

## Addressing Men's Violence Against Women within Migrant Communities

### Launch of Guidance for MOVE Multiagency Collaboration

8 December 2023

Since February 2022, the MOVE project has been working to end gender-based violence in the context of migration and displacement through culturally sensitive perpetrator intervention with men from diverse populations.

"Focusing on women and children's safety and applying a tailored approach to perpetrators is crucial to responding effectively to gender-based violence against women and girls through creating the opportunity for accountability and change. Professionals can firmly tackle violence against women and children while taking cultural influences and personal histories into account. Our aim is helping relevant services in Europe improve their impact via increased collaboration, diverse teams, and intersectional approaches."

*Alessandra Pauncz, Executive Director of WWP European Network*

Women and girls who have experienced displacement due to conflict, persecution, or other crises are at a heightened risk of various forms of violence.

"It is important to tailor work with male migrants as MOVE is doing to ensure violence against women and children is prevented and eliminated."

*Marianne Hester, MOVE Advisory Board, Affiliated Professor and leading researcher of gender-based violence at the University of Gothenburg, and Chair in Gender, Violence & International Policy at School for Policy Studies at the University of Bristol*

The core mission of the MOVE project is to put an end to violence inflicted by men upon women and girls, including acts related to honour and oppressive behaviours.

"Male violence is a universal problem affecting girls and women from all socio-economic backgrounds. It has long-lasting devastating consequences for the victims, and it includes a wide range of harmful acts, from coercive control and exploitation of prostitution to rape and femicide.

Our core mission is to put an end to all acts of violence perpetrated by men against women and girls, regardless of ethnic, cultural, religious or other circumstances."

*Anna Zobnina, Strategy & Executive Director of European Network of Migrant Women*

Central to this mission is the recognition that men and boys play a pivotal role in the prevention of such violence.

“We need to pay attention to the concept of caring masculinities in addressing men, who should become allies of change towards violence prevention and a more gender-equal society. As care for ourselves is the pathway to care for others, this will be a first issue, which has to be addressed in working with male migrants.”

*Elli Scambor, Institute for Masculinity Research and Gender Studies, Graz, Austria*

Drawing upon their vast multidisciplinary expertise and based on insights gathered throughout the work together, the MOVE team is proud to announce the release of the Guidance for the MOVE Multiagency Collaboration Model, providing practices and tools for key services and institutions to promote a shared approach and improve their coordinated response to violence against women within more and more complex communities.

“We are proud of the results obtained, especially because the countries involved have the highest number of refugees and migrants’ arrivals per year (Greece, Italy, France, Germany and Spain) and for the number of professions that the project has trained: 120 professionals from perpetrator programs and 227 frontline professionals.

We consider this a good starting point to improve the preparation of Perpetrator Programmes and the ecosystem of actors fighting Gender-Based Violence to work in an increasingly diversified context.”

*Silvia Amazoni, CAM, MOVE Project Coordinator*

MOVE partners conducted training with frontline professionals, equipping them with the skills to effectively identify and refer male perpetrators of gender-based violence from migrant backgrounds.

“We have gained some valuable information through the MOVE project, notably: men of migrant background require access to appropriate, culturally competent interventions that give them meaningful opportunities to change their behaviour.

Specialised staff of perpetrator programmes have now gained the sensitivity needed to address the modifiable and culture-specific factors these men face to make real reductions happen in intimate partner violence prevention.”

*Mathilde Sengoelge, Psytel, France*

Furthermore, the MOVE team has developed a capacity-building package for perpetrator programme workers, highlighting the need for an anti-racist and inclusive, culturally sensitive approach while working with men from migrant populations.

“In the intervention with male perpetrators of gender-based violence and who are of migrant origin, it is important to have a culturally sensitive approach, which considers situations of intersectionality, but also other situations referring to the migrant's life history: such as the possible and different traumatic or difficult situations of the migratory process or others such as migratory grief.

These aspects must be considered within a comprehensive approach to the problem of gender-based violence that questions and helps to understand the processes of gender socialisation and its negative consequences for others and the person himself. These elements are of vital importance to be able to work with these men from a non-racist, culturally sensitive perspective that is respectful of the person but firm in rejecting the use of gender-based violence.

The MOVE project is an important contribution and reminder to take these issues into account in the intervention that is done with men who perpetrate gender-based violence and who have a history of immigration.”

*Álvaro Ponce-Antezana, Area director of care, mental health and well-being and coordinator of the Conexus MOVE project team*

In its final stages, the MOVE project aims to engage public institutions and key services in the ongoing effort to prevent and address gender-based violence within the context of migration.

“To empower stakeholders to collaborate effectively on dealing with male perpetrators with migrant backgrounds, MOVE Model Guidance for Multi-agency Collaboration provides invaluable material for all the involved agencies and professionals, facilitating the establishment of a functional cooperative process.

The MOVE Model is based on the Community Coordinated Responses (CCR) to VAWG, the Multi-agency Collaboration to Manage Perpetrators of Violence and the feedback from stakeholders from all the partner countries.”

*Sofia Thanasoula, MSc Psychologist, Union of Women Associations of Heraklion*

### Partnership and Contact:

The MOVE project has been developed in Europe thanks to the collaboration of an international and interdisciplinary project team, consisting of

- [Centro di Ascolto Uomini Maltrattanti Onlus](#), NGO and perpetrator programme focussing on the intervention in violence against women and children by promoting the work with men who act violently in emotional relationships, Italy
- [Associació CONEXUS Atenció, Formació i Investigació Psicosocials](#), non-profit NGO with GBV its main fields of expertise and activity, offering intervention programmes for women and children, and for male perpetrators, Spain
- [Psytel](#), a cooperative of independent experts working in the field of information systems in health and prevention of violence against children, adolescents and women, France
- [Union of Women Associations of Heraklion](#), NGO active in the promotion and protection of women's and children rights; while also engaging with raising awareness and advocating for human rights at local, national and European level, Greece
- [European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence](#), undertaking research on and development and promotion of accountable & effective work perpetrator work.
- [European Network of Migrant Women](#), secular, non-partisan platform that advocates for the rights, freedoms and dignity of migrant, refugee and ethnic minority women and girls in Europe

An external Advisory Board supervises and supports the project team

- Professor Marianne Hester, Affiliated Professor and leading researcher of gender-based violence at the University of Gothenburg, and Chair in Gender, Violence & International Policy at School for Policy Studies at the University of Bristol, supervises overall quality and methodology as a major expert in addressing GBV
- Elli Scambor from the Institute for Masculinity Studies and Gender Research (VMG, Austria) will support the quality and methodological development in working with male refugees and migrants based on the EU project FOMEN - Focus on Men