



The Role of Men in Combating Gender Based Violence

Marianne Hester



PREVENTING VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN:
ARTICLE 12
OF THE ISTANBUL
CONVENTION

A collection of papers
on the Council of Europe
Convention
on preventing and
combating violence
against women and
domestic violence

Prepared by:
Marianne Hester,
and
Sarah-Jane Lilley

© Council of Europe,
September 2014



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

• The purpose of Article 12

...to reach the hearts and minds of individuals to ensure changes in mind-sets, attitudes and beliefs towards women, their role and status in society, their sexuality, as well as women's agency.

The ultimate aim is to change the behaviour of men and women, boys and girls....



• Involving men and boys

- Most violence against women in Convention is perpetrated by men and boys.
- Prevention must actively engage men and boys, as actors and agents for change

Men can be influential agents of change at different levels, as:

- husbands, fathers, brothers, uncles, sons promoting more equitable relationships in the home
- peer educators where “men talk to men” and challenge men on the acceptability of GBV
- supporters of women
- religious leaders with influence in the community
- community leaders




• Involving men and boys

- Programmes targeting men and boys can be effective when they focus on transforming unequal power relations between women and men.
- Men and boys as the solution to GBV, not just the problems

Transforming unequal power relations between women and men [Challenging resistance]:

- **WESTERN BALKANS** The Young Men Initiative
- **TURKEY** Integrating reproductive health and gender issues into the military curriculum





DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE
PERPETRATOR PROGRAMMES:
ARTICLE 16 OF THE ISTANBUL
CONVENTION

A collection of papers
on the Council of Europe
Convention on preventing and
combating violence against
women and domestic violence

Prepared by
Marianne Hester,
Professor of Gender Violence
and International Policy,
School for Policy Studies,
University of Bristol (United Kingdom)
and
Sarah-Jane Lilley,
Research Associate,
University of Bristol (United Kingdom)



• Perpetrator programmes

Should achieve:

- Improved relationships
- Empowering of women – increasing space for action
- Safety and freedom from abuse for women and children
- Men's increased self-awareness
- Safer healthier childhoods

'Success':

- Perpetrator's perception of severity of their violence
- Increased responsibility for their behaviour
- Reduction in repeated perpetration



marianne.hester@bristol.ac.uk

www.bristol.ac.uk/genderviolence

