



WOMEN  
AGAINST  
VIOLENCE  
EUROPE



# Guidelines for safeguarding and empowering children

Basic principles, key areas of action and  
procedures for women's specialist services



## IMPRINT

**Publisher:** WAVE – Women against Violence Europe, Bacherplatz 10/6, A-1050 Vienna

**WAVE Information Centre:** Monday–Thursday: 9:00 to 17:00, Friday: 9:00 to 15:00

Phone: +43-1-548 27 20

E-mail: [office@wave-network.org](mailto:office@wave-network.org)

Website: [www.wave-network.org](http://www.wave-network.org)

ZVR: 601608559

**Authors:** Valentina Andrašek, Branislava Arađan, Nina Devries, Lara Dimitrijević, Janine Harig, Kristina Kulić, Enikő Pap, Britta Schlichting, Irmes Schwager, Sibylle Stotz  
Project coordinator: Branislava Arađan

**With the support of WAVE Team members:** Léa Dudouet, Elena Floriani, Laetitia Hohwieler, Antoniya Kisheva, Beverly Mtui

**Graphic Design:** Monika Medvey

**Place and year of publication:** Vienna, Austria, 2022

This publication has been produced with the financial support of Oak Foundation, within the framework of the Safeguarding and empowering children project. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the authors and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the Oak Foundation.



# Guidelines for safeguarding and empowering children

## Basic principles, key areas of action and procedures for women's specialist services

<b>I. Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
1. About the Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) Network	4
2. About the guidelines for safeguarding and empowering children	4
3. About the partners	4
3.1. Autonomous Women's House Zagreb – Women against Violence against Women (AWHZ), Croatia	4
3.2. ZIF (Zentrale Informationsstelle Autonomer Frauenhäuser), Germany	5
3.3. NANE Women's Rights Association, Hungary	5
3.4. Women's Rights Foundation (WRF), Malta	6
<b>II. Legislative Context: key international norms for the rights, protection and safeguarding of children</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>III. Foundations and purpose of the child safeguarding guidelines</b>	<b>11</b>
1. Terminology	11
2. The effect and impact of intimate partner violence/domestic violence on children	12
3. Purpose and basic values	13
3.1. Purpose of guidelines	13
3.2. Basic values	15
<b>IV. Safeguarding areas and factors for protection</b>	<b>17</b>
1. Potential risks for child safeguarding, whilst children and young people are involved with women's specialist support services	17
2. Key factors for protection	19
<b>V. Procedures</b>	<b>20</b>
1. Risk management and prevention	20
1.1. Online safety	20
1.2. Safety and privacy	21
2. Children's and young people's development and abuse prevention	21
3. Children's safety during child custody and visitation procedures	21
4. Code of Conduct	23
5. Reporting abuse	24
5.1. Responsible staff members	24
5.2. Potential perpetrators of violence	25
5.3. Key principles of reporting	25
6. Other key child safeguarding measures and procedures	25
Literature	27

# I. Introduction

## 1. About the Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) Network

The WAVE Network was established in 1994 as a network of women's NGOs and specialist women's support services (such as women's shelters, women's centres, intervention centres, helplines, and other services) and today has 164 Members located throughout 46 European countries. The main objective of WAVE is to work towards the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and their children, and WAVE is the only European network focusing solely on the elimination of violence against women and children. In addition to this, WAVE seeks to promote the human rights of women and girls to live free from violence in both the public and the private sphere. As such, WAVE is committed to supporting children's rights and is dedicated to their well-being and safety and recognises the need to tackle the institutional capacity of different actors regarding child safeguarding policies.

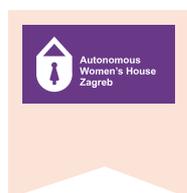
## 2. About guidelines for safeguarding and empowering children

In collaboration with experts from four member organisations, WAVE developed a comprehensive child safeguarding framework that can be adapted to different legal contexts. WAVE members involved in the project are the Autonomous Women's House Zagreb (AWHZ) from Croatia, NANE Women's Rights Association (Women For Women Together Against Violence) from Hungary, the Central Information Office of Autonomous Women's Shelters (ZIF) from Germany, and the Women's Rights Foundation (WRF) from Malta.

The goal of this project is to ensure that children and young people are safe and can be protected whilst their mothers get supported by women's specialist services (WSS). Moreover, the aim is to raise awareness of a wide range of stakeholders from relevant sectors (child protection and social services, judiciary, and police, among others) on the duty of children's safeguarding and on the ways and means of its effective implementation.

## 3. About the partners

### 3.1. Autonomous Women's House Zagreb – Women against Violence against Women (AWHZ), Croatia



Autonomous Women's House Zagreb – Women against Violence against Women (AWHZ) is a feminist, non-governmental and non-profit organisation, founded in 1990 in order to respond to the need for safe shelters for women and their children survivors of intimate partner violence. AWHZ opened the first shelter for women survivors of violence and their children in Eastern Europe in 1990. Today, it also operates a counselling centre, a hotline for survivors, and provides legal services. AWHZ carries out numerous public campaigns and has advocated for legal changes and better implementation of existing laws to address violence against women.

The shelter is a safe place at a secret address for women survivors of male violence and their children. The shelter provides survivors with free of charge accommodation for a period of up to a year and a half, psychological counselling and therapy, casework support, including liaising with different institutions, support for children, legal counselling, and representation (for example, in court).

The Women's Counselling Centre is a confidential place for women survivors of violence who need support, information, counselling and guidance. The Counselling Centre provides free of charge support through telephone and in-person counselling, information about women's rights and how to exercise those rights, as well as information on protection from violence. Further services include emotional and psychological support and safety planning, psychological counselling and support, legal counselling, legal advice and writing legal submissions (i.e. lawsuits and appeals) if needed.

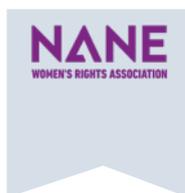
### 3.2. ZIF (Zentrale Informationsstelle Autonomer Frauenhäuser), Germany



Central Information Office of Autonomous Women's Shelters (Zentrale Informationsstelle Autonomer Frauenhäuser – ZIF) was founded in 1980 as a central information point for autonomous women's shelters. Since then it has been committed to stopping violence against women and improving the situation of women who have been affected by violence and their children. In addition to this, ZIF:

- Is not tied to any political party or religious denomination, has a feminist and anti-racist understanding of itself and works unequivocally for women who have been affected by violence and their children.
- Coordinates and moderates the political and material conceptual relationships between the autonomous women's shelters.
- Is the voice of autonomous women's shelters at federal policy level, publishing on their behalf opinion pieces and press releases concerning the issue of violence against women, violence against girls and boys, and the situation of women's shelters.
- Is financed solely through membership contributions of the autonomous women's shelters and donations. This financial independence from public sector funding ensures the political independence of ZIF.
- Is elected by its member associations for a period of 3 years and is connected to a women's shelter association. Two re-elections are allowed. The rotation principle is intended to prevent a lasting concentration of power. The fact that ZIF staff work not only at ZIF itself but also in a women's shelter ensures that they always remain grounded in the reality of survivors' experiences.

### 3.3. NANE Women's Rights Association, Hungary



NANE Women's Rights Association (Women For Women Together Against Violence) was established in 1994 and is a nonprofit non-governmental organisation which aims to end violence against women and children.

The organisation operates at different levels: the individual, community, national, and to some extent international level. NANE operates a toll-free, nationwide helpline for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, and also runs self-help groups and other services for survivors of domestic violence.

The organisation offers youth prevention programs and trainings for different professionals, and it also publishes or translates different materials on the subject. Furthermore, NANE organises

awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns, analyses (draft) laws and policies, as well as law enforcement and institutional practices. NANE also monitors state compliance with respective international norms, and advocates for legal and policy changes, as well as practical changes of the relevant authorities and institutions.

Besides WAVE, NANE is a member organisation of the Hungarian Women's Lobby.

### 3.4. Women's Rights Foundation (WRF), Malta



Women's Rights Foundation (WRF) is a voluntary organisation committed to informing, educating, and empowering women concerning their legal rights. WRF aims to ensure that women's rights are protected in policy and law reform, raise awareness and offer trainings to end violence against women.

WRF also provides free legal advice and initial legal representation to women who are survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and discriminated against due to their gender. It also runs a free legal helpline for female survivors of violence and other legal matters related to child custody. Apart from direct services, WRF continues to be active in lobbying for policy and legislative changes regarding violence against women and gender discrimination, including spearheading a number of landmark human rights cases.



## II. Legislative Context: key international norms for the rights, protection and safeguarding of children

---

The following international and European legally binding norms form the basis of these guidelines, as they not only recognise children's fundamental human rights, but also acknowledge that special regulations are necessary to protect children from violence based on children's specific characteristics.

■ **The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)** is the most complete international legal instrument in the field of children's rights, that establishes rights to all children, without discrimination based on sex or any other basis, as it is stated in Article 2.<sup>1</sup> Article 3 of the Convention determines the best interest of the child as a guiding principle by stating that *"In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interest of the child shall be a primary consideration."*<sup>2</sup> This principle has a relevance also in the specific situations such as one involving abuse or neglect of a child by a parent, which can result in separating the child from his/her parents against his/her will. According to Article 9, such determination is possible only when competent authorities assess that separation is in the child's best interest. Similarly, in the case of separation, the child is entitled to maintain personal connection with both parents, as long as that is not contrary to the best interest of a child.<sup>3</sup> In addition to the general obligation stated above and the specific provision, Article 18 attributes *"the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child to both parents"*, and places the best interests of the child as the basic guiding principle for their decisions.<sup>4</sup>

The basis for the protection of children from all form of violence are set out in Article 19, stating that *"States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child."* Article 12 proclaims the right of a child, capable of forming his/her own views, to be heard in different proceedings by declaring that *"the child shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law"*<sup>5</sup> The Convention contains the provision on the promotion of recovery, both physical and psychological, and social reintegration for children that suffered from any form of neglect, exploitation or abuse;<sup>6</sup>

■ **The UN Convention on elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW)** does not contain provisions specifically addressing protection of children from violence. However, Article 16 proclaims the state's obligation to eliminate discrimination of women in all matters regarding the family and children relations. Additionally, it is stated that *"in all cases the interests of the children shall be paramount."*<sup>7</sup>

The core guidelines for interpretation of Convention are given in the General Recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, particularly in the General

---

1 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, Article 2

2 Article 3, para. 1

3 Article 9, para. 1

4 Article 18, para. 1

5 Article 12

6 Article 39

7 The UN Convention on elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, 1979, Article 16, para. 1 (d)

recommendation No. 35 on gender-based violence against women updating general recommendation No. 19. It notes that the decision in relation to perpetrators rights and claims in legal proceedings should be made with consideration of women's and children's human rights to life and integrity and based on the principle of best interest of the child. More precisely: *"The rights or claims of perpetrators or alleged perpetrators during and after judicial proceedings, including with respect to property, privacy, child custody, access, contact and visitation, should be determined in the light of women's and children's human rights to life and physical, sexual and psychological integrity and guided by the principle of the best interests of the child."*<sup>8</sup>

**Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention)** as the first specific European legally binding instrument to combat violence against women and girls, acknowledges as victims both children who are direct victims of domestic violence, and children who witnesses of violence against their mothers. The Convention determines the obligation of the authorities to take into account children's specific needs and vulnerability while implementing measures of protection.<sup>9</sup>

As a part of prevention, the Convention requires conduction of public awareness-raising campaigns and programmes, on various forms of violence. Special attention shall be drawn to how domestic violence impacts children and what are the harmful consequences.<sup>10</sup>

The Convention foresees that specialist women's support services should be provided to all women victims of violence and their children<sup>11</sup>, as well as the easy access to safe accommodation in shelters.<sup>12</sup>

Specialised support shall be provided for victims with children who have witnessed domestic violence, based on children's rights and needs, as it is stated in the Article 26: *"Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that in the provision of protection and support services to victims, due account is taken of the rights and needs of child witnesses of all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention."*<sup>13</sup> These measures for coping with harmful consequences of witnessing domestic violence on children, shall include psychosocial intervention and counselling appropriate to children's age, with respect to the best interest of a child.<sup>14</sup>

Article 31 is aiming to ensure that judicial authorities are taking into consideration all incidents of violence covered by the scope of the Convention, when determining about the custody, extent of visitation rights or contact with the abusive parent.<sup>15</sup> The rights and safety of victims and child witnesses shall not be jeopardised by exercising the parental rights of the perpetrator.<sup>16</sup>

Furthermore, in different stages of investigation and proceedings, children victims of domestic violence, and children witnesses shall be granted with special measures of protection. More precisely: *"A child victim and child witness of violence against women and domestic violence shall be afforded, where appropriate, special protection measures taking into account the best interests of the child."*<sup>17</sup>

Withdrawal of perpetrator's parental rights can be implemented as a specific measure, if that is considered to be in the child's best interest.<sup>18</sup> Additionally, in the Article 46, it is stated that committing

8 General recommendation No. 35, 2017, para. 31 a (ii)

9 Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, 2011, Article 18, para. 3

10 Article 13, para. 1

11 Article 22, para. 2

12 Article 23

13 Article 26, para. 1

14 Article 26, para. 2

15 Article 31, para. 1

16 Article 31, para. 2

17 Article 56

18 Article 45

offence against or in the presence of a child, should be considered as aggravating circumstances when determining the sentence for the perpetrator.<sup>19</sup>

The Convention requires that in different stages of investigation and judicial proceedings all relevant authorities shall ensure safety of victims, by conducting risk assessments and managing the safety risks related to the probability of repeated violence. More precisely: *“Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that an assessment of the lethality risk, the seriousness of the situation and the risk of repeated violence is carried out by all relevant authorities in order to manage the risk and if necessary to provide coordinated safety and support.”*<sup>20</sup> In addition, this article establishes the obligation of relevant authorities to take into account the perpetrator’s accessibility to or possession of firearms.<sup>21</sup>

■ **The Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention)**, as the most comprehensive legal instrument in this field, requires from States to criminalise all form of sexual offences against children. Additionally, under Article 5 it is addressed that States should implement measures to raise awareness among all persons working with children in any capacity, around the children’s rights, and children’s protection against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.<sup>22</sup> In any situation where there are reasonable grounds to believe that a child is suffering from sexual exploitation or sexual abuse, professionals who are in contact with child/children shall report suspicion to the competent service.<sup>23</sup> The Convention also underlines special requirements on how to conduct an interview with the child during the legal proceedings. To avoid the child’s further traumatising, it is stated that *“Each Party shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that all interviews with the victim or, where appropriate, those with a child witness, may be videotaped and that these videotaped interviews may be accepted as evidence during the court proceedings, according to the rules provided by its internal law”*.<sup>24</sup>

■ **The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU** enforces children’s right to protection of their wellbeing and care. Children should be heard and their views *“shall be taken into consideration on matters which concern them in accordance with their age and maturity.”*<sup>25</sup> The charter also promotes the use of the best interest of a child principle, as a primary consideration in all actions in the field of children’s rights.<sup>26</sup>

■ **The Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (European Convention on Human Rights)** does not specifically address violence against women, violence against children, and domestic violence. However, the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights has shown that state’s obligation to protect women and children from domestic violence falls under the scope of Article 2 (right to life), Article 3 (prohibition of torture), Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life) and Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) of the Convention.<sup>27</sup>

■ **EU Victims’ Rights Directive** (Directive 2012/29/EU) sets the basic standards for rights and protection of all victims of crime, with a reference to specific needs of victims of gender-based violence

19 Article 46

20 Article 56, para. 1

21 Article 56, para. 2

22 The Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, Article 5, para. 1-2

23 Article 12, para. 1

24 Article 35, para. 2

25 Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, 2012, Article 24, para. 1

26 Article 24, para. 2

27 See for example the case of *Talpis V. Italy* (application no.41237/14)

and child victims.<sup>28</sup> Article 10 enforces children's right to be heard in criminal proceedings<sup>29</sup>. Additionally, authorities shall take measures to protect the child/children's privacy and prevent exposing the child victim's identity to the public.<sup>30</sup> The Directive establishes that it shall be presumed that child victims have *“specific protection needs due to their vulnerability to secondary and repeat victimisation, to intimidation and to retaliation”*.<sup>31</sup> To reduce the risk to secondary and repeat victimisation, intimidation and retaliation, states should implement awareness raising actions, based on cooperation with relevant civil society organisations.<sup>32</sup>

---

■ **EU Directive on combating sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography** (Directive 2011/92/EU) aims to effectively combat and protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation, by proposing prevention measures and minimum rules concerning the definition of criminal offences and sanctions for perpetrators, and protection of child victims.<sup>33</sup>

---

Additionally, there are several other European documents that are relevant for the legal developments on the rights of a child:

■ Proposal for a **DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL** on combating violence against women and domestic violence was presented by the European Commission in March 2022. The Directive aims to effectively combat gender-based violence and domestic violence, by proposing measures to support and protect victims, guaranteeing victims' access to justice, and by criminalizing and sanctioning all forms of violence against women.<sup>34</sup>

---

■ **Council of Europe Strategy on the rights of the child 2022–2027**: the Strategy was adopted by the Committee of Ministers in February 2022. This framework is relevant in the terms of child friendly justice, and addressing the urgency to adjust legal proceedings to specific children's needs, to avoid their re-traumatisation and re-victimisation.<sup>35</sup>

---

■ **EU Strategy on the rights of the child 2021–2024** aims to address emerging challenges and provide actions for better promotion and protection of children's rights. Among others, it recommends a set of measures with a focus on legislation to combat gender-based and domestic violence, and efficient child protection systems.<sup>36</sup> Moreover, it promotes child-friendly justice, and safe child/children's participation in legal proceedings.<sup>37</sup>

---

■ **EC Victims Rights Strategy 2020 – 25** is the first-ever victims rights strategy adopted by the European Commission in 2020, with a main objective to protect rights of all victims of all crime, across the European Union, while addressing the specific needs of victims of gender-based violence and domestic violence. To ensure the effective communication with child victims and a safe environment for them to report a crime, there shall be special reporting mechanisms.<sup>38</sup>

---

28 Directive 2012/29/EU, para. 7, 14, 17, 19, 38, 42, 54, 57, 60, 66, 69

29 Article 10

30 Article 21, para. 1

31 Article 22, para. 4

32 Article 26, para. 2

33 Directive 2011/93/EU, Article 1

34 Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and the Council on combating violence against women and domestic violence, 2022, para. 1

35 Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027), para. 40

36 Communication from the Commission COM/2021/142 final, para. 3

37 Para. 4

38 Communication from the Commission COM(2020) 258 final, para.1

# III. Foundations and purpose of the child safeguarding guidelines

---

## 1. Terminology

### **Child**

For the purposes of this document, a child is anyone under the age of 18 years old.

### **Young people**

For the purposes of this document, young people are individuals within the age group of 18–25 years old.

### **Child abuse**

Child abuse is any act and/or failure to act on the part of the parent, caregiver or guardian that results in physical, psychological and/or sexual harm or neglect of the child. Child abuse may take place in the home of the child, but can also occur in schools, organisations, communities that the child interacts with, including via the internet. Child abuse may take physical, sexual and psychological forms, as well as the form of neglect.<sup>39</sup>

### **Child safeguarding**

Child safeguarding is the responsibility and practice of organisations that provide help, directly or indirectly, to children and young people, to ensure that no child or young person is harmed or abused in any way by organisation's staff, associates or volunteers. Furthermore, it is the obligation of such organisations to ensure that any abuse or harm of children and young people in the community is reported to the proper authorities.<sup>40</sup>

### **Child protection**

Child protection, as a part of the safeguarding process, includes child protection actions that are followed when a particular child is suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm.<sup>41</sup>

### **Best interest of a child**

The best interest of a child is an overall guiding principle that shall be enforced by all relevant public and private institutions, authorities, and other actors involved in all the actions relating to children.<sup>42</sup>

---

39 The International Child Safeguarding standards, p. 6

40 Ibid, p. 5

41 NSPCC, "Safeguarding children and child protection"

42 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, Article 3

## 2. The effect and impact of intimate partner violence/domestic violence on children<sup>43</sup>

International research estimates that the proportion of children living in homes where violence occurs is between 10% and 30% of all children.<sup>44</sup> One in four women experience violence from their partner and half have children living with them at the time. One in three women report that domestic violence started or escalated during their pregnancy.<sup>45</sup>

Children can be affected by violence in their home in a number of ways, which have different consequences on their health, well-being and development. They might see or hear violent assaults against their mothers, including physical, verbal and sexual abuse. They might be injured by being present at violent episodes or while they intervene to protect their mother. Children might also be put under pressure by the perpetrator to join in physical and verbal assaults against their mother.

In addition to witnessing violence and living with the effects of violence on their mother, children living with domestic violence are also in greater danger of experiencing physical and sexual violence themselves.<sup>46</sup> It includes cases when children are assaulted or threatened with violence in front of their mother to ensure that the mother complies with the requests of the perpetrator. Children may also be in danger of violence, or continuing violence, if the abused mother leaves the relationship. In this case, in addition to directly targeting children with violence, perpetrators may seek revenge against their partner through physical, sexual or emotional abuse of children.

How their mother copes with violence and threats of violence may also affect children in different ways. For example, the mother may not be able to care for the child(ren) adequately because she is injured, sick, depressed, or stressed as a result of violence. She may also be preoccupied with attempts to avoid, minimise or manage violent assaults, which limits the time or energy for her children. In addition to this, the mother may also restrict what children can do, or may press them to do things in order to avoid or minimise violent assaults.

Children often learn from living with domestic violence that what happens in the home is not shared with others. They often conclude that their mother is not a person with authority who is able to protect and help them and sometimes they try to take responsibility for their mother. Some children may feel guilty for what their mother has experienced and/or may despise her for staying with the perpetrator. Sometimes perpetrators will deliberately attempt to destroy the mother-child bond in order to undermine their partners' role as a parent.<sup>47</sup> Children may be manipulated and told lies about their mother, for example, following separation due to domestic violence, children may be told by the perpetrator that their mother is to blame for breaking up the family.<sup>48</sup>

In cases of domestic violence, after separation, custody and contact/visitation arrangements are sometimes the only field perpetrators can keep control over, and can continue enacting violence toward the partner and/or the children. Research has shown that children are very often not asked about their experience and feelings when decisions are made about contact arrangements. Women speaking up for their children are frequently accused of manipulating their children in order to take revenge on their

---

43 This section is the summary and edited version of the WAVE *Thematic paper on the right of children to live a life free from violence*, Vienna, December 31, 2015. <https://wave-network.org/wp-content/uploads/CP-Policy-WAVE-final.pdf>

44 Seith, 2007

45 Müller et al., 2005

46 Kavemann, 2007; Bell, 2016a

47 Radford & Hester, 2006

48 Mullender et al., 2002

partners. Domestic violence perpetrators are not challenged about their behaviour and their violence is not believed to impact their parenting competence).<sup>49</sup> At the same time women are often put under conflicting, contradictory expectations from the authorities.<sup>50</sup> On the one hand, they face pressure to leave violent partners and to protect children from violence. On the other hand, they are made responsible for ensuring that the father-child bond is maintained and contact takes place. Mothers are forced to ensure such contact even if the children are reluctant, or refuse to do so. If mothers do not provide contact with the perpetrator as a way of protecting their children, they risk their own custodial rights or face other consequences, including being blamed for alienating their children from the other parent. At the same time, children who experience violence during visits with their fathers may lose faith in both parents; the one abusing and the one forcing them to spend time with the perpetrator.<sup>51</sup>

A thorough knowledge about family power dynamics, the interrelation between intimate partner violence and violence against children, the different effects and impacts of domestic violence on children and on parent-child relationships is essential for effective protection and support for victims. Women's specialist services and other services, institutions, and authorities, have to address all these factors in a holistic, comprehensive way in order to guarantee the safeguarding of children.

## 3. Purpose and basic values

### 3.1. Purpose of guidelines

The purpose of the guidelines is to increase the capacity of women's specialist support services (WSS), such as shelters and women's centres, as well as other organisations and institutions working with women survivors of violence and their children, to identify the specific needs and provide effective support to children victims and/or witnesses of violence; to raise awareness of the specific needs of children, their vulnerabilities and ways of protecting them throughout the process. Therefore, this document applies but is not limited to:

- Staff members, volunteers of WSS, and those who have a contractual relationship with WSS, such as through the provision of services or involvement in programs (if relevant).
- Those who provide accommodation and/or consultation for violence against women/domestic violence (VAW/DV) victims (in shelters, counselling centers, helplines, among others), including ensuring safe move-on of children back into the community once their mothers exit the service.
- All external actors who have a role in child protection, in the prevention and response to violence against children, such as schools, kindergartens, youth welfare offices, doctors, police, courts, legal providers, associations (e.g. sport), agencies that cater to people with disability, migrant support organisations, faith-based organisations, or any other residential care homes for children under care order.
- Second-tier organisations tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG) such as WAVE or national networks of WSS.
- Abused women who are mothers as a way of informing them of the protection their children will receive.

---

49 Eriksson et al., 2013

50 Hester, 2011

51 Radford & Hester, 2006

This document aims to safeguard and empower children and young people (CYP) survivors and/or witnesses of domestic violence living with their mothers in women's shelters and/or receiving services from women's specialist support centres or helplines. Young people typically fall in between children's and adult's service provision, and therefore cannot access tailored support whilst their mothers are accessing women's specialist support services. This age group would mostly be in contact with non-residential WSS such as women's centres, rather than shelters.

Service conditions regarding the age limit for accepting boys/males in shelters, in partner's respective countries:



### **AWHZ**

The age group of children and/or young people that they work with in the shelter is 0 – 18 years for girls, 0 – 14 years for boys and in the Counselling Centre, 0 – 18 years for girls and boys. However, help is often provided to all children of women survivors of violence, even older than 18 years of age, especially if they are still students and living with the mother (up to 25 years of age, on average).



### **NANE**

The key and continuous service NANE is providing is helpline support. No age limit is determined for this service. With other services, the age limit is determined on a case-by-case basis, depending on the specific aim and content of the respective service or program.



### **WRF**

The age group of children and/or young people that they work with is 0 – 18 years for both girls and boys. With regards to boys, this depends on the admission provision of the concrete shelter in Malta. In second-stage shelters,<sup>52</sup> dependent males that are over the age of 18 are allowed in certain circumstances.



### **ZIF**

The age range for girls allowed in women's shelters is 0 to 18 years. For boys, it varies depending on the conditions in the women's shelters (and each shelter states the age up to which they accept boys). The following page provides an overview: [www.frauenhaus-suche.de/en/](http://www.frauenhaus-suche.de/en/). The age of the boys can be specified in the selection criteria.

52 Second-stage shelters offer support, emotional and practical empowerment to survivors of domestic violence to rebuild their lives. Learn more here: Fondazzjoni Sebh (sebh.mt)

## 3.2. Basic values

The basic values and commitments underpinning this document are child-centred and feminist, based upon the following:

- All measures, interventions, services and activities are carried out in a way that ensures the **rights, safety, health, and well-being of the child**.
- Work with children is carried out in a way that is **in line** with their developmental abilities, but at the same time improves their skills and potentials.
- Every child is treated with **respect and esteem. Children will be heard, listened to and believed**. The wishes of children will be respected (wherever this is possible within the safeguarding context).
- The **agency and power of children will be recognised. Children are informed about their rights (on what is acceptable and not acceptable), and about the possibilities and available help in case they face a problem, or their rights are violated**.
- **All children have equal rights**. Protection and assistance to children are provided without any discrimination. When a child is suffering from multiple, intersecting forms of discrimination or disadvantaged positions, it requires specific attention and measures.
- Children are provided with **specific age-appropriate care and services**, tailored to their needs and circumstances.
- **Zero tolerance of any forms of violence against children, and violence against women. Partiality** taking all child abuse allegations seriously.
- The **responsibility for violence is solely on the perpetrator**, who shall be held accountable for any acts of violence. Victims of violence are supported based on their rights and needs. Means of intervention and services offered shall follow this approach.
- **Prevention** by increasing children's understanding of safety and to explore and promote behaviours which will contribute to a safe environment.
- **Responsibility** to report any suspected or actual child abuse taking place within the organisation.
- **Accountability** ensuring all staff, members, and associates are aware of their responsibility to report suspected child abuse. The WSS will ensure that all staff are made aware of this responsibility.
- **Do no harm principle**: any suspicion will be reported to the relevant internal or external responsible persons/entities, whilst ensuring that children and their families are not put at additional risk of facing harm by reporting the abuse.
- **Recognising the link between intimate partner violence and violence against children**, and taking into consideration the effect of intimate partner violence on children. Treating children who witness domestic violence as victims.
- **Raising awareness** amongst all internal and external stakeholders about intimate partner violence, domestic violence and its effect on children, and about the importance and effective ways of safeguarding and protecting children.
- **Giving the choice** to each woman to express her needs, and to explore her options. Recognising and respecting her feelings and experiences and supporting her to make safe choices for her and her children.
- **Regular assessment** of children's safety and welfare, together with the safety of their mothers.

- **Strengthening** the relationship and **bond of the children with their non-abusive/protecting parent and other family members.**

---

- Priority is given to ensuring the **safety of the child and of the mother during custody and contact/visitation arrangement** and enforcement.

---

- **Partnering** with caretakers and/or other relevant professionals to ensure the safety, protection and well-being of children.

---




## IV. Safeguarding areas and factors for protection

Guidelines for safeguarding and empowering children should be established as guiding principles for the operation of services and institutions supporting victims of violence against women as a whole as well as for individual case management. The aim is to increase awareness and capacity to effectively support children affected by violence. The following safeguarding areas shall be covered by the guidelines:

- Physical wellbeing within WSS and externally (in contact with other agencies, authorities or service providers, with the abusive parent, or during external programs);
- Psychological and emotional well-being within WSS and externally (in contact with other agencies, abusive parent, and in schools);
- Online safety;
- A safe relationship with the non-violent parent, enabling mental and psychological stability and resilience.

### 1. Potential risks for child safeguarding, whilst children and young people are involved with women's specialist support services

Children and adolescents living in a household where domestic violence occurs are “at an increased risk of experiencing emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, of developing emotional and behavioral problems, and are more likely to experience other adversities in their lives”.<sup>53</sup> Importantly, not only physical violence but also threats, control, and a climate of fear contribute to children's distress. It is therefore not enough and effective to focus solely on incidents of physical violence. Witnessing domestic violence has an impact on children's physical and mental health, as well as their social, emotional and spiritual development. Numerous studies show that witnessing violence is a clear form of child endangerment and can be just as damaging as when children are themselves victims of violence. Almost all children and adolescents who have ever been spoken to in different research about witnessing domestic violence describe these experiences as distressing and frightening.<sup>54</sup>

In AWHZ's shelter, every child is followed closely to identify the consequences of the violence they survived or witnessed. On average, 60-70% of the children at the shelter experience the following symptoms as a consequence of violence they survived and/or witnessed:

- Depression
- PTSD
- Enuresis (bed wetting)
- Tics
- Problems learning in school
- Sleeplessness

53 Holt S, Buckley H, Whelan S., 2008

54 Arai et al., 2019

Children supported by WSS can experience various **psychological consequences**, including the following:

- Their trust as well as their need for safety and protection are fundamentally shaken;
- Age-inappropriate assumption of responsibility and parentification;<sup>55</sup>
- The ability to concentrate and academic performance are often impaired;
- Sleeping disorders, nightmares, and behavioural problems can be amplified;
- Aggressive behaviour or parent's withdrawal during childhood can prevent children from building positive relationships into adulthood;
- Behavioural changes (acting up/more challenging).

In five longitudinal studies that are currently available, when violence at the partner level was known, the rate of child abuse that became known increased about four-fold in the following years. This shows that domestic violence is clearly a warning sign for later or already occurring physical violence against children.<sup>56</sup>

Potential risks for child safeguarding can be divided into external risks and risks within WSS:

External:

- Exposed to physical or psychological violence by the abusive parent;
- Threat of kidnapping by the abusive parent;
- Risk of infanticide and femicide;
- Emotional risks related to going through court processes and interacting with other agencies (i.e. having to testify or to see and communicate with the abusive father);
- Exposed to pressure/coercion by the relevant institutions or agencies;
- The child worrying about the safety of the mother;
- The child fearing their own safety.

Within WSS:

- Exposure to inappropriate online content and/or content by others (i.e. older children);
- Exposure to conflict with other children or mothers;
- Violence among residents in the women's shelter;
- Exposure to potential physical injury (i.e. accidents);
- Safety coming in and going out of the shelter (i.e. to school or the playground).

---

55 Parentification is when the roles between the parent or caretaker and the child are reversed and the child assumes the responsibility of taking care of the parent. Parentification is defined as: "a disturbance in the generational boundaries, such that evidence indicates a functional and/or emotional role reversal in which the child sacrifices his or her own needs for attention, comfort, and guidance in order to accommodate and care for the logistical and emotional needs of a parent and/or sibling." (Hooper, 2007b, p. 323)

56 Chan et al. "Prevalence and correlates of the co-occurrence of family violence"

## 2. Key factors for protection

Children need to be encouraged and empowered to speak out against injustices. In violent situations, however, they need at least one independent confidant outside the family who will listen and believe the child unquestioningly.

Children need to be informed about what adults are allowed and not allowed to do. As victims, they often cannot get out of cycles of violence on their own. They therefore have a right to be surrounded by or in contact with adults who empower them to know alternatives to violent relationships.

Children are afraid of losing closeness, intimacy and security with their parents and other caregivers. In violent situations, children need to be provided with opportunities to receive support to go somewhere safe and fearless.

In order for this to be achieved, children have the right to: informed caregivers, an informed environment, informed support organisations and professionals. In addition, children are entitled to age-appropriate information, complaint mechanisms, and empowerment.

A good protection measure in the context of domestic violence and within the WWS must take into account the consequences of domestic violence on the mental health of children. Important aspects to consider are:

- An early intervention and long-term support to avoid renewed domestic violence;
- A qualified support system for the mother affected by violence;
- Child-appropriate, low-threshold support for dealing with stressful feelings and understanding violence.

A protective factor that can mitigate the impact of violence on children is “a strong relationship with an attachment to a caring adult, usually the mother.”<sup>57</sup>

Protection measures must be assessed by the extent to which they focus on the personal rights of children and young people.

---

57 Holt S, Buckley H, Whelan S., 2008, Ibid.

# V. Procedures

The process of escaping/separation from the perpetrator is a dangerous period for the victims, both for the child/children and the mother, even with increased risks of lethality, the risk of infanticide and femicide. Therefore, particular attention should be paid to this period. Furthermore, it is crucial to include related risk management and safety measures in WSS and also by other actors.

## 1. Risk management and prevention

As a general obligation, WSS shall identify potential risk scenarios for children and develop procedures to prevent and tackle harm and abuse. This involves assessing which risks CYP in WSS are potentially exposed to – i.e. within the service or through online platforms they continue to use as well as external contacts with friends, school and potentially their father etc. – and adapting risk assessments and safety planning accordingly.

Recommendations for safety and risk management checklists: the explanatory manuals shall be provided and made available to the service users (CYP and their mothers) to raise awareness about the safety risk that children are exposed to. This shall be done using simple language including visual elements.



### Promising practice: AWHZ

Before organising any activity which intends to involve children or activities that have an impact on them, the organisation prepares a risk analysis in order to assess whether this activity could expose the child to abuse or neglect. The analysis includes the assessment of potential risks, determination of risk reduction measures, and checking whether appropriate measures have been taken. Every employee, associate and volunteer receives instructions on where and how to report potential child abuse or neglect. In case of suspicion that a child's rights have been violated, such suspicion is reported to the president of the board of the organisation.

The coordinator of the operational team of the shelter checks whether the child protection policy is implemented and informs the board president about it. An internal evaluation is carried out at least twice a year, which includes checking whether child protection standards are implemented, how effective these standards are and whether they need to be improved. At the same time, it is assessed to what extent child protection measures have been implemented according to the prepared risk analyses.

Also, within AWHZ, there are rules that children are never left unsupervised. They have their own space, a children's playroom, which is overseen by a shelter worker or one of the women tenants to minimise the possibility of risk.

### 1.1. Online safety

When it comes to online safety, it must always be remembered that digital violence is a form of violence against women. Digital violence, also online violence, is a generic term for forms of gender-specific violence that uses technical aids and digital media (mobile phones, apps, internet applications, emails, etc.) and/or gender-specific violence that takes place in digital space, e.g. on online portals or social

platforms.<sup>58</sup> Digital violence does not work separately from offline violence, it usually represents a supplement or reinforcement of violent relationships and dynamics.<sup>59</sup> In the WSS facilities, special care should therefore be taken to address online/digital violence, both in preventing and handling such violence, as well as to improve online safety and security. WSS shall pay particular attention to introduce measures to prevent further violence, stalking and control (including tracking of stay) by the perpetrator using the online space.

## 1.2. Safety and privacy

Safety and privacy of children and of their mothers shall be of primary consideration while using children's images and stories in online and offline publications and other communication means and channels of the WSS. Images and other information revealed shall not be exploitative and shall not violate the dignity of children. Such usage must be based on the consent of the CYP or their mother (depending on age), defining from which age children can provide this consent themselves. Particular attention shall be paid to ensure that images and other information revealed do not pose any danger to the victims, such as their identification, or their place of stay.

## 2. Children's and young people's development and abuse prevention

It is essential to determine which internal and external services are available to CYP within and through the WSS that may support them. Furthermore, it is vital to increase children's understanding of feeling safe, developing their self-confidence, exploring and promoting behaviours which will contribute to a safe environment, in a manner appropriate to their age e.g.

- developing children's levels of self-esteem and confidence
- enabling children to explore and express feelings
- informing children of their right to feel safe at all times
- increasing children's ability in safety planning
- empowering children to identify their own personal support network
- exploring how choice of behaviour can affect the feelings of others, and
- identifying healthy ways to manage conflict

## 3. Children's safety during child custody and visitation procedures

In case of domestic violence, in post-separation settings the perpetrator often tries to maintain power and control over the mother and children through custody, contact and visitation arrangements. Therefore, the procedures, decisions on and exercising of child custody, contact and visitation are likely to risk the rights, safety and protection of the child and the mother, including the risk of femicide and infanticide.

Risks regarding the physical and psychological safety and well-being of victims may occur during child custody and visitation procedures. Risks may occur if the relevant authorities have no specific

---

58 Council of Europe Portal, "Cyberviolence against women"

59 Bff; "bff: active against digital violence"

knowledge, competence or awareness: history of violence is thus neither assessed, recognised nor taken into consideration during court hearings or other procedures, and authorities do not adopt (interim) protection measures.

There is a risk also posed by the custody and visitation decisions and arrangements that do not (duly) take previous violence into account. When the perpetrator has contact or visitation rights, the risk may occur in and/or around visitation occasions. During the picking up and bringing back children that are in shelters, children are anticipated to be exposed to a high risk of physical danger, including risks for the mother and also for the staff. Risks may take the form of abducting the child, abusing or stalking the mother, and threatening or harming the staff. The perpetrator might use visitation occasions to continue violence against children or to try to turn children against their mothers.

It is recommended:

- To specifically train staff of the WSS and other services and be prepared for the risks and negative impact on the children and the mothers in relation to custody, contact and visitation issues.
- To address the priority of the rights, safety and protection of children and mothers, which the parental rights of the father shall not overwrite, within the internal regulatory framework and practice of the WSS.
- To also address within the internal regulatory framework and practice of the WSS the importance of ensuring that the exercise of any visitation or custody rights does not jeopardise the rights and safety of the children and their mothers.
- To conduct specific risk assessment and management concerning the custody, contact and visitation procedures, decisions and practices. Risk management measures and intervention shall address both physical and psychological safety and well-being, and pay attention to both the child, the mother and their relationship. Staff shall periodically review related risks, and the effectiveness of risk assessment measures, and make the necessary changes accordingly. If the relevant custody and contact/visitation decisions that are in force, or exercising custody and visitation endanger the rights and safety of the children and/or the mother, there are mechanisms in place for notifying the authorities in charge of changing/reviewing the relevant decisions.
- Staff to not apply or encourage methods and practices that are harmful, dangerous and traumatising for the children and the mothers (e.g. mediation and other dispute resolution etc.)



### **Promising practice: AWHZ**

AWHZ has developed internal protocols with the Centres for Social Welfare (CSW) according to which in cases of supervised child contact, the CSW have to invite the perpetrator 15 minutes earlier before the child/children arrives. After the meeting, the perpetrator has to stay 15 minutes longer to avoid the risk of following or attacking the mother or another person with the child/children outside of the CSW premises. The CSW are obliged, in cases of domestic violence, to carry out consultations with the abused woman about divorce and child custody separate from the perpetrator.

## 4. Code of Conduct

To ensure consistent commitment and adherence of all staff within WSS to ethical behaviour and conduct whilst interacting with CYP, they will be asked to commit to a clear code of conduct.

What are the key components of the code of conduct?

- Principles of working with children
- Policies for working with children
- Employees' obligations and responsibilities (what they have to do, what they should not do)
- Standards of procedure
- Responsibility for implementation

Staff will commit themselves to:

- Treating children and young people fairly and without prejudice or discrimination;
- Respecting differences in gender, sexual orientation, culture, race, ethnicity, disability, and religious belief systems;
- Challenging discrimination and prejudice;
- Promoting relationships that are based on openness, honesty, trust, and respect;
- Exercising caution when discussing sensitive issues regarding children with other staff or interns;
- Ensuring that contact with children and young people is appropriate and relevant to the work or a project that staff members are involved in;
- The privacy and identity of the child are respected and the consent of the legal guardian is given for the participation in the activities of the organisation, the use of information about the child, and publication of photographs.

Staff will absolutely avoid the following:

- Developing inappropriate relationships with children and young people;
- Belittling or disbelieving them;
- Engaging in behaviour that is in any way abusive (including having any form of sexual contact with a child or young person);
- Acting in a way that can be perceived as threatening or intrusive;
- Making sarcastic, insensitive, derogatory, or sexually suggestive comments or gestures regarding children and young people.

## 5. Reporting abuse

All persons who are involved in direct work with children or carry out activities that have an impact on them are responsible for the protection of children. To reduce the risk of child abuse, WSS must have codes of conduct, recruitment procedures, ongoing training and communication to make clear that child abuse will not be tolerated. Child abuse may take place within WSS or outside of it. Any abuse that happens to the children that is not the direct responsibility of the WSS is still the organisation's responsibility to report to relevant authorities.

Each WSS should have a clear policy on its commitment to child protection from harm. It should place clear responsibilities on the staff to protect the children and report the abuse and support the staff in complying with their responsibilities. Procedures also must be clearly defined and the staff must be trained on the content of these procedures. These safeguarding measures must be regularly monitored and reviewed.

All acts of abuse have to be reported to the persons in charge and relevant authorities. In case of suspicion that there has been a violation of the rights of a child or children, abuse, neglect and/or exploitation, the staff of WSS are obliged to initiate proceedings to protect the rights of the child. All staff, associates and volunteers have to be aware and able to recognise potential signs of abuse of CYP. Procedures have to be developed and made available to everyone so that there is clarity on steps in dealing with potential abuse of CYP.

In cases where there is reasonable belief that corruption within the authorities will prevent adequate protection of children and prosecution of child abuse, alternative means of reporting abuse must be identified, such as international organisations protecting children(s rights).

### 5.1. Responsible staff members

All staff within WSS, including paid, full-time, part-time, associates and/or volunteers are responsible for ensuring the protection of children from abuse and neglect. In order to ensure clear and transparent procedures, each WSS should appoint a children's safeguarding lead and a deputy-safeguarding lead. This person's obligation is to make clear that all staff who come into contact with CYP, directly or indirectly, are responsible for reporting abuse should they become aware of it. They should also be made aware of codes of conduct, obligation to report and relevant procedures.

The safeguarding lead should be a person of high enough stature within the WSS who can ensure compliance with the standards of child safeguarding. In large and complex organisations, there should be a larger number of such designated persons across different departments/activities. This person should not be the head of the organisation because the WSS needs to ensure that there are alternate routes of reporting. This role should be shared among several people.

The leadership of WSS, in cooperation with the staff, should develop a written procedure for reporting suspected child abuse within the organisation and outside of it. These procedures should include potential abuse by the abusive parent outside of the WSS (for example during child contact), potential abuse in other institutions as well as potential abuse within the WSS.

## 5.2. Potential perpetrators of violence

- Abusive parent
- Staff in shelters and other external agencies working with children
- Residents in shelters, including other mothers and children

## 5.3. Key principles of reporting

- 1. Recognising abuse:** in order to recognise a possible safeguarding concern, everyone who forms part of an organisation needs to know what abuse can look like for children (teenage girls in particular), what to look out for, and be open to tackling risks with those at the centre of concern.
- 2. Responding to an account of abuse:** the need to respond appropriately by taking into account specific children's rights and needs, so that those at the centre of the concern can be supported effectively and engaged in possible solutions.
- 3. Recording an account of abuse:** creating a record of the account of abuse, any concerns or observations that the person who noticed the abuse may have, any agreements or discussions they made with the person reporting the abuse and the actions they and other people have or have not taken.
- 4. Reporting an account of abuse** in close collaboration with the child at the centre of the concern, or the mother where appropriate age-wise and reporting or passing on information on the account of abuse to the responsible internal and external entities, so that the child/children are given all the support they need and are as safe as possible.
- 5. Consequences for the responsible person:** if the person responsible for the abuse is a member of staff, associate or volunteer at WSS, there should be disciplinary procedures in place to determine the gravity and consequences for this person.

## 6. Other key child safeguarding measures and procedures

### ■ Criminal background checks for all staff

All potential staff, associates and/or volunteers should bring official proof (certificate) that they have no criminal record.

### ■ Staff recruitment & orientation

The organisation's commitment to child safeguarding should be outlined in the job advertisements and clearly communicated during the interviews with the prospective staff members, associates and/or volunteers. As part of the process of recruitment, the interviews should include a discussion about child safeguarding, child abuse, and the prospective staff member's understanding of these concepts. References and criminal checks should be mandatory for all persons working with or coming into contact with children. All staff should agree and comply with the code of conduct related to child safeguarding, both within their work in the organisation, but also outside of work as the principles of child safeguarding should apply generally to WSS staff.

### ■ **Staff training**

Regular education and training on child safeguarding are essential in ensuring adequate and consistent protection of CYP from abuse, both outside and within the WSS. All those employed or otherwise engaged with working with CYP in WSS should have regular access to this training at the beginning of their work or engagement with the organisation, with regular refresher courses every 1-2 years.

---

### ■ **Access to support**

All staff, associates and volunteers in charge or otherwise involved in working with children, both directly and indirectly (working only with mothers, for example) should have access to advisement and support from designated personnel in case of any concerns about child safety. This should be communicated clearly, including in writing, to the persons at the beginning of their work with the organisation.

---

### ■ **Conversations about consent**

### ■ **Proper training about domestic violence for staff of child protective services and agencies involved in working with children**

All staff of child protective services and agencies should also undergo extensive training on all aspects of domestic violence, including its causes and consequences, dynamics, coercive control, international standards in prevention and combating VAW and DV, with a particular focus on the effects of such violence on CYP and standards and procedures of protection. The training should include how to avoid secondary victimisation and provide a victim-centred response.

---

### ■ **Risk assessment**

Risk assessment on child safeguarding should be part of the regular risk assessment work performed by the organisation. Each WSS should identify its own points of risk regarding the impact it has on CYP. These risks should be evaluated based on their impact on CYP and safeguards should be put in place to mitigate risk.

---



# Literature

---

## International norms and case law

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>

UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>

UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women: General recommendation No. 35 on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19

<https://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2fPPRiCAqhKb7yhsldCrOIUT-vLRFDjh6%2fx1pWCd9kc8NuhsZOT1QuzhrDy1rlpOgSyxJmK%2fSo2p3MpTI9diLSL02wtx8JPse1mlqcC-glo0em30unjly%2fnkmn3g>

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence Istanbul, 11.V.2011

<https://rm.coe.int/168008482e>

The Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

CETS 201 – Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (coe.int)

Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

<https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/full-text/?cid=24>

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/charter/pdf/text\\_en.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/charter/pdf/text_en.pdf)

Talpis V. Italy (application no.41237/14)

TALPIS v. ITALY (coe.int)

Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legalcontent/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32012L0029&from=EN>

Directive 2011/93/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA

EUR-Lex - 32011L0093 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and the Council on combating violence against women and domestic violence, 2022/0066 (COD)

[com\\_2022\\_105\\_1\\_en.pdf](com_2022_105_1_en.pdf) (europa.eu)

Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027)

1680a5ef27 (coe.int)

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions EU strategy on the rights of the child, final COM/2021/142

EUR-Lex - 52021DC0142 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions EU Strategy on victims' rights (2020-2025), final COM(2020) 258

2\_en\_act\_part1\_v10.pdf (europa.eu)

## Other resources

- Arai, Lisa, Heawood, Ali, Feder, Gene, Howarth, Emma, MacMillan, Harriett, Moore, Theresa H., Stanley, Nicky & Gregory, Alison (2019). Hope, agency, and the lived experience of violence: A qualitative systematic review of children's perspectives on domestic violence and abuse. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838019849582>
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Jugendhilfe (1976): Stellungnahme der Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Jugendhilfe zur Öffentlichen Förderung von Frauenhäusern. In: *Forum Jugendhilfe*, S. 68–71.
- Bell, Patricia (2016a): *Sexualisierte Gewalt gegen Kinder und Partnergewalt: Zusammenhänge und Inventionsmöglichkeiten bei häuslicher Gewalt*. Opladen. Verlag Barbara Budrich.
- Bell, Patricia (2016): Fathers' rights, children's rights and mothers' responsibilities – Reflections on shared parenting following relationship breakdown due to intimate partner violence. In: Claudia Maier-Höfer (Hg.): *Angewandte Kindheitswissenschaften- Applied Childhood Studies*. Wiesbaden. Springer VS.
- Bff – Federal Association of Rape Crisis Centres and Women's Counselling Centres Germany, "bff: active against digital violence"; accessed on November 30, 2022, <https://www.frauen-gegen-gewalt.de/de/aktionen-themen/bff-aktiv-gegen-digitale-gewalt/was-ist-digitale-gewalt.html>
- Chan, Ko L., Chen, Qiqi & Chen, Mengtong (2019). Prevalence and correlates of the co-occurrence of family violence: a meta-analysis on family polyvictimization. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838019841601>
- Council of Europe Portal, "Cyberviolence against women", accessed on November 30, 2022, *Cyberviolence against women – Cyberviolence (coe.int)*
- Eriksson, Maria; Bruno Linnea; Näsman, Elisbet (2013): *Domestic violence, family law and school. Children's right to participation, protection and provision*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Flaake, Karin (2014): *Neue Mütter - neue Väter. Eine empirische Studie zu veränderten Geschlechterbeziehungen in Familien*. Gießen: Psychosozial-Verlag.
- Hester, Marianne (2011): The Three Planet Model: Towards an understanding of contradictions in approaches to women and children's safety in contexts of domestic violence. In: *British Journal of Social Work* 41, S. 837–853.
- Holt S, Buckley H, Whelan S. The impact of exposure to domestic violence on children and young people: a review of the literature. *Child Abuse Negl.* 2008 Aug;32(8):797-810. doi: 10.1016/j.chiabu.2008.02.004. Epub 2008 Aug 26. PMID: 18752848. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0145213408001348?via%3Di-hub>
- Hooper, Lisa (2007): The application of attachment theory and family systems theory to the phenomena of parentification. *The Family Journal*, 15(3), <https://doi.org/10.1177/1066480707301290>
- Humphreys, Cathy (2007): A health inequalities perspective on violence against women. In: *Health & Social Care in the Community* (15), S. 120–127.
- Kavemann, Barbara (2007): *Häusliche Gewalt gegen die Mutter und die Situation der Töchter und Söhne – Ergebnisse neuerer deutscher Untersuchungen*. In: Barbara Kavemann und Ulrike Kreyssig (Hg.): *Handbuch Kinder und häusliche Gewalt*. 2. Aufl. Wiesbaden: VS, Verl. für Sozialwiss.
- Keeping Children Safe, *The International Child Safeguarding standards* (2014).
- Kostka, Kerima (2014) "Das Wechselmodell als Leitmodell? Umgang und Kindeswohl im Spiegel aktueller internationaler Forschung". In *Streit* 4/2014.

- Letourneau, Nicole; Young Morris, Catherine; Stewart, Miriam; Hughes, Jean; Critchley, Kim A.; Loretta, Secco (2013): Social support needs identified by mothers affected by intimate partner violence. In: Journal of Interpersonal Violence 28 (4), S. 2873–2893.
- Logar, Pap (2015) "WAVE "Thematic paper on the right of children to live a life free from violence"  
<https://wave-network.org/wp-content/uploads/CP-Policy-WAVE-final.pdf>
- Metell, Barbro (2007): Arbeit mit Mädchen und Jungen, deren Mütter misshandelt wurden. Erfahrungen einer Spezialberatungsstelle in Stockholm. In: Barbara Kavemann und Ulrike Kreyszig (Hg.): Handbuch Kinder und häusliche Gewalt. 2. Aufl. Wiesbaden: VS, Verl. für Sozialwiss, S. 245–358.
- Mullender, Audrey; Hague, Gill; Imam, Umme; Kelly, Liz; Malos, Ellen; Regan, Linda (2002): Children's perspectives on violence. London: SAGE Publications.
- Müller, Ursula; Schröttle, Monika; Oppenheimer, Christa; Glammeier, Sandra (2005): Lebenssituation, Sicherheit und Gesundheit von Frauen in Deutschland, Forschungsbericht.: BMFSFJ.
- NSPCC, "Safeguarding children and child protection", accessed on November 10, 2022: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection>
- Procher, Vivien; Ritter, Nolan; Vance, Colin (2014): Making dough or baking dough? Spousal housework responsibilities in Germany 1992 - 2011. Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Bochum. Ruhr Economic Papers.
- Radford, Lorraine; Hester, Marianne (2006): Mothering Through Domestic Violence: Jessica Kingsley.
- Schlund, Meinrad (2015): Begleiteter Umgang bei "schwierigen Fallkonstellationen". Teil 1 & 2 in: Zeitschrift für Kindschaftsrecht und Jugendhilfe 2 / 2015, S. 55 – 60 und 3 / 2015 S. 104–108.
- Seith, Corinna (2007): "Weil sie dann vielleicht etwas Falsches tun". Zur Rolle von Schule und Verwandten für von häuslicher Gewalt betroffene Kinder aus Sicht von 9- bis 17-Jährigen. In: Barbara Kavemann und Ulrike Kreyszig (Hg.): Handbuch Kinder und häusliche Gewalt. 2. Aufl. Wiesbaden: VS, Verl. für Sozialwiss.
- Westmarland, Nicole; Kelly, Liz (2013): Why extending measurements of "success" in domestic violence perpetrator programmes matters for social work 43, S. 1092–1110.



WOMEN  
AGAINST  
VIOLENCE  
EUROPE