



Welcome to Spring, the time of change

Dear friends, colleagues, and supporters,

There is a quote flying around the internet often falsely assigned to Mahatma Gandhi. It reads: “Be the change you want to see in the world.” While it might not have been Gandhi (or any other famous man) who spoke these words, they still ring true. Especially in the work with perpetrators of domestic violence. We are in the business of change, after all.

The very foundation of what we do is the notion that men, who have abused or are abusing their partners, can stop their violence and change their behaviour.



However, the change needed for our work goes beyond our offices and group meeting rooms. It goes into the hearts and minds of our friends, colleagues, politicians, family members, and neighbours. If we want to change the world into a peaceful, non-violent world where all women and children can live lives untouched by patriarchal violence, we must see beyond what is right in front of our eyes.

The sentence “Be the change you want to see in the world” touches on the very personal level of change. The level at which we must interrogate ourselves and how we interact with our fellow human beings. The level at which we ask ourselves: How do I, as a professional dedicated to anti-violence and gender

equality, live these ideals in my own life? Am I part of the solution? It can be painful to embody the change we are trying to foster in other people. Turning a critical eye towards ourselves can unearth sides of us that we may want to keep hidden. But self-reflection, as we tell the men in our programmes, is a rewarding process - a process at the end of which we find better relationships with ourselves and those around us.

But, as perpetrator work needs cooperation with other organisations, creating a better world is not an undertaking that we can realise on our own. At WWP EN, we have dedicated much effort to the project of social and political change, as have our members. An integral part of this change is questioning the framing of domestic violence within our societies. Who is being held accountable for men's violence? Is it the survivors who should have left earlier, recognised the signs of abuse, protected their children better, should have been better wives and mothers? Or do we tell the abusers to change? Do we hold them accountable for their behaviours? Do we punish and blame them? Sadly, most of us will have an easy time answering that question, and it will not be a satisfying response. If we cannot say with confidence that any abuser in our country will receive the reaction to his violence he deserves, we cannot remain quiet. There is still much change that we need to create in this world, and that is why we decided to dedicate this newsletter exactly to this topic: change - being the change, understanding the change we create, empowering others to change their ways.

I invite you to [send me an e-mail](#) with your thoughts or comments on change and what it means to you personally, socially and politically. Let us work together to make a new world.

Wishing you a wonderful day,
Alessandra

P.S.: If you haven't done so, save the date now for our 2022 Annual Conference on 17-19 August in Dublin. We'll be sending out more information soon via our [event mailing list](#).

Love our newsletter? Let us know why

Don't like our newsletter? Help us make it better

Rehearsing change

- Learn how to make your programmes more motivating and engaging

Launch Event, 26 April 14-15 CET

Join us for the launch event of the WWP EN manual “Scripting violence, rehearsing change – Games and theatrical tools to work with perpetrators of gender-based violence” to discover how you can make your programme more interactive, motivating and playful. We will instruct you on how to use the manual, try out some of the games and discuss how you can start your journey to integrating games and theatrical tools in your work.

Scripting violence, rehearsing change

Games and theatrical tools to work with perpetrators of gender-based violence

Manual Launch Event

26 April

14:00-15:00 CET



#WWPEN

Learn more & register here



Game: Make Together

A great game to work on cooperation and becoming aware of controlling tendencies.

“Make together” is probably the easiest and most popular game for perpetrator programmes.

To celebrate the launch of our manual “Scripting violence, rehearsing change – Games and theatrical tools to work with perpetrators of gender-based violence”, we want to share a game, which you can try today, with friends, family, and partners, colleagues or directly with your perpetrator group. This game aims to help your relationships fly and unveil dominating behaviour.

To play this game, you need a piece of paper for every 2 people (2 people, 1 piece; 4 people, 2 pieces; ...). You will make a paper airplane in pairs but with only one hand each. The other hand should remain behind your back during the whole process until the plane is flying.

Actors of change across Europe

- Find out how WWP EN Members are innovating perpetrator work

How Estonia, Latvia and Slovenia got the "Caring Dads" programme - Considerable efforts that led to a „Good Practice Example“



Despite the importance of fathers in families, our child protection and child and family mental health service systems tend to primarily hold mothers accountable for their children's safety and well-being. A trend that is exacerbated when fathers are deemed as high risk. Ironically, this means that those fathers who most need to be monitored by our systems are not included in crucial interventions. Children whose fathers have used violence pay the price for this lack of accountability with higher rates of aggression, substance use, criminal involvement, suicide attempts, mental health problems and chronic health conditions.

Find out how VAITER brought Caring Dads to Estonia



Putting multi-agency work at the forefront of responses to domestic abuse perpetrators in England and Wales

Supported by the Drive Partnership, The Domestic Abuse Commissioner has convened the first-ever England and Wales strategic reference group on perpetrators of domestic abuse. The group aims to develop a cross-disciplinary approach for effective national responses to perpetrators of domestic abuse, to identify how to manage risks posed by perpetrators, and how best to hold them accountable to make victim-survivors safer.

Changing tools of domestic violence

- How to address digital violence in our fight against gender-based violence



Interview: Find out how you can use the Istanbul Convention to combat digital violence

In this interview, we speak to Dr. Iris Luarasi, President of the GREVIO Committee, which oversees the implementation of the Istanbul Convention. We discuss their newly published General Recommendation No. 1 on the digital dimension of violence against women, why the committee decided to publish it and how its publication influences the work of organisations fighting to end gender-based violence on the ground.

[Watch the interview here](#)



DeStalk e-learning package on cyberviolence and stalkerware

Cyber abuse and stalkerware represent increasingly widespread, often hidden, forms of gender-based violence. The goal of the DeStalk Project is to develop strategies and tools to recognise and eliminate online gender-based violence and stalkerware.

Our online training is aimed at professionals of victim support services, professionals of perpetrator programmes and professionals working with public authorities. Through a self-paced e-learning package, professionals will understand what is defined as cyber-violence and stalkerware and how to recognise and address different forms of cyber-violence.

The FREE OF COST training is available in ENGLISH, SPANISH, GERMAN, ITALIAN and FRENCH.

Learn more and register for the e-training here

Project Updates

Upcoming Event: Men in Care Conference

Although men are becoming ever more engaged in care work at home, all over Europe, men encounter workplace barriers that hinder them from becoming more involved in caring. The Men in Care (MiC) project explores these barriers in seven countries and offers strategies to overcome them as well as present good practice solutions.



The final conference for the project will present research results and good practices from eight countries. The conference will discuss ways to reduce gender inequalities in work-life balance policies and practice and enhance the well-being of men and women.

Learn more about the conference and register for free until 30 April

These past months have seen exciting new developments for our projects; not only did we launch new projects on **youth pornography education, involved fatherhood and multi-agency cooperation**, but we also had the chance to **visit perpetrator programmes in Albania**.

Read more about our projects here

Resources

The Council of Europe published several reports on Articles of the Istanbul Convention, the European Commission proposed EU-wide rules to combat violence against women and domestic violence and EIGE is looking for researchers.

See job openings, conferences & reports

See past newsletters here

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