



# Gender violence and victim support

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# STS7430 SUBJECT PROGRAM Subject

code: STS7430

**Subject title:** Gender violence and victim support

- ▶ **The subject was developed** in cooperation with the Estonian Institute for Open Society Research within the project “Developing joint system for prevention of intimate partner violence (IPV) in Estonia”
- ▶ **Volume of subject:** 4.0 EAP
- ▶ **Target:** Creating theoretical basis of causes of gender violence by using various theoretical concepts and models, creating premises for future client services to gender violence victims



# The need for the subject became clear from an expert study of social workers in 2014 (213 respondents)

- ▶ **FREQUENT OCCURRENCES. 90% of social workers** encounter IPV cases in their daily work
- ▶ **INADEQUATE TRAINING. 88%** lack sufficient training (knowledge, skills) to handle the cases
- ▶ **RANDOM TRAINING IS NO LONGER SUFFICIENT. 59%** have attended training which does not ensure preparedness
- ▶ **SYSTEMIC BASIC KNOWLEDGE IS NEEDED**
  - A) **to understand the real causes of IPV**, rather than to blame the victim (71% do)
  - B) **to overcome fear and ignorance**, 57% of cases are hazardous
  - C) to improve the social worker's efficiency, **seek for integrated solutions** at the local government level; currently the main role is referring the victim to other specialists



# Brief description of content (theoretical part):

The course provides an overview of gender violence:

- the nature (based on gender differences)
- the causes (resulting from historically developed unequal power relations between men and women)
- types (domestic abuse, date violence, sexual violence and its various forms, human trade, gender violence in various religious practices – so-called harmful traditional practices etc.)
- forms (mental, physical, sexual, economic etc.);
- the extent of gender violence in Estonia and in the world (studies, incl. first national domestic abuse survey in Estonia in 2000 and the FRA survey in 2013);
- difference between violence targeting men and women,
- gender violence in various stages of a women's life
- historical and cultural background of gender violence
- international documents on gender violence (from the Beijing Platform for Action to the Istanbul Convention etc.)
- terminology concerning gender violence



## Brief description of content (practical part):

- ▶ Provides an overview of resources for victim support
- ▶ Analyses the social worker's opportunities to interfere and prevent serious violence cases, cooperation with other specialists
- ▶ Addresses different types of violence cases and their handling



## Outcome of the subject: the graduate will know

- ▶ theoretical concepts of gender violence, its historical-cultural context, the types and forms of gender violence,
- ▶ the extent of gender violence in Estonia and the world,
- ▶ the indications of domestic violence victims and abusers, understand the motives of their actions;
- ▶ the reasons for the victim's failure to quit an abusive relationship,
- ▶ opportunities for helping the victim; cooperation between the social worker and other specialists; the extent of responsibility

**Independent work:** processing relevant textbooks, independently writing a report and presenting it at the seminar.



# Lecturers involved in the course

1. Taimi Tulva –Ph.D
2. Ülle-Marike Papp- Ph.D, gender equality expert
3. Iris Pettai - Ph.D, head of the Estonian Institute for Open Society Research, gender violence expert
4. Helve Kase – project manager at the Estonian Institute for Open Society Research, gender violence expert
5. Kati Saira- MA, Pääkaupungi Turvakoti Ry social welfare worker (Finland)



# Course participants

- ▶ Forty students representing various specialities of the Tallinn University - social work, psychology, political sciences etc. - took part.
- ▶ Judging by the feedback forms, the subject was popular. The course participants recommended to continue teaching the subject.



# Subjects for M.A. papers

- ▶ Women's interpretations of IPV: the nature of violence, causes and consequences
- ▶ Violence against women in Estonia: problems and opportunities for helping the victims
- ▶ Analysis of IPV cases based on Tapa community
- ▶ IPV concerning the elderly: its causes and opportunities for helping