

NATIONAL REPORT SWEDEN 2016

WORK ON VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND WORK WITH PERPETRATORS IN SWEDEN

DETAILS REPORT WRITING ORGANISATION

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Representing any other organisations? No

1. ORGANISATIONS/PROGRAMMES

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

Unizon is an umbrella organisation representing over 130 Swedish women's shelters, young women's empowerment centres and other support services that work together for a gender equal society free from violence. Our member organisations provide help and support for women, young people and children subjected to different forms of violence, and actively work with violence prevention. Our members also provide treatment for perpetrators of violence.

Below are some examples of how Unizon and our member organisations work with violence prevention:

- Our shelters work with children who have been subjected to violence or witnessed violence against their mothers. Through counselling and open dialogue with children, our member organisations work on breaking negative/violent behavioural patterns and negative norms of family relations.

- Young men's groups, run by some of our youth empowerment centres, offer help and support to young boys and men, informing them about the macho-culture that exists in society, its signs and its consequences. The groups break down norms and help young people talk about their feelings and relationships.
- Through the Mentor in Violence Prevention (MVP) programme in schools, we raise awareness about the issue of men's violence against women (MVAW), and educate and empower young boys and girls to prevent, interrupt and respond to violence and abuse.
- The Macho Factory is an educational material for teachers and other professionals working with young people (both boys and girls), informing them about gender equality and violence prevention.¹ The Macho Factory focuses on how oppressive social norms and values of masculinity can be challenged, and further, how these norms can be broken down. It is based on 17 short film clips that visualise social constructs of masculinity as a box, as well as exercises and discussions connected to these clips.
- Unizon participated as an external expert in the Swedish Prison and Probation Service's development of an education programme for parent-perpetrators of domestic violence. Within the framework of this programme, Unizon carried out two parent circles focusing on the responsibility of parents to ensure a child's right to a life without violence. Unizon also carried out motivational groups for men in jail during 2015-2016, focusing on masculinity norms and violence against women.
- Unizon's active work against prostitution and pornography is also an important part of our violence prevention strategy.

¹ In cooperation with Roks and MÄN (previously - Men for Gender Equality).

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

Unizon's work on violence prevention is developing, but we are nevertheless facing some significant challenges. The biggest of these challenges are the following:

- Backlash and gender symmetry in domestic violence

This has resulted in the increased use of gender neutral language by state/municipal authorities and social services, and a lack of gender and power analysis, or feministic approaches, to MVAW.

- Lack of knowledge and competence about men's violence against women

Unfortunately, we have seen a lack of knowledge among professionals who come into contact with women and children exposed to violence in their every-day work, and who, due to their professional roles, have an impact on young people's ways of thinking (for example teachers, trainers, so-called recreation leaders, social workers, doctors, nurses, police, etc.).

- No cooperation between organisations working with perpetrators and women's support services in Sweden

The involvement of women's support services and their close cooperation with programmes for male perpetrators help to hold men accountable, and can more efficiently achieve changes in their behaviour. Therefore, the lack of this cooperation results in less effective work on secondary prevention.

2. COUNTRY

PLEASE GIVE AN OVERVIEW OF GENERAL SITUATION IN YOUR COUNTRY REGARDING WORK WITH PERPETRATORS.

A number of different actors in Sweden are involved in work on detecting and analysing men's violent behaviour as well as on motivating men to cease committing violence. These include the police, Swedish Prison and Probation Service, Social Services, public health care institutions and various nongovernmental organisations. The latest mapping of organisations working with perpetrators of violence in Sweden took place back in 2010 and it showed that there were at least 75 such organisations and initiatives in the country. No mapping has been carried out since 2010 however, according to the National Strategy Against Men's Violence Against Women and Honour-based Violence, the number of organisations working with perpetrators in Sweden is growing.

The Swedish Prison and Probation Service's programme for male perpetrators of domestic violence, the IDAP (Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme), is today used by 38 organisations and initiatives in different parts of Sweden. Another programme for male perpetrators of sexualised violence ROS (Relation och Samlevnad)² is also used by 38 organisations throughout the country. Rikskriscentrum – the National Association of Swedish Crisis Centres for Men – listed 28 member organisations that provide men in crisis, including male perpetrators of violence against women, with treatment and counselling.

According to statistics provided by Swedish Social Services in 2014, 67% of Swedish municipalities offer counselling for perpetrators in order to stop violence and 62% of municipalities provide information on support for perpetrators of violence on their web-pages. At the present time, there is no programme or organisation focused on perpetrators of so called honour-based violence. Overall, young men and boys perpetrating sexualised

² Relations and living together (eng.)

violence and/or domestic violence, a very important group, are often underrepresented in existing programmes for male perpetrators.

Generally speaking, the systematic work and quality control efforts in the area of working with perpetrators in Sweden are not as developed as in some other countries. One of the most well-known organisations in this field is ATV (Alternativ til Vold),³ an organisation that has been operating in Sweden since 1987. Many organisations and initiatives have been inspired by ATV's work and actively use their methods of counselling perpetrators.

Moreover, an analysis of the current work addressing MWAV in Sweden has shown that there is not enough effort being invested in the area of violence prevention.

As mentioned above, cooperation between organisations working with perpetrators and women's support services in Sweden is underdeveloped. This has a negative impact on work addressing MVAW in general, and on violence prevention in particular. This cooperation is crucial in order to decrease the level of violence of men and boys, especially cases of repeated violence.

In the European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence, WWP EN, Sweden is represented by Unizon, while the organisations working with male perpetrators of violence in Sweden are not represented there at all.

³ Alternative to Violence (eng.)

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?)

- Sweden ratified the Istanbul Convention in 2014.
- In order to coordinate all work against MVAW and work for gender equality, it was decided in 2016 that a new authority would be created – the Ministry of Gender Equality.
- In response to sexualised violence and rape a draft law on consent was developed. Hopes are high that the law will be adopted soon.
- A new national strategy on combatting MVAW was presented by the government in November 2016. Work with perpetrators became an important part of this strategy.
- Civil society organisations have requested better housing policies due to the lack of housing that negatively particularly affects women and children subjected to men's violence.

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

The Istanbul Convention was used as a solid ground for the new Swedish National Strategy against MVAW.

Treatment programmes for perpetrators of domestic violence in the National Strategy are based on Article 16 of the Istanbul Convention. This means that the protection and support of victims of domestic violence, and respect for women's human rights, are of primary concern. Moreover, the strategy underlines the necessity for coordination between programmes for perpetrators and support services for victims.

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

- ATV (Alternativ til Vold);
- Rikskriscentrum – the National Association of Swedish Crisis Centres for Men;
- Manscentrum – Crisis Centre for Men;
- MÄN (previously Män för Jämställdhet),⁴ and their initiative Killfrågor,⁵ focusing on young men and boys.

3. BEST PRACTICES

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

Since Unizon does not work with perpetrators and there is no developed cooperation between women's service organisations and organisations working with perpetrators, we cannot name the best practices in Sweden.

However, we would like to name one organisation – ATV – as this is one of the biggest actors working with perpetrators in Sweden.

⁴ Men for Gender Equality (eng.)

⁵ Young men's questions (eng.)

4. NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- Knowledge and competence on MVAW should be increased among certain groups of professionals (e.g. teachers, trainers, so-called recreation leaders, social workers, doctors, nurses, police, etc.). It is important to point out that, following the acceptance of the new National Strategy against MVAW, the groups of professionals named above will receive special education on domestic violence.
- Work with perpetrators should be more structured, and quality control and monitoring efforts should be more systematic.
- The analysis of gender norms, and gender and power, should become a crucial part of programmes for perpetrators of violence.⁶
- Possibilities for cooperation between organisations working with perpetrators and women's support services should be analysed, and the question of cooperation should be given more prominence and effort within the general framework for combatting MVAW.
- Public awareness campaigns against MVAW should be developed through a collaboration between pro-feminist men's organisations and initiatives and women's support services (both nationally and in cooperation with civil society organisations from other countries).
- Violence prevention work should be formalised on a long-term basis with a multi-sectoral approach involving the sport sector, the school and childcare system and all other areas where children and young people live their lives.

⁶ According to WHO, preventive work on different levels as well as addressing gender norms and stereotypes in the work against violence are crucial for the elimination of MVAW.

- Access to online pornography should be reduced, and investigations should be conducted into how pornography influences men's attitude towards women and girls.

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