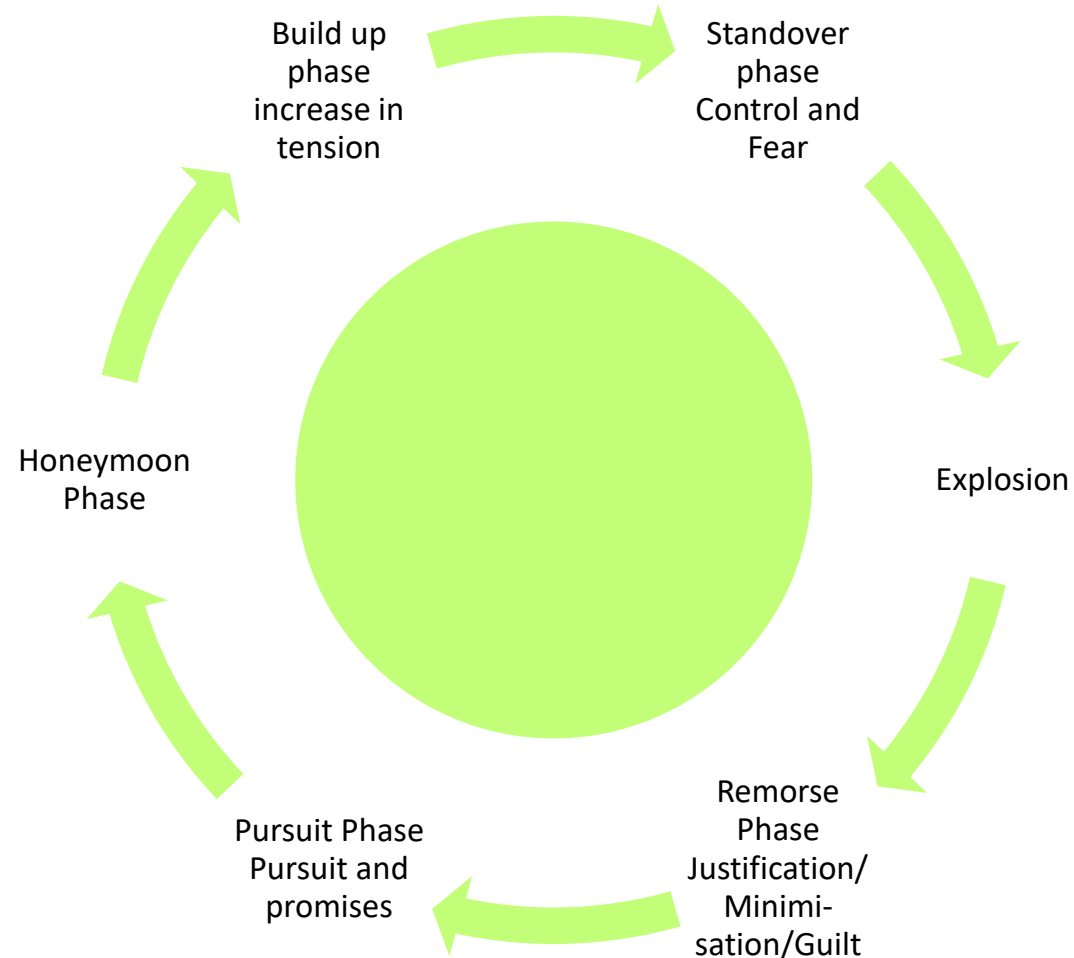
Forms of direct interpersonal violence

In the case of violence against women*, several forms are usually linked together !



(Copyright by the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project)

The Cycle of Violence

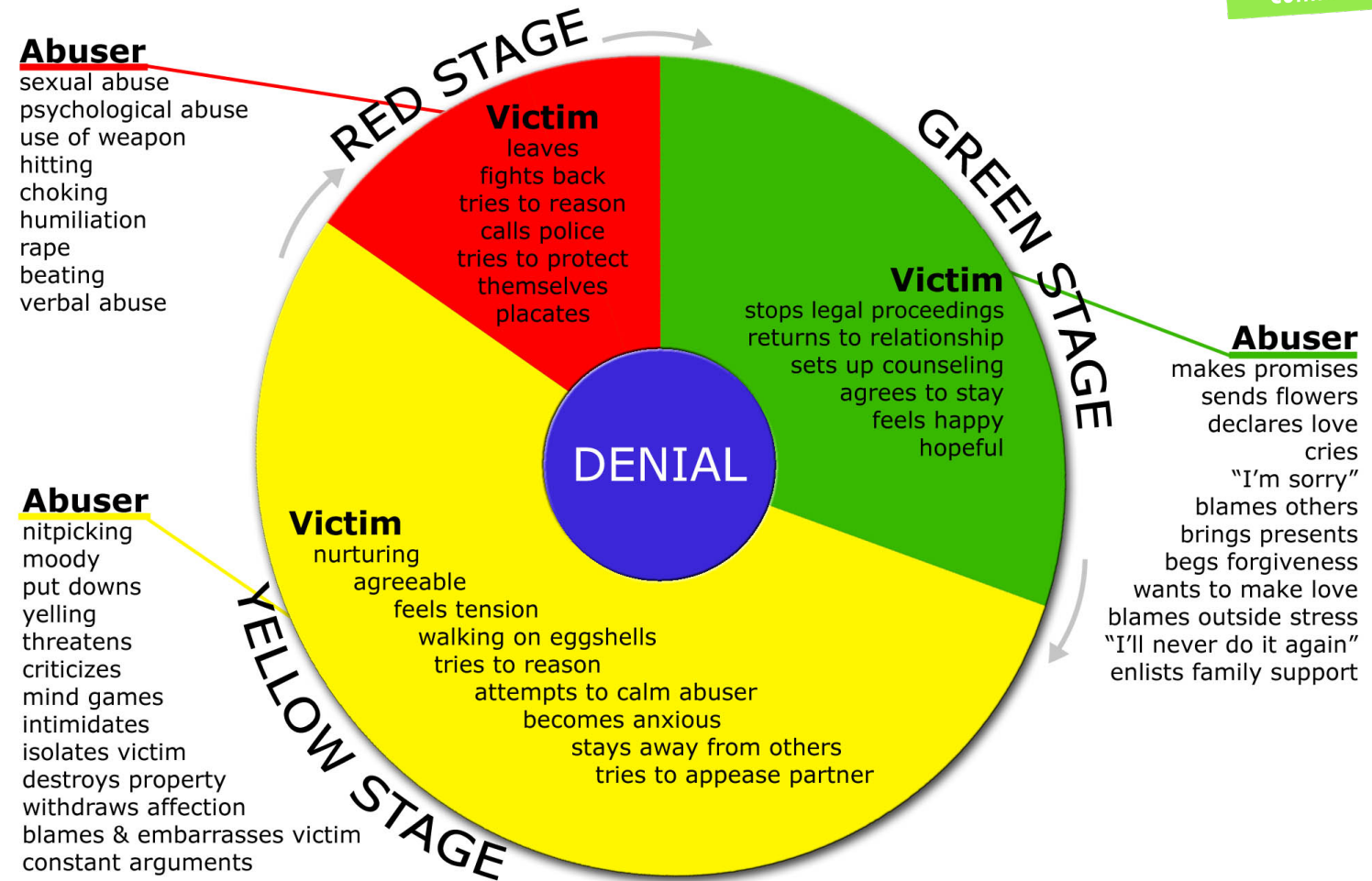


Source: <https://www.listugujhavenhouse.ca>

Cycle of Abuse

Teens Experiencing Abusive Relationships (TEAR)

Source:
<https://www.teensagainstabuse.org>



Effects on Health

- Bruises, lacerations, puncture wounds, hematomas, fractures
- gynecological disorders and diseases
- Chronic irritable gastrointestinal disorders
- pregnancy risks
- head, neck and back pain
- Depression, anxiety and panic attacks
- sleep disorders
- Loss of self-esteem and self-worth
- Post-traumatic stress disorder
- Prolonged use of psychotropic medication (Schröttle 2020)



Social and economic effects on survivors

- Abandonment of shared flat, furniture or common property
- Social relegation (80% of FH residents are welfare recipients)
- Renunciation of alimony, damages, compensation for pain and suffering for fear of escalation
- Isolation among friends and relatives, in the community.
- For migrant women: Threat to their residence permit, abandonment of the community.

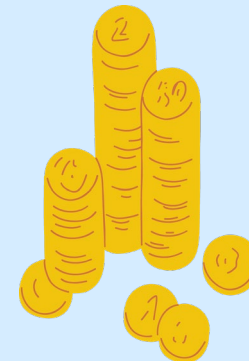


Domestic Violence is expensive

Germany: 3,8 Mrd. per year

- Direct health costs:
- Treatment costs (medical, dental, psychotherapeutic services).
- Indirect costs:
- Inability to work, unemployment, early retirement
- Social costs:
- Police, court, penal system, social welfare, victim assistance, refuge facilities.

(Sacco, 2017)



structural, non-direct violence as context and condition for direct violence

- Discrimination in the distribution of child-rearing and domestic work, of earning and promotion opportunities, of wealth and political power (gender pay gap, gender pension gap...)
- Legal restrictions on self-determination (e.g. ban on abortion)
- patriarchal, cultural traditions such as exclusion of women from the Catholic priesthood, compulsory virginity, forced marriage

Why? Complex causes (macro-meso-micro level)

- hierarchies between the sexes, deeply embedded in society (indirect violence, i.e. gender pay gap, gendered division of labour...)
- culturally transmitted dichotomous/binary and complementary concepts of masculinity and femininity (examples...?)
- mediated by various instances of socialisation (examples...?)
- actively appropriated and reproduced physically and psychologically and performed by individuals (examples...?)

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence 2011, Preamble:



“Recognising that the realisation of de jure and de facto equality between women and men is a key element in the prevention of violence against women; Recognising that violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between women and men, which have led to domination over, and discrimination against, women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women.”

Gender segregation

Gender segregation of society producing, influencing (and controlling) people's competences, capacities for action, self-image and aspiration

- **public sphere:**
 - superior to private sphere- culture, intellect, egoism, activity, struggle, professional work for money, politics
- **private sphere:**
 - subordinate to the public sphere - nature, feeling, selflessness, passivity, peacefulness, caring activities out of love

Societal Gender Segregation



- Idealisation of private space as a safe haven, characterised by voluntariness and harmony.
- Decoupling of private space from democratic principles (in Germany until the mid 1970s, family law reform).
- For a long time: family privacy as “private administration of violence tolerated by the state monopoly on the use of force.”
(Birgit Sauer, e.g. rape in marriage, physical violence g. children)

Double invisibility of Violence against women (massive barrier for prevention and ending it)

- does not take place in public
- has not been of public interest for a long time
- norm of non-intervention
- publication taboo



What could be barriers to separation?

We heard about it: Stresses and limitations due to:

- Physical injuries: Lacerations, stab wounds, hematomas, fractures.
- Depression, anxiety and panic attacks
- Sleep disorders
- Long-term use of psychotropic medication
- Gynecological disorders and diseases
- Pregnancy risks
- Chronic irritable gastrointestinal disorders
- Headaches, neck and back pain
- Loss of self-esteem and self-confidence
- Post-traumatic stress disorder



What could be barriers to separation?

Emotional causes:

- She loves him
- She is intimidated
- Her self-esteem has been destroyed /feelings of powerlessness
- She hopes for change
- He is also partner, friend and father of the children
- She believes he cannot live without her
- Identification with the abuser

Abuser strategies:

- Blackmail (I'll kill myself)
- Apologies, pleas, promises
- Threats (I'll kill you, take away your children...)



What could be barriers to separation?

- **Risk to life and health:**
 - Separation increases the risk of being killed by the partner fivefold (BMFSJF studies 2004/20214).
 - 70 % of women whose children had contact with the father were abused again during the visits or the handover (context right of access) (BMFSFJ 2002)
- **Traditional women's role: obligation. Expectations. Responsibility.**
- **Reactions of the environment: reproaches, ignoring, withdrawal.**
- **Economic-social dependencies/existential fears:**
 - Doesn't know where to go.
 - Lack of financial resources.
 - Fear of social ostracism. Loss of status.
 - Fear of impact on residence status (migrant women).
- **Too few specific support services (migrant women, and also for men).**



Social workers, social networks as part of the problem

Concealment of the topic/taboo:

- “marital problems”, “partnership conflict”, instead of
- “violence”, “assault”, “attempted murder”, “assault”

Shift of responsibility/perpetrator-victim diffusion:

- Woman affected by violence is seen as responsible for the success of the relationship and care/protection of the children.
- She can leave, can't she? Why doesn't she separate? Why does she go back?

Separation as a high-risk situation and mitigating circumstance in the case of murder



- Most serious attacks occur in or after separation situations
- the Federal Court of Justice has repeatedly ruled, and most recently in 2019, that there is no base motive in homicide if “the separation emanates from the victim of the crime and the accused, by committing the act, deprives himself of what he actually does not want to lose”.
- Consequence: the conviction is for manslaughter, not murder.

Femicide in Germany: The Blind Spot of Legislation



A couple, married for a long time, both in their late 50s, living in a small town in the north of Brandenburg, the children had long since left home, both employed, middle class, the wife was found dead in her bed, her husband had strangled her. “A lot of the trial was about the fact that the wife had emancipated herself a little from the relationship, for example, she wanted to go on a trip alone,” says Clemm, the lawyer, “and about how much he felt humiliated by it.”

The man cried a lot during the trial. He said he had acted in the heat of the moment: In an argument, he did not know how to help himself other than to tell her to be quiet for once. The court concluded that the perpetrator had been in a difficult situation for a long time and had feared losing his wife.

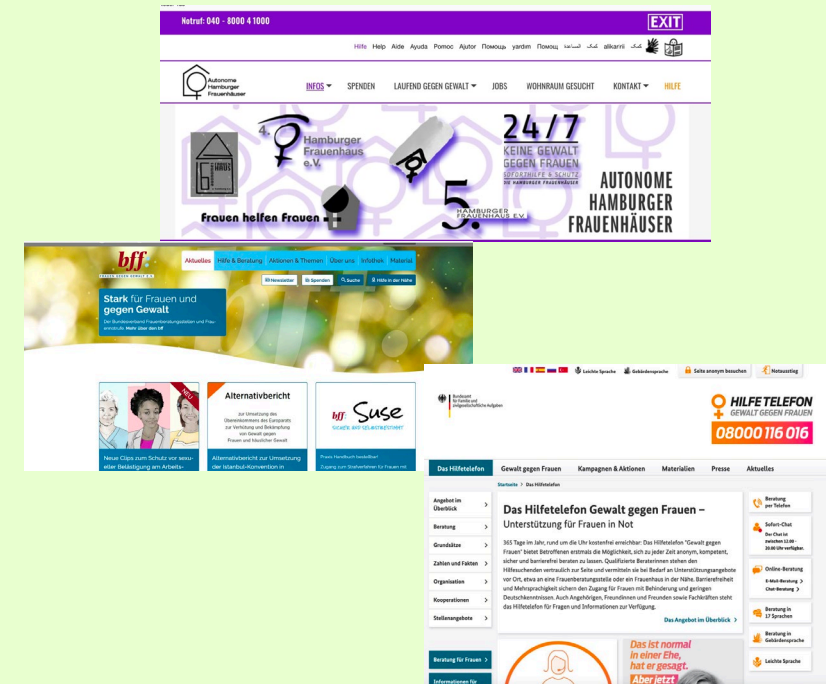
The pent-up despair had been released in the act. He was not convicted of murder but of manslaughter. In addition, the sentence was reduced to four and a half years imprisonment because of the affect. “That is very little for a completed murder,” says Clemm. “But it is common in the area of intimate partner violence.”

The act Clemm describes is femicide: the killing of a woman in the context of gender-based violence.

(TAZ 17.11.2020 Patricia Hecht)

Protection – Help – Intervention differs significantly between EU countries

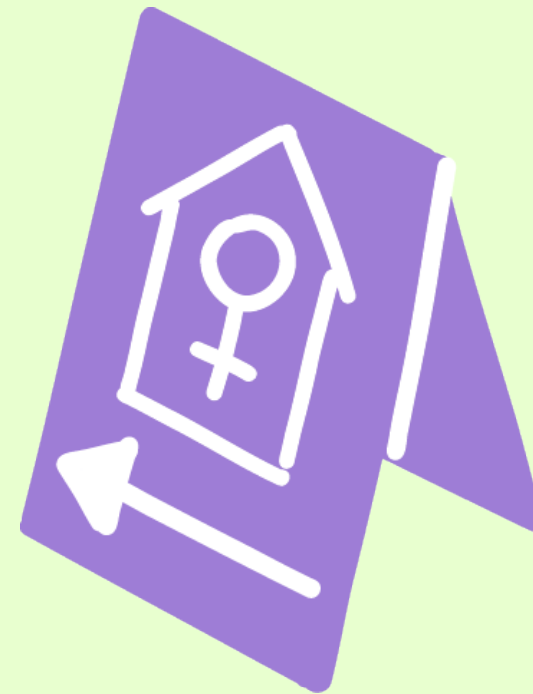
- women's shelters (protection, refuge, empowerment) 350 shelters plus 40 safe apartments in 2022 in D
- Counselling (bff, 200 member organisations)
- general social services (on threats to children's well-being)
- therapy
- round tables/networking
- State action plans
- further training in medicine, police, justice
- National Helpline
- campaigns, materials for schools, public
- Reporting (by federal police)
- 25.11: International Day against Violence against Women
- 20.11. Transgender Day of Remembrance
- Programs for perpetrators
- Police interventions
- research



Conclusion

- 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-economic backgrounds and is part of patriarchal traditions and gender hierarchies.
- It mainly takes place in the “private” sphere.
- Most victims are not reached by the support system and do not go to the police.
- Support services can be part of the problem

→ StoP approach as part of the solution



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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