doVE

Domestic Violence against Women/Men in Europe:
Prevalence, determinants, effects and policies/practices

REPORT:
Policies/Guidelines/
Legislation/Action Plans
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The present report corresponds to Deliverable 6 of DOVE Project.
1. INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence is seen as a violation of Human Rights, and has become an important public concern in our societies. Several International bodies (e.g. the European Commission, the United Nations, the World Health Organization) have taken up the fight against violence to children, women and the elderly as one of the priorities of the international policy agenda, leading several countries to introduce legislation protecting victims of domestic violence and providing fundamental rights against violence.

Historically the development of domestic violence legislation in Europe is intimately related to the feminist movement. In our days these groups still play an important role in what concerns to awareness campaigns and support to victims.

Whereas a specific policy response to domestic violence is not a formal criteria for EU membership, since the late 1990s, responding to the issue has become part of the fundamental norms and beliefs that shape the collective identity of the European Union. Failure to follow these recommendations could lead to reprimands to member countries and the obstacles to the candidature of new ones.

In Resolution on the report from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the state of women’s health in the European Community (COM(97)0224 C4-0333/97), Official Journal C175, 21 June 1999, the European Parliament called on Member States to “make domestic violence against women, including rape within marriage and sexual mutilation, a criminal offence and to set up services to help women who are victims of this kind of violence.”

Since then EU membership launched a number of resolutions with a normative character. As example, Recommendation No R (2002) 5 The Protection of Women Against Violence and Recommendation 1450 on violence against women in Europe in April 2000.

This Report aims to summarize the data gathered within the DOVE project, concerning legislation, action plans and other programmes/relevant documents, found in each participating centre, directed to Domestic Violence.
2. GUIDING QUESTIONS

To achieve this goal, a set of questions were proposed, to serve as a guiding frame for researchers, and individual reports were gathered with summaries of existing documents found in each country. These questions were:

- Please describe briefly, highlighting the main points, the existing laws in your country that relate to criminalization and punishment of acts of domestic violence
- What are the codes of laws that establish domestic violence as a crime?
- What types of enforcement measures are normally applied? In what circumstances?
- What are the factors that can aggravate the implementation of these measures?
- What are the codes of the laws that establish the victim and perpetrator statute?
- What measures of support and protection of the victim are legally established?
- Please describe the action plans available in your country, answering the following questions:
  - What entities are responsible for their implementation?
  - What are the main goals?
  - Which are the target groups?
  - When and where these action plans took place?

3. COUNTRIES PROFILE

The following section describes the summary obtained from each of the Dove’s Partners, regarding country-specific legislation, action plans and other relevant documents.

4.1. PORTUGAL

In Portugal and describing the Legal Framework, Law No. 61/91 of 13 August 1991 was designed to provide appropriate protection for women victims of violence. Since then, several legal measures have been adopted and several information and awareness-raising campaigns have been conducted, in particular by the established Commission for Equality and Women's Rights.
Later on, Law No. 7/2000 of 27 May 2000 made public the crime of maltreatment of the spouse or partner, which means that not only the victims but also anyone who knows about such cases of violence can lodge a complaint and/or institute proceedings. Police authorities are obliged to inform the prosecuting authorities if they know of such crimes.

With Law No. 112/2000 of 16 September 2000, domestic violence is punished as a crime both in flagrante delicto or not. The Criminal Code now includes maltreatment involving former spouses, people (of the same or opposite sex) having lived in spouse-like situations and people in spouse-like relationships who do not live together.

Law no. 112/2009, of September 16 - Establishes the legal regime applicable to domestic violence prevention, protection and assistance of victims. In its Article 164, it clearly describes what shall be viewed as Violation: 1 - Who, by violence or serious threat, makes someone unconscious, embarrassed or unable to resist: a) the suffering or to practice, himself or others, copulation, anal intercourse or oral intercourse; or b) The vaginal or anal introduction of body parts or objects; shall be punished with imprisonment from three to ten years. 2- Who, by means not included in the preceding paragraph and abusing the authority arising from a family relationship, guardianship or trusteeship, hierarchical dependence, economic dependence or work dependence, taking advantage of causing fear to embarrass another person: a) the suffering or to practice, himself or with others, copulation, anal intercourse or oral intercourse; or b) The introduction suffer vaginal or anal body parts or objects; is punishable with imprisonment up to three years.

In terms of the Portuguese Penal Code and perpetrator statute, Section 200/1 of Law No. 59/98 of 25 August 1998, amending the Code of Criminal Procedure provides for an injunction barring the assailant from the family home, which public prosecutors may call whenever there is justification for doing so.

Domestic violence is an offence under criminal law. It is classified as "physical or psychological maltreatment of a spouse, minor or disabled person" and carries a prison sentence of between one and five years.

Prohibition of contact with the victim, including the aggressor’s removal from the home for a maximum of two years, may be ordered as an additional measure. Since 2006, in order to render
more effective the implementation of this measure, the electronic bracelet can be used on aggressors convicted to be removed from the family home.

In case of *flagrante delicto* for a crime of domestic violence, arrest made remains until the detainee be presented to the trial in the summary form or the first judicial interrogation for possible application of coercive measure or patrimonial warranty. When there is no *flagrante delicto*, the arrest may be made by the judge or prosecutor, if there is danger of further criminal activity or as deemed necessary to protect the victim.

Additionally, *Ordinance No. 220-A/2010 of April 16*, establishes conditions for the initial use of technical means of telecare and remote monitoring.

**Article 152. Portuguese Penal Code - Law No. 59/2007**, published on September 4th, 2007 states than in case of Domestic Violence, the Perpetrator is - Who, so repeated or not, inflict physical abuse or mental, including corporal punishment, deprivation of liberty and sexual offenses to: a) The spouse or former spouse; b) The person of another or the same sex with whom the agent maintains or has maintained a relationship similar to that of spouses, even without cohabitation; c) The parent of a common descent on 1st degree; d) The person defenseless, because of age, disability, illness, pregnancy or economic dependence, with whom he lives. This, shall be punished with imprisonment from one to five years if a more serious punishment does not fit under other law.

In the case of the preceding paragraph, if the perpetrator commits against that child, in the presence of a minor, or in the common domicile or residence of the victim, is punished with imprisonment from two to five years. If the facts referred to in the first case results: a) A serious offense, the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment from two to eight years; b) death, the perpetrator shall be punished with imprisonment from three to ten years.

In cases under the preceding paragraphs, can be applied to the defendant additional penalties prohibiting contact with victims and ban the use and carrying of weapons, for six months to five years, and the obligation to operate specific programs prevention of domestic violence.

The penalty of prohibiting contact with victims may include the clearance of residence or workplace of and compliance can be monitored by technical means of remote control.
Whoever is convicted of a crime in this article can, considering the seriousness of the act and its connection to the function performed by the agent, be inhibited from the exercise of parental authority, guardianship or trusteeship for a period of one to ten years.

Regarding Legal Support and Protection:

The state provides free of charge, in cases established by law, that victims have access to legal consultation and advice on their role during the process and, if necessary, subsequent legal aid when it is subject to criminal proceedings.

Beyond the classical criminal complaint made whenever possible, through appropriate forms, there is also assured the existence of an electronic complaint system. This system ensures a connection to an Internet site accessible to the public with specific information on domestic violence.

There are a large number of support services providing psychological assistance, counseling and information for victims such as APAV, UMAR, AMCV, Fundação Byssaia Barreto, among others, and some of them have shelters.

The APAV (Portuguese Association to support the Victim) has 15 offices of Victim Support, 2 Shelter Houses for Women and Children Victims of Violence, a Victim Support Unit of Immigrant and Racial or Ethnic, and a Victim Support Line (707 2000 77).

Following the Council Decision of 15 March 2001, published in the Official Journal of the European Communities on March 22, relating to the Status of victims in criminal proceedings and the Ordinance No. 229-A/2010 of April 23, approving the document showing the assignment of victim status, when a denunciation is made of a domestic violence crime, the judicial authorities or the criminal police authorities attach to the victim, for all legal purposes, the status of victim.

The victim must cooperate with the Justice, and:

- Give information. (Must immediately provide the police and judicial authorities any changes in address, place of employment, telephone or other data deemed relevant).
• Attend steps. (When duly summoned to attend the interrogations, medical examinations or other procedural steps).

• Provide evidence. (Must notify the police or judicial authorities new facts occurring within the same registration process or mention of other pending investigations).

Once lodged the complaint, the victim has the right to:

• Obtain a judicial response within the time limit of 8 months. (8 months into the investigation without there being a judicial response may require the urgency of the case before the Court jurisdiction).

• To have support from a lawyer. (If their economic / social warrants may apply through the Social Security services support free).

• Request their own constitution as an assistant and intervene in the investigation. (May offer evidence and make applications).

The victim should also be informed by the judicial authorities of other rights that will assist in the process, including:

• The right to not testify.

• The request for temporary suspension of the process with application of certain obligations and rules of conduct to the abuser.

• The request for the grant of the advance of compensation in accordance with Law No. 129/99 of 20 August.

ACTION PLANS

Portugal has defined an integrated and systematic path in the fight against domestic violence, co-substantiated by the adoption and implementation of National Plans against Domestic Violence.

• The first National Plan against Domestic violence (1999-2003) included three categories of measures: awareness-raising and prevention; action to protect victims of domestic violence; and research and studies.
The II National Plan against Domestic Violence (2003-2006) comprises 48 measures, whose implementation is based on the creation of a network of partnerships between several ministries, schools, universities and NGOs. The Plan establishes that the prevention of violence and the promotion of equality should be dealt with at all levels of the educational system, from nursery school to higher education level.

The III Plan against Domestic Violence (2007-2010), points towards a consolidation of a policy of prevention and fighting against DV, by promoting a culture for citizenship and equality, strengthening information and training campaigns, and supporting and sheltering victims in a logic of reintegration and autonomy. This Plan also constitutes a challenge to the articulation between various institutions that work in that area, namely those that support victims and those that direct their intervention towards the aggressors.

The IV Plan against Domestic Violence (2011-2013), was conceived to promote the involvement of municipal administration in the prevention and combating DV, to promote awareness about gender identity, distinction and dissemination of best practices combating domestic violence. Other measure proposed was the implementation of national screening for domestic violence among pregnant women, the implementation of a structured intervention programs for perpetrators, extending throughout the national territory the use of electronic surveillance and the creation of the risk map geo-referenced the route of the victims.

OTHER RELEVANT LAWS:

Decree-Law No. 423/91 of 30 October - Establish Monetary Compensation by the State to victims of violent crimes.

Law No. 59/98 of August 25 - Amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code to include the removal of the offender's home address in common with the victim in domestic violence cases.

(Resolução da Assembleia da República) Assembly Resolution No. 31/99, of April 14 - Rules of legislation that guarantees protection to women victims of violence.
Law No. 93/99 of 14 July - Regulates the application of measures for witness protection in criminal proceedings. (Decree-Law No. 190/2003, of August 22 – Rules Law No. 1993- regulating the implementation of measures for witness protection in criminal proceedings.)

Act 107/99 of 3 August 1999 on the establishment of a public network of shelters for women victims of violence sets out the general framework for that network.

Law No. 129/99 of 20 August - Approves the arrangements to advance the rule of compensation payable to victims of domestic violence.

Assembly Resolution No. 7/2000 of January 26 - Sets the implementation of measures to protect victims of domestic violence.

(Decreto-legislativo) Legislative Decree 323/2000 of 19 December 2000- The network should consist of at least one refuge and one information and support centre in each district of Portugal and in each of the Autonomous Regions - two in the Metropolitan Regions of Lisbon and Oporto. The services provided through the public network and in the information and support centers are free of charge.

Law No. 6/2001, of May 11 - Adopt measures to protect people living in the same household and that shares economic resources.

Law No.7/2001, of May 11 - Adopt measures to protect de facto union.

Decree-Law (No.1/2006, of 25 of January) regarding shelters for women victims of violence establishes minimum standards of installation and functioning of these shelters.

4.2. BELGIUM

Regarding the Belgium Legal framework, the following Laws Combating Violence Between Partners, were found:

Law of November 24th 1997 - This law introduces some adaptations to existing articles in the penal code. Violence within the family does not exist as a specific offense, but the fact of an intimate partner relationship between perpetrator and victim now constitutes an aggravating
circumstance to existing criminal offenses such as the infliction of blows and injuries, indecent assault, rape, threats, etc…. For the law, the partner is a husband or wife or a person with whom one lives together or has lived together, and with whom one has or has had an enduring affective and sexual relationship.

Courts are given more competences to prosecute in cases of intimate partner violence, but it still is not possible to deliver a warrant for arrest. Judicial instances can, by request of the victim (this is a condition!), catch the perpetrator in flagrante delicto or search the house without permission of the perpetrator at any time of the day or night.

Also, all institutions of public utility and any association enjoying legal personality for at least five years from the date of the facts, and intending by statute to prevent violence within the couple by providing information to all audiences concerned and provide assistance to victims of violence within the couple and their families, may, with the consent of the victim, sue and be sued in the litigation to which the application of Article 410, paragraph 3 the Penal Code would result.

Law of January 28th 2003 - This law is an addition to existing penal code (art. 410). It enables the assignment of the family home to the spouse or lawfully cohabitating partner who is the victim of physical violence from the other partner. The assignment of the family house needs to be requested by the victimized partner.

Also, the maximum punishment for physical violent acts between spouses or cohabitants is doubled, so preventive custody can from now on be applied. The judge can deliver a warrant for arrest, so the perpetrator can be removed from the family home.


To create a more effective approach toward domestic violence, the joint circular letters COL3/2006 and COL4/2006 from the Minister of Justice and the Board of Procurators-General of the Courts of Appeal are sent to all courts on March the 1st 2006. These two circular letters are considered as a great breakthrough in the struggle against intimate partner violence (IPV) in Belgium. Their main objectives are a qualitative first intervention and follow-up by the police, with an adequate further referral and settlement on court level. Although the circular letters address police and courts, they put a harmonized multidisciplinary approach first. This means that all parties
in the judicial, medical, psychological and social world are mobilized and that a sound cooperation between them is considered indispensable.

In COL 3 domestic violence is defined as: any form of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence between members of the same family, regardless of their age. Of the same family means: all relatives in ascending or descending line, or in the second degree in sidelines. Violence means: all punishable behavior that causes - by act or by neglect – damage to the disadvantaged person. This violence can be physical, sexual, psychological or economic. A list of the main criminal offences that may constitute this domestic violence is given as annex to COL/3. However, it is mentioned explicitly that this list is not limitative. For instance, a husband who falsely pretends to his wife that he is insolvent – offence not on the list – to damage her, is considered to have committed domestic violence against her.

COL4 states that all charges for domestic violence will be registered as such through standardized templates for statistics and follow-up (this qualification previously didn’t exist). This coding is used by courts as well as by police services. The relationship between victim and perpetrator is also coded in the same manner.

Reference magistrates and officials of police will be appointed.

The king’s procurator (head of a court district):

- appoints a reference magistrate for IPV in each court district;

- supervises the correct and swift management of IPV cases;

- designs an action plan for IPV in his court district;

- puts all cases and actions concerning IPV at least once a year on the agenda of the “court district’s board for victim policy”;

- reports to the procurator-general about the application of the circular letters, the problems encountered and suggestions for solutions.
The king’s procurator organizes the IPV files in a way that makes it easy to:

- have IPV files treated by specialized magistrates who received training by the High Council of Justice regarding IPV;

- have IPV files easily disposed to magistrates so that suitable measures can quickly be taken;

- identify IPV files regarding the same couple so they can be treated as one single file;

- create information exchange and cooperation between magistrates who deal with IPV and magistrates who deal with child protection.

**The reference magistrate:**

- is the privileged interlocutor of police instances, judicial assistance instances and public institutes and services that are involved in the reception of victims and perpetrators of IPV (collectives of battered women, reception centers, associations guiding alternative sanctions, etc.); to do so, he participates in the “court district’s board for victim policy”;

- coordinates the management of IPV files according to the action plan;

- supervises the correct application and knowledge of the circular letters and the action plan in police services and courts;

- communicates to court members and police services all useful information regarding the management of IPV files, knowledge about the psycho-social mechanisms of IPV, and the possibilities for reception of victims and perpetrators.

**The reference official of the police:**

- is appointed by her superintendant;

- supervises the correct application and knowledge of the circular letters and the action plan among the members of her service;
- communicates to police officers who are likely to come into contact with victims, all useful information regarding the management of IPV files, knowledge about the psycho-social mechanisms of IPV, and the possibilities for reception of victims and perpetrators;

- supervises the correct application of instructions, especially regarding the identification and registration of IPV cases as such, and regarding the treatment of victims;

- reports to the reference magistrate about the application of the circular letters, the problems encountered and suggestions for solutions;

- participates in the “court district’s board for victim policy”.

**Regarding the Belgium Penal Code**

The codes of law in the penal code that consider domestic violence are the ones discussed above.

**COL 4/2006** states that the criminal policy regarding IPV must make sure that:

- the criminally reprehensible nature of the behaviour of the perpetrator is acknowledged;

- the rights of the perpetrator are respected;

- the measures taken are aimed to avoid recurrence.

**COL 4/2006** states that police should maintain this attitude toward the perpetrator of IPV:

- question the partner who is suspected of violence about the facts, the explanation he gives, how he sees the future of the couple, and about the declarations the victim gives about the family situation (model for interrogation is available);

- this interrogation will take place in the police office, unless this is impossible;

- if the situation is serious (see “notification of the court”), ask if he is willing to leave the house voluntarily for a certain time, and to lodge with family or friends, in a rented house or in a residential house that accepts him;
- if applicable and if he is accepting, hand him over the coordinates of a service in the district court who offers responsibility raising programs for perpetrators of violence within the couple;

- if the suspect is not at home when the police arrives, he will be traced and stopped immediately.

**Notification of the court by the police** is obliged if the suspected IPV situation that is examined shows one or more of the following features:

- the victim shows signs of violence or complains about sexual violence;

- there is such an atmosphere of violence or threats that the victim fears with reason to be victimized (again), especially if her freedom to move is limited or in cases of social isolation;

- the psychological condition of the victim seems to deteriorate;

- the children of the couple or one of the partners seem to be in danger;

- the marital crises seem to escalate in frequency or in intensity;

- there are elements that augment the risks, like a divorce procedure going on or pregnancy.

**COL 4/2006** states that **the court needs to evaluate each IPV situation** using these criteria:

- the gravity of the violence and its physical or psychological consequences;

- the recurrence of complaints;

- judicial antecedents regarding IPV or any other form of violence;

- indications that the perpetrator dominates or wants to dominate the victim;

- the weakness or submissiveness of the victim towards the perpetrator;

- the danger for the victim and her children.

Based on this evaluation, the magistrate will take one of the following decisions:
a) In case of notification of the court, the magistrate can decide:

to have the perpetrator brought to court to appear for the magistrate who decides:

- to reprimand him

- or: to reprimand him, and to postpone his decision to prosecute or not, considering the promises the perpetrator has made, such as leaving the family house, following treatment or responsibility raising programs for perpetrators of violence; or to orient the case to the procedure described in art. 216 of the Penal Code, and to organize a mediation between the perpetrator and his victim, or a medical treatment, or a therapy, or a training.;

- or: have the examining magistrate examine the case, produce an order to arrest, or let the accused go free under certain conditions;

- or: to apply art. 216quater of the Penal Code, and have the person concerned appear in correctional court within a term not shorter than 10 days and not longer than 2 months;

- or to postpone his decision in anticipation of certain legal, psychiatric or forensic expert examinations that he considers necessary.

2. or to release the person concerned after a reprimand in his name by the police officer, and with the message that the charge will be sent to the king’s procurator to continue the investigation and to decide about the consequences it will be given.

b) In case of absence of notification of the court, or if the magistrate did not order the person concerned to be detained, the magistrate can decide:

1) classification of the case without consequences. This option can only be chosen if there is no criminal offence or insufficient evidence for it, and only if the evaluation of the situation seems to be reassuring. If this is not the case, the evolution of the couple’s situation will be investigated after some time.

2) dismissal after a reprimand by the magistrate or, on his request, by a police official.

3) orientation of the case to the procedure described in art. 216ter of the Penal Code, and to organize a mediation between the perpetrator and his victim, or a medical treatment, or a therapy,
or a training (e.g. a responsibility raising program for perpetrators of violence within the couple). If this procedure is successful, the criminal proceedings expire.

4) postponement of the decision about the opportunity to prosecute, considering the promises the perpetrator has made, such as leaving the family house, following treatment or responsibility raising programs for perpetrators of violence;

5) instruction of the investigating magistrate with a warrant for arrest or conditional release;

6) appearance before the correctional judge.

**COL 4/2006** states that measures that are taken concerning the freedom of the perpetrator, as well as the conditions imposed on him to protect the victim, must be communicated to the police and to the victim support service so that they are able to fulfill their mission to inform and to protect the victim (see victim statute).

In terms of victim support, COL4/2006 prescribes rules for the approach of IPV situations by the police and the court. Police and judicial authorities must act in a fast and determined way, based on a correct assessment of the IPV situation that mainly takes into account the risk of recurrence and the danger for the integrity of the victim and the children living with the couple. It is known that at the moment of the first contact with police, very often previous facts of IPV, sometimes even more serious, already have taken place. Thus it is important that police acts fast to prevent escalation.

Charges must be registered in all cases of IPV in which behaviour is found that can be considered as a criminal offence.

If no charge has been made, police must keep track of the intervention. If in a later time charges are made, this first intervention will also be mentioned.

These rules are valid for cases of physical, sexual and psychological IPV. But other cases of IPV also need to be taken seriously, taking into account the possible repercussions for the victim and the children.
Many public and private institutions and services provide professional support.

They cooperate with magistrates and police through the action plans and participate in the “court district’s board for victim policy” (see above).

The most important are these:

- The victim support services of the court provide assistance to victims. They offer information about procedures, rights, etc..., they assist the victims in difficult moments by e.g. accompanying them in court, if necessary the refer victims to specialized aid services, and they inform and sensitize the magistrates about the needs of the victims in general. Every court district has this service. They are usually part of the “Judicial House” (Justitiehuis), where judicial assistants also meet and evaluate those persons whom the court released on conditions.

- The victim support service of the police advises and helps police officers in dealing with victims without taking over their jobs. They sensitize their colleagues for this issue, have contacts with victims in severe or urgent cases and participate in official consultation meetings.

- The CAW’s “Centra voor Algemeen Welzijnswerk” (Centers for general welfare work) offer a wide range of forms of support: first reception, seeking solutions together, giving judicial information, professional psycho-social guidance, arranging temporary housing, etc... Many of the former women’s shelters that originated in the seventies and eighties now are part of the CAW structure. Also often offered is special care for children who witnessed violence, and programs for certain perpetrators of IPV. The CAW’s are freely accessible to everyone, but also referred to by magistrates. They are subsidized by the Flemish authorities. There is a CAW in every city/region.

- Tele-Onthaal – Télé-Accueil is an aiding service by telephone. Everyone can call anonymously the number 106 throughout the country, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, and can talk anonymously and freely with a professionally trained volunteer. IPV is a much prevalent theme. Also anonymously available online.

- The “Centra voor Geestelijke Gezondheidszorg” (Centers for Mental Health Care) are present in every city/region. They offer different forms of non-residential professional treatment for perpetrators of sexual violence and IPV.
The association “Suggnome” wants to contribute to a further humanization of the application of criminal laws. They offer professional mediation after court, between eligible perpetrators and their victims, stimulating the possibility that they exchange information about the facts, their background, their meaning and their consequences, and thus giving each other more possibilities to heal. They are also active in IPV cases.

The provincial coordinators regarding IPV are appointed by provincial authorities. They keep close contacts with all organizations, services and authorities dealing with IPV on a provincial level to detect needs and problems and to suggest solutions. They encourage cooperation and sensitizing and prevention campaigns.

Victim statute

**COL 4/2006** states that the criminal policy regarding IPV must:

- respond and search a solution for each case that is declared or found;

- spare, protect and recognize the victim;

- if necessary protect the children of the couple or of one of the partners;

- respect the victim’s rights.

**COL 4/2006** states that police should maintain this attitude toward the victim of IPV:

- take every complaint seriously;

- see the victim in material conditions that guarantee maximal discretion;

- if necessary arrange medical aid;

- extensively question the victim about the facts, the medical, psychological and material consequences, the family context, any antecedents, living conditions of the family and intentions or plans of the victim (a model template for charge exists for this);
- collect all useful evidence (medical attestation, torn clothes, photographs...)

- hear witnesses

- in case of sexual violence, apply the **Ministerial directive of September 15th 2005** regarding the sexual aggression set;

- bring the victim into contact with a police member who is appointed to support victims;

- inform the victim about her rights and protection, hand over a brochure about this;

- ask if the victim desires to be helped by a specialized service; if so, organize the referral to this service according to circular letter OOP15ter regarding aid to victims by police;

- as much as possible prevent that the victim should leave the house for safety reasons;

- ask a telephone number through which the victim can be contacted fast if necessary;

- guarantee discretion about the new address if the victim leaves the house.

**COL4/2006** prescribes that police services must notify the court if the suspected IPV situation that is examined shows one or more of the following features:

- the victim shows signs of violence or complains about sexual violence;

- there is such an atmosphere of violence or threats that the victim fears with reason to be victimized (again), especially if her freedom to move is limited or in cases of social isolation;

- the psychological condition of the victim seems to deteriorate;

- the children of the couple or one of the partners seem to be in danger;

- the marital crises seem to escalate in frequency or in intensity;

- there are elements that augment the risks, like a divorce procedure going on or pregnancy.
**COL4/2006** prescribes that the following measures must be taken to protect the victim and to prevent any secondary victimization that could be caused by actions of the judicial authorities.

1) In cases where the victim seems to be deeply affected on a physical and a psychological level, it is wise to register the questioning audio-visually. This illustrates better the psychological state of the victim than a written declaration. It also diminishes the risk that later on, new questionings need to be done.

2) During the questioning, the police official informs the victim about her rights, about the existence of the victim support service of the court and its tasks, and about the possibilities to receive medical, psychological or social aid. In worrisome cases, he also gives the victim the coordinates of a person she can appeal to in case of danger.

3) In case of disposal of the court, or in case of judicial inquiry, the court secretariat will immediately send a copy of the charge and the coordinates of the victim to the victim support service of the court. The victim support service contacts the victim, either by telephone, either by a letter that explains the service concerned and what she can expect of the judicial assistance.

In other cases, the magistrate may decide that it is more appropriate to call in a (private, recognized) victim aid association in the same way.

**Action Plans**

The action plan:

- is based on the possibilities for reception of victims and perpetrators inside, and if necessary outside the court district, by public institutions and services and private associations who are active on the social, psychological, medical and judicial level. Cooperation with and consultation of these psycho-medical-social and judicial services is deemed indispensable.

- is made concrete by cooperation protocols that determine the details of the cooperation;

- will take into account the initiatives existing before the circular letter.

Types of violence considered: intimate partner violence, sexual violence, violence on the work floor and human trafficking.

For the first time in Belgium, all actions aiming to reduce violence against women are coordinated as a whole. The NAP recognizes the importance of violence against women and sees its reduction as a priority. This reduction ought to be embedded in a larger policy of equality in all domains of society. Finally, the NAP also aims to stimulate the cooperation of different authorities and public services concerned.

More concretely, the NAP proposes the following actions:

- evaluation of existing legislation and programs;

- a working group to create and gather relevant statistical data about domestic violence;

- a sensitizing campaign to stress the fact that domestic violence is punishable by law, directed toward the larger population and toward target groups like police, hospitals, doctors and the social and cultural associations;

- specific trainings for magistrates, public prosecutors, legal aid,...

- to guarantee a good reception of victims.


This plan considers exclusively intimate partner violence.
The main aims of NAP 2004-2007 are:

- to create, fortify and diversify enduring actions to sensitize the larger public for the reality of domestic violence and the existing possibilities to act against it;

- to systematize and ameliorate trainings for those who are confronted with domestic violence through their professional or voluntary activities, so that they can identify processes of IPV and react adequately to it;

- to increase IPV prevention through well-directed and systematic initiatives that 1) address the factors on the origin of violence and 2) influence the behaviour of perpetrators and the attitude towards violence;

- to determine and assess the measures to protect, support and guide the victims and ameliorate their social and legal situation;

- to increase the efficacy of legal measures towards the perpetrators and to protect the victims;

- to uniformly register and to evaluate the acts of violence, the measures taken and their follow-up, on a short and on a long term.

Several interdepartmental conferences were organized to consolidate activities or to continue them in working groups.

**National Action Plan on violence against women 2008-2009, approved December the 15th 2008.**

Types of violence considered are: intimate partner violence. The third NAP defines intimate partner violence as an aggregate of conduct and attitudes of one of the (ex-)partners aiming to control and dominate the other. This includes physical, psychological, sexual and economical aggression, threats and violent acts that are repeated or can be repeated, and that affect the integrity of the other, and even her/his socio-professional integration. Not only the victim is affected but also other family members like children.

The third NAP builds on the second NAP, it updates and reinforces it. There are four global objectives in NAP III:
- Reinforcement of efficacy and coherence of measures through a good coordination of all actors and structures involved (police, justice and social work);

- Sustaining best practices and extending experimental projects for adequate treatment of perpetrators and for the support of victims, over the whole territory;

- The development of instruments for professionals and the organization of trainings;

- Sensitizing and informing the population about intimate partner violence, its detection and the aid available.

In more concrete terms this means:

An adequate approach of perpetrators through:

- better statistics, judicial and police data

- systematic training of police officers

- harmonizing of police interventions on the whole territory

- systematic training of the judicial world

- harmonizing of judicial interventions on the whole territory

- reinforcement of structures for the treatment of perpetrators on a voluntary, a negotiated or an obliged basis.

Protection of victims and children who are witness through:

- harmonization of the missions of the organizations that provide aid to the victims; coordination of competences, cooperation protocols...

- informing, sensitizing and training professionals in the psycho-medical-social sector that are involved in the approach of perpetrators and victims

- reception and protection of victims: listening, informing, providing temporary housing...

- psychological, legal and financial aid for victims
-reception and guidance of children who are victim or witness of violence.

**Coordination of the different agencies involved:**

- a structuring of the interventions between the police and the court, on a local, regional and federal level

- a structuring of the interventions between the police, the court and the psycho-medical-social organizations.

**Information and sensitization of the population in general:**

- Education towards a more egalitarian society

- education and sensitization of young people

- information about existing structures involved in the struggle against domestic violence

- referring victims, perpetrators and witnesses to the right instance.

**National Action Plan on violence against women 2010-2014, approved November 23rd 2010**

Types of violence considered are: domestic violence, genital mutilation, honour related crimes, forced marriages.

**Global aims are:**

**Development of knowledge and insight in the problem.** Through:

- disposition of good and relevant data,

- harmonized methods of gathering of data eg registration of police, psycho-medical-social sector and court, registration of IPV in hospitals, ...

**Information and sensitization of the population about intimate partner violence.** Through:

- campaigns, brochures, radio spots in different languages
- sensitization of school staffs and educating personnel, parents and children
- a new website about intimate partner violence
- information and sensitization of journalists and media to treat IPV suitably as a reality and not as a bit of news.

**Prevention and location of intimate partner violence.** Through:

- promotion of prevention programs for youngsters concerning violence in intimate relations
- integration of a gender dimension in education concerning sexuality and relationships
- structuring of actions between police, court and psycho-medical-social actors to improve cooperation, communication and the reception of victims.
- training of professionals in all relevant sectors

**A suitable approach for victims and perpetrators.** Through:

- creating more reception and aid facilities for victims of IPV and for children who witnessed it
- creating more access to safe and flexible housing for victims of IPV
- including IPV as a criterion in the attribution of legal residency
- assuring a suitable follow-up of perpetrators, prevention of recidivism

**A suitable approach by police and court.** Through:

- evaluation of circular letters COL3 and COL4 from the Minster of Justice and the Board of Procurators-General.

The NAP involves many partners. Their cooperation is coordinated by the **Institute for the Equality of Women and Men.** This is a governmental institution, founded in 2002, with the mission to stimulate and safeguard the equality between the sexes, and to act against discrimination. The coordination of the NAP is a part of this mission.
4.3. GERMANY

Policies and laws related to domestic violence

Policies
The political dimension of domestic violence is characterized by the introduction of two new action plans since 1999.

Action plan I
In 1999 the government of the federal republic of Germany presented a first “action plan to combat domestic violence against women” (Government of the federal republic of Germany, 1999). This first action plan has been realized during the following years and was directed to improve prevention, laws, cooperation between administrative and non-administrative organizations, networks for provision of help, work with perpetrators, awareness raising and international collaborations. Action plan I included a work group with representatives from the government and the federal states of Germany who worked together with non-governmental violence-experts. The aim of the group was to agree on the specific measures and activities that were necessary to translate the action plan into practical actions. The group met regularly to discuss suggestions for practical actions.

Action plan II
In 2007 the government of the Federal Republic of Germany enacted a new action plan II to fight violence against women which included new actions against domestic violence (BMFSFY, 2009). The plan (see attachment) focuses on the following objectives:

- Protection of women with a migration background;
- Protection of women with handicaps;
- Medical care for victims of DV;
- Early prevention of violence including the aim to protect children;
- Recognition of risks of women living in separation situations;
- Activation of a health report procedure to protect of women exposed to violence;
- To address judiciary persons and other persons of the social environment of victims;
- To enable a low-threshold and simple access to the care system for victims;
- To take perpetrators into responsibility and to force behavior changes;
To extend cooperation between the federal government, the federal states and non-governmental organizations.

The content of this current action plan bundles the following activities:

- **Prevention**: Measures to protect children and youth in particular, suggesting for example to qualify teachers and other groups that are working with children and youth, to teach and strengthen young parents, to sensitize the public for child abuse, to improve self-assurance of disabled persons or to counsel women and girls with a migration background.

- **Legislative enactment procedures of the federal government**: Procedures aiming for example at the improvement and amendment of the “Protection against violence”-law as well as at the development of new laws in particular to protect children in families with violence.

- **Activities aiming at the care system for support and counseling of victims of violence**: Measures to extend and improve the existing care systems for victims of violence, e.g., by transferring scientific knowledge on domestic violence to physicians for violence acts.

- **Countrywide cross-linking of the care system**: Activities including for example actions connecting different types and facilities of the care system.

- **Cooperation between governmental and non-governmental as well as public and private institutions for victims of violence**: Measures including for example integration of migrants to protect in particular immigrant women and children.

- **Work with perpetrators**, e.g. by developing programs for interventions

- **Qualification and sensitization**: For example, measures directed to sensitize judges or physician for domestic violence and its consequences.

- **Research**: Allocating means for scientific studies to researchers, for example, by announcing projects to investigate violence against disabled women.

- **European and other international cooperation**: Different activities for example developing a convention on human trafficking.

- **Support measures for women in foreign countries**: Promoting projects in foreign countries, for example, the “Women Protection Project” in Pakistan.

**Laws**

One major element of the first action plan was the “Protection against violence”-law that was enacted in 2001 to improve the civil law in case of violent acts and stalking offences as well as the
living conditions of victims of violence for example after separation from their partners (see below).
Accompanying measures of this important law were directed to the provision of legal actions for the police in the federal states of Germany.
Besides the “Protection against violence”-law that mainly focuses on safety court orders and the assignment of the accommodation there are specific measures of the civil rights that can be used instead of a criminal proceeding. These measures include compensation for damages in the household, pain and suffering, single child custody and the right of contact and access to children.

The “Protection against violence”-law
The German law on “Protection Against Violence” (see attachment of the law text in German language and a flyer in English) defines violence as:
- Intentional and illegal physical force used to inflict physical injury, to impair health or to restrict an individual’s freedom or
- the threat of such physical force as well as threats to kill.
Psychological violence falls under the Law on “Protection Against Violence” if it causes damage to health.

In case of violence exposure according to the definition the law protects victims of domestic violence through banning perpetrators from a shared home or accommodation and if necessary additionally from the environment of the victims’ home or other placers of daily activities of the victim. The law also includes a ban on phone contacts and the prosecution of other stalking methods if applicable. Applications according to this law can lead to corresponding measures from the court and police. The time-limit for the measures is fixed to 6 months plus 6 months extension if necessary. Rapid decisions by the court are possible. The law applies to married and unmarried couples as well as to other partnerships. There are no differences made between males and females. The law means that a victim can apply for the allocation of the shared home for sole use, even if victim and perpetrator are not married to one another.

In contrast to adults the rights of children exposed to domestic violence have been protected through the family laws. They allow that children can be separated from their parents in case of danger. Due to recurring events of neglect and even death of children within families at home this issue was an ongoing political discussion during the last five years. Most actions related to these
events remained at a local level shifting the responsibility to public authorities as for example the youth welfare office. Additional regional campaigns tried to strengthen the courage of victims of domestic violence and to sensitize citizen for the recognition and impact of domestic violence. They led to cooperation and intervention projects which increasingly shifted from the perspective of the victims to intervention against perpetrators.

**Gender specific issues of laws and policies of domestic violence**

One critical concern from politicians as well as many other commentators is related to the recognition of men as perpetrators. Although the role of men has changed during the last decade with some exploratory investigations (BMFSFY, 2006) showing that a significant proportion of men had also been victims of domestic violence, some still criticize the unilaterally reported domestic violence in official reports and the political one-sidedness. Furthermore up to now only representative studies of women have been supported which is also seen as discrimination for men politically concerning allocation of means for scientific investigations. However, mostly undisputed is the extent of physical violence that was initiated by men.

**Policies and strategies on care for victims of domestic violence**

**Policies**

The only representative general population study on domestic violence that was conducted among women in Germany showed that although domestic violence (DV) is associated with a wide range of negative physical, psychological, social and economical health effects but met needs of victims of DV related to health and psychosocial services are still unknown (Schröttle & Müller, 2004). However this study showed that among female victims of violence only 16% used medical services, 11% psychosocial services 14% services of the police health and 9% mad a report to the police (Schröttle & Müller, 2004). The political reaction to this situation was to establish facilities for interventions among victims and to support networks of services for women that are at risk of or had been exposed to violence. For example, intersections between refugees for women exposed to violence, counselling services and emergency calls were promoted by the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFY, 2009). To act against domestic violence regional activities as for example in the capitol of Baden-Württemberg, Stuttgart, established a network between refugees, health and social care facilities for female and male victims, the police, court and lawyers and intervention facilities for perpetrators as well as the local public authorities (Capitol of
The discussion about these measures however often focuses on economic issues and allocation of means instead of investigations on the need of specific services.

**Strategies on the provision of professional help**

Different institutions are suggested from public authorities in Germany to provide help for victims of violence:

- **Emergency call to a help line:** There are different help-lines in Germany. Apart from general help-lines of the police and the medical care most information of help-lines for victims of violence is available through the Internet or flyers from the local public administration. Help-lines can make it easier to talk more open about the situation sometimes to other victims who organize the help-lines.

- **Medical help:** Even if the impact on health seems to be small it is suggested to contact a medical service or general practitioner. Besides his medical tasks he can serve as an intermediary to counseling services. Medical investigations are also important to save evidence of violence exposure which can be used for applications.

- **Help by the police and lawyers:** Besides the fact that domestic violence is often a severe crime that should lead to proceedings against the perpetrators due to its impact on health of victims, an application is suggested due to indemnity claims and a possible ban the perpetrator from the home of the victim. Lawyers and the police can also act as an intersection to specific counseling services.

- **Lawyers help:** Lawyer act for and support victims to accomplish their claims and also often function as an intersection for other services by providing appropriate information. Sometimes they are a lower threshold place for help than the police.

- **Outpatient counseling services:** In some regions and in particular in larger cities there are specific outpatient services for victims of violence. They provide information about further steps, can teach victims how to react in critical situations or give emotional support for battered women.

- **Homes for battered women:** Homes for battered women can be found in every larger city in Germany. Besides providing an accommodation and care by specialists they can also
function as a counseling service. One major aim of these homes is to teach women to return to self-management.

Equal opportunity commissioner: In larger towns and cities of Germany equal opportunity commissioners support women and men with practical help, counseling and intermediation to specific services.

Summary

The current situation on policies against domestic violence in 2010 is characterized by a bundling of different activities due to the increasing awareness about violence in general and domestic violence in particular. These activities focus on specific disadvantage groups as for example migrant and disadvantaged women. Still underrepresented in these activities are male victims. This is also due if one tries to characterizes the help system for victims of violence. Only few institutions for victims are arranged for men.

In contrast to the political requirement the legal situation in Germany has reached a relatively high standard comparable to other countries. Still there new competence rules necessary that, for example, assign proceedings according to the “Protection Against Violence” law to the family courts which would help to improve the coordination with laws related to the safety of the children. Furthermore other laws for specific groups of the general population as for example migrants are necessary to improve the specific situation of these persons.

With respect to policies for the care of victims it is noteworthy that there I currently a lack of research i.e. epidemiological studies on met and unmet need of female and male victims of domestic violence. Results from these studies could help to design a more appropriate help-system that will be used from a larger number of victims.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Action Plans</th>
<th>Home shelters for the victims</th>
<th>Penal code (Criminal Law)</th>
<th>Victim statute</th>
<th>Perpetrator statute</th>
<th>Links</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT (2007-2013) Combating Violence against Women already constitutes a priority issue in the framework of the NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT 2007-2013 within the special priority axis entitled: “Reinforcement of the gender equality policy”</td>
<td>Law 3488/2006 implementation of equal treatment of men and women-the law specifies that sexual harassment is a form of gender discrimination and establishes the victims’ right to claim compensation.</td>
<td>Law 3463/2006-support of victims of domestic violence and violence between cohabiting persons</td>
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DEPARTMENT TO ADDRESS GENDER VIOLENCE Presidential Decree 5/2008 on the “Organization of Structure of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality”

Penal Code article 336 et seq (1984)- defines sexual violence and rape as crimes

Municipalities offering home shelters

www.cityofathens.gr
www.thessalonikicity.gr
www.e-patras.gr

(shelter for victims of violence in the prefecture of Irakleion, Crete)
establishes a special Department to address gender violence.

The General Secretariat for Gender Equality has established two consultation centers for women victims of violence which provide free psycho-social support and legal advice.
4.5. UNITED KINGDOM

The current British criminal law does not explicitly criminalise domestic violence (Platek 2009). Similarly, for a certain period of time there was no shared definition of domestic abuse among all involved parties in the United Kingdom (Barnish 2004). Lack of a common definition of domestic abuse caused a barrage of misinterpretations and hampered permanent research and policy recommendations. Different agencies have been working with different considerations of domestic violence (Cook et al. 2006). Nevertheless, the government agreed on a domestic violence definition which exists in a wider range of relationships (but only in terms of adults) and remains gender neutral (Harwin 2006). In 2008 it was finally agreed to adopt a common definition of domestic violence:

‘Domestic violence is any incident of threatening behaviour violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender and sexuality’

Governmental Institutions

The Home Office is defined as the lead government department as far as the anti-domestic violence initiatives and policies are concerned (Mayor of London 2001, Lewis 1997). This department provides guidance to other governmental institutions and co-operates with non-governmental organisations in order to raise awareness of the problem of domestic violence and implement policy to combat it. The Home Office provides information and deals with requests for help, releases statistics on domestic violence cases and deals with specific problems regarding domestic abuse e.g. forced marriages, children’s abuse etc. Since 2004, the government has invested £14 million in domestic violence initiatives and from 2003, the Domestic Violence National Action Plan, published yearly, includes policy proposals to support victims and bring perpetrators to justice (Smartt 2006).

FIRST POLICIES PROPOSALS

At the beginning of the 90s the government organised ministerial consultations among different government agencies which paved the way for the first policy proposals. The working paper of the National Inter-Agency Working Party (1992) and the paper from 1993 published by the House of

1 The definition has been broadened to incorporate violence by family members as well as between people (aged 18 and over) who are, or were, intimate partners. Family members include: mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister and grandparents (Ministry of Justice 2009a)
Commons Home Affairs Committee Inquiry into Domestic Violence preceded the adoption of the official governmental strategy (Hague 2005). The publication of *Living without fear* in 1999 by the Women’s Unit of the Cabinet Office, was anticipated by many to set out a comprehensive national strategy (*ibid*). The document outlined the issue of domestic violence for the first time in the United Kingdom and in fact it made an attempt to establish a more integrated approach to policy on domestic violence. However, it sustains distinctions between definitions of domestic abuse, sexual violence and sexual harassment (The Scottish Government 2005). It was put forward as a plan of action, however, it mainly focused on good practice and furthermore, it was not fully implemented (Mayor of London 2001). In 2000 the government published the guidance *Domestic Violence: Break the Chain Multi-Agency Guidance for Addressing Domestic Violence* setting out some of the issues of domestic violence that different agencies (e.g. police, health, social services) might address in order to work more effectively (Home Office 2000). As a consequence, in 2003 the government issued the Safety and Justice consultation paper presenting a multi-approach to domestic violence, based on prevention, protection and justice, and support for victims (Home Office 2003). The publication of the document followed a wide-ranging consultation with a number of parties. Moreover, it was subject to discussion with the survivors of domestic violence (Hague 2005), a process which was recognised as an extremely innovative approach to create the legal concept based on public consultation (Przybylska 2005). The document proposed many novel methods to combat the domestic violence problem. Among them were: multi-agency reviews of domestic violence murders, criminalising breach of non-molestation and occupation orders, extending the availability of non-molestation and occupation orders under the Family Law Act (1996), extending the availability of restraining orders under the Protection from Harassment Act (1997), the provision of information to victims (especially when the offenders apply to vary/terminate an order) making common assault an ‘arrestable’ offence, giving victims the status of vulnerable/intimidated witnesses, registration of domestic violence offenders, better liaison between civil and criminal courts, specialist domestic violence courts, general measures to improve legal protection as well as recommendations for the provision of accommodation (Home Office 2003). *Safety and Justice*, in contrast to the majority of previous public sources, recognises not only female victimization in domestic abuse but also female perpetration (George & Darwood 2003).
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, CRIME AND VICTIMS ACT (2004) AND ITS IMPACT

A further consequence emanating from the discussion over the Safety and Justice paper was the adoption of a new legal framework. The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act was published in 2004 introducing domestic violence as a problem affecting not only women but also other family members and including all forms of violence (Hague 2005). This Act provided the police and other agencies with practical solutions to enable them to assist victims and witnesses (e.g. witness protection scheme, emergency accommodation, safety planning advice and translation facilities) (Smartt 2006). The Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act (2004) increases the seriousness of the offence of common assault, breach of a non-molestation order became a criminal offence, and the penalties for such breaches have been raised from a fine to imprisonment for five years. Moreover, the rights of common-law marriage were equated with the non-cohabitating as well as same-sex couples (Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, Harwin 2006, Harne 2008). Moreover, new restraining orders are being introduced in the Protection from Harassment Act and the protection orders and prosecution of breaches were strengthened. The Domestic Violence Act envisaged establishing a Code of Practice, a Victim Advisory Panel and a Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses (Hague 2005). The implemented changes aimed at reducing the attrition rate in domestic violence cases, what the Home Office named ‘narrowing the justice gap’ (Harwin et al. 1999).

Although the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act delivered very important solutions to the criminal and civil justice systems, some of the proposals introduced in the Safety and Justice are absent from the Act (Hague 2005). The Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act does not include the criminalisation of the breach of an occupation order and does not eliminate the time limits placed on such an order (Harne 2008). Moreover, there are no solutions regarding the availability of legal defences to victims who kill the perpetrator and the situation of migrant women as well as the situation of children in the family experiencing domestic violence (ibid). Although the Act does not fulfil the expectations of all parties (mainly non-governmental organizations), it was accompanied by a funding commitment to the national helpline, internet service and refuge services (Hague 2005).

The Act was accepted by the government as the ‘most radical overhaul of the domestic violence legislation for thirty years’ (Harne 2008).

It is worth mentioning that the current proposals on improving the domestic violence strategy are carried out separately in Scotland (Violence against Women Strategy), Northern Ireland (Domestic Violence Strategy as well as Sexual Violence Strategy) and Wales (Domestic Abuse Strategy) (Home
Office 2009b). The recent government consultation paper *Together we can end violence against women and girls* (2009) aims to test policy proposals designed in the past to combat violence against women and girls (Home Office 2009b). The consultation focused on actual violence against women and girls, proposals regarding prevention, supporting victims and bringing perpetrators to justice and finally the fear of domestic abuse and its impact on people’s everyday lives (Home Office 2009b). After the Domestic Violence Act came into force, the evaluation process has been strengthened by publishing the Home Office annual delivery report concerning domestic abuse issues.

**MINISTRY FOR WOMEN AND EQUALITY AND GOVERNMENT EQUALITY OFFICE**

These institutions recognise violence against women as one of the key priorities in their agendas. The issue of abused women and the impact on their work has been introduced in the Gender Equality Duty, the first gender equality scheme, which requires more than basic equal treatment of both genders. The Government Equality Office and the Minister for Women and Equality are determined to lead a strategy across Government on issues related to violence against women (http://www.equalities.gov.uk). The Equality Office has recently published a communications guidance and toolkit in order to strengthen the government strategy and support governmental communicators who directly approach the domestic violence problem (Government Equalities Office 2009). Despite the fact that both institutions aspire to lead the anti-domestic violence strategy and have willingness to combat this problem, their actions are mostly kept within the bounds of good will.

**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE**

Family violence is a problem of both the criminal and the civil justice systems. Therefore, the aim of the Ministry of Justice is to increase the reporting rate of domestic violence cases and make sure that the victims are sufficiently protected and supported. The institution advocates for the specialist domestic violence courts and follows the work of the Crown Prosecution Services (www.justice.gov.uk)
INTER-MINISTERIAL GROUPS

The aim of this initiative, established in 1992, was to ensure a coordinated approach towards domestic abuse and to make sure that it is represented by government departments as a whole (Lewis 1997). The approach was officially constituted in 2003 and so far consists of three Inter Ministerial Groups on Domestic Violence which have oversight of the national delivery plan concerning the issue of domestic violence (Home Office 2005, Radford & Gill 2006). Each of them consists of representatives from government departments and other administrative branches. The Inter Ministerial Groups co-ordinate work across government on domestic and sexual violence issues which affects people across all age groups. For instance, the Inter-Ministerial Group on Domestic and Sexual and Domestic Violence comprises Health Minister, Finance Minister, Education Minister, Social Development Minister, Junior Ministers as well as Northern Ireland Office Criminal Justice Minister. The Inter-Departmental Group on domestic violence includes all government units with an interest in the subject (e.g. the Lord Chancellor’s Department deal with civil law solutions, the Department of the Environment is responsible for housing regulation while the Department of Health deals with health and social care aspects of domestic violence) (ibid). Each of the Inter Ministerial Groups has already published either a delivery or an action plan. These institutions play an important role in ensuring that key deliverables are achieved and play a crucial part in ensuring that Government is involved in all anti-domestic violence activities (www.coe.int).

LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

The local policy towards domestic abuse has become a crucial element in combating the domestic abuse problem, as it seems that all social partners should be involved in the anti-domestic violence procedures not only at ministerial but also at the local level. Participating agencies include local authorities, housing services, police, the health service, probation, education units and the voluntary sector (Hague 2000). The local inter-agency initiatives specialise in networking and exchanging information, as well as monitoring and co-ordinating the work of member agencies (ibid). More than

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200 local multi-agency initiatives concerning domestic violence had been established by 2006 (Harwin 2006). The Government encourages the development of local partnerships and has recently issued the implementation guidance for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs), which was established by the Crime and Disorder Act from 1998 (Home Office 2009a). The Crime and Disorder Act places a statutory requirement on local authorities to monitor the level of domestic abuse in their communities and establish partnerships in order to reduce the problem as well as to pressurize more reluctant agencies (Radford & Gill 2006). Therefore, the CDRPs bring together the representatives of statutory, voluntary and private organisations which deal with crime reduction and at the same time the problem of domestic violence (http://www.csas.org.uk/cdRp). According to Diamond et al’s study (2004), the majority of CDRPs have made progress as far as the response to domestic violence problem is concerned, however there are a few still dealing with implementing the law and organizing the multi approach service (Diamond et al. 2004). It is relevant to mention that agencies which are brought together in order to deal with domestic abuse struggle with compromising on shared terminology and understanding of their own specificities (Netto et al. 2009). Further, effective partnership will be hampered in the multi agency approach when no agency actually takes the leading role (Radford & Gill 2006).

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

THE CHILDREN AND FAMILY COURT ADVISORY AND SUPPORT SERVICE (CAFCASS)
CAFCASS is an independent organization in England and Wales (in the latter it operates as the CAFCASS CYMRU), launched in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children involved in court proceedings. CAFCASS provides expert independent advice to courts on the interests of children involved in family proceedings. The CAFCASS was established under provisions of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act (2000) (www.cafcass.gov.uk), while the responsibilities of the CAFCASS CYMRU were set out in the Children Act (2004) and the Children and Adoption Act (2006) (www.wales.gov.uk/cafcasscymru).

THE INDEPENDENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE ADVISOR (ISVA)
The Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) provides independent support to victims of sexual abuse through the criminal justice process. Since 2006, ISVAs work with victims of sexual violence to
provide practical, non-therapeutic support both to those victims who access the criminal justice service and those who do not pursue this experience further. ISVAs help victims to live without fear of violence and access the services they need in the aftermath of the abuse and violence they have experienced. The advisors are based in the Sexual Assault Referral Centres or within volunteer organizations (Robinson 2009). ISVAs draw on the experience of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors model (see below).

**THE INDEPENDENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVISOR (IDVA)**

The Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) as an independent institution of the criminal justice system provides specialist support in criminal and civil courts by a variety of means. The councillors deliver the information on legal procedures, health assistance, victim and witness organisations ensuring multi-service approach in order to support the victims of domestic violence. At the moment, there are over 700 IDVAs in post across England and Wales. The Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) is responsible for delivering an accredited training for IDVAs (Home Office 2009a).

**JUDICIAL SYSTEM**

Victims of domestic violence can apply for civil or criminal remedies. The legal choice depends on a few criteria i.e. the severity and nature of the violence, the type of relationship between the perpetrator and victim, the burden of proof, the type of protection required by the victim (Smartt 2006). Civil action can be taken in the County Courts, the Family court (Magistrates’ Court) and the High Court. Criminal remedies are available through the Magistrates Courts and the Crown Court (ibid).

**CIVIL LAW**

The Domestic Violence and Matrimonial Proceedings Act (1976) and the Domestic Proceedings and Magistrates’ Courts Act (1978) represent the first regulation regarding domestic abuse in the area of civil law (Harne 2008). The former made amendments to existing legal solutions. First of all, protection could be adopted even if the couple were not legally married. Moreover, application to the court did not have to be accompanied with another proceeding, such as divorce or damages
(Hague 2005). Two types of order were envisaged by the Act: a non-molestation and ouster order. This regulation for the first time envisaged that married and unmarried women were to be treated equally (Hague 2005, Harwin & Brown 2000). Another regulation dealing with domestic violence problems was the Domestic Proceedings and Magistrates’ Courts Act (1978), whose major purpose was to bring matrimonial and family law into magistrates’ as well as county courts (ibid). This novel civil legislation was limited in its scope. Not all provisions were applicable to unmarried women; moreover, magistrates tended to interpret orders restrictively, and judges were reluctant to apply ouster orders, viewing this solution as excessive (Edwards 2000). In fact, the Matrimonial Homes Act (1983), focused more on long-term solutions, addressed only married couples before the magistrates’ courts (Hague 2005).

As a consequence of the innovative regulation in the civil law, in 1977, the domestic violence issue was included in the homelessness legislation. Victims of domestic abuse (with responsibility for children) were classified as 'in priority need', which obliged the local authority to provide an accommodation (Harwin & Brown 2000). Subsequently, the Housing Act (1996) broadened the definition of homelessness for those who are eligible for accommodation, including victims of domestic violence, articulating it explicitly (The Housing Act 1996). This regulation provides housing assistance to victims by engaging their landlords (social landlords), who can take special measures to ensure the accommodation (Smartt 2006). The Homelessness Act from 2002 broadens the definition of violence regarding the homelessness, including all types of violence, not only domestic violence (Smith 2003). Moreover, a safe accommodation for victims of domestic violence has become a priority for local authorities who have been obliged to generate the homeless prevention strategies for victims of domestic abuse (Netto et al. 2009). In addition to this, in April 2003 a new programme 'Supporting People' with a budget of £153 million was launched in the United Kingdom (The Commission on the Status of Women, United Nations 2005). At the moment, in the atmosphere of implementing ‘sanctuary schemes’ and ‘panic room’, placing a victim in temporary accommodation is recognised by some as less expensive (Department for Communities and Local Government 2006).

3 A non-molestation order restrains the defendant from interfering with the plaintiff, while an ouster order requires one person to vacate the house and not to return to it for a certain period of time (Family Law Act 1996).

4 The sanctuary scheme is defined as a possibility for the victim to remain in the accommodation by setting up additional protection measures (e.g. internal doors, safety glass, smoke alarms as well as immediate delivery of legal solutions under Family Law Act 1996 etc.) (Netto et al. 2009)
However, this approach is criticised as it cannot make security and surveillance the main policy response (Squire 2007).

Domestic violence was also a subject in the Children Act (1989), which included protection of both mothers and children (ibid). Furthermore, the Protection and Harassment Act (1997), which extends to both civil and criminal law, deals with violence from outside the home. Whilst the Protection and Harassment Act was originally designed to combat the problem of stalking, it is used by those who cannot apply for any order under the Family Law Act of 1996 (Smartt 2006). The Protection and Harassment Act is useful when dealing with post-separation harassment or violence with a non-cohabitant partner (Harne 2008). Unfortunately, the Act does not envisage an occupation order, and it does not consider children or the possibility that the attacker is a close relative (e.g. father, son or brother) (Hague 2005).

After the Family Homes and Domestic Violence Bill (1992) failed to pass, there was public pressure for new legislation. Based on the 1992 Law Commission White Paper, the most recognised civil domestic violence legislation is the Family Law Act (1996), Part IV, which applies either non-molestation or occupation orders to a much broader range of people (a new category of associated persons; Hague 2005). A non-molestation order is applied in order to prevent further violence to the applicant or children (Smartt 2006). The criteria for occupation orders were more restrictive (Burton 2009). In that sense, the occupation order is more retrogressive than the ouster order, as the court needs to take into account the conduct of two parties (Harne 2008). The significant progress in this legislation was that breached orders were subject to the power of arrest (Family Law Act 1996), under the previous regulation the power of arrest was more discretionary (Harne 2008). Summing up, the Act offered protection for a wider range of women, in more situations and for longer periods of time (Hague 2005). The purpose of this regulation was to make more people eligible for the non-molestation order (Burton 2009).

The Children Act 1989, which forms the basis for private and public law in decisions about children, was amended in the Adoption and Children Act 2002, where courts become responsible not only for the harm that children suffer directly from domestic violence but also for that arising from witnessing these incidents (Home Office 2003). This regulation permitted the courts to remove a suspected child abuser from his or her property, as a part of an application for an Emergency Protection Order or Interim Care Order (Smartt 2006). The Children Act (2004) promoted a multi-agency approach to local service delivery. This new regulation introduced consultation among different parties (e.g. schools, health services) regarding children’s safety. The new Act allows for
closer cooperation between children’s services and the police to identify and investigate domestic abuse (Children Act 2004). Since the legislation envisages a broader network of agencies and parties possessing information on children and their families, one can state that there is a higher risk of confidentiality abuse (Harne 2008).

CRIMINAL LAW

Recognising domestic violence as a ‘real crime’ has become an increasingly important part of government policy on crime control (Radford 2004). Young (1999) perceives the new approach towards domestic violence policy as a criminalization of social issues. The legal solutions adopted in the United Kingdom reflect the significant social problem that domestic violence has become. Although, current criminal law does not explicitly criminalise domestic violence (Platek 2009), the cost borne by society is one driver for changing policy and legal responses. In the event that civil remedies fail, the criminal justice system may step in by applying criminal sanctions under the following legislation (Smartt 2006):

- Offences Against the Person Act 1861
- Sexual Offences Act 1956
- Homicide Act 1957
- Criminal Damage Act 1971
- Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE)
- Public Order Act 1986
- Criminal Justice Act 1988
- Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- Criminal Justice Act 1998
- Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999
- Sexual Offences Act 2003

The legislation applied depends on the circumstances and offence of the domestic violence (ibid). There are two key problems concerning criminal law and domestic violence. Firstly, criminal law is
concerned with punishing rather than helping. Therefore, neither the offender nor the victim is the major subject of attention in criminal proceedings. Secondly, many people are reluctant to become involved in what is still seen as a private matter between husband and wife, and even the police have been cautious about intervening in violent incidents resulting from domestic quarrels. This climate makes it difficult for the victim may to testify against the perpetrator. Thus, although the operation of criminal law cannot and should not be excluded, further remedies are needed.

**SPECIALIST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURTS (SDVC)**

The idea of holistic judicial approach towards domestic violence problem was adopted in the United States and Canada approximately twenty years ago, whilst the first British specialist court was established in 1999 in Leeds (Cook *et al.* 2006). The aim of the Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVCs) is to combine criminal and civil settings in order to deal with domestic abuse more effectively.

Compounding this, the release of the *Safety and Justice* consultation paper provided a major impetus to broaden the SDVCs activity in the United Kingdom. Specialist Domestic Violence Courts programmes were introduced as special measures to make the court process more user-friendly for domestic violence victims and bringing more perpetrators to justice. The programme started with 23 individual SDVC systems and the major idea is to refer to the approach as a whole system rather than a court building (Home Office 2008). The key to the success of the SDVCs has been their co-ordinated community approach to domestic violence and multi-agency partnership in order to resolve this problem.

SDVCs assemble Independent Domestic Violence Advisors, the police service, social services, housing, the Crown Prosecution Services (CPS), the probation service, primary care trusts and hospitals, as well as Accident and Emergency departments. Representatives from each field work together to investigate cases of domestic violence, and then give the victim the support they need, ensuring that the person does not fail in bringing the perpetrator to justice through the courts. Since April 2009 there have been 122 SDVCs operating across England and Wales (Ministry of Justice 2009b).

On account of policy development in criminal law, since 2002, witnesses appearing in criminal courts can apply for special measures which include:

- being screened off from the rest of the court;

- giving evidence by live television links;
- allowing witnesses to give their evidence in pre-recorded interviews;

- having the victim’s/witness’s name withheld from the press (through CPS application);

- banning order for public gallery in the sexual offence cases or cases involving intimidation;

- deriving information from the Witness Liaison Officers (who act as a main point of contact) (Council of Europe 2007).

Also,

- Magistrates’ Courts and Crown Courts have implemented a separate waiting area for victims and witnesses, and,

- the document for witnesses Domestic Violence – A Guide to Civil Remedies and Criminal Sanctions is available in 10 languages (ibid).

Witness Care Units, mentioned above, are dedicated divisions run jointly by the CPS and the police in all CPS Areas where special Witness Officers provide information and support in order to ensure that witnesses are able to give the most reliable evidence (http://www.cjsonline.gov.uk).

SEXUAL ASSAULT REFERRAL CENTRES (SARC)

Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) are safe locations where victims of sexual assault can receive an integrated service of medical help, legal advice and counselling from professionally trained staff. Once again, SARCs as a multi-agency approach bring together all of the different legal and medical agencies and departments in one place which helps both the victims and those investigating the crimes. At present there are 29 sexual assault referral centres across England and Wales, with a further nine in development. Many referral centres are located in hospitals. For victims this type of centre helps to reduce the stress of dealing with the abuse (www.homeoffice.gov.uk).

CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICES

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), part of the criminal justice system, provides the investigation and evidence as far as domestic violence cases are concerned. In 2001, a network of domestic violence experts was established by the CPS. There are now 43 Crown Prosecution Service Domestic
Violence Coordinators (Harwin 2006). The coordinators work closely with other agencies in order to identify and share good practice. Moreover, all prosecutors have been trained on the subject of domestic violence. The CPS’s policy statement from 2009 fleshes out how this institution deals with cases involving domestic violence. New policy and guidance from the CPS were followed by the consultations with women’s specialist services and other agencies.

The CPS response to domestic violence has been criticised in the past due to victim unwillingness to support the prosecution (Cretney 1996). In consequence, CPS has improved its policy strategy, taking more pro-active role in compiling the evidence and pursuing a prosecution without the victims’ agreement. (Burton 2009, Radford & Gill 2006).

PROBATION SERVICES

The Probation Services' policy on domestic violence was launched herewith the Position Statement on Domestic Violence in 1992 (Harwin & Brown 2000). This document introduces the high importance of the domestic violence problem and substantial consequences for the service users (ibid). The Probation Services have developed the domestic violence programmes which are undertaken in all 42 probation areas in England and Wales. The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) had recently piloted three intervention projects across eight Probation Areas. The NOMS Domestic Abuse Strategy for prison and probation staff on how to work with domestic violence perpetrators and victims is being developed (Home Office 2009a).

The Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP) is a national group work programme for offenders designed to reduce re-offending by male domestic perpetrators against female partners. The programme is accredited by the Home Office, and is a follow-up of the Duluth Domestic Violence programme, which was piloted in probation areas in London (National Probation Service 2005). Participation in the programme is a part of the Community Order, as defined by the Criminal Justice Act 2003. Failure to complete the programme will bring the offender back to court (National Probation Service 2005).

HEALTH APPROACH

The public health system recognises domestic violence as an important issue affecting both physical and mental health. Domestic violence has become an important public health problem with effects including serious injury, long standing health problems, emotional difficulties and problems for a wide range of victims (Davidson et al. 2000).
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The Department of Health is involved in the anti-domestic violence policy making process. The lead unit within the Department of Health, as far as work and research on domestic violence is concerned, is the Social Care Group (Lewis 1997). The Department has published its Domestic Abuse Handbook (Responding to domestic abuse: A handbook for health professionals) which contains a significant amount of information on women with particular needs, including minority or migrant women, older women, disabled women and lesbian and bisexual women (Department of Health 2005). The 2005 handbook is a document which contains guidelines for health professionals regarding the care of victims experiencing domestic abuse. The document emphasises the importance of inter-agency cooperation as well as providing local information.

In 2000, the Department of Health approved general antenatal inquiry for domestic violence, which means that all pregnant women should be asked whether they have ever experienced domestic abuse. The recommendation was also supported by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, the Royal College of Midwives (RCM) and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). Although this policy indicates the intention of establishing a proactive approach, it has been widely noted that this policy development was seriously delayed to be introduced in the UK compared to the United States where this kind of process has been firmly established much earlier (Harwin 2006, Peckover 2002). Moreover, the activity of non-governmental organizations, for instance, the Women’s Aid research project focused on pregnancy and routine enquiries about domestic abuse in the health service, not only contributed but also had a further positive impact on policy development. This project showed how important is to investigate the impact of domestic abuse on pregnant women and thus had an influence on further work of the UK Royal College of Midwives and other health agencies (ibid).

The British Medical Association (BMA), the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) and the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) have all issued guidelines with tools to identify domestic violence cases (Davidson et al. 2000). The RCOG also published a book Violence Against Women, where the role of obstetricians and gynaecologists, when dealing with domestic abuse, was presented (Stevens 1997). Further recommendations regarding domestic abuse have also been produced by the following medical groups and organisation:

- Department of Health
The health approach towards domestic violence is presented in the Annual Progress Report 2008-09, where raising awareness among practitioners and providing measures for early identification and intervention was included. Routine inquiry about domestic abuse experience in antenatal clinics, mental health services and 22 accident and emergency units were presented in the report (Home Office 2009a). Despite numerous guidance published within health institutions, the problem of domestic violence is mainly highlighted in documents and addressed much less in practice. Thus, the response of the UK health system remains characteristically slow in comparison to other UK government institutions dealing with the domestic violence problem.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

The National Health Services (NHS) has a significant role in identifying cases of domestic violence, as it is the service that the victims of domestic abuse are more likely to come into contact with at some point in their lives. In the Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer for England and Wales On the State of the Public Health 1996, it was highlighted that domestic violence has considerable implications for the NHS (mostly in accident and emergency units, primary care, maternity services, mental health services). Although, the issue of domestic abuse is addressed by delivering information as well as raising awareness among NHS staff, it still requires improvement (Peckover 2002). Despite the fact that the policy at the national level is progressing the practicality shows a different reality. Although the General Practitioners (GPs) responses to physical symptoms of abuse have improved recently, this is not the case with identifying mental health problems (Sundari 2008). Moreover, the NHS considers stroke, diabetes and heart attack as more serious health threats than the consequences of domestic abuse (Department of Health 2010). The consultation paper Together we can end violence against women and girls confirms the assumption that NHS fails in successful responding to victims of family violence (ibid).
The non-governmental organisations (NGO) have played a significant role in shaping the domestic violence policy. Feminist activism has played a crucial factor in uncovering violence against women. In 1970s the refuges organisations first started to help women experiencing domestic violence (Radford 2004, Harwin 2006). The rise of the Women’s Aid movement and the establishing of the network of refuges commenced a campaign for policies that aimed at law reform, welfare benefits, housing provision and emergency assistance as far as domestic abuse is concerned (Radford 2004). It is worth noting that the first documented political campaign against wife abuse took place in United Kingdom in the late 19th century which undoubtedly had an impact on the creation of the first wife abuse shelter in 1970 (Klein et al. 1997). Since the 1970s the feminist organisations have called for criminalisation of domestic violence. This campaign became a strategy, a successful one in many respects (Hester 2005). As a consequence, the problem of domestic violence has been recognised as a serious issue and was mentioned within various policy documents (Radford & Gill 2006). The non-governmental organisations have played a very important role among governmental bodies. Women’s Aid, jointly with the Refuge, are recognised and accepted by the government as expert organisations dealing with domestic violence (Hague 2005). The women’s voluntary sector was recognized as the range of agencies possessing the strongest knowledge in the area of domestic violence (Mayor of London 2001). The range of measures that are undertaken by this sector is diverse however they are mostly focused on delivering advocacy, good practice advice, code of practice and wide range of publications and research as well as newsletters (posters, leaflets) that undoubtedly influence the policy. One of the key priorities of the organisations listed below is to combat the domestic violence in England and Wales:

- Action on Elder Abuse
- Domestic Violence Intervention Project
- Citizen Advice Bureau
- Everyman Project

5 This organization works very closely with the government. For instance, the branch in England chairs the UK Women’s National Commission Violence against Women Group. Moreover, Women’s Aid cooperates with the All-Part Parliamentary Group on Domestic Violence (Harwin 2006)

6 Shelters are known as refuges in the United Kingdom (Harwin 2006)

7 Some of them had an influence on policy, for example, the report and book from which, Not worth the Paper was the evidence in the Law Commission review of domestic violence law in 1990 and led to further changes e.g. the Family Law Act Part IV (Harwin 2006)
POLICE INVOLVEMENT

The police force is the primary agency in terms of protecting the public and preventing crime. According to Harwin and Barron (2000), initially, its policies in relation to domestic violence had little impact on tackling this issue. However, the first critical point came with a Home Office Circular in 1986, where more positive activities against domestic abuse 'through a pro-arrest strategy' were introduced (Harne & Radford 2008). Seeing this approach, the Home Office issued the Circular 60/90 where it was advised to recognise domestic violence as a serious crime and to introduce special domestic violence officers within the police services. In addition to this, police officers were encouraged to liaise with voluntary organizations (ibid). Some of the significant changes regarding
the response to domestic abuse include variations in police service, which begun from creating Domestic Violence Units in early 1990s and now are consolidated at national level (Harwin 2006). There are a number of police domestic violence units, which have staff specially trained to help people experiencing domestic violence. At the moment, many police authorities have special domestic violence units and ‘Domestic Violence Liaison Officers’ (Smartt 2006). Moreover, police officers work closely with other charities and organisations to prevent domestic violence (IDVAs, CPS, ISVAs etc.). The Met's (Metropolitan Police) Domestic Violence Working Group has representation from victim support organisations, advocacy services and other partner organisations.

POLICE SERVICES

A very important achievement for the Police Services was the adoption by the Association of Chief Police Officers of the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and Honour-Based Violence (DASH) a various risk assessment models in order to estimate the potential danger caused by domestic violence (Home Office 2009a). Moreover, SARA’s guide (Spousal Assault Risk Assessment) is gaining more interest from police and probation service in United Kingdom, as it is a fast developing interviewing tool in risk management for domestic violence (Radford 2004). Another example of adopting a risk assessment model is SPECSS: Separation (child contact), Pregnancy, Escalation, (attacks happen more often), Cultural Issues, Stalking and Sexual Assault (Smartt 2006).

Currently there are attempts to improve the domestic violence victim-assistance system with so-called ‘Go’ order (Domestic Violence Protection Order). Due to new regulations, the police will be able to give evidence on the victim’s behalf – using statements from other witnesses (e.g. neighbours, family and friends) and evidence of previous violent behaviour by the perpetrator. Breach of an Order would lead to the perpetrator being brought back to the Court for contempt which can lead to imprisonment.

The multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) is a forum where multiple agencies (e.g. schools, victim support agencies, health services, social services, probation, prison services) get together to provide a local, co-ordinated response for those at the highest risk of domestic violence

If someone is assessed as at very high risk of domestic abuse (e.g. s/he has scored very high on a standard risk assessment), s/he will be referred to the MARAC, a monthly meeting chaired by the police. It is intended to share information about very high risk clients in order to prevent homicide, develop a safety plan, put all possible support in place and lower the risk as soon as possible. Over 200 local areas have MARACs in place which over the last 12 months have worked to protect over 29,000 victims of domestic abuse. MARAC assembles parties from various fields e.g. police, probation, health, housing etc. (Home Office 2009a).

UK HUMAN TRAFFICKING CENTRE
The UK Human Trafficking Centre is the first of its kind institution in Europe is led by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) in Sheffield. The Centre will coordinate and direct the country's law enforcement dealing with this complex crime. The unique multi-agency nature of the centre's team combines the experts of law enforcement with those of other disciplines that would work on the human trafficking problem. These include academic experts, victim care organisations, representatives of the Crown Prosecution Service and the Serious and Organised Crime Agency, and the Immigration and Nationality Directorate. The Human Trafficking Centre provides also specialist advice and guidance to police and partner agencies. (www.homeoffice.gov.uk).

EMPLOYERS
The Corporate Alliance Against Domestic Violence aims to raise awareness of and take action to reduce the social and economic impact of domestic violence in the workplace as well as shape policy in this matter. The Alliance chair is Baroness Scotland QC, who is also chair of the Inter Ministerial Group on Domestic Violence. Representatives from The Body Shop International advise Baroness Scotland in the process and development of the Alliance.

In addition to the chair and The Body Shop, the strategic direction of the Alliance is managed by an executive team. This group assembles representatives from AOL/Time Warner, BBC, KPMG, Vodafone, Department of Health and NHS Employers (http://www.caadv.org).

Overall, the domestic violence issue requires engagement of numerous agencies at national and local level. Nevertheless, the strategy or response to family violence should not be approached as a ‘one size fits all’ system, as ‘different institutions speak different languages’, therefore multi approach, if working effectively, is desirable. Despite many improvements in the domestic violence
policy in England and Wales observed over the last few years, it is difficult to measure the quality of these initiatives. Lack of evaluation of existing policies and strategies hinders a reasonable assessment of the policies mentioned in this report.

Further, it seems that domestic violence policy is not only differentiated between national and local parties but is also differentiated geographically. Fragmented and uneven services, regional discrepancies result in varying levels and quality of the response/service for domestic violence victims (Radford & Gill 2006).

Undoubtedly, family policy in England and Wales needs to be integrated with the domestic violence strategy (Harwin 2006) as contact between children and abusive men/woman might further endanger victims. The government policies on crime reduction have been contradicted by the approach to the family, which has given, in this case, fathers broader recognition of their parental rights (by involving them in care). The strengthening of fathers’ rights and duties may have allowed violent parents to abuse their partners and children even after separation (Radford 2004).

It is worth noting that future policies devoted to the problem of domestic violence might be linked to cost to society resulting directly or indirectly from experiencing this abuse. As Walby (2004) estimates, the most financially strained agencies are social services (£25 billion per year), housing (£16 billion per year), civil legal assistance (£3 billion per year), employment sector (£2.7 billion per year), health and medical care (£1.2 billion per year) and the Criminal Justice System (£1 billion per year).

Further, there is no clear funding source for the interlinking of domestic violence services (Hague 2005). It is even more complex when dealing with funding of refuge and children’s services across the UK (Harwin & Brown 2000). The current policy circumvents this problem in all essential documents.

Moreover, as Young (1999) points out, there is a consistent path of criminalising the domestic abuse problem. For the purpose of preserving the balance in legal services, policy should include more training for solicitors from both civil and criminal fields. Too much attention is given to the criminal justice system, thus civil remedies are not being successfully delivered because of lack of knowledge (Burton 2009).

As figures show, 750,000 cases of domestic violence are reported to the police each year, from which just 200,000 incidents result in the arrest of the perpetrator (www.politics.co.uk). Therefore, legal remedies do not seem to be the sole solution for domestic violence problem. The limits of the legal response to domestic violence need to be realised. Only a small proportion of men have
contact with the criminal justice system, therefore complementary, preventive and local community remedies are desirable (Lewis 2004).

The migration policy, which was absent in the review, is also linked to the domestic violence issue as the immigration status of women might be dependent on their husbands and the power imbalances within a marriage are further weighed against women by law (Sundari 2008). A threat of deportation might be a constraining factor in reporting the incident of domestic abuse, thus future policy recommendations should recognise this matter as a serious one.

The policy diversification means that not all groups are sufficiently protected and not sufficiently investigated as far as domestic violence problem is concerned. Prisoners, people with mentally health problems and learning disabilities, migrant groups, prostitutes also should be provided with appropriate services which seems to be absent in policy proposals.

4.6. SWEDEN

- In spring 1998 the Riksdag passed the government bill on Violence against Women (Kvinnofrid 1997/98:55) with an extensive programme of measures to fight violence against women. A detailed account of the contents of the bill was given in the previous report. A description is given below of what has happened since then.

- On 1 September 2003 amendments were made to the Restraining Order Act. The new provisions meant that a restraining order could be extended to a greater geographical area than today, and also that a restraining order can refer to the joint dwelling.

- A National Council for the Protection of Women against Violence was established in 2000. The purpose was to constitute an advisory body and a forum where the government could exchange experiences and ideas with representatives of organisations and researchers involved in these issues, as well as drawing attention to areas that still need to be dealt with. The Council submitted a final report in 2003 with advice on how the government should work to combat violence committed by men against women.
- In 2001 the 1998 Sexual Crimes Committee submitted its report “Sexualbrotten Ett ökat skydd för den sexuella integriteten och angränsande frågor” (Sexual crimes: Increased protection of sexual integrity and associated questions) to the government. In 2003 the Minister for Justice presented the main outline in a draft bill for new sexual crime legislation. One of the changes proposed was that the concept of rape would be extended. Further, a number of important changes concerning children were proposed, see section L. “En ny sexualbrottslagstiftning” (New legislation on sexual crimes) came into force on 1 April 2005.

- The Personal Safety Committee presented an interim report in 2002 “Nationell handlingsplan mot våld i nära relationer” (National plan of action against violence in close relationships). This proposes a number of measures intended to increase protection primarily for women exposed to violence. The proposals are at present being processed within the government offices.

- The National Board of Health and Welfare has taken the initiative of formalised co-operation between agencies, in which agencies within the judicial system, for example, are included. A website has been opened, “Kvinnofridsportalen” with information on violence against women and examples from various activities within the area. The portal is mainly directed towards the occupational groups that meet vulnerable women in their work, for example police, health care professionals and social workers. In spring 2004 a six-week long internet conference was held at the “Kvinnofrid” portal.

- The National Prison and Probation Administration’s survey of existing methods of treatment of men found guilty of violent and sex crimes shows that programmes are being run for men sentenced at seven non-institutional treatment units and five correctional institutions. Sweden arranged an international research conference on treatment methods in 2000.

- Within the judiciary educational measures are being taken on gender equality issues. An area given particular priority is information on crimes of human trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation and the courts’ treatment of vulnerable women, such as victims of different forms of sexual crime.
- The police have improved education and forms of co-operation. Several family violence units and special investigators have been added to the police authorities. Preventive work is being carried out, for example by making threat scenario analyses in order to be able at an early stage to determine the risks existing that a woman victim will encounter repeated violence from a relation.

- The government has been fighting violence against women and girls in the name of honour for several years and supports the girls and women who risk exposure to this violence from their families. The situation of boys and men is also examined. The government has, for example, instructed authorities to spread knowledge and improve the situation for families with concepts of honour, as well as allocating project funds to enable voluntary organisations and religious communities to work preventively. The government has also carried out a series of knowledge seminars with representatives of government agencies, religious communities, women’s crisis centres and immigrant organisations. The Marriage Act has been amended so that the same age limits apply to everyone who wishes to be married under Swedish law, i.e. 18 years.

- The county administrative boards have made a survey on behalf of the government of the need for protected housing for girls at risk of being exposed to violence in the name of honour. Surveys show that there are about 1500-2000 young people at risk of exposure to violence in the name of honour and of these 10-15 percent are assessed to be in need of protected housing. In 2004 60 new places in protected housing will be ready for use.

- The government gives financial support to women’s crisis centres, men’s crisis centres and other organisations that work against violence against women, both in Sweden and abroad. In 2002 the government also allocated funds to women’s crisis centres for projects for girls and women of foreign origin exposed to violence, women with functional disabilities and women with problems of substance abuse.
Future measures

- A special investigator has been instructed to follow up and evaluate from a gender power perspective the terms of reference jointly applicable to individual agencies issued in connection with the bill on Violence against Women. The report “Slag i luften, en utredning om myndigheter, mansvåld och makt” was submitted on 13 December 2004. The proposals in the report are being prepared within the Government Offices during the autumn of 2005.

- A special investigator has also been instructed to find forms for a reorganisation of the Swedish National Centre for Raped and Battered Women into a national institute. A report was submitted in December 2004 and its proposals are being prepared within the Government Offices during autumn 2005.

- After the proposals in the above reports have been presented, the government will determine how the work of combating violence committed by men against women is to continue.

- The government has decided to allocate a total of SEK 180 million in the period 2003 – 2007 to stimulate the establishment of protected housing for young people at risk of exposure to violence in the name of honour. The funds may also be used for personnel training, efforts to change attitudes etc. Attention is also to be drawn to the situation of young people threatened due to their sexual orientation. Furthermore, the Government will be providing the County administrative boards with a total of SEK 34.5 million to efforts directed to young people at risk of exposure to violence in the name of honour.

- As mentioned above a legislation project is in progress to further strengthen the protection of women’s sexual integrity and rights of self-determination.

- The police report annually to the government as to what measures have been taken and what results have been achieved to prevent and combat violence against women. Educational measures concerning gender equality questions within the judiciary will be intensified in the coming years.
**Sweden’s efforts to combat prostitution and trafficking in human beings**

The Swedish Government has long given priority to combating prostitution and human trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation as well as other forms of trafficking in human beings. This objective is central to strengthening women’s and girls’ economic, social and political position in society and an important part of Sweden’s goal of achieving equality between women and men, at a national level as well as internationally.

**Legislation against Prostitution and Trafficking in Human Beings**

**The Law that Prohibits the Purchase of a Sexual Service**

Under the Penal Code, Chapter 6, section 11, the purchase of a sexual service is prohibited. A person who obtains casual sexual relations in exchange for payment shall be sentenced - unless the act is punishable under the Swedish Penal Code - for the purchase of sexual services to a fine or imprisonment for at most six months. Attempts to purchase a casual sexual service are also punishable.

On April 1, 2005, the legislation prohibiting the purchase of a sexual service was extended to include cases where the payment has been promised or made by some one else.

The offence comprises all forms of sexual services, whether they are purchased on the street, in brothels, in so-called massage parlours, from escort services or in other similar circumstances. Since the Act came into force, there has been a dramatic drop in the number of women in street prostitution, according to information provided by the police and social services. Criminalization has also meant that the number of men who buy sexual services has fallen, as has the recruitment of women into prostitution.

The law prohibiting the purchase of a sexual service is an important factor in the preventive work in combating trafficking in humans for purposes of sexual exploitation and in protecting the women
and children who are or are at risk of being drawn into prostitution by buyers and procurers. Public support for the law prohibiting the purchase of sexual services is widespread and growing.

**Prohibition of the Purchase of a Sexual Act of a Child**

On April 1, 2005, a new section was added to the Swedish Penal Code (ch. 6, s. 9), criminalizing the purchase of a sexual act of a child. The crime is punishable by a fine or imprisonment for a maximum of two years.

**Monitoring by the National Board of Health and Social Welfare**

As stated in the Government bill “Violence Against Women” (prop. 1997/98:55 *Kvinnofrid*) the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare is charged to undertake development work on questions concerning violence against women and on prostitution. This includes continuously monitoring and compiling knowledge of the extent of prostitution in Sweden and of the measures taken within the social services agencies. So far the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare has completed two reports. The latest, which was published in June 2004, concluded that the number of individuals in street prostitution in the three major cities has declined since the Act came into force, as has the number of men who buy or attempt to buy persons for prostitution purposes.

These conclusions are in accordance with information given by National Criminal Investigation Department of the National Police (NCID) in their yearly report. According to their 2003-2004 reports, the prohibition of the purchase of sexual services deters traffickers from establishing in Sweden and functions as a barrier against trafficking in human beings.

**Procuring**

According to Chapter 6, section 12, of the Swedish Penal Code, anyone who promotes or encourages or improperly exploits for commercial purposes casual sexual relations entered into by another person in exchange for payment is guilty of a criminal offence and shall be sentenced to imprisonment for at most four years for the crime of procuring. If the crime is aggravated, imprisonment for at least two and at the most eight years shall be imposed. Attempt, preparation for and conspiracy to commit procuring or gross procuring, as well as failure to reveal such crimes, are also criminalized. When judging whether it is a case of gross procuring, consideration is taken to
whether the particular case has involved an extensive operation, considerable gain or ruthless exploitation of another person.

Promotion can take various forms: examples include operating a brothel, letting premises for purposes of prostitution or helping a buyer find prostituted persons.

**Legislation that Criminalizes All Forms of Trafficking in Human Beings**

On July 1, 2002, legislation that imposed criminal liability for trafficking in human beings for sexual purposes entered into force in Sweden. On July 1, 2004, in order to implement the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Crime along with the EU Council framework decision on combating trafficking in human beings (2002/629/RIF), amendments were made to the Swedish legislation. The amendments extended criminalization to all forms of trafficking in persons, including trafficking within national borders and for the purpose of, for example, forced labor or exploitation for removal of organs.

**Time-limited Residence Permits for Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings**

On October 1, 2004, a new provision regarding the possibility to issue a time-limited residence permit will be inserted into the Swedish Aliens Act. The time-limited residence permit may be issued to a victim or witness of, among other crimes, trafficking in human beings, if this is deemed necessary in order to conclude a preliminary investigation or the main proceedings in a criminal case. During their stay in Sweden, the victims and witnesses will be entitled to health care and medical attention as well as social welfare.

According to the *Social Services Act*, (ch. 2, s. 2), the municipal authorities carry the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that all its residents receive support and assistance they require. Accordingly, the municipalities as well as regional health care authorities will be reimbursed by the state for the actual costs incurred. Following an EU-Directive on Third Country Citizens, Sweden intends to amend the legislation to allow a thirty day reflection period for victims of trafficking in human beings and a minimum period of six months for a permit acquired.

**National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings**
In accordance with the 1997 declaration of the European Union, the NCID has been charged with being the national rapporteur on trafficking in human beings. The NCID annually compiles and analyses information on trafficking in human beings in Sweden as well as between Sweden and other countries and gives recommendations on how trafficking in human beings can be prevented and counteracted. It reports regularly to the Swedish Government through its annual situation reports regarding trafficking in human beings in Sweden. In the country’s 21 police authorities there are contact persons who co-operate with the national rapporteur on trafficking in human beings. Some police authorities have created special units that work specifically against human trafficking and prostitution.

**Funding for Law Enforcement**

In 2003, the Government earmarked funds for the National Police to be used for combating trafficking in human beings. The extra funding totals SEK 30 million divided over a three year period (2004 – 2006). According to the NCID this money will be allocated to the 21 police districts for different measures of combating trafficking of human beings.

**National Action Program against Trafficking in Human Beings**


The National Action Plan for the continued work against prostitution and trafficking in human beings for sexual purposes, especially women and children, will include a survey of previous measures against prostitution and trafficking in human beings, special preventative measures to counteract the demand of human beings, especially women and children, for purposes of prostitution and trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation and proposals of protection and support to victims of prostitution and trafficking in human beings.

The Action Plan will also include development of the work within the justice system, police and social services as well as measures to promote and enhance the protection of human rights and to
even out the social, political and economical inequalities in countries of origin and countries of transit that further prostitution and trafficking in human beings. Since trafficking in human beings is a crime that often exceeds borders and involves countries of origin, countries of transit and countries of destination, the continued work will be pursued in cooperation over national borders.

The National Action Plan for the continued work against trafficking in human beings for sexual purposes, especially women and children, will be completed in the fall of 2005. The National Action Plan for combating trafficking in human beings for the purpose of forced labor, removal of organs and other forms of exploitation is to be completed in the fall of 2006.

**Prevention of Prostitution and Trafficking in Human Beings**

The Swedish Government prioritizes preventative measures, including information, awareness raising and knowledge compilation of prostitution and trafficking in human beings in Sweden; regionally and nationally.

**Project against Prostitution and Trafficking in Women and Girls in the Barents Region**

In 2003, Sweden initiated a joint project to combat prostitution and trafficking in human beings in the Barents region together with Finland, Norway and Russian. The over arching purpose of the project is to combat trafficking of women and girls for the purpose of prostitution from Murmansk and Archangelsk oblast to the northern parts of Sweden, Finland and Norway. This project has two main objectives: measures to discourage Nordic men from buying and exploiting Russian women and girls for prostitution purposes, and measures that are intended to enhance the situation of women and girls in north-western Russia in order to strengthen their position in society.

The project includes a mapping of existing and potential possibilities of cooperation between public authorities, non-governmental organizations and other key figures in the struggle against trafficking in women and girls with the aim of improving competence and cooperation between them. Cooperation with the indigenous populations in the region is also of particular importance. The project will continue until 2006.

**Task Force Against Trafficking in Human Beings in the Barents- Arctic Region**

In 2003, at a meeting with the heads of government of Sweden, Norway, Finland and the Russian Federation in Kirkenes, Norway, a regional Task Force to combat trafficking in human beings was
appointed at Sweden’s initiative. The Task Force’s work will initially be directed at improving cooperation between law-enforcing agencies, and will in the long run focus on all relevant sectors.

Joint Initiative against Prostitution and Trafficking in Human Beings with the United States of America

Sweden and the United States of America (The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons) are undertaking a joint initiative for bilateral cooperation to combat prostitution and trafficking in human beings in Europe during the years 2004 – 2006. The joint initiative, which is carried out in partnership with two international non-governmental organizations, the European Women’s Lobby and Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, aims to increase awareness about and develop strategies to combat prostitution and trafficking in human beings for sexual purposes. The project is carried out in twelve countries, among those Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Hungary, Moldavia and Serbia-Montenegro.

Nordic-Baltic Pilot Project for the Support, Protection, Safe Return, and Rehabilitation of Women Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings for Sexual Exploitation

The Swedish government has proposed as a joint initiative, and the Nordic Baltic Taskforce against Trafficking in Human Beings is implementing, a Nordic-Baltic pilot project for the support, protection, safe return, and rehabilitation of women victims of trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation. The European Women’s Lobby coordinates the project, which aims to reinforce the capacity and improve the models for victim support in and between the Nordic and Baltic countries.

This three-year project will include an assessment of existing practices, identification of good practices models, and development of new gender sensitive methods that better respond to the needs of the victims. The project includes the setting up a Regional Nordic-Baltic Network, incorporating public agencies and NGOs. The Network will develop a regional program designed to provide for the legal, social, economic, medical and psychological care, safety and protection of the victims of trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation in the countries of destination. It will also facilitate the safe return and reintegration of victims of trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation, who want to return to their country of origin, ensuring that the victims have access to necessary services to support their rehabilitation.
**Nordic Baltic Campaign against Trafficking in Women**

In June 2001, at an informal Nordic-Baltic ministerial meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania, the Swedish Minister for Gender Equality initiated a joint campaign against trafficking in women in the Nordic and Baltic Countries. The Nordic and Baltic Ministers for Gender Equality and the Icelandic Minister of Justice present at the meeting agreed to plan and carry out the joint information and awareness campaign. Later the same year, the Nordic Ministers of Justice decided to participate in the Campaign. The actual campaign took place during the year 2002, with some activities in the Baltic countries being carried over into year 2003. The campaign was implemented in close co-operation with non-governmental organizations.

The Swedish campaign had as its overall objective to increase the awareness and knowledge about prostitution and the global trafficking in women through information to, and education and training of government and other public authorities, non-governmental organizations, the media and the public. The national campaign also focused on different measures directed towards buyers and potential buyers of prostituted women and children, mostly girls, in Sweden, as well as towards those men who travel to other countries for the specific purpose of buying and exploiting women and children in prostitution. In June 2004, the Nordic Council of Ministers published the final report of the Nordic-Baltic Campaign Against trafficking in Women.

**Declaration by Nordic Baltic Ministers on Cooperation against Trafficking in Human Beings**

An informal ministerial meeting for the Nordic and Baltic Ministers for Gender Equality took place in Stockholm, Sweden in April 2003. At this meeting, the governments of the eight countries that participated in the Nordic-Baltic Campaign Against Trafficking in Women agreed on a number of concrete measures for the continuing long-term co-operation between the Nordic and Baltic countries. These measures include an agreement to develop and implement national action plans against trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, no later than year 2005 and development and implementation of different measures to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, that leads to trafficking in human beings, following the directions in Article 9.5 of UN *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*.

**Nordic Baltic Taskforce on Trafficking in Human Beings**
On August 26, 2002, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Nordic and Baltic countries decided to appoint a Nordic Baltic Task Force Against Trafficking in Human Beings. The main purposes of the Task Force is to facilitate co-ordination and oversee the work against trafficking in human beings and to enhance the treatment of the issue on a political level in all participating countries. The Task Force Against Trafficking in Human Beings is currently planning a multi-lateral cooperative project for the safe and planned return and re-integration of victims of trafficking in human beings for sexual purposes.

On January 11, 2003, in connection with the ten-year anniversary of the Barents Euro–Artic Council, a meeting with the heads of government of Sweden, Norway, Finland and the Russian Federation was held in Kirkenes, Norway. In order to follow a joint commitment, made at that meeting, to stop trafficking in human beings, a regional Task Force was formed with participants from Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden.

**Screenings of the Film *Lilja 4-ever*** in Swedish High Schools

During 2003 and 2004, a special subsidy from the Division for Gender Equality at the Swedish Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications has enabled the Swedish Film Institute to provide high-schools with screenings of the film “Lilja 4-ever”. So far the film has been seen by approximately 30 000 students. In May 2004, as part of this initiative, the Swedish Film Institute published an anthology inspired by the film, to be used as a guide for teachers and students. The book contains articles by researchers, journalists and young people about prostitution, trafficking in persons, aspects of sexuality, equality, pornography and the views of men and women presented in the media.

The Swedish Institute (SI) is a public agency entrusted with disseminating knowledge abroad about Sweden as well as organizing exchanges with other countries in the spheres of culture, education, research and public life in general. The Swedish Institute regularly organizes seminars abroad, with lectures by Swedish experts, on Sweden’s policies and legislation concerning prostitution and trafficking in human beings in cooperation with the Division for Gender Equality and Swedish embassies and consulates. These seminars have been organized in the approximately 15 countries, including new member states of the EU, Russia, and countries in Western Europe.
Seminars and Workshops on Prostitution and Trafficking in Human Beings Organized by the Division for Gender Equality

In collaboration with the NCID, the Division for Gender Equality regularly organizes seminars and workshops for members of law enforcement, including prosecutors, police officers and officers in training about the Swedish policies and legislation concerning prostitution and trafficking in human beings.

The Division for Gender Equality regularly organizes seminars on Swedish policies and legislation concerning prostitution and trafficking in human beings for members of public authorities, journalists, non-governmental organizations and students in Sweden and internationally.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Programs

Within the framework of the EU regional co-operation with Africa and Asia, as part of the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM), the Government has taken the initiative for joint measures against human trafficking.

Strategy for Fighting Human Trafficking within the Framework of Sweden’s Development Co-operation and Poverty Reduction

In 2003 the Swedish Government decided to put into place a strategy for fighting human trafficking within the framework of Sweden’s development co-operation and poverty reduction. SIDA (the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) has been charged to implement the strategy in concrete terms by strengthening relevant parts of the operative development co-operation.

4.7. HUNGARY
4.8. SPAIN
5. COMPARATIVE MATRIX
6. CONCLUSIVE REMARKS

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