



Men Overcoming Violence

Challenging perpetrators of domestic violence

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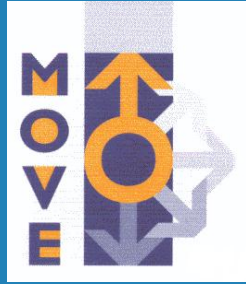
Prevalence of Domestic Violence

- ❑ 15% of women have experienced severely abusive behaviour from a partner (National Study of Domestic Abuse, 2003).
- ❑ 9,945 Domestic Violence Applications made to the courts in 2010 (Court Services Report 2010)
- ❑ Women's Aid responded to 13,575 calls in 2010
- ❑ 174 women have been murdered in Ireland since 1996. In 52% of resolved cases, the woman was murdered by a partner or ex-partner.



MOVE History

- ❑ 1988: MOVE was Founded in Bolton, England
- ❑ 1989: Programme commenced in Ireland
- ❑ 1996: MOVE Ireland - Incorporated and receives charitable status
- ❑ 2011: Groups in Dublin, Midlands, Cork, Limerick/Clare, North Tipperary, Wicklow, Kerry and Meath.



MOVE: Mission Statement

MOVE works in the area of domestic violence.

Our *primary* aim is to support the safety and wellbeing of women partners and their children, by working with men who are or have been violent/abusive in their intimate relationships.

MOVE does this by facilitating men in a group process that involves them taking responsibility for their violence and changing their attitudes and behaviour, together with independent support to partners



Ireland: Task Force Report on Violence Against Women, 1997

“At its most basic, however, real safety for women and children needs to include the violent man being responsible for his violence, accountable for change and to engage him in the kinds of work which will stop him from violating his current partner or those in future relationships

(Quoted in the Report of the Task Force on Violence against Women, 1997)



Perpetrators: Blame and Minimisation

- “She bruises easily”
- “I was provoked”
- “She hit me first”
- “I can’t remember what I did”
- “I was drunk”

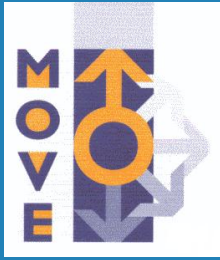
MOVE believes:

- Domestic violence is ultimately about control.
- Domestic violence is a chosen behaviour
- Domestic violence is always unacceptable



Alcohol and Domestic Violence

- Alcohol does not cause domestic violence
- Alcohol abuse may offer perpetrators an 'excuse' for their actions
- Care is needed that we do not encourage the use of alcohol as an excuse for perpetrating the crime of domestic violence



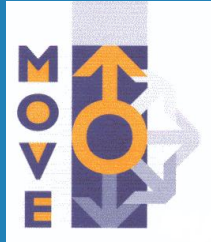
Risk factors associated with domestic violence

- ❑ Risk factors do not imply causation
- ❑ Risk incorporates *probability* and *severity*
- ❑ Most significant risk factor: whether the perpetrator has used domestic violence before
- ❑ Risk factors can help to ensure the safety of women and children, not to communicate causes of domestic violence (correlation not causation)
- ❑ There is evidence that alcohol abuse can increase the probability and severity of domestic violence
- ❑ Implications for practitioners in the substance misuse sector



Multi-agency collaboration

- ❑ Sexual/Domestic violence and drug/alcohol use are overlapping issues
- ❑ By working together we can improve the way services are delivered, providing better protection to women and children
- ❑ For example, see the Stella Project
<http://www.avaproject.org.uk/our-projects/stella-project.aspx>



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