

DENMARK**Women's programmes**

In the Danish Prisons there are no specific programmes for women who have suffered gender violence within intimate partnerships and are in prison.

Men's programmes

In Denmark exists one in-prison programme dealing with issues of gender violence, targeting domestic violence offenders. This programme has been developed very recently (since February 2009) and is called *Dialogue against violence* (Dialog mod vold). It is a pilot project that is supposed to last for 2 years.

Dialogue against violence

This is a domestic violence prevention programme, with a psycho-educational basis, aiming at reducing domestic violence. As this is a very new programme, it is only implemented in some institutions but still not in the whole country.

The treatment offers psycho-educational help to violent men, and it is based on cognitive therapy. The programme is implemented combining individual and group counselling sessions once a week.

The programme is run by a psychologist from a treatment centre outside prison (belonging to the private organisation Askovgarden), jointly with professionals from the probation service.

The programme is offered to both prisoners and men being in Probation Services, and the participation is voluntary.

The selection criteria for participating in this programme are based on both psychological tests and personal interview. It is expected that 60 men participate in the project each year. So far, 11 men have started the programme.

The starting of the programme implies that both parts (participant and therapist) sign a kind of contract.

The programme is structured in 3 phases; first of all, the motivation one, in order to work towards the assumption of a real inner motivation from the perpetrator; this is followed by two phases focusing on the treatment. It starts with individual counselling and finalises with group sessions. Both the participants and the therapists structure the themes to be dealt within the programme, according to participant's needs and the therapist's criteria.



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As it is a very recent programme that has not finalised yet, it has not been evaluated so far. However, after the first year running the programme it is foreseen to be evaluated using standard tests to participants before and after the programme.

Besides the above mentioned programme, two other programmes with a broader target group exist in the Danish prison and probation service:

Cognitive skills programmes are offered in 12 prisons (out of 13 - 8 closed prisons and 4 open), in some Half way houses and probation service units. Staff from the prison or probation service run the program.

Anger Management programmes is offered in 12 prisons (8 closed prisons and 4 open) and some probations service units. Staff from the prison or probation service run the program.

In both of the programmes participation is voluntary.