



BUNDESARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT
TÄTERARBEIT HÄUSLICHE GEWALT e.V.

Prevention of Gender-Based Violence through Perpetrator Work in Germany

Standard for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic
Violence by the Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Täterarbeit
Häusliche Gewalt (BAG TäHG)

03.09.2020, presented by Jan Vrkoč

About me

Jan Vrkoč

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- Diploma in Social Work
- Member of the Board of the BAG TäHG and WWP EN
- > 15 years of experience in gender-reflected work with boys/young men
- > 5 years experience in the work with perpetrators
- Facilitator of a perpetrator program according to the standard of the BAG TäHG

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Täterarbeit Häusliche Gewalt (BAG TäHG)

- Non-Profit federal organisation (founded in 2007)
- Standard for the work with perpetrators of domestic violence
- Currently 80 member facilities in Germany
- Institute for training professionals in the work with perpetrators of domestic violence (1,5 year curriculum)
- Member of the WWP EN



Main Objectives of the BAG TäHG

- Quality assurance and quality improvement of perpetrator work in Germany
- Public relations and lobbying
- Support of member organizations in the further development and implementation of perpetrator work at local level



Why Perpetrator Work?

Istanbul Convention

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Article 16

Preventive intervention and treatment programmes

- 1 Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to set up or support programmes aimed at teaching perpetrators of domestic violence to adopt non-violent behaviour in interpersonal relationships with a view to preventing further violence and changing violent behavioural patterns.*
- 2 Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to set up or support treatment programmes aimed at preventing perpetrators, in particular sex offenders, from re-offending.*
- 3 In taking the measures referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, Parties shall ensure that the safety of, support for and the human rights of victims are of primary concern and that, where appropriate, these programmes are set up and implemented in close co-ordination with specialist support services for victims.*



Why Perpetrator Work?

The actual question is not WHY or IF perpetrator work should be done, but HOW.

Gender-based violence won't stop unless men stop using violence.

If we only concentrate on the victim support, perpetrators won't be held accountable and the next partner will be the next victim.



Basic Principles for Perpetrator Work

- Perpetrator work is embedded in a system of cooperation and networking with institutions that deal with domestic violence in their professional activities (justice, police, social and health centers, women support organizations etc.)
- Perpetrator work includes a **violence-centred** and **confrontational** counselling service for changing the behavior of violent men (perpetrator programme)
- We work with self-reported, institutionally mediated and judicially assigned men



Basic Understanding of Perpetrator Work

- Violent behavior is learned (not a disease or destiny)
- Socially acceptable behavior can therefore be learned
- Perpetrators are 100% responsible for their violent behavior
- Violent behavior is purposive and intended
- Violent behavior underlies a decision
- Violent behavior is always integrated into historical and social circumstances
- Violent behavior aims to ensure control and to (re-)establish power
- Domestic violence is not restricted to any particular class in society
- Children are always affected by domestic violence



Main Objectives of the Perpetrator Work

No new violence

Achieved by supporting the perpetrators in working on following issues:

- Accepting the responsibility for their behavior and violence
- Self perception and self control
- Empathy
- Alternative non-violent conflict solutions
- Healthy relationships based on equality and respect



Core Contents of the Perpetrator Programme

- Examination of the perception of violence and the violent actions
- Reconstruction of the violent act
- The effects of violence
- The balance sheet of violence
- Non-violent strategies
- Emergency plan
- Communication patterns
- Male and female images and gender stereotypes
- Role and responsibility as a father
- Own experience as a victim



Structure of the Perpetrator Programme

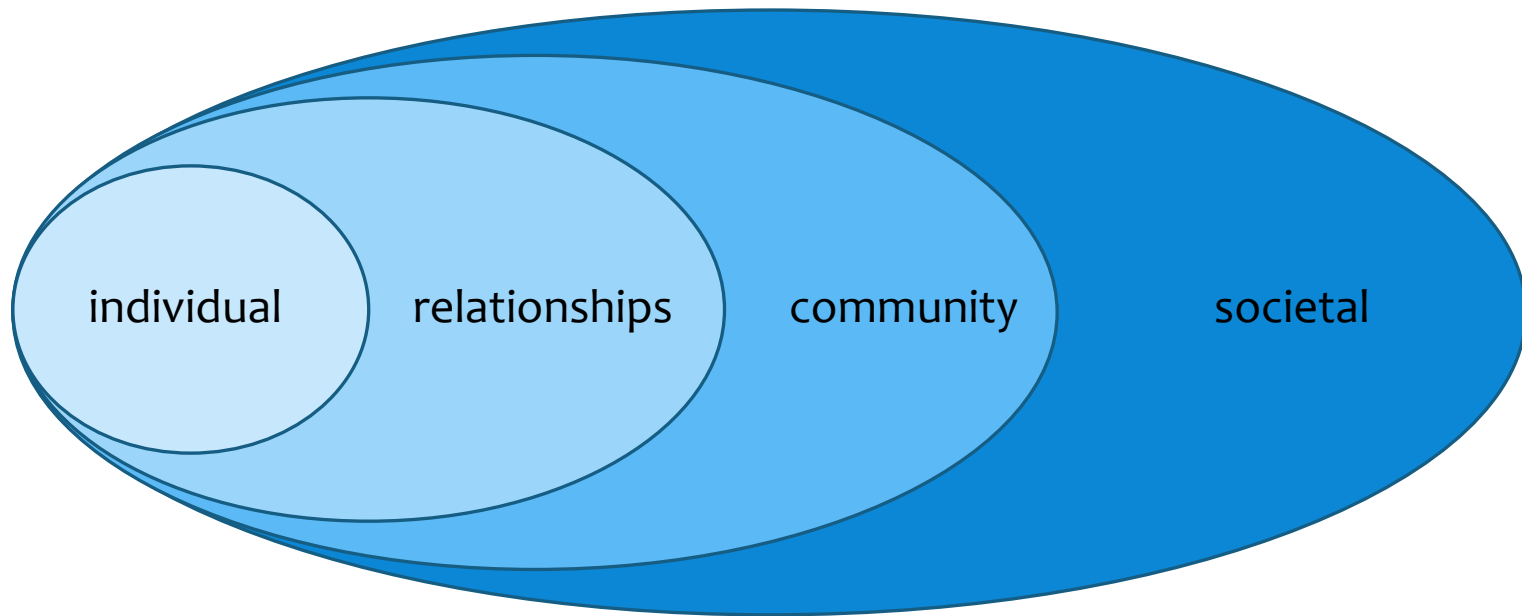
- Perpetrator work should be done in a group setting
- 5 to 10 participants
- 2 certified facilitators
- At least 25 weekly sessions (2 hours per session)
- At least 3 individual clearing sessions with the perpetrator before the group sessions
- The participants have to sign a contract for the group sessions



Prevention of GBV through Perpetrator Work

The Social-Ecological Model

Gender-Based Violence has not to be seen only as an individual but also as a societal problem.



Perpetrator work is an important component of change of social norms in favor of gender-equality and victim protection!



Breaking the Cycle of Violence



Thank You!

<https://www.bag-taeterarbeit.de/>



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