

NATIONAL REPORT GERMANY 2016

DETAILS REPORT WRITING ORGANISATION

Country: Germany

Organisation writing report: Federal Association of Work with Offenders of Domestic Violence e.V. - Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Täterarbeit Häusliche Gewalt e.V. Website: [www.bag-taeterarbeit.de](http://www.bag-taeterarbeit.de)

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Representing any other organisations: The Federal Association of Work with Offenders (BAG Täterarbeit) now has 62 member institutions at the federal level.

1. ORGANISATIONS/PROGRAMMES

WHAT TYPE OF ACTIVITIES RELATED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION HAS YOUR ORGANISATION CARRIED OUT DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS?

In 2014, the standards for work with perpetrators, which had been reworked from 2009 to 2014 with the federal women's support facilities, were adopted at the member's meeting. In these standards, close cooperation between those working with the affected person and the perpetrator were manifested and established. The most important point here is that couple's conversations should only be offered collaboratively by women's counselling and those working with perpetrators.

In June 2016, the third BAG network meeting (3 days) was held in Cologne together with the women's support institutions. One of the topic was: working together with couples.

WHAT WOULD YOU DEFINE AS THE BIGGEST OBSTACLES/CHALLENGES REGARDING VIOLENCE PREVENTION TO YOUR ORGANISATION/S? PLEASE FOCUS ON THE LAST THREE YEARS.

The biggest problem in the implementation of professional and well-founded work with perpetrators in the field of domestic violence is the lack of money for financing these institutions. The policy has still not produced a comparison of the cost of domestic violence for the whole society and the benefits of good and preventive work. It is too short-sighted. The savings could be enormous with proper financing.

## 2. COUNTRY

PLEASE GIVE AN OVERVIEW OF YOUR COUNTRY'S CRIMINAL AND CIVIL RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, ESPECIALLY ANY CHANGES WITHIN THE LAST 3 YEARS? (I.E. WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT LEGAL AND POLICY MEASURES AND HOW HAVE THEY BEEN IMPLEMENTED?)

The law on sexual self-determination has been revised. In § 177 of the Criminal Code the "no" statement of a woman was redefined. In addition, § 238 of the Criminal Code - Stalking - has been revised. The behaviour of the perpetrator must "still only" be deemed to have inflicted harm on the person concerned. Before this, the affected person had to prove to have been harmed and often had to redesign their entire life.

PLEASE TELL US ABOUT THE PROGRESS YOUR COUNTRY HAS MADE IN RELATION TO ISTANBUL CONVENTION.

Germany has signed the Convention but has not ratified it. This means that the Convention still does not have to be properly implemented. The institutions affiliated with the umbrella organisation Federal Association (BAG) were already working closely with victim protection facilities well before the Convention and are also trying to implement this locally. One objective is to also implement Article 16, point 3 regionally. This means that close cooperation between organisations has to be better illuminated and expanded.

DO YOU KNOW ANY OTHER ORGANISATIONS/PROGRAMMES IN YOUR COUNTRY THAT CARRY OUR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PERPETRATOR WORK? IF YES, PLEASE, LIST THEM.

"Men against male violence" - I would not like to comment on this issue, as this organisation does not have cooperation with women's support groups, police, the justice system etcetera in their plan.

### 3. BEST PRACTICES

TELL US ABOUT BEST PRACTICES IN WORK WITH PERPETRATORS IN YOUR COUNTRY.

In 2007, the state of Rhineland-Palatinate installed an off-site work facility in each county's judicial district. So far there are eight special institutions that have formed "Contra domestic violence". There is close co-operation between victim counselling and perpetrator services. In Landau in the Palatinate in the intervention centre against domestic violence, the victim counselling and work with perpetrator services are located in a separate department. The need for close cooperation was recognised as early as 2001. The state of Rhineland-Palatinate also offers the best comprehensive funding for work with perpetrators in Germany. Each institution receives €37,400 for the implementation of the work. All institutions must implement their work according to the Standards for work with perpetrators. This means that cooperation with victim services is a must. Furthermore, good progress has been made by North Rhine-Westphalia, which has also been financed by the state. However, far less money is made available for work with perpetrators. The flagship in this federal state is "Be a man without violence" in Cologne.

### 4. NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

WHAT HAS TO BE DONE TO PREVENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN YOUR COUNTRY (REGARDING WORK WITH PERPETRATORS)?

Here the proverb "little strokes fell big oaks" is necessary. The associations working with victims and those working with perpetrators must jointly create a political voice. Only with joint actions can we in Germany try to create a process of rethinking the availability of funds. A common umbrella organisation "opposing domestic violence" would be conceivable. The "Bund-Länder Working Group on Domestic Violence" in Berlin, coordinated by the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, could be a great support here.

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WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT TASKS AND STEPS THAT YOU FEEL SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON IN YOUR COUNTRY IN ORDER TO TACKLE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON A GENERAL LEVEL?

We simply need to recognise in Germany that domestic violence is a system in which not only women and men, but also children are always affected. We must carry out work with perpetrators and involve both victims and perpetrators in our work. Furthermore, the children are often forgotten. In Germany, there are only a few sites that have integrated special programs for children (Landau in the Palatinate) into their work. It is only when we are able to work at an early stage in cases of domestic violence in this family system, and when all parties can receive aid, that we can provide for the future of preventive work and help to prevent domestic violence. Also, the money factor is an important issue because the bodies that work with offenders are not adequately funded.

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This publication has been produced with the financial support of the "Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme 2014-2020" of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the authors and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission.



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