

Norwegian experiences

Hilde Knotten and Line Nersnæs

Oslo 16. September 2016

Topics

- Introduction
- Prevalence
- Main challenges
- Action plans
- Organizational framework
- Police work
- Violence alarms
- Electronic monitoring

- Children's houses
- Shelters
- Project November
- Prevention campaigns

Ministry of Justice and Public Security

Department of Crisis Management and Security

Rescue and Emergency Planning Department Police Department

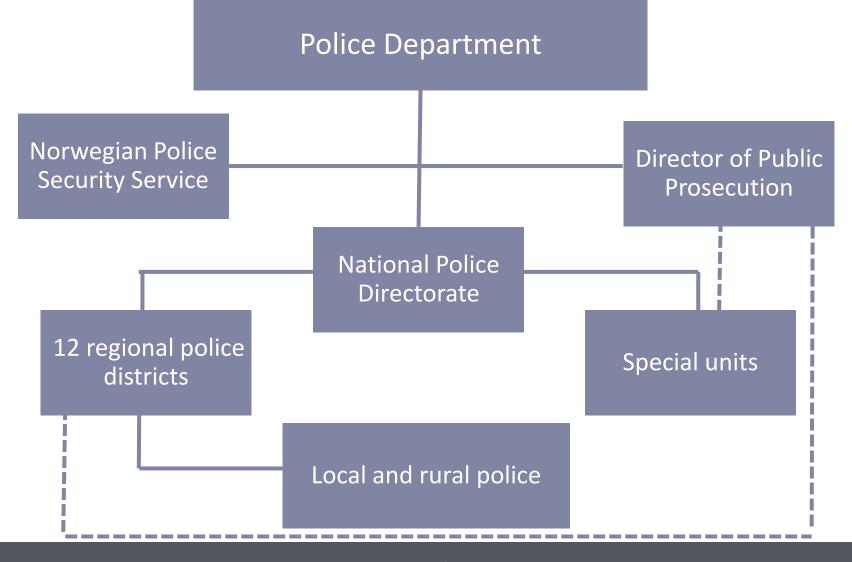
Department of Migration

Correctional Services
Department

Civil Affairs Department

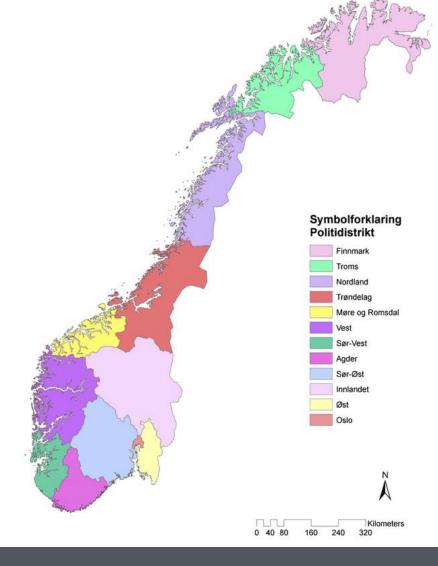
Legislation Department Planning and Administrative Department

Polar Affairs Department



New police districts

From 27 to 12 police districts on January 1st 2016



Violence in close relationships clarification of the term

- Violence in close relationships = Domestic violence
- Violence perpetrated by current or former partner/Intimate partner violence
- Forced marriages
- Female genital mutilation (FGM)
- Honour related violence
- Sexual or physical abuse of children
- Violence against elderly

Prevalence of domestic violence

- In February 2014 the results of a nationwide survey on domestic violence was conducted the by Norwegian Center for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies (NKVTS)
- 8,2 % of the woman and 2 % of the men reported severe partner violence (life threatening violence; attempted strangulation, use of weapons, beating head against an object or wall).
- The prevalence of lifetime rape was 9,4 % in women and 1,1 % in men.

Prevalence of domestic violence

- In the last decade, intimate partner homicide accounted for 20-30 % of the total number of killings in Norway. 10 of 23 victims of homicide in 2015 were killed by current or former intimate partner.
- There has been a sharp rise in the number of reported cases of domestic violence the last years.
 We observe an increase of 8 % from 2011 to 2015.
- Annually the women shelters receive 2500 women and 1800 children.

Prevalence of violence against children

- Study conducted by NOVA launched 8. June 2016
- A total of 21 percent of the youth had experienced physical violence from at least one parent during childhood.
- The proportion of youth who had experienced severe forms of violence from at least one parent (hit with fist, hit with object, been beaten) was six percent.

Prevalence of violence against children

 Eight percent of the youth reported that they had seen or heard one of their parents being exposed to physical partner violence at least once.

 23 per cent reported that they had experienced at least one form of sexual violence during childhood. Girls are more exposed than boys.

Main challenges in Norway

- Establish good predictable routines for cooperation.
- Create a more coherent and unified chain of services for victims in order to prevent that victims are shunted from one helper or service to another.
- Raise the efforts from the level of pilot projects/temporary programmes into the structures and routines of the various agencies, to ensure sustainability at institutional level.
- Build and strenghten the expertise of persons and agencies that deal with victims.

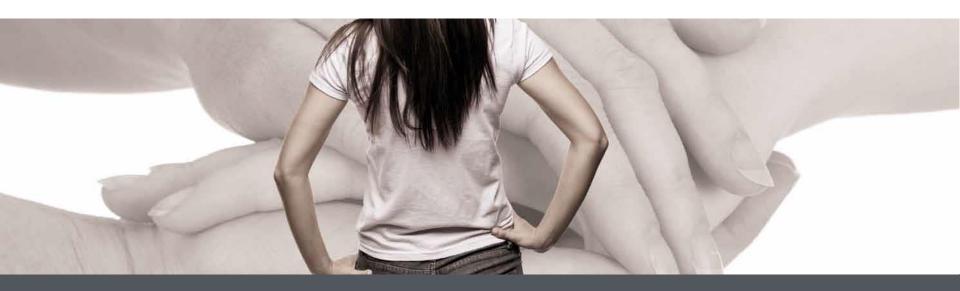
National Action Plans

- Action Plan against forced marriages and female genital mutilation (2013-2016)
- Strategy against physical and sexual violence against children (2014-2017)
- Action plan to combat intimate partner violence (2014-2017)



National Action Plans

- Action Plan to Combat Rape (2012-2014)
- Action Plan to combat Human Trafficking (2011-2014)
- Action Plan 1325



National Action Plan as a tool to:

- Translate political will into practical and appropriate action.
- Put a subject as violence and victim support on the agenda.
- Coordinate the governments activities.

- Make the agency/ministry/service which are responsible to carry out each measure visible.
- Generate funding.
- http://www.un.org/wo menwatch/daw/vaw/vegms-nap2010.htm

Organizational framework

- The responsibility for coordinating the Government's efforts to combat domestic violence lies with the Ministry of Justice and Public Security. A coordinating position in the ministry since 2000.
- A cross-ministerial working group has been set up. The group is led by the Ministry of Justice and consists of civil servants from the ministries of
 - Health
 - Education
 - Labour
 - Children, Equality and Social Inclusion
 - Local Government and Modernisation
 - Justice and Public Security



Organizational framework

Mandate for the cross-ministerial group:

- Ensure implementation of measures in the national action plan.
- Present and publish reports on the progress in the implementation of activities twice a year (www.regjeringen.no).
- Coordinate the activities of different stakeholders and levels of government implementing the plan.
- Propose further efforts to combat and prevent violence in close relationships (FGM, forced marriages, human trafficking).

Efforts to strenghten competence – national level

- National Centre of Competence on Violence and Traumatic Stress, was established in January 2004.
- The purpose of this centre is to strengthen research, education and guidance for the public services in the field of violence and trauma.
 The centre has a special section for violence, family violence and sexual abuse.
- The centre has approximately 75 employees educated in the fields of social work, psychiatry, psychology, pediatrics, sociology, social anthropology, pedagogy, sexology, criminology and philology.

Efforts to strenghten competence – regional level

- Five Regional Resource Centres for the field of violence and trauma have also been established, which assists the service apparatus with information, guidelines and expertise development, and create networks between all relevant partners in the region.
- The regional centres has drawn up a standard for municipal/inter municipal action plans against domestic violence and assists municipalities that wish to develop local action plans for this area

Legal framework

- Domestic violence is a specific offence in Norway from January 1st 2006 (Penal Code article 282 and 283)
- Unconditional prosecution was introduced in cases of domestic violence in 1988. A criminal case may be brought before the court, even if the woman withdraws the formal report.
- Free legal aid for abused women, including women subjected to domestic violence from spouses and cohabitants.



Police

- Police efforts have been considerably strengthened the last few years. They have been given a number of new tools for the treatment and protection of victims, and are focusing more strongly on investigating cases and taking them to court.
- A family violence coordinator has been appointed in all police districts. The coordinator is to help ensure that the police meet the victim of violence and her family and friends with understanding, knowledge and insight in both professional and human terms.



Violence alarms

- Security alarms to women threatened by their exhusbands/live-in boyfriends in 1997.
- From stationary alarms to mobile alarms in 2004.
- As of January 2016

 approximately 1,750 alarms
 were in operation.



Violence alarms

- Intended to give persons under threat of violence greater freedom of movement and help prevent violence and threats.
- The alarm system is based on two geographical positioning systems (GPS and GSM) to ensure that the police can locate the person under threat as accurately as possible.
 When the alarm is triggered, the person concerned can communicate directly with the police operations center.



Electronic monitoring

- As a tool to improve the situation for victims of violence by limiting the action of the offender we have implemented electronic monitoring of persons who have violated a ban on contact or visits.
- The use of electronic monitoring of offenders is only allowed as part of a sentence.

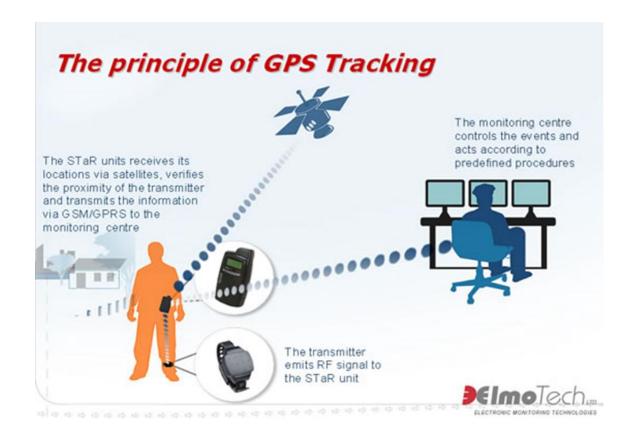


Electronic monitoring

- The perpetrator is fitted with an electronic tagging device, which in the event of breach of a restraining order will trigger an alarm at the police station.
- The system uses 3 way cellular, landline and RF communication as well as GPS tracking in order to monitor the aggressor and alert the victim and monitoring center.



Electronic monitoring



Risk assessment tool SARA

- Implementation of risk assessment tool SARA (Spousal Assault Risk Assessment Guide) in the police force.
- SARA is a checklist and has a score form to screen for risk factors of spousal assault so that preventive measures can be taken.



- A service for children and young people under 16 years of age, and for adults with intellectual disabilities, who are thought to have been exposed to violence or sexual abuse, or to have witnessed such violence.
- Children's Houses are child centres where judicial examination, medical examinations, treatment and follow-up can all be carried out in the same place.
- 10 children's houses has been established in Norway (by January 2016).



- The children's houses is not simply a physical place but a cooperative measure across sectors that will coordinate the relevant instances tasks.
- The children's houses ensure that the child does not have to be moved from one instance to another in order to tell and retell his or her story.
- The children's houses are run by a team covering several professional fields and with expertise on sexual and physical abuse.







Statutory shelter service

- The Government has adopted new legislation which involves the introduction of a statutory municipal duty to provide shelter services for its population irrespective of gender. The law entered into force the January 1st 2010.
- The main reason for providing a statutory shelter service is to make clear that the public authorities are responsible for ensuring that individual users of women's shelters receive coordinated, individual follow-up from other support services.

Statutory shelter service

- It is a statutory duty for local authorities to provide the following services to victims of domestic violence (free of charge):
 - 24 hour telephone helpline
 - a shelter or equivalent safe, temporary accommodation
 - a day service including support and assistance
 - assistance during the re-establishment phase
 - co-ordinate different services
 - give special attention to the needs of children.

Project November

- Introducing new models of cooperation inspired by the Family Justice Centre in USA, Project Karin in Sweden and the Children's houses.
- Provide assistance to victims of dometic violence from police and other services under the same roof.
- Pilot project at a police station in Oslo.



Campaign to prevent domestic violence









Campaign to prevent domestic violence

Plakater









Prevention campaigns

- rape
- domestic violence
- violence against children and youth

