

FINLAND**Women's programmes**

In the Finish Prisons there are no specific programmes for women who have suffered gender violence within intimate partnerships and are in prison. However, within the SPREAD project, one pilot project will be implemented during 2009-2010.

Men's programmes

In Finland there are 3 different in-prison programmes for male perpetrators of gender violence:

UNBEATABLES

The main aim of the programme is to raise awareness among men of their own violent behaviour and to take responsibility for it. It aims at tearing down false models of attitudes, beliefs and destructive behaviours and to build new behavioural and thinking models. It is a programme based on a cognitive-behavioural treatment from a feminist perspective and narrative approach. The gender-specific objective is to support men to build respectful and appreciate attitudes towards women. The target group is men prisoners who have behaved violently towards their intimate partners although they might not be in prison for that. The programme is voluntary based.

The programme is implemented in Helsinki prison, a closed men's prison. The programme was tested in autumn 2008. Since then to December 2009 the programme is under accreditation process. Afterwards, it will be officially accepted. The programme is offered 1-2 times per year. It is developed through out group sessions of one hour and a half that take place 1-2 times per week.

The programme is run by the Criminal Sanction Agency together with specialised prison staff which have gone through a training programme. The selection criteria to participate in the programmes are basically that men understand that their behaviour is violent and that they take responsibility for it. The participant must have the will to change his behaviour and must be able to work in group sessions. The professional and the inmates sign a written agreement with what is called 'limited confidentiality' (in case of foreseen dangerous towards the family) and with agreed rules of the group. The participation of the inmate in the programme does not influence his sentence.

The programme is divided in 6 phases and has 15 sessions all together. The programme is thematically pre-structured by the professionals. The phases of the programme are:

- Orientation to the programme and own goals
- Faces of intimate partnership violence
- Intermediate evaluation
- Consequences of intimate partnership violence
- Evaluation of the programme as a whole

Each session of the programme is evaluated itself. The session is recorded and, afterwards, analysed by professionals. At the same time, each session is evaluated through observation. During the development of the programme, the professionals implementing it receive professional supervision.

MOVE

Move programme has as a main aim to work on intimate violence and to give information on the nature of physical and emotional violence. It is an individual treatment programme. The programme is implemented in Mikkeli prison, a closed men's prison. The target group is men who have behaved violently in intimate relationships. The issues addressed during the programme are: beliefs and stereotypes on sexual crimes, the awareness raising of the victim's experience and skills to reduce relapse.

STOP

Stop programme is a sex offenders treatment programme. It is a cognitive-behavioural programme. The programme is implemented in Kuopio prison, a closed men's prison. The programme has been running since 2002. The target group is male sex offenders.