

RATIONALE

Why is StoP needed?

Abstract

StoP aims to prevent and end gender-based violence. This violence has many faces and is widespread throughout the world. According to studies from different countries, violence against women is the most common human rights violation. The most dangerous place for women and girls is their immediate social environment, especially the home. This is why it is often referred to as domestic violence. Despite many positive developments, violence against women and girls is a massive problem in Europe. One in three women have experienced physical or sexual violence since the age of 15 (FRA 2024). In most cases, it is perpetrated by close male acquaintances. Every third day, a woman is killed by her (ex-)partner. This violence destroys the lives and health of millions of women, causing great human suffering and enormous social, economic and political costs. The negative effects of this violence are most devastating for those directly affected, but they also spill over into family and social networks, affecting local communities and society as a whole. Violence against women and girls is not a private or individual problem. It is deeply rooted in social structures, linked to gender imbalances and patriarchal traditions. The measures taken so far offer more protection and support and raise awareness of the problem. However, domestic violence is not decreasing and there are critical gaps in prevention and intervention. The potential of local civil society has been neglected. There is a great need for action and StoP offers solutions.

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