

# Zero-Tolerance on All Forms of Domestic Violence:

*Towards Comprehensive EU-Wide Action*



**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

The Silken Berlaymont Hotel,  
Brussels

"An International Symposium for gathering knowledge, discussing the latest challenges and sharing best practices in tackling domestic violence in Europe"

In partnership with



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Studies

**GOVERNMENT GAZETTE**



# Zero-Tolerance on All Forms of Domestic Violence: Towards Comprehensive EU-Wide Action

## Overview

According to the Council of Europe, around 12-15% of all women have been in an abusive relationship from the age of 16 and approximately 20-25% of women across the European region suffer physical or sexual violence at some point in their lives. One of the most concerning elements surrounding domestic violence is that existing strategies do not take into account **all** those affected by the phenomenon; whilst women in heterosexual relationships and their children are considered, intimate partner violence in LGBT, men and youth relationships receive little attention.

The Commission's **Daphne III Programme** builds on the achievements of the previous Daphne Programmes aiming to take preventative measures and provide support and protection for victims and groups at risk from all forms of violence. The strongest focus of the Programme is placed on children as victims of domestic violence. Violence against women and domestic violence has a direct and indirect impact on children; witnessing violence amongst adults is traumatising and has a lasting effect on them.

Furthermore, it is essential to note that new forms of abuse which have developed through the internet represent a considerable and worrying challenge for the authorities. However, cyberspace also presents an important opportunity to provide support to those affected by domestic violence and raise awareness. Stigma and discrimination have formed significant setbacks in dealing with domestic violence and, as such, the importance of raising awareness needs to be stressed in order to alter public perceptions.

This international symposium will analyse the existing challenges in shaping a truly comprehensive and holistic strategy and toolkit for assessing, preventing and protecting against every type of violence and abuse in a domestic environment. Delegates will focus on the role of regional and international organisations in combating domestic violence at all levels and analyse evidence of the repercussions of intimate partner violence. Furthermore, the symposium will discuss the urgent need to collect comprehensive data in order to deal with the challenges posed and provide an invaluable platform to share best practices.

The symposium will support the exchange of ideas and encourage delegates to engage in thought-provoking topical debate with local and regional practitioners and policymakers at EU level.

**“ Domestic violence is one of the most serious and pervasive forms of violence... It exists in all Council of Europe member states and occurs at all levels of society. Domestic violence is most often perpetrated by men against former or current intimate partners, although it is recognised that violence is also perpetrated by women and occurs in same-sex relationships.”**

- Domestic Violence Campaign, Council of Europe

## Venue and Accommodation

**The Silken Berlaymont Hotel,  
11-19, Boulevard Charlemagne  
1000 Brussels - Belgium**

Through our partnership with the Silken Berlaymont Hotel we are pleased to be able to offer our delegates specially negotiated accommodation rates. These discounted room rates are subject to availability and are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.



## Why Attend?

- ✓ **Examine the current strategy and framework for tackling domestic violence including policy developments**
- ✓ **Understand the challenges, typologies of all forms of domestic violence and abuse and explore potential solutions and prevention scenarios**
- ✓ **Exchange good practices from cross-border projects and analyse comparative knowledge of shaping the use of technology and cyberspace in the field of domestic violence**
- ✓ **Utilise the added value of major stakeholders, international and regional organisations in delineating holistic strategies for empowering all victims of domestic violence and abuse**

## Who Should Attend?

- Women's Refuge and Advice Centres
- Domestic Violence Co-ordinators
- Youth Services
- Housing Officers
- Family Courts
- Police Service, Police Authorities and Fire Services
- Probation Officers
- Child Protection Agencies
- Families Services Officers
- Family Advice Centres
- Health Service Professionals
- Child Welfare Research Centres
- Victim Support Representatives
- Community Cohesion and Development Organisations
- Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships
- Community Safety Teams
- LGBT Rights Associations
- Neighbourhood Policing Teams
- Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinators
- Drug and Alcohol Action Teams
- Youth Offending Teams
- Community Support Officers
- Children and Youth Services
- Housing Associations
- Social Workers and Social Services Officers
- Local Education Welfare Authorities
- Teachers and Head Teachers
- Criminal Justice Practitioners
- Judges and Magistrates
- Legal Professionals
- Local Authority Officers and Councillors
- Central Government Departments and Agencies
- Equality and Diversity Practitioners
- Academics and Researchers

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## Programme

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| 09:15 | Registration and Morning Refreshments   |
| 10:00 | <b>Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks</b><br><b>Dr. Erica Bowen, Senior Lecturer, Department of Psychology and Behavioural Sciences, Coventry University, UK</b> (confirmed)   |
| 10:10 | <b>Identifying, Preventing and Protecting Victims of Domestic Violence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Defining and Addressing all Victims of Intimate Partner Violence</li><li>• Analysing Existing Preventive and Protective Measures and Intervention Programmes at Regional and National Levels in Europe</li><li>• Preventing Psychological, Physical and Sexual Abuse</li><li>• Reducing Vulnerability and Increasing Legal Protection of Victims</li></ul> |
| 10:35 | <b>First Round of Discussions</b>   |
| 11:05 | Morning Coffee Break  |
| 11:25 | <b>Tackling Domestic Violence amongst Young People</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recognition of Young People as Both Victims and Perpetrators of Violence</li><li>• Improving Communication with Young People</li><li>• Educational Strategies for Prevention of Domestic Violence and Abuse</li><li>• Recommendations for Future Policy Actions and Issue Exposure</li></ul>   |
| 11:50 | <b>Second Round of Discussions</b>  |
| 12:20 | Networking Lunch  |
| 13:20 | <b>Using Innovation to Improve Integration of Protective Services across Europe</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Analysing the Role of Technology and Cyberspace</li><li>• Latest Initiatives and Best Practices in Europe</li><li>• Assessing the Multi-Level and Intra-Sectoral Cooperation</li><li>• Innovative Informational Tools and Raising Awareness</li><li>• EU-Wide Policy Recommendations</li></ul>  |
| 14:10 | <b>Third Round of Discussions</b>   |
| 14:40 | Afternoon Coffee Break  |
| 15:00 | <b>Assessing the Social and Economic Cost of Domestic Violence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Considering the Healthcare Cost of Victims of Domestic Violence</li><li>• Reduced Productivity and Participation in the Workforce and Community</li><li>• Sustainable Solutions for Reducing Multi-generational Transmission of Domestic Violence</li><li>• Recommendations for Future Policy Actions</li></ul>  |
| 15:25 | <b>Fourth Round of Discussions</b>  |
| 15:55 | <b>Chairman's Summary and Closing Comments</b>  |
| 16:00 | Networking Reception  |
| 16:30 | Close   |

## Event Details

**Date:** Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2012  
**Time:** 10:00am – 4:30pm  
**Venue:** The Silken Berlaymont Hotel, Brussels



## Speakers include

- ✓ **Dr. Constance Ohms**, Head Manager, Broken Rainbow, Germany (confirmed)
- ✓ **Senior Representative**, Unit for Gender Equality, DG JUST, European Commission (confirmed)
- ✓ **Ms. Judith Wirth**, NaNe Women's Rights Association, Budapest, Hungary (confirmed)
- ✓ **Ms. Liliane Leroy**, Femmes Prévoyantes Socialistes (tbc)

“ **Domestic violence remains very common: one respondent in four across the EU knows a woman among friends or in the family circle who is a victim of domestic violence... The proportion of Europeans that say they know a victim of domestic violence in their circle of friends or family has increased from 19% to 25%. One person in five knows of someone who commits domestic violence in their circle of friends and family (21%).** ”

- The Domestic Violence Against Women Report, Eurobarometer 2010

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For further information please contact:

**Parvin Madahar** on +44 (0) 20 3137 8630

or email [parvin.madahar@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk](mailto:parvin.madahar@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk)