



# Scripting violence, Rehearsing change

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



Funded by the  
European Union

 OAK  
FOUNDATION



# Games can help us face challenges in the work with perpetrators

- Tackling denial, lies, manipulation, control, sabotage, narcissism, blame-shifting, minimisation, and victimisation during sessions.
- Working on gender, masculinity, privilege, and power without causing resistance.
- Developing empathy, the capacity to feel others' emotions and their own.



# Games & Theatre

## **Games work as social metaphors**

- knowledge is built collectively
- participants are protagonists

## **Games and theatre to embody power**

- make the invisible visible (gender and other social constructions)
- reveal contradictions



**Make the invisible visible**



**Reveal contradictions**



# Why use games?

- Unlearning violence
- Gender and violence as a performance
- Expanding role repertoire
- Rehearsing change collectively



# Game: Saints and Sinners

- a game to work on verbal abuse, acceptable and unacceptable social responses
- Participants learn how to identify acceptable and unacceptable language. They also work on the border between both, on the ambiguity caused by non-verbal elements that make psychological violence very destructive



# Saints & Sinners

Good morning!

- Don't look at me and don't ever talk to me again or you will see what happens....





# Saints & Sinners

Good morning!

- Good morning Jenny, I'm happy to see you again!



# Saints & Sinners

Good morning!

- Hi Jenny, you look great, you should use lipstick more often



Now you play!

Question: How are you?

Prepare:

- The worst possible answer (most unfriendly)
- The best possible answer (most friendly)
- An answer on the border between acceptable and unacceptable

Breakout rooms: 8 mins



# How to start using games & theatre

- Get participants interested
  - Start with easy and gradual activities
  - Create positive group habits
  - Trigger collective reflection
  - Lower the stakes
- Use appropriate vocabulary
  - Value mistakes and surprises
  - Make mistakes and acknowledge them
  - Be ready to change your plan