

STOP MALE VIOLENCE HOTLINE

The Habeas Corpus Working Group has been working on the protection of the rights of the victims of domestic violence and women in general for almost 10 years, including the maintenance of a legal aid service, provision of training and publications. Organically related to these activities, it started the Stop Male Violence Project in 2005 with the support of the Daphne Programme of the European Union. The aim of the project is to contribute to the prevention of domestic violence and the protection of women and children living in an abusive home environment by turning attention to the perpetrators' side and by attempting to change the abusers' behaviour. The Stop Male Violence Project realises these goals primarily with information publications, a website and the training of professionals.

One starting point of the Project is that not personality distortions or communications problems lie behind abusive behaviours but men's power over women and its manifestations in everyday life. Therefore, changing men's abusive behaviour is impossible without society realising and pressuring the abuser himself and other men silently accepting the abuse to take responsibility for eliminating violence. In the long term, only this change of mind can contribute to the prevention of violence. In order that the necessary information can get to the men themselves in the most direct way, we started an information phone line under the Stop Male Violence Project where men, even abusers, can receive counselling free of charge while keeping their anonymity.

The information line addressed to men is based on international best practices that have been used successfully in North America, Scandinavia and a number of other European countries in the past decades. Our information phone line can increase the number of men sensitive to the problem of abuse and can promote the safety of specific victims.

Male volunteers trained for this task expect calls at the Stop Male Violence Line both from men who want to change their own abusive behaviour and from men who want to take an active role in eliminating violence against women and children.

STOP MALE VIOLENCE LINE:

06- 40- 200-744

local charge from everywhere in Hungary

06- 1- 344-3802

between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. on
Thursdays

HELP

If you are an abused woman or a victim of intimate partner or domestic violence, you may ask for help at NANE's telephone line every evening except Wednesday. 80/505101 (18 to 22 h)

In case of a legal problem related to violence, you may access us at jogsegely@habeascorpus.hu or 30/9965666 (Wednesdays 16 to 18 h).

© Stop Male Violence Project and Habeas Corpus Working Group 2006.
1364 Budapest Pf.31.
info@stop-ferfierzak.hu
<http://www.stop-ferfierzak.hu>
Tax number.: 18082401-1-41
Bank account number: 11600006-00000000-06929943

The sole responsibility for this publication lies with the Habeas Corpus Working Group and the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained in it.

Do you know,

**How women experience
and men minimise
violence against women?**

Habeas Corpus Munkacsoport

www.stop-ferfierzak.hu



Supported by the Daphne Programme of the
European Union and
the National Civil Fund

MAN

Look at those tits she has! Whoa, baby why don't you smile? This is just a joke! So what, you can't smile? Stupid cow! Anyway, you're ugly anyway!

I love my girlfriend so much. She is so weak and in need of protection, I don't know what would happen to her without me. She is easily influenced and more unstable emotionally than a man. So out of the two of us, I must decide about things and take care of her.

I'm really jealous of my girlfriend but only because she is very important to me. I am not interested in other women and I don't want to lose her.

If she didn't provoke me with some kind of useless shit, I wouldn't have to be rude with her. But when I know I'm right I will prove it to her no matter what. Because she sometimes needs me to put her in her place.

A man cannot let a woman give him orders. When she listens to me, we get on well. But sometimes I have to teach her a lesson. Sometimes I think she herself asks for being beaten.

It happens to almost every woman and girl that unknown men in the street commenting on them. To make such personal and sexual remarks in the street is not a compliment or the sign of courtship but the sexual harassment of women. Men make remarks about women because it is "masculine" to treat a woman as an object and to brag with that before colleagues and friends, so showing their power situation over women.

Violence against women is made possible by sexism, according to which women are of a lower order than men by nature and their main task in life is the household, childrearing and being available sexually for men. Men usually think of women as a group in a sexist way and acquire the idea early in life that they can regard women and children as their own property, who need their control, guarding and disciplining (including beating).

The behaviour of a man who blames his partner for his own jealousy and expects her to constrict her life can be a warning sign of later violence. It is difficult to recognise the beginning of the process of isolating because it is much like our concept of romantic love. If the man asks his partner to spend all her time with him, we could consider this as natural at the beginning of a relationship. However, when even less often made meetings with family and friends disturb the other that may well be a process leading to a totally controlled isolation.

Further warning signs that suggest that the verbal violence increasing in intensity, frequency and severity can turn into physical violence: the abuser threatens with physical violence, throws or breaks objects in a threatening manner in the presence of the other.

Verbal violence escalating into physical violence usually starts in a covert manner in the form of accidental knocking, pushing and collisions and develops into overt beatings. Just as verbal violence turns into physical violence, the abuser enters and controls the victim's personal space more and more.

WOMAN

I was passing by a group of men who were gathering by the sidewalk. When I saw them I got very nervous but I didn't want them to think I was crazy for crossing to the other side of the street, so I stayed. As I got closer, one of them commented on me. I was very confused from his insult. And I found it terribly humiliating the way he leered at me and treated me as if I was a piece of meat.

I started to realise, that when we are together and apparently both of us feel good there is always something that makes me feel miserable, although I know he loves me. It was all the same what I did, he treated me like a child who needs to be disciplined. If I had an opinion, he immediately contradicted me and started to argue that I have no idea and should mind my own business.

He says he loves and supports me but I feel isolated and lonely beside him. I can see that he doesn't like it when I talk with my friends and he has even managed to make me meet my parents less and less often. And when I'm not with him, he often calls me to ask where I am, what I'm doing and of course with whom. I love him, so I try to please him and don't meet friends, relatives though I would love to spend time with them, too.

He got into the habit of playing with the large kitchen knife during dinner, he was stabbing the table with it. I used to be scared at these times and didn't know what would happen in the next moment. I was afraid all that time.

I was confused, I thought I was important to him and I felt guilty. I felt that it was my mistake that he is beating me up that I did something wrong, that I'm not good for him, I don't meet his expectations. I was totally uncertain that it was impossible to love me, and I didn't know why.