

Violence against Women and Community Safety

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Some German Experiences to combat Violence against Women

Structure

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(1) Federal level

Germany

(2) State level and local level

Example of Lower Saxony

(3) European level

European Economic and Social Committee

Background Material in English Language

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www.erich-marks.de

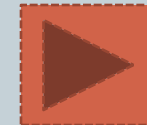


„downloads“



“Some German Experiences to
combat Violence against Women,
ICPC's 8th Annual Colloquium on
Crime Prevention, Querétaro
2008”

via Hyperlink



Thanks for english background information to

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Federal Ministry for Families, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth



Andrea Buskotte

Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony



Dr. Wiebke Steffen

German Congress on Crime Prevention





Germany



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- Federal Parliamentary Republic
- Reunification: 1990-10-03
- Population: 82.000.000
- Area: 357.000 km²
- Capital: Berlin
- President: Horst Köhler
- Chancellor: Angela Merkel

Two Action Plans

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**Two action plans (1999 & 2007)
of the German Federal Government
to combat Violence against Women**

First Action Plan (1999)

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- (1) Prevention
- (2) Legislation and administrative regulations
- (3) Cooperation GO/NGO
- (4) Creating federal networks
- (5) Work with Perpetrators
- (6) Activities to sensitize experts and public
- (7) International cooperation

German Act on the Protection of Victims of Domestic Violence (2002)

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A paradigm shift: Whoever beats must leave !

- (1) The **victims should no longer be forced to have to flee from a threatening situation**; women and men who are battered, maltreated or threatened at home can apply for an expulsion of the culprit from the joint home on the basis of the German Violence Protection Act.
- (2) In addition, **the courts can order further protective measures** like a restraining order forbidding the abuser from getting within a specific distance from the victim or a contact ban.
- (3) **Violence in relationships is no private matter** and no peccadillo but a crime. To this extent, the Act also has a great symbolic meaning and can become the starting point for a general improvement of the social climate towards battered women (and men).



**“Health, Well-Being and Personal Safety
of Women in Germany
A Representative Study of
Violence against Women in Germany”(2004)**

**Commissioned by the Federal Ministry
for Families, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth**

Health, Well-Being and Personal Safety of Women

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- **Methodology**

- More than 10.000 interviews with women aged 16 to 85
- Drawn from a basic representative sample

- **Prevalence of violence**

Around 25% of all women resident in Germany have experienced forms of physical or sexual abuse, or both, from current or previous male or female partners

- **A comparison with European studies**

Germany lie in the medium- to high-range areas

Health, Well-Being and Personal Safety of Women

■ Major findings

- Violence against women takes place predominantly in domestic situations and with the partner as perpetrator.
- All forms of violence can contribute extensively to psychological, psychosocial and health problems for those women affected
- Early help, intervention and prevention are necessary
- Improvements above all in the areas of police intervention have been seen, however, at this time, not in the areas of the legal system or court interventions
- Measures for help and prevention should be more strictly oriented on risk factors
- Further research is required

Health, Well-Being and Personal Safety of Women

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- Some central results of group discussions on the topics of help and support requirements of women affected by violence
 - Psychological and sexualized violence are relevant aspects of domestic violence
 - There are internal and external barriers to seeking support
 - Children need special support in situations of domestic violence
 - Ending the violence and separation are major challenges
 - The social environment is an important factor for help and prevention



Working together to combat domestic violence: Cooperation, intervention, research

Findings of the evaluation research
assessing intervention projects
against domestic violence (2004)

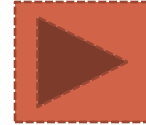
Federal Ministry for Families, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

Working together to combat domestic violence

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- Starting situation: Violence against women
 - recognized as a societal problem yet treated as a private matter
- Developing workable strategies
- Lasting change
- Weaving a closer web of assistance
 - Developments in the support system in the context of intervention projects
- Holding perpetrators accountable
 - Work with perpetrators in the context of intervention projects
- Lasting successes of intervention projects
 - From regional innovation to societal change
- Elements of good practice and recommendations for the future

Second Action Plan (2007)



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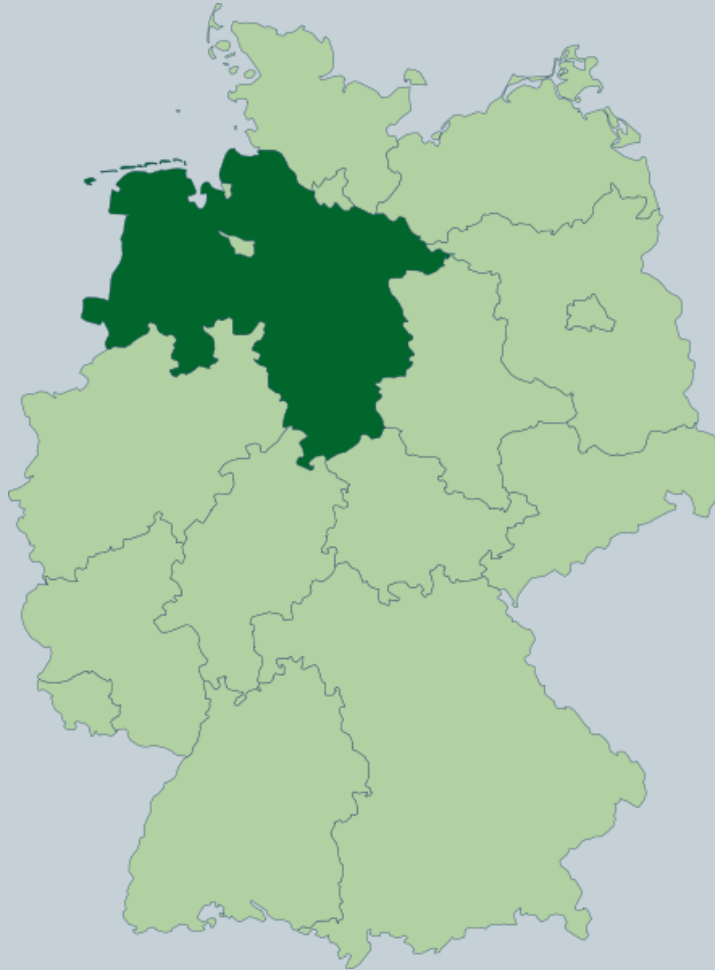
- (1) Prevention
- (2) Legislation and administrative regulations
- (3) System of Aid to Provide Support and Counselling for Women Affected by violence
- (4) National Networks in the System of Aid
- (5) Cooperation between Governmental Institutions and Non-Governmental Support Agencies
- (6) Work with Perpetrators
- (7) Qualification and Increased Awareness
- (8) European and other International Cooperation (European Union, Council of Europe, UN, etc.)
- (9) Measures to Support Women Abroad





Lower Saxony



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- Population: ~ 8.000.000
- Area: 47.000 km²
- Capital: Hannover
- Premier: Christian Wulff

- Founded 1995, mission & objectives 
- More than 250 member organizations
- community councils, NGO, GO, foundations, scientific organisations
- Projects and support on the state level
- Main topics: community safety, Quality management  hate crime ...
- Implementation of the state action plan against domestic violence

Intervention and Prevention of Domestic Violence in Lower Saxony



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- Domestic Violence as a Cross-Ministry Task
- Crisis Intervention by the Police
- Support of Women and their Children
- Criminal Prosecution and Victim Protection
- Public Health System
- Cooperation und Network
- Round Tables against Domestic Violence:
Local Intervention and Prevention



Europe



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Population: 731.000.000

Area: 10.180.000 km²

Council of Europe

- 47 member states
- www.coe.int

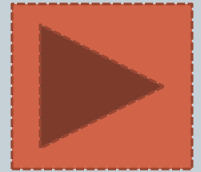
Population: 491.000.000

Area: 4.324.000 km²

European Union

- 27 member states
- www.europa.eu





Opinion SOC 218 (2005)
Domestic Violence against Women

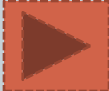
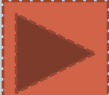
Opinion SOC 247 (2006)
Children as indirect victims of domestic violence

Opinion SOC 279 (2007)
Elder Abuse

www.eesc.europa.eu

The success of early prevention/intervention: The example of Olds Nurse Home Visiting Program

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- More than 20 years experience (Elmira, Memphis, Denver, ...) 
- Theoretical based by
 - Ecological Systems Theory (Urie Bronfenbrenner, 1979)
 - Self-Efficacy Theory (Albert Bandura, 1977)
 - Attachment Theory (John Bowlby, 1969)
- 3 major goals:
 - Improving womens prenatal health
 - Improving child's health and developement
 - Improving the mother's life course
- High (long-term) impact and best practice (e.g. Stockholm Prize)
- „Foundation Pro Child“ in Germany since 2006 

Thank you for your attention !

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**„Above all,
it is a question of empowering women and children
to be able to lead their lives without violence and fear,
and to invoke their rights.**

**It is a question of encouraging as many people as possible
to refuse to accept violence,
and to take active steps to avoid and to combat it.”**

Ursula von der Leyen German Minister of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth