

Research Topics in the Areas of Domestic Violence and Gender based Violence



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FOREWORD

Dear Colleagues,

Since my appointment as Commissioner of the Commission on Domestic Violence in July 2016, I have made it a point to invest in and develop the bank of knowledge about the issue. I believe that the more evidence based information we have in hand, the better we stand in developing the right policy responses.

The University of Malta is an important partner for the Commission both as a source of knowledge but also because it offers us the opportunity to identify and attract the best talent to support our Mission. For this reason we intend to work with the University through its various departments and institutes and collaborate closely on a number of initiatives, including research projects. For this reason, we positioned ourselves well to support students who wish to take up research that is linked to issues of Domestic Violence and Gender-based Violence.

We shall support any student, coming from any faculty who wishes to carry out a research project on these themes. These may range from; studying the psychological effects of domestic violence on children to the effect on the labour market or the development of social enterprises for the victims of abuse or even the use of information technology to combat domestic and or gender-based violence. We are receptive to all good ideas that may assist in developing the best policies and improve our Nation's attitudes in favour of respect, dignity and equality.

This booklet offers a list of themes that may whet your appetite to conduct research in this specialised area of study however these are only tasters and not an exhaustive list. We welcome new proposals and we promised to support you and make this experience an enriching one for both of us.

So while wishing you the very best in your preferred areas of study, I look forward to meet many of you and explore possibilities of working and making a difference together.



Joe Gerada
COMMISSIONER



**IMPORTANT
DEFINITIONS**

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

'refers to all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit or between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim' (Council of Europe, 2011).

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

'means violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately' (Council of Europe, 2011).


INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV)

'refers to any behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm to those in the relationship' (WHO, 2012).



INTRODUCTION

**The Commission on Domestic Violence
has the pleasure to present to you
this booklet which includes a number
of topics for possible research in the area
of domestic violence and other related areas.**



The Commission on Domestic Violence was set up under Article 3 of the Domestic Violence Act (Chapter 481) on March 1, 2006 and its main role is that of advising the Minister responsible for social policy on all aspects of Domestic Violence while facilitating co-ordination of the operators in the sector and developing initiatives in favour of respect, dignity and equality.

These aspects include:

- (i) Combating negative attitudes and stereotypes, especially by raising awareness on the problem.
- (ii) Promoting positive behaviours that enhance respect for self-determination, dignity to the person irrespective of gender and other differences while celebrating equality as a basic value that needs to be enjoyed by all.
- (iii) Conducting and suggesting areas for research, recommending policy developments, and facilitating training for professional groups and significant others.
- (iv) Capacity building of the sector to ensure a robust set up that sustains development and achieves objectives.

By the end of 2017, the remit of the Commission shall broaden and shall also cover gender-based violence in all its forms. The Commission is also the focal point for GREVIO which is the monitoring committee of the Council of Europe on the issue of gender-based violence and domestic violence.

RESEARCH TOPICS



AGED/ ELDERLY

Life expectancy has increased and consequently there is greater probability for violence amongst elderly couples. NCPE conducted a qualitative research study – *Research Study on Violence on Older Women and Men* – which addresses the subject of abuse on the aged. However, this area remains less researched and presents good opportunities for new insights.

RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED:

- Children to parent violence;
- Differences in the typology and experience of violence of the aged according to the gender of survivor and perpetrator;
- Domestic violence and mental health in older adults;
- Growing old with domestic violence and gender-based violence – victims of prolonged abuse;
- Neglect, abuse and violence against older women;
- Elderly perpetrators;
- Psychological violence on the elderly;
- The use and knowledge of services of support and assistance by the elderly.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Building the capacity of a sector is critical to sustain a co-ordinated effort and progress. In this regard a given sector needs to have the capacity to drive legislation and policy, develop institutions, secure and develop the right human resource while mobilizing the community in favour of the mission at hand. Therefore, studying the factors and structures that support the sector against domestic violence and gender-based violence is important as it gives an indication of how well, the strategies and policies, will be driven and carried in the near future.

RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED:

- Analysis of the level of cohesion in policies and practices among the institutions in the sector;
- In what way does co-ordination at policy level translate into practice and how the service user perceives this;
- The history of the Commission on Domestic Violence and its role and effect in changing the public perception about domestic violence;
- How has research influenced legislation and how has the quality of human resource changed work practices in Malta;
- How can modern management practices serve the sector and how can social enterprise play a role in this regard;
- What role have Voluntary Organisations played in the sector and what factors have favoured or hindered their ability to grow and develop further;
- In what way can public institutions and Voluntary Organisations work together to make a greater and positive effect in combatting domestic violence and gender-based violence while respecting their distinct roles;
- How can emerging technologies and tools such as mobile phones and Blockchain systems, be used to increase the ability to respond fast to emergencies and accelerate coordination between operators when they need to intervene.

CHILDREN



For many children home does not represent safety and love but a place where they are exposed to violence and abuse, which unfortunately has a deep impact on their lives and their future. Furthermore, it is usually a concealed experience that takes place away from public view. This dysfunctional norm becomes a barrier to seek help. Exposing it outside the private sphere of the family and revealing it to society can cause shame and stigma (McGee, 2000; Mullender et al, 2002; Gorin, 2004; Buckley et al, 2007).

Research by University of Malta students on the theme of children and domestic violence, including child to parent abuse, were conducted. Nevertheless, this area of research has not been exhausted and still has ample room for new insights.

RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED:

- A meta-analysis on the possible intrinsic link between child-abuse/domestic violence and prostitution;
- Gender differences in how one experiences and lives with the effects of witnessing domestic or gender-based violence;
- Listening to children and young people who witnessed or have experienced domestic or gender-based violence;
- Working with adolescents who are victims or perpetrators of domestic violence;
- Preventive programmes;
- Early intervention;
- Mothers' and children's mental health and its relation to domestic violence and gender-based violence;
- Risk and resilience among surviving children and families;
- The effects of shelter services on children;
- Developing new approaches in children's social care in the context of domestic violence.

DISABILITY

International research indicates that women with disabilities are more likely to suffer domestic violence and sexual assault than women without disabilities. Women with disabilities report abuse that lasts longer and is more intense than women without disabilities.

Women with disabilities like other women are most likely to be abused by someone they know, such as a partner or family member. Women with disabilities also face the risk of abuse by health care providers or caregivers. For example, they can refuse to help with daily needs like bathing, dressing, or eating (Violence Against Women, 2015). This area of study still under researched and offer ample room for further insights.

RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED:

- Caregiver violence against people with disabilities;
- Disability and domestic abuse: risks, effects and response;
- Domestic violence against women with disabilities.
- IPV on women with disabilities.

ECONOMIC ABUSE



This is a form of domestic abuse where the partner controls the other's access to economic resources. In this regards she becomes economically dependent on the perpetrator. Self-sufficiency facilitates the victim to escape an abusive relationship and to gain independence from the perpetrator. For many people domestic violence is synonymous with physical cuts and bruises, but damage to credit and not having access to money can make it hard for survivors to become economically independent. This area of study offers great opportunity for research as it is one of the areas that have been less researched.

RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED:

- Economic abuse and its impacts on women and children experiencing domestic violence;
- Perception and awareness of economic abuse - this can focus on the public, service providers and the victims themselves;
- Services and assistance to victims on the different manifestations of economic abuse.

EMPLOYMENT

Research suggests that economic independence impacts strongly on whether a victim will return or stay away from their abuser. However, violence often endangers the survivors' ability to maintain a job. There are many contributing factors to this: the survivor may need time-off for court appearances or medical check-ups, or there may be interference or sabotage by the perpetrator. In this regard, women experiencing domestic violence are more likely than other women to be unemployed, to suffer from health problems that can affect employability and job performance, to report lower personal income, and to rely on welfare benefits. This important area of research shall be useful to raise awareness among employers and managers about such situations.

RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED:

- Community awareness and employers' cooperation;
- What role, if any, does an organization's policy play to assist employees who are victims of domestic violence or gender-based violence;
- Domestic violence and gender-based violence at the workplace;
- Employment and empowerment of survivors;
- The survivor's economic independence and job security.

FAMILY

Domestic violence within the family environment can be defined by its contextual elements such as relationships, location of offences, and/or domestic arrangements; and may be interpreted differently depending on the particular legal, policy, service provision, or research view being taken (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2009). Such dynamics offer great opportunities for research and while various aspects have been studied, the area still offers interesting issues that give wider insight into the implications of violence in the family.

RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED:

- Violence amongst migrant families;
- Engaging with families experiencing violence;
- Mental health in relation to a family life affected by violence;
- Sustained deep interventions with families;
- Violent fathers, their effect on the family and responses;
- Violent mothers, their effect on the family and responses.

FEMICIDE

Femicide is generally understood to involve intentional murder of women only because they are women, but broader definitions include any killings of women or girls. Femicide is usually perpetrated by men, but sometimes female family members may be involved. Femicide differs from male homicide in specific ways.

Most cases of femicide are committed by partners or ex-partners, and involve ongoing abuse in the home, threats or intimidation, sexual violence or situations where women have less power or fewer resources than their partner (World Health Organisation, 2012). This area still offers great opportunity for further insight about the local experience and the local conditions that encourage or preclude the advent of such crimes.

RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED:

- Femicide in the Maltese islands;
- Femicide and its portrayal in the media;
- Developing interventions for family members of femicide victims;
- Gender-based perception of femicide;
- What is the correlation, if any, between gender-based violence and other characteristics such as age, race or religion.

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

Female genital mutilation (FGM) includes procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. This form of gender-based violence is a relatively new form of violence for the Maltese islands. It is internationally recognized as a violation of the human rights of girls and women. It denotes firmly embedded gender inequality and is an extreme form of discrimination against women. FGM is generally carried out on minors and is a violation of the rights of children. The practice of FGM is also violation of a person's rights to health, security and physical integrity, the right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and the right to life when the procedure results in death (WHO, 2016). As a new experience for Malta this area lends itself to a wide range of insights.

RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED:

- The perception of FGM in Malta;
- Qualitative research from a psycho-social perspective – the psychological and social implications of being an FGM survivor living in Malta;
- Qualitative and/or quantitative research from a health perspective, taking both the practitioners' point of view as well as that of the survivors;
- What role does education play to eliminate FGM in the Maltese context?
- What are, if any, the connection or links between FGM and sex work?

FINANCIAL ABUSE

The following definition derives from that of economic abuse created by Adams et al. (2008). Whilst the terms financial abuse and economic abuse are often used interchangeably within the intimate partner abuse literature, they do not mean the same thing. Financial abuse is certainly a feature of economic abuse and involves similar behaviors but it applies specifically to financial resources (i.e. money) and not to all economic resources such as food, telephones and transport (Littwin, 2012).

Financial abuse is often misunderstood but can have a devastating impact (Howard & Skip, 2015). In some instances, the coercive and controlling behavior of the perpetrator can leave the victim with no money for basic necessities.

Little is known locally about the impact that financial abuse has on women's lives, especially when taken in the context of family violence. Consequently, there is also a marked absence of specialist knowledge and information on this topic for individuals as well as for professionals. Therefore this area is another aspect of subject that offers interesting and new insights.

RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED:

- Financial abuse in Malta from a qualitative perspective;
- Local awareness and perception on financial abuse;
- The bank's role in financial abuse.

HEALTH

Domestic violence and gender-based violence create a serious health care problem. Apart from the immediate harm caused by abuse, especially physical abuse, domestic violence and gender-based violence may lead to or exacerbates a variety of chronic health problems such as depression, substance abuse and sexually transmitted diseases.

There seems to be a gap in the delivery of health care to victims of domestic violence and gender-based violence, with some health providers discharging a battered woman after the injuries are treated and leaving unaddressed the possible underlying cause of those injuries. There are also instances where, for varied reasons, the health practitioners fail to report cases of domestic violence or gender-based violence. This vital area for research is critical for policy makers.

RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED:

- Domestic and/or gender-based violence: a hidden cause of chronic diseases;
- Treatment of domestic violence and gender-based violence injuries in hospital emergency rooms;
- Healthcare professionals: their role in the identification and response to domestic violence and gender-based violence;
- Health consequences for victims of domestic and gender-based violence;
- Hospital and social work standard procedures when encountering cases of domestic violence or gender-based violence;
- IPV and mental health problems;
- Screening and early detection of abused pregnant women;
- General screening for domestic violence and gender-based violence Health Clinics.



Malta ratified the Council of Europe Convention on prevention and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) in 2014. This Convention obliges Member States to ensure that their national laws offer the adequate protection and remedies to victims of domestic violence and gender-based violence.

The introduction of the Istanbul Convention in Maltese law necessitated the introduction of a number of legal provisions to bring in line national legislation with the Convention. An inter-Ministerial committee was set-up to identify the amendments required and it later presented the resulting recommendations to the Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties, which then further embarked upon a legislative process that included a public consultation (MSDC, 2016). So far no study has been conducted to evaluate and correlate the legislation with the strategy used to implement the convention and therefore may be an unprecedented area of study.

RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED:

- Perceptions and understanding of the Istanbul Convention and new legislation among those in the legal profession;
- Perceptions and understanding of the convention and new legislation among professionals working with survivors of domestic violence and gender-based violence such as the police force, social workers, health professionals and NGOs;
- Further research could also delve into any changes which these stakeholders would need to implement in their structures, networking habits or working systems to align with new legislation;
- The effective implementation of the new legislations as perceived by survivors and/or professionals working in the field.

LESBIAN GAY BISEXUAL TRANSEXUAL QUEER (LGBTQ)

Many lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people struggle to disclose their experiences of domestic violence and gender-based violence. LGBTQ victims fear homophobia, transphobia, sexism and other forms of discrimination and these fears prevent them from seeking help. This is an area of study that has been less researched and lends itself to new insights especially since the new legislation specifically addresses gender-based violence apart from domestic violence.

RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED:

- Gay and bisexual male domestic violence;
- IPV in queer, transgender and bisexual communities;
- LGBTQ and dating violence;
- Police attitudes and behaviours towards gay domestic violence;
- Sexual aggression perpetrated by females;
- Sexuality and gender identity: the need for education in servicing victims of domestic violence;
- The dynamics of IPV among gay and lesbian couples and its comparison to those in heterosexual IPV.

MEDIA REPRESENTATION

Media is a priority area in primary prevention because of its potential influence on public understanding of domestic violence and gender-based violence. However, media influences and reinforces the stereotypes of women as the victims of violence. Moreover, these stereotypes are assimilated in daily life as well as integrated in the judicial system. Because media and news in particular play such a role in shaping the attitudes of society, distortions and misrepresentations mislead the public (Carll, 2003). Maxwell, Huxford, Borum and Hornik (2000) state that media coverage plays a significant role in the varying perceptions of IPV as a social issue over time.

This is relatively a new area of study and lends itself to various insights that can be useful for media managers and journalists.

RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED:

- Analysis of femicide media coverage in Malta;
- Contribution of media to the normalization and perpetuation of domestic violence;
- Media portrayal of domestic violence;
- Sensationalism and stereotypes in reporting domestic violence and gender-based violence;
- Use of the media and social media in educating against domestic violence and gender-based violence;
- Perpetuation of gender role stereotypes by the media and the effect of these on IPV.

MEDIATION

Mediation is aimed at reducing conflict between the parties; however, domestic abuse is a complex issue of power and control. Mediation assumes that both parties are equal, yet an abuser holds tremendous power over a victim. The imbalance of power between the parties cannot be remedied despite the skills of the mediator, even when a victim's advocate or attorney is present. During mediation, the abuser can easily control the victim through the use of signals known only to the couple. Additionally, if there is a long history of domestic violence, the victim is often afraid and reluctant to voice her concerns.

Nonetheless mediation still feature in discussions about domestic violence and gender-based violence and can be an interesting area of study for students of mediation among others.

RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED:

- A review of the family mediation system and the results in cases with different levels of domestic violence;
- Policies and practices of mediation in cases of domestic violence;
- Victim offender mediated dialogue in crimes of severe domestic violence;
- Violence, fear and communication: the impact of domestic violence on mediation;
- Importance of screening for domestic violence before initiating any form of mediation.

MIGRATION AND ASYLUM

Migration is a relatively recent phenomenon that the country is still learning to understand and manage. Nevertheless it is having an effect on society including its implications to domestic violence and gender based violence. Migration is a growing area of interest however the bank of empirical work is still lacking particularly in relation to violence against women. In view of its importance it has become an area of priority for research.

RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED:

- How well informed are migrates of their rights especially the right for equal treatment;
- What are the perceptions of migrants to the country's laws about equality and what are the implication to their culture;
- What are the secondary barriers to migrant women to leave an abusive relationship and what policy responses can be developed?
- In the context of domestic violence, what variable are at play, if any, when only one partner is a migrant while the other is a Maltese national.
- How does migration influence the phenomenon of FGM and what policy responses can be developed in this regard?

PERCEPTIONS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Research was carried out by the National Statistics Office (NSO) in 2008 on the perception of domestic violence in Malta by the general public. Since then, there have been changes in local culture, population, awareness and public response. However, time has passed and an update may be due. This is an area of study that usually offers the opportunity for extensive debate about the outcomes and usually a source of important information for policy development.

RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED:

- Perception of domestic violence and gender-based violence in Malta among the general public;
- Perceptions of domestic violence and gender-based violence among children and/or teenagers in schools;
- Perceptions of domestic violence and gender-based violence among professionals such as Malta police officers, health practitioners and educators;
- Perceptions of domestic violence and gender-based violence among minorities.

PERPETRATORS

A perpetrator is an individual who systematically abuses another to gain power or control in a domestic or intimate partner relationship. Existing local research on the theme of perpetrators has focused mainly on male perpetrators. To date there has been research on the programmes available, the perception of the programmes and the profile of the male perpetrator. There has been little research about female perpetrators of domestic violence while little analysis has been made on those programmes that deal with abusive behavior and therefore offers new opportunities for research.

RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED:

- Aged perpetrators;
- Bi-directional or responsive violence – when both parties are violent or when one uses violence in retaliation for violence perpetrated by the other;
- Cultural differences and perpetrators;
- Female to male IPV: perception, incidence, treatment and prevention;
- Gender and violence – the gender differences between perpetrators;
- Older children who are perpetrators.

POLICE

The Malta Police Force is often the first point of contact for victims of domestic violence and gender-based violence seeking assistance and protection from their abusers. In part due to societal attitudes about domestic violence and gender-based violence, police officers often considered domestic violence and gender-based violence cases as domestic issues that are best resolved in the family environment. Fortunately things are changing and police officers have come a long way even if there is still more to be done to reach the level of proficiency that one expects. Research has been conducted on the services offered by the police force, on police officers as perpetrators, as well as, research based on the outcomes of the officers' training. However the police force is ever changing and while traditional systems in the force still lend themselves for research, there are other emerging aspects that one can look into such as the issue of risk assessments and the services offered by the victim support unit.

RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED:

- Factors influencing reporting behavior by male victims;
- Police attitudes and behaviors towards gay IPV;
- Police decision-making aspects in domestic violence cases;
- Police response to domestic violence incidents;
- Survey based research on services provided by the police force to female victims and survivors reporting domestic violence or sexual assault.

PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE



This type of abuse involves trauma to the victim through verbal abuse, acts, threats of acts, or coercive tactics. Perpetrators use psychological abuse in order to control, terrorize, belittle and humiliate their victims. It often takes place before or concurrently with physical or sexual abuse (NCADV, 2015). The various ways of how abuse manifests itself and the psychological implications are always interesting areas to seek new insights particularly when looking at the socio-economic group of the perpetrator and the victim.

RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED:

- Dating and psychological abuse;
- Dysfunctional families and psychological abuse;
- Female to male psychological abuse in intimate partner relationships;
- Psychological abuse of the elderly;
- Psychological abuse of women in intimate relationships;
- Psychological abuse of men in intimate relationship.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Education plays a vital role in the prevention of domestic and gender-based violence. Education among children, young people and adults can, not only prevent abuse, but can help raise awareness and change perceptions. Professional educators can also train and educate healthcare professionals, law enforcement officials, members of the clergy, minorities and other groups on the dynamics and implications of domestic violence and gender-based violence. This area of research could be useful for educators and social media consultants.

RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED:

- Education and prevention among migrants;
- Education and empowerment of children and their mothers;
- The effect of preventive education programmes in Maltese state, church and private schools;
- Education for parents;
- Education for young boys and young male adults.

SAFETY

Safety is a primary issue where domestic violence and gender-based violence are concerned. Safety and risk have a bearing on the victims' decision-making and the security of children exposed to domestic and gender-based violence. Studies in this regard will help service providers address the unique typology of safety and well-being required by victims of these crimes. Immediate and long-term risks and safety needs of the victims have to be identified; and plans need to be designed accordingly. Assessments are inextricably linked to safety and should be aimed at identifying concerns, increasing the victim's safety and giving them support so that they can protect themselves and their children. It is a very specialized area of study but nonetheless a critical one for the protection of those exposed to violence.

RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED:

- Assessments on abuse patterns, history and risk;
- Awareness and availability of information among victims;
- Ethical concerns and safety issues;
- Safety and health issues, the short and long-term health effects of domestic and/or gender-based violence;
- Safety and empowerment;
- Safety issues and service providers. For example, risk assessment and the formulation of the safety plan by social workers; safety assessments and the first point of contact;
- The safety of migrant victims.

SERVICES

Services provided to domestic violence victims are a vital source of support and assistance when needed. Service providers assist with finding shelter, employment, protection, psychological support and various other elements required for the survival. In Malta the leading service provider is Appogg with their multi-faceted approach and the non-Governmental Organizations that assist the survivors with support, referrals or legal assistance. Legal assistance is also offered through Legal Aid for those unable to afford it.

In some countries, a multi-agency approach takes place: representatives of local police, probation, health, child protection, housing practitioners and other entities including state and non-governmental entities work together to offer a holistic support to survivors especially in the most high-risk cases. There has been a degree of research in this area with the most prominent being the one by the National Audit Office in 2015 called *Tackling Violence*.

However, this area remains a popular one for research and always offers new aspects to study.

RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED:

- Co-occurring social service delivery needs of women who have experienced IPV – for example, substance use, mental illness and risk for sexually transmitted diseases;
- Creating leaning and safe environments for stronger families;
- Defense initiated victims outreach;
- Expert witness training in cases of domestic violence and sexual assault;
- Risk reduction: a multi-agency approach for domestic violence;
- Survivors' empowerment through social work.

SEXUAL ABUSE

Rape and sexual abuse occurs frequently in abusive relationships because the woman's right to consent is often ignored. UK research shows that 45% of all rape is committed by current partners and these incidents are less likely to come to the attention of the police than those committed by strangers. Any situation in which an individual is forced to participate in unwanted, unsafe or degrading sexual activity is sexual abuse. Women who are victims of abusive partners, physically and sexually, are believed to be at a higher risk of experiencing numerous and escalating assaults. Research also shows that women who are raped by their husbands or partners are likely to suffer from severe psychological affects because of the prolonged level of fear they may probably experience (Domestic Violence London, 2016).

It is a challenging area to study but one which has not been extensively explored in Malta.

RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED:

- Awareness of sexual abuse within marriage;
- Date rape;
- Marital rape;
- Sexual aggression perpetrated by females;
- Sexual abuse against the elderly;
- Spousal / intimate partner prostitution;
- Perceptions of male victims of rape and the level of support offered;
- The quality of support offered to victims of rape.

SHELTERS

A shelter or refuge is a safe house for women and children escaping domestic violence. The address is confidential and access to the building is restricted and controlled. A shelter is a place where women can be sure they are safe, and where they can access emotional and practical support from staff who understands what they have been through. Most survivors turn to shelter programmes only as a last resort (Grossman & Lundy, 2011). Very few survivors look forward to entering an unfamiliar environment that is often full of strangers, involves living together with many other individuals in crisis, offers very little privacy, and often carries restrictions. Given the chance they prefer to stay either with friends or relatives or if they can afford it, move out temporarily or permanently. These options are usually perceived less traumatic for both the survivors and their children.

Unfortunately, many women do not have the social and economic resources to make any of these choices, and the shelter is their best alternative (Panchanadeswaran & McCloskey, 2007). Research has been conducted in this regard although the effect of shelters on men both as victims of violence and more so as perpetrators has been little researched and therefore offer new insights into these circumstances.

RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED:

- Domestic violence and homelessness;
- Meeting survivors' needs in the shelter;
- The shelter – a safe place to start over for migrants and other non-nationals;
- Value of the shelter – social cost benefits of a refuge.

SURVIVORS AND VICTIMS

Those who are currently in abusive relationships or who have left their abusive partners are generally referred to as victims, former victims or survivors. Some people use these words interchangeably when in actual fact there could be fine differences between them. This area remains a popular area for study. Society is ever changing and therefore the victims of violence experience abuse in different and new ways. This calls for continuous research into the phenomenon and one that needs constant update which often uncovers new realities.

RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED:

- Domestic violence and the Stockholm Syndrome: why they remain;
- Should I stay or should I go? The critical timeframe between reporting, finding assistance and legal procedures; and how these impact the survivor;
- Social pressure and the survivor;
- Survival – prolonged abuse after leaving a violent relationship;
- Defining and assessing spirituality for survivors – how religion features and impacts in their lives;
- The survivor: social class and domestic violence.

YOUTHS AND TEENAGERS



Teenagers and youths may experience domestic violence and IPV under different aspects: they may be exposed to it within the home, they may be perpetrators themselves or they may be victims of IPV or dating violence. There has been some local research about domestic violence and youths, however this is also a very dynamic aspect for research and therefore is an interesting area for study and new insights for policy and program development.

RESEARCH TOPICS SUGGESTED:

- Adolescent mothers and IPV;
- Adolescent perpetrators of domestic violence;
- Adolescent perpetrators and their parents or guardians;
- Dating violence among Maltese youths and its perception;
- Social media and dating / IPV among youth;
- Teen dating violence among LGBTQ;
- Teenage IPV.



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CDV LIBRARY RESOURCES

English Language Books at CDV

CALL NUMBER	TITLE	AUTHOR	PUBLISHER	YEAR
BDV001	Supporting Women after Domestic Violence	Hilary Abrahams	Jessica Kingsley Publishers	2007
BDV001.01	Family Violence in Primary Care	Stephen Amiel and Iona Heath	Oxford University Press	2005
BDV002	The Batterer as Parent	Lundy Bancroft/ Jay G. Silverman	Sage Publications	2002
BDV003	Why Does He do That?	Lundy Bancroft	Penguin Group	2002
BDV004	Family Violence Across the Lifespan	Ola Barnett/ Cindy L. Miller-Perrin/ Robin Perrin	Sage Publications	2005
BDV005	It Could Happen to Anyone	Ola w. Barnett/ Alyce D. LaViolette	Sage Publications	2000
BDV006	Issues in Intimate Violence	Raquel Kennedy Bergen	Sage Publications	1998
BDV007	Wife Rape	Raquel Kennedy Bergen	Sage Publications	1996
BDV008	The Domestic Violence Sourcebook	Dawn Bradley Berry	Lowell House	2000
BDV009	Invisible Children in the Society and its Schools	Sue Books	Lawrence Erlbaum Associates Publishers	2007
BDV009.01	Domestic Violence: The Criminal Justice response	Eve S. Buzawa; Carl G. Buzawa	Sage Publications	2003
BDV010	It's My Life Now	Meg Kennedy Dugan/ Roger R. Hock	Routledge Taylor & Francis Group	2006
BDV011	The Emotionally Abused Woman	Beverly Engel, M.F.C.C.	The Random House Publishing Group	1990
BDV012	The Verbally Abusive Man: Can he Change?	Patricia Evans	Adams Media	2006
BDV013	The Verbally Abusive Relationship	Patricia Evans	Adams Media	1992
BDV014	Verbal Abuse Survivors Speak Out	Patricia Evans	Adams Media	1993
BDV015	Emotional Blackmail	Susan Forward Ph.D.	HarperCollins Publishers	1997
BDV015.01	Domestic Violence Offenders	Robert Geffner, Alan Rosenbaum	Routledge	2009
BDV016	Home Truths about Domestic Violence	Jalna Hammer and Catherine Itzin	Routledge	2000
BDV017	Making an Impact: Children and Domestic Violence	Marianne Hester/ Chris Pearson/ Nicola Harwin	Jessica Kingsley Publishers	2007
BDV018	Talking about Domestic Abuse	Cathy Humphreys/ Ravi K. Thiara/ Agnes Skamballis	Jessica Kingsley Publishers	2006
BDV019	Talking to my Mum	Cathy Humphreys/ Ravi K. Thiara/ Agnes Skamballis	Jessica Kingsley Publishers	2006
BDV020	Child Custody & Domestic Violence	Peter G. Jaffe/ Nancy K. D. Lemon/Samantha Poisson	Sage Publications	2003
BDV021	Protecting Children from Domestic Violence	Peter G. Jaffe/ Linds L. Baker/ Alison Cunningham	The Guilford Press	2004
BDV022	Domestic Violence	Jerry L. Johnson/ George Grant Jr.	Pearson Education, Inc.	2005

CALL NUMBER	TITLE	AUTHOR	PUBLISHER	YEAR
BDV023	Healing the Trauma of Domestic Violence	Edward S. Kubany/ Mari McCaig/ Janet Laconsay	New Harbringer Publications	2004
BDV024	Same-Sex Domestic Violence: Strategies for Change	Beth Leventhal/ Sandra E. Lundy	Sage Publications Inc	1999
BDV025	The Dark Side of Courtship	Sally A. Llyod/ Beth C. Emery	Sage Publications Inc	2000
BDV026	Current Controversies on Family Violence	Donileen R. Loseke/ Richard Gelles/ Mary Cavanaugh	Sage Publications Inc.	2005
BDV027	Childhood Experiences of Domestic Violence	Caroline McGee	Jessica Kingsley Publishers	2000
BDV028	Children's Perspectives on Domestic Violence	Audrey Mullender/ Hague/ Imam/Kelly/Malos/Regan	Sage Publications Inc.	2002
BDV029	Rethinking Domestic Violence	Audrey Mullender	Routledge	1996
BDV030	Mothering Through Domestic Violence	Lorraine Radford/ Marianne Hester	Jessica Kingsley Publications	2006
BDV031	Violence Against Women	Claire M. Renzetti/ Raquel Kennedy Bergen	Rowman & Littlefield Publishers	2005
BDV031.01	Sourcebook on Violence Against Women	Claire M. Renzetti/ Raquel Kennedy Bergen	Sage Publications	2001
BDV032	Policing Domestic Violence	Laura Richards/ Simon Letchford/ Sharon Stratton	Oxford University Press	2008
BDV033	Evaluating Services for Survivors of Domestic Viol	Stephanie Riger et al	Sage Publications Inc.	2002
BDV034	Handbook of Domestic Violence Intervention Strateg	Albert R. Roberts	Oxford University Press	2002
BDV035	Domestic Violence and Health Care	Sherri L. Schornstein	Sage Publications	1997
BDV036	Domestic Violence: a handbook for Health professio	Lyn Shipway	Routledge	2004
BDV037	Domestic Violence at the Margins	Natalie J. Sokoloff	Rutgers University Press	2005
BDV038	Domestic Violence: A Global View	Randal W. Summers/ Allan M. Hoffman	Greenwood Press	2002
BDV039	Domestic Violence Guidelines for research-informed	John P. Vincent/ Ernest N. Jouriles	Jessica Kingsley Publishers	2000
BDV040	Understanding and Dealing with Violence	Barbara C. Wallace/ Robert T. Carter	Sage Publications	2003
BDV041	Family Violence	Harvey Wallace	Pearson Education Inc	2005
BDV042	Surviving Domestic Violence	Elaine Weiss	Agreka Books	2000
BDV043	Parenting by Men who Batter	Oliver J. Williams/ Jeffrey L. Edleson	Oxford University Press	2007
BDV044	Violence, Gender & Justice	Maggie Wykes & Kirsty Welsh	Sage Publications Inc	2009

CDV LIBRARY RESOURCES

Maltese Publications





CALL NUMBER	TITLE	AUTHOR	DATE PUBLISHED
MEL001	Politika Nazzjonali dwar id-Droga	Ministry for Social Policy	July 2007
MEL001.01	Politika Nazzjonali dwar id-Droga	Ministry for Social Policy	January 2008
MEL002	Drittijiet Mhux karita	KNPD	December 2007
MEL002.01	Il-Ligi Opportunitajiet Indaqs Persuni b'Dizabilita	KNPD	2009
MEL002.02	Rapport ta' Hidma	KNPD	2008
MEL003	First Quaterly Report	Commission on Domestic Violence	March-June 2006
MEL003.01	Perceptions of the Maltese General Public on Domestic Violence	Commission on Domestic Violence	2008
MEL003.00	Working Together to Combat Domestic Violence	Commission on Domestic Violence	25 Nov 2008
MEL003.02	Good Practices Against Discrimination	NCPE	N/A
MEL005	Guide to Victims	Criminal Justice Bureau	2004
MEL006	It-Trasport Pubbliku F'Malta	MITC	July 2008
MEL007	It-Trasport Pubbliku F'Malta	MITC	October 2008
MEL008	Kodici ta Kondotta ghall-hadiema fil-qasam tas-servizi socjali	Department for Social Welfare Standards	January 2008
MEL009	Ktejjeb ta' taghrif dwar l-Integrazzjoni ghall-mexxejja u Persuni Responsabbli	Direttorat Generali ghall-Gustizzja u -Sikurezza	May 2007
MEL010	Making Malta a safer Place for International Visitors	Victim Support Malta	2007
MEL011	Il-Medjazzjoni: Mistosijiet dwar il-Process	Malta Mediation Centre	N/A
MEL012	Pakkett ta Risorzi ghat-tahrig ta individwi, organizzazzjonijiet u kumunitajirt bil-ghan li jitheggeg l-gharfien b'rizq l-ugwaljanza	EQUAL	N/A
MEL013	Seminar-Moving Together	NCPE	21 July 2009
MEL014	Sexual Harassment a code of practice	NCPE	2005
MEL015	Victims of Crime in Malta	Victim Support Malta	2006
MEL016	Women's Welfare in Society	Anthony M. Abela	2002
MEL017	Zwieg u Familja	Arcidjocesi ta' Malta	2003
MEL018	A Fair Deal: A study on Children and Young People with very challenging behaviour	Commissioner for Children	2009
MEL018.01	Manifesto for children	Commissioner for Children	2007-2008
MEL019	Historical Profile of the Maltese Co-Operative Movement	Apex	2007
MEL020	Do They Know? Asylum seekers Testify to Life in Libya	Jesuit Refugee Service	Dec-09
MEL021	Social Work & Social Cohesion in Europe	University of Malta	2009
MEL022	Il-Kwiekeb fid-Dlam Jixeghlu	St Jeanne Antide Foundation	2011
MEL023	Il-Mela Darba	St Jeanne Antide Foundation	2015
MEL024	Caterpillar in a Jar	Elaine Compagno	2015

CALL NUMBER	TITLE	AUTHOR	DATE PUBLISHED
MEL025	Il-Femicidju Qtil ta' nisa f'Malta	Edward Attard	2015
MEL026	Bdotti fil--Maltemp	St Jeanne Antide Foundation, Mental Health Association	
MEL027	Phoenix Rising	St Jeanne Antide Foundation	2015

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