

Toward effective perpetrator programmes in line with European standards

Bridging policy, practice, and co-operation for impactful
programmes for perpetrators of domestic violence

Programme

Budapest (Hungary), 2-3 June 2026

European Youth Centre, Zivatar utca 1-3



Conference organised as a part of the Council of Europe
Ending violence against women: multi-country programme
in co-operation with the European Network for the Work
with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence (WWP EN)



Day 1 – Tuesday, 2 June

Strengthening accountability and safety: implementing effective perpetrator programmes

Conference graphic facilitator: Vanda KOVACS

08:30 – 09:00

Registration of participants

09:00 – 09:20

Introductory session

► Opening remarks

Elena Jovanovska-Brezoska, Head of Co-operation Unit, Gender Equality Division, Council of Europe

► Keynote presentation “Safety demands accountability: Why working with perpetrators is essential”

Alessandra Pauncz, Executive Director, European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence-WWP EN

9:20 – 10:50

Session 1: Perpetrator programmes and their role in ending domestic violence

Moderator and conference rapporteur: Cristina Oddone, Researcher, Centre Max Weber, France, Council of Europe consultant

Objectives:

- Clarify the role of perpetrator programmes within a victim-centred, multi-agency response.
- Present evidence on programme outcomes and societal benefits.
- Highlight perspectives of victim support services regarding safety and accountability.

Panel:

- ▶ Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) and perpetrator programmes

Helmut Tichy, member of Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) on behalf of Austria

- ▶ The role of perpetrator programmes in combating violence against women and domestic violence: national experience and system-level benefits of perpetrator work

Raul Robles Marin, psychologist, General Secretariat of Penitentiary Institutions, Ministry of the Interior, Spain

- ▶ Research evidence on outcomes and effectiveness of perpetrator programmes for domestic violence

Dr Berta Vall, Research and Development Manager, European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence

- ▶ Victim-centred perspectives: How perpetrator work can contribute to safety and wellbeing of women and children

Sara Kirkpatrick, Vice-President of the Women Against Violence Europe Network, and the Chief Executive of Welsh Women's Aid

10:50 – 11:10

Coffee break

11:10 – 12:40

Session 2: What makes a good programme? Designing effective perpetrator programmes

Moderator:

Adelina Badivuku, expert in perpetrator programmes, Council of Europe consultant

Objectives:

- ▶ Review core principles and components of effective domestic violence perpetrator programmes in line with Article 16 of the Istanbul Convention and European standards.
- ▶ Explore practical examples of aligning national programmes with European guidance.
- ▶ Examine integration of gender perspectives, technology-facilitated violence and risk management.
- ▶ Share insights from the Council of Europe technical co-operation.

Panel:

- ▶ Core principles and components of effective domestic violence perpetrator programmes in line with Article 16 of the Istanbul Convention: findings of GREVIO reports

Cristina Oddone, Researcher, Centre Max Weber, France, Council of Europe consultant

- ▶ European standards for quality perpetrator work and common implementation gaps

Sandra Jovanović Belotić, Training and Capacity Building Manager, European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence

- ▶ National practice example: applying European standards to strengthen programme quality

Uroš Gradišar, Head of Programme Social Skills Training for Perpetrators, Association for Nonviolent Communication, Slovenia

- ▶ Council of Europe technical co-operation: supporting perpetrator programme development and relevant legal framework

Artë Ademi Bajrami, Head, Office of the National Coordinator for Protection from Domestic Violence, Violence against Women, and Gender-Based Violence, Ministry of Justice

12:40 – 14:30

Lunch

14:30 – 16:00

Parallel workshops

Workshop 1: Co-operation between perpetrator programmes and victim support services

Moderators:

Sara Kirkpatrick, Vice-President of the Women Against Violence Europe Network (WAVE), and Chief executive of Welsh Women's Aid

Stephanie Futter-Orel, Executive Director, WAVE

Objectives:

- ▶ Explore effective models of co-operation ensuring victim safety, risk assessment and management, and perpetrator accountability.
- ▶ Identify barriers to collaboration and strategies to overcome them.

Topics :

- ▶ Co-operation with women's non-governmental organisations.
- ▶ Ensuring partner contact services as a core safety measure.
- ▶ Mandatory, gender-sensitive and evidence-based training for judges, lawyers, social workers, and psychologists.
- ▶ Referral pathways and inter-agency communication.
- ▶ Information-sharing protocols and confidentiality safeguards.

Workshop 2: Multi-sectoral approaches and policy integration

Moderator:

Heinrich Geldschläger, Director of Research and International Projects, Conexus Association, Spain

Objectives:

- ▶ Discuss how programmes fit within comprehensive, co-ordinated policies.
- ▶ Identify ways to strengthen law enforcement, social services, healthcare and justice sector engagement.

Topics :

- ▶ Policy alignment and national strategies.
- ▶ Funding and sustainability.
- ▶ Programmes in prison, probation, and community settings.
- ▶ Voluntary and mandatory referral routes.
- ▶ Inter-agency co-operation mechanisms (Articles 18–22).

16:00 – 16:20

Coffee break

16:20 – 17:50

Parallel workshops

Workshop 3: Monitoring, evaluation, and measuring effectiveness

Moderators:

Marianne Hester, Professor Emeritus, Centre for Gender and Violence Research, School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol, United Kingdom
Berta Vall, Research and Development Manager, European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence

Objectives:

- ▶ Identify indicators, tools, and methods to assess outcomes, risk reduction, behaviour change, and impact.
- ▶ Strengthen reporting mechanisms relevant for oversight bodies (including GREVIO).

Topics:

- ▶ Quantitative and qualitative evaluation and data collection.
- ▶ Pre/post measures and participant feedback.
- ▶ Safety outcomes for women and children.
- ▶ National reporting and accountability frameworks.

Workshop 4: Integrating a gender perspective in perpetrator programmes

Moderator:

Rory Macrae, Chair of the Board, European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence

Objectives:

- ▶ Examine why the sex of perpetrators and the gendered nature of domestic violence matter for programme design.
- ▶ Explore practical methods for integrating a gender perspective when working with male perpetrators.

Topics:

- ▶ Challenging gender-related beliefs that justify violence when working with male perpetrators.
- ▶ Power dynamics and the role of the facilitator's gender in challenging gender stereotypes.
- ▶ Levels of integration of gender perspectives in practice.
- ▶ Gender analysis and identification of power dynamics in cases when women are sent to perpetrator programmes.

17:50 – 18:00

Group photo

18:30 – 21:00

Networking reception - Garden of the Youth Centre



Day 2 – Wednesday, 3 June

9:00 – 10:30

Critical insights into the country practices (Group exercise)

The group exercise will bring together participants from the same country and engage them in reflecting on different aspects of perpetrator programme implementation. It will also provide an opportunity to reflect on and gain new insights into country-specific questions and challenges.

Moderator:

Sandra Jovanović Belotić, Training and Capacity Building Manager, European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence

Objectives:

- ▶ To encourage reflection on the alignment of the country's existing framework with the Istanbul Convention (in line with the *CoE Guidance for Safe and Effective Perpetrator Programmes: Article 16 of the Istanbul Convention*).
- ▶ To support action planning aimed at improving programme outcomes and quality.

10:30 -10:50

Coffee break (*Coffee will continue to be self-served during the World Café session*)

10:50 – 12:10

World Café

Introduction: World Café rules and issues for discussion

Larissa Kireeva, Project Manager, Co-operation Unit, Gender Equality Division, Council of Europe

The World Café methodology creates an inclusive space for dialogue, encouraging all participants to share their perspectives and build collective ideas. Participants will rotate between seven thematic tables every 20 minutes (total 3 rotations), allowing engagement with multiple discussion topics.

A table host at each station will briefly summarise previous conversations to ensure continuity and support the flow of ideas.

Questions for discussion and table hosts:

► **Table 1: Victim-centred and safety-focused approaches:**

- What are the risks if perpetrator programmes are implemented without integrating joint working with services and professionals supporting victims?
- What needs to be in place to ensure collaboration and information exchange between those working with perpetrators and those working with victims (e.g. data protection, protocols)?
- What are effective ways to ensure victim safety while working with perpetrators?

Table host: **Adelina Badivuku**, expert in perpetrator programmes, Council of Europe consultant

► **Table 2: Co-operation with victim support services:**

- What co-operation models best ensure effective information-sharing, joint risk assessments, and accountability between perpetrator programmes and specialist women's support services?

Table host: **Arezo Banafsheh**, Project Manager, Co-operation Unit, Gender Equality Division, Council of Europe

► **Table 3: Applying European standards:**

- How can national perpetrator programmes better align with European standards and the CoE Guidance to ensure quality and safety?
- How can European standards support national-level lobbying and advocacy efforts to improve the quality of perpetrator programmes?
- What are effective ways to promote European standards in your countries?

Table host: **Sandra Jovanović Belotić**, Training and Capacity Building Manager, European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence

► **Table 4: Gender-sensitive approaches:**

- What are the risks of perpetrator interventions that are not gender-informed (for victims, perpetrators, organisation, society)?
- What practical methods can help integrate a gender perspective and address gender norms when working with perpetrators?
- What mechanisms can be put in place to foster and maintain gender-informed perpetrator work in your countries?

Table host: **Rory Macrae**, Chair of the Board, European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence

► **Table 5: Multi-sectoral and policy support:**

- What are the risks if a perpetrator programme operates without close coordination with other services?

- How can perpetrator programmes support the work of other agencies and sectors through joint working and collaboration (judiciary, police, child protection services, health services)?
- What other opportunities exist for collaboration between perpetrator programmes and other services, beyond mutual referrals?

Table host: **Heinrich Geldschläger**, Director of Research and International Projects, Conexus Association, Spain

► **Table 6:** Monitoring, evaluation, and data collection:

- What do we need to measure, and when and how, in order to assess the outcomes of our programme?
- What is the difference between risk assessment and outcome evaluation, and why are both necessary in our programmes?
- What are effective ways to establish or improve outcome evaluation in your countries?

Table host: **Berta Vall**, Research and Development Manager, European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence

► **Table 7:** Sustainability, funding, and accountability:

- What is the link between the quality and accountability of perpetrator programmes?
- What funding structures or schemes provide stability and sustainability for perpetrator programmes?
- How do we build accountability systems for supporting and funding both perpetrator programmes and victim support services?

Table host: **Alessandra Pauncz**, Executive Director, European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence

► **Table 8:** Entry pathways to perpetrator programmes

- What are the risks if a country has only one referral route to perpetrator programmes (e.g. through criminal proceedings)?
- Ideally, what should be entry pathways for perpetrator programmes in the country?
- What are the pros and cons of placing programme provision within a single service provider versus multiple service providers in one country? What factors determine the best model for a country?

Table host: **Cristina Oddone**, Researcher, Centre Max Weber, France, Council of Europe consultant

12:10 – 13:00

Conclusions of the World Café and Conference closing:

- Summary of discussions by table hosts
- Questions and answers
- Conference closing remarks by organisers.

13:00 – 14:30

Lunch

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