

Violence against older women within families

Breaking the Taboo 2: Training programme for staff members of community-based social and health care services

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BACKGROUND

- Follow up of the Breaking the Taboo 1 – project on violence against older women within families
- Lack of awareness of violence against older women
- Especially sexual / sexualised violence as taboo → reason: de-sexualisation of older women as a form of gendered ageism
- Crucial role of social and health care staff members concerning the recognition of violence → reason: regular access to families

→ Aim of the Breaking the Taboo 2 – Project (BtT2):

Development of a training programme and a trainer handbook for staff members of community-based social and health care services to detect violence against older women within families (awareness raising) and act autonomously

RESEARCH

- Desk research regarding the state of the art
- Screening of existing curricula and awareness raising workshops for staff of home help and care services addressing violence against (older) women
- Telephone interviews with experts of social and health care services and professionals in the field of victim protection
- Advisory board meetings with educational professionals, professionals in the field of victim protection and providers of social and health care services

SELECTED RESULTS

- Absence of training courses with explicit focus on violence against older women within families
- Enhancing collaboration between the field of victim protection and social and health care services
- Recommendations for the training programme:
 - a) Following a “chain of action” to deal with violence
 - b) Taking an integrated perspective: Considerations of violence against women as structural issues; consideration of staff members’ experiences of violence in the work setting
 - c) Integration of de-escalation and diversity issues
 - d) Multi-/interdisciplinary training teams
 - e) Balanced mixture between theoretical input and practical exercises
 - f) Integration of the BtT2-training programme in existing vocational trainings



The project „Breaking the Taboo 2 – Developing and testing tools to train-the-trainer“ (BtT2) (<http://www.btt-project.eu/>), is coordinated by the Austrian Red Cross and includes partners from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Portugal, and Slovenia. This project has been funded with support from the European Commission and national from the Municipal Department 57 – City of Vienna Women’s Department – MA 57 (Austria).

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