

Summary of contributions

Ladislav Klika – MindBridge Consulting, a. s.

International research on Teenage Dating Violence – prevalence and coping strategies

The outcomes of a new research conducted by proFem – Center for victims of Domestic and Sexual violence, o. p. s. and MindBridge Consulting, a. s. were presented and provided insight into the topic of teen dating violence. The quantitative research, conducted using representative samples, has gathered data on youths aged 16 to 26 from Austria, Croatia, Czechia, Georgia and Spain. There was a questionnaire with 42 items covering physical, psychological, sexual and economic forms of violence, which was created after consultations with experts and focus groups with youths took place. Depending on the severity of the described situations, some of them counted as an act of intimate partner violence (IPV) by themselves, while others had to be of repeated occurrence or combined with other situations to be counted as one.

81% of respondents had experience with being in a relationship. Out of those, 61% have experienced a certain vi-

olent act or acts. Rates of intimate partner violence ranged from 23% in Spain (this could be attributed to a wide range of legislative measures that have been adopted) to 33% reported in Czechia, which showed the highest occurrence of physical violence and a significant pattern of violence affecting mostly young women. Results from Georgia suggested poor prevention measures, on the other hand there was a markedly low amount of long-term violence. Mr. Klika pointed out that youths were much more likely to choose breaking-up or telling their friends to try to solve the situation over approaching their parents, and that attempts made to solve the situation were efficient, worsening only 6% of the cases. Total IPV rates were not far below the figures known for adult relationships. The fact that 12% of respondents reported suicidal thoughts as a result of the violence they endured deserves our serious attention. ■



Dana Pokorná – proFem, o. p. s. – Center for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence

Specifics of working with teen and young adult victims of intimate partner violence

Adolescents find themselves in a complexly difficult period of life. Their lack of dating experience, special importance of peers and social idols as well as insufficiently developed coping mechanisms make them vulnerable. Myths and stereotypes, e.g. the idea that suffering is a natural part of love, are partially responsible for (mis)orienting teenagers. Moreover, social media and smartphones make them more track-



able and enable violence to spread faster. Research shows that young people who have experienced intimate partner violence are more likely to suffer from psychological and mental disorders like PTSD or adopt self-harming practices.

Ms. Pokorná has emphasized the importance of addressing the needs of teenage victims specifically as these can vary from those of adult victims. This includes reaching out to them and motivating them to seek help and giving them enough time to build trust. It is also crucial to understand what communication means are natural and comfortable for them – e.g. frequent use of applications or their preference of chat over phone calls. On various levels, assistance can be provided by peer consultants who have for example made a positive impact during the recent Love and Respect project. As long as they realize the limits of their role (i.e. not trying to substitute experts), they can use their ability to relate with peers to become intermediaries, to direct young victims towards help, to make them feel welcome and safe and to decrease their feelings of guilt. While discussing the definition of intimate partner violence among teens and young adults, Ms. Pokorná has accented its high occurrence online and lower significance of economic violence in this age group. ■

Pavla Klimešová – “Caught in the Net” (V síti), a Czech documentary film

Documentary about online child abuse – a psychosocial experiment

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Martin Szcrupak – Ministry of Solidarity and Health, France French initiatives focusing on Teen Dating Violence and Cybercrime prevention

In 2014 12.5% of children were affected by cyber harassment, by 2018, about 70% of women had been subjected to violence online, at the same time 92% of sexist terms used were not being deleted by online platforms. In May 2019 the G7 Gender Equality Ministers meeting declared combating digital abuse its priority. From the French perspective, prevention and prosecution are two tools interconnected in this effort. Prevention programs educate teenagers by providing their teachers and parents with the training and resources necessary. Regarding prosecution, Law on Real Equality Between Women and Men makes online harassment an offense. Mobbing and sharing have also been included in the definition since 2018. The recently passed law against online hatred enables the authorities to fine websites that don't delete sexist insults off their platform up to 1.25 million €. ■



Juliána Silvie Kamas and Martin Jůza – Krutart, s. r. o. Successful campaign – the principles and elements of effective campaigning from the perspective of a media agency / Video as a powerful tool



The endeavor of creating a successful campaign should always begin with three basic questions. Who? Who do I want to communicate with, who is my audience? Where? Where can I meet the audience and where to launch the campaign? What? What is my message, what should the audience do after seeing our advertisement? Video does a perfect job when it comes to catching one's attention. The important thing, however, is to reach the right people and to have a desirable effect on the target group, which requires considering all the steps together and in respect to our specific goals.

Campaigns from Krutart's production like the one [against battery cages](#) or for the Brno Metropolitan Police ("[Brno-Cop](#)") can provide inspiration. In the latter case, audience of 25–35-year-olds was approached via a catchy "8-bit" animation with boring and annoying "ticket givers" turning into "heroes", which motivated potential candidates to visit the landing page of Brno police. It was important to maintain the same visual style and simple form of communication with the website. The campaign has led to a 200% increase in applications. ■

Hanne Finanger – Øst Politidistrikt, FEF, Risk Assessment Section

The Norwegian Police's Web/cyber patrol – how to use Facebook as a tool/channel to raise awareness about domestic violence, sexual abuse etc.



Cyber patrols, teams consisting of one expert on digital media and three young police officers, operate on social media in the police's attempt to fully inhabit the virtual arena where part of our lives has moved. Their mission is to prevent online crime and to represent police on the internet (they remain a "regular police patrol"), to serve as a point of contact

for the public, and to reveal, identify and report cybercrime. Apart from answering citizen's concerns, cyber patrols produce or repost educational texts and videos on the topic of domestic violence and internet-related sex abuse which include relevant contact information and links. They also tackle hate crime and prevent drug abuse. This ambitious project finds itself in the early stages, with resources still being developed and regrouped, thus it is yet to reach the full 24/7 presence on social media or the participation of every police district. Despite all that, their Facebook posts have been viewed by over 3.5 million users and have attracted wide media attention during the five first months, proving that even a relatively simple, "low-cost" approach can have a meaningful impact.

Keeping ongoing trends in mind, Ms. Finanger underlined the rising threat of sharing intimate photos with third parties being able to access sensitive materials quickly and easily on social media. Spreading information about the punishability of common cybercrime or mandatory reporting (see plik.no) are powerful tools in the fight. At the same time, it is efficient to detaboo risk behavior (like sending nudes) and to show it might in fact be less common than generally believed. ■

Jenna Shearer – Council of Europe

GREVIO reports: promising activities in awareness-raising

Awareness-raising campaigns are an inherent part of the Istanbul Convention, namely article 13 (see details in [Karin Heisecke's publication](#)). We could say that the combination of all these would make an ideal campaign: coverage of all forms of violence, wide dissemination, focus on prevention, emphasis on cooperation with local institutions, discussing child violence, regularly promoting the campaign etc. However, meeting every single one of them as a goal is not necessary for it being positively evaluated by GREVIO, as innovative initiatives like the Albanian "I choose to live without violence" campaign (addressing gender attitudes of males in the context of religiously diverse society) or the Portuguese "Don't cut the future!" (an airport campaign against female genital mutilation reflecting the interconnection between Portugal and Africa) have received positive reviews.

As Ms. Shearer has reaffirmed, violence against women arises from the sexist cultural environment that needs to be changed. The Recommendation on Preventing and Com-

bating Sexism that Council of Europe has issued, first ever international legal instrument against sexism, and a connected [action page](#) are another means of combating the problem. ■



Karin Heisecke – Expert on gender questions and international politics

Key issues to consider in the planning of awareness-raising initiatives in line with article 13 of the Istanbul Convention

Primary prevention of gender-based violence begins rather than ends with raising awareness, it facilitates a change in attitudes in the population and finally a change in behavior. It also takes place in the specific, already existing re-



gional background and in the context of other institutions, actors (for example health professionals), programs and campaigns. Thus, initiatives need to assess carefully how to choose and approach the topics, which forms of violence or audiences haven't been given enough attention and what kind of perspective towards further action or change would the initiative propose to its target group. Plans should be clear and realistic, and they should include framework for evaluation.

Balanced interplay between communication and violence-against-women experts (who often lack each other's skills) is essential both for proper planning and for spreading outcomes efficiently. A related issue is assessing (and potentially influencing) media attitudes and building actual partnerships. Full checklist for the initiatives can be found in the brochure linked above. Ms. Heisecke has also recommended "[Insights from behavioral sciences to prevent and combat violence against women](#)" as a material that can provide more insight. ■

Carolina Øverlien from Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies discussed with proFem the definition of Intimate Partner Violence Among Teens and Young Adults.





Šárka Sovová from the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic, Radan Šafařík from the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic and Lene Nilsen from the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security welcomed the participants and made brief opening remarks.



Carolina Øverlien from Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies presented some qualitative results from European study.



Lene Nilsen from Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security introduced the context of Synergy network.

