

Introduction to Danish Context and the Development of Cross- Cultural Dialogue and Mediation



An increase in the number of cases especially forced marriages,
towards the end of the 1990s

Media focus: parents with minority backgrounds took their
daughters to the country of origin to force them into marriages.

A rise in migration numbers

The concept of honour appeared before 2004 in Denmark,
especially in connection with the honour killing of Fadime
Sahindal (Kurdish background) in 2002 by her father in Uppsala,
Sweden. The conflict between Fadime and the family was about
her choice of boyfriend. She was in love with a young Swedish
man, and after leaving her family, she presumably continued to
have disputes with her family but this time in public. Her public
protests continued for years by participating and being outspoken
against her family.



Sonay Mohammed 2002

Honour-killing of Gazhala Khan in 2005

After the sad situation of her killing, the Nordic societies used honour as the motive and cause of control, violence and suppression.

Negative Social Control - Honour related conflicts and violence.

Several Danish National Action Plans



- ❑ Establishment of Safehouses for women subjected to forced marriages or family conflicts – 2005
- ❑ A continues increase in the establishment of these safehouses
- ❑ Methodological problems and inadequacy
- ❑ The demonisation of minority families, especially Muslims



- Too much focus on youth, mainly young women
- Lack of sustainable psychosocial work with the families
- Placement of the projects and problems connected to this (LOKK)
- Lack of mainstreaming
- Limited capacity building in the public sector



- ❑ Consequences of the ordinary solutions for forced marriages - problem with *one size fits all*
- ❑ Removal of the young person to a safe place
- ❑ Risk of being found
- ❑ Reduced quality of life for the young person due to extreme pressure and lack of network – psychological and psychiatric problems
- ❑ Both the family and the young person in crises



- No changes in the family practices
- No protection of the other young persons in the family
- No Muslim divorce - *Talaq*
- The young persons nearly always return to their families.
- Severe punishment of the young people upon return to their families when there was no supervision from the authorities
- Difficulty with proving the forced aspect of the marriage, especially concerning the "grey zone" cases



Possible Explanations for Family Actions

- Maintaining or establishing transnational relations can offer an alternative space for social status. Suppose you have an experience of not being able to achieve a social level in Denmark, which you have either lost or strived for. In that case, you can work on attaining status by maintaining transnational solid family relationships (Galal & Liebman, 2020).
- Strategic essentialism refers to a social practice that minorities can use to establish respect and social status. It is a way in which diversified members of a group or community emphasise cultural differences by standardising certain cultural practices, promoting simplicity rather than complexities (Galal & Liebman, 2020).



- (Modborgerskab) – “Counter-citizenship”

Counter-Citizenship - A process that refers to distancing oneself from the majority's society in response to marginalisation (Galal & Liebman, 2020).

- Why is it necessary to have a nuanced understanding of these issues?
- Limitations >< possibilities



Honour is not necessarily a motive and part of the given causal connection when a minority woman, for example, is limited by her father. Although such practices may be reminiscent, they may nevertheless be triggered by vastly different problem complexes. When honour as a concept emerges as an element of conflict, the idea and its application will often constitute an element among several others that together shape the practice in question. Of course, this does not make potentially oppressive social practices less criticisable. Still, with the choice of a practice perspective, we believe that we get better tools to understand the complexity of such actions and thus can contribute to better and more targeted prevention (p. 29 Galal & Liebman, 2020)



- The outsider and insider understanding of the situation
- Conformity pressure (new concept in the Danish context – (Galal & Liebman, 2020)
 - How do parents deal with it?
 - How do young people deal with it?

What is the situation for the Danish women?
Partner killing?



Studies estimate that between 30,000 and 47,000 women in Denmark are exposed to physical partner violence annually (Deen, Johansen, Møller, & Laursen, 2018, p. 8). Several studies also point to a "Nordic paradox": On the one hand, countries such as Denmark and Sweden are at the top of international indices for equality between the two sexes. On the other hand, the incidence of partner violence in both the Danish and Swedish populations is relatively high. An EU study thus shows that Denmark has the highest women's exposure to partner violence from a life course perspective: The EU average is 23 per cent, whereas for Danish women, 32 per cent (and 28 per cent of Swedish women) (EIGE, 2014, p. 28). These high proportions of partner violence against women in the Nordic countries are found in other studies (Gracia, Martín-Fernández, Lila, Merlo, & Ivert, 2019; Wemrell et al., 2019). Thus, it is factually wrong when one sometimes - for example, in the public debate - opposes a (never violent) gender-oriented Scandinavian man and an (always violent) patriarchal man with an ethnic minority background (Keskinen, 2009, 2011).

Several Scandinavian studies have sought to clarify whether ethnic minorities are more exposed to partner violence but have not found such connections (Balvig & Kyvsgaard, 2006; Frenzel, 2014; Thoresen & Hjemdal, 2014)". (Liversage and Petersen, 2020: 78)

Own translation



Cross-Cultural Dialogue and Mediation

The method is suitable for use in settings or social relationships constricted by gender and age hierarchies. The technique seeks to promote dialogue and understanding between the older and younger generations and between men and women by considering the power imbalance.

Cross-Cultural Transformative Dialogue and Mediation are entirely different to ordinary mediation methods.

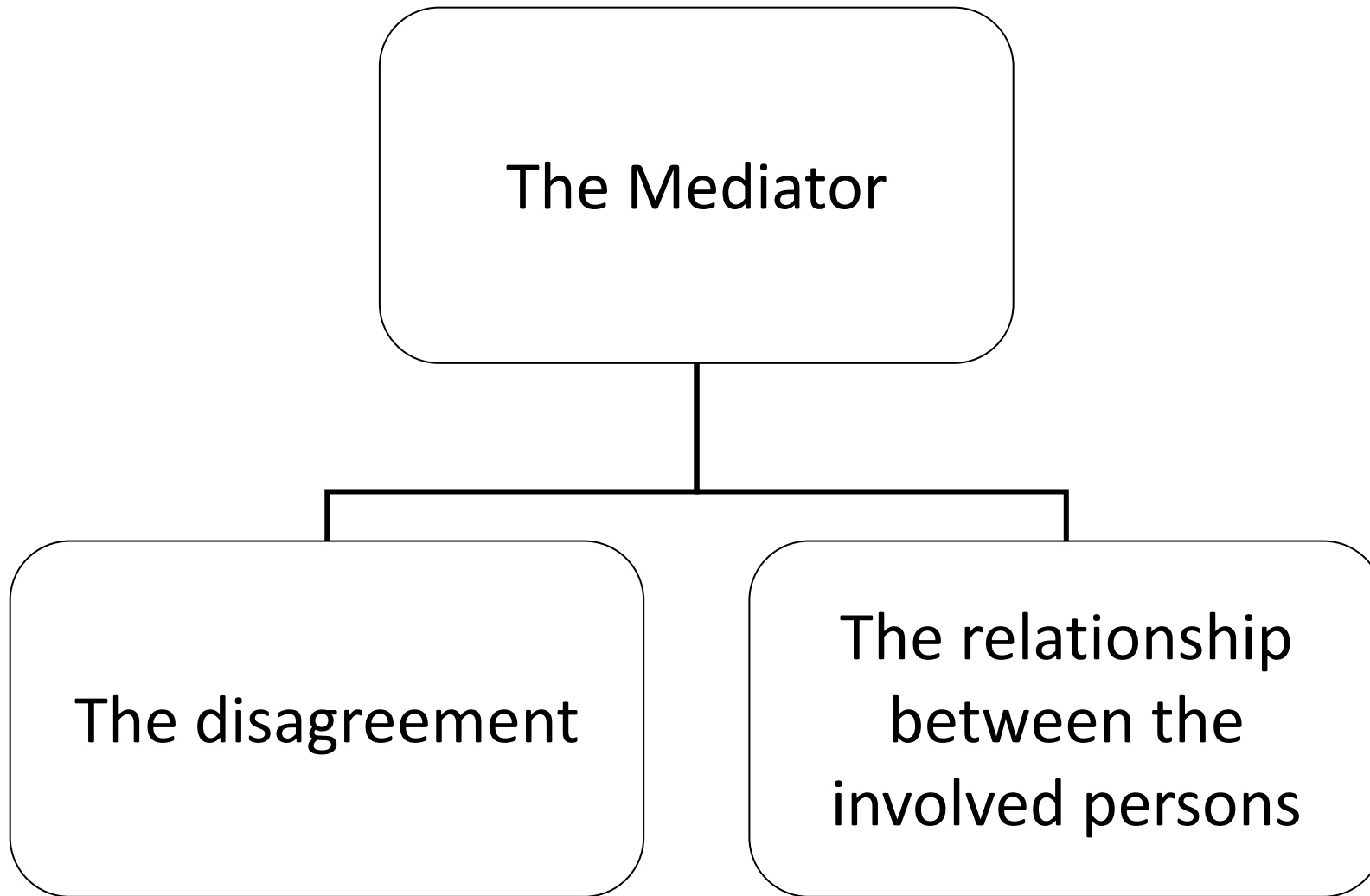


Definition of Conflict

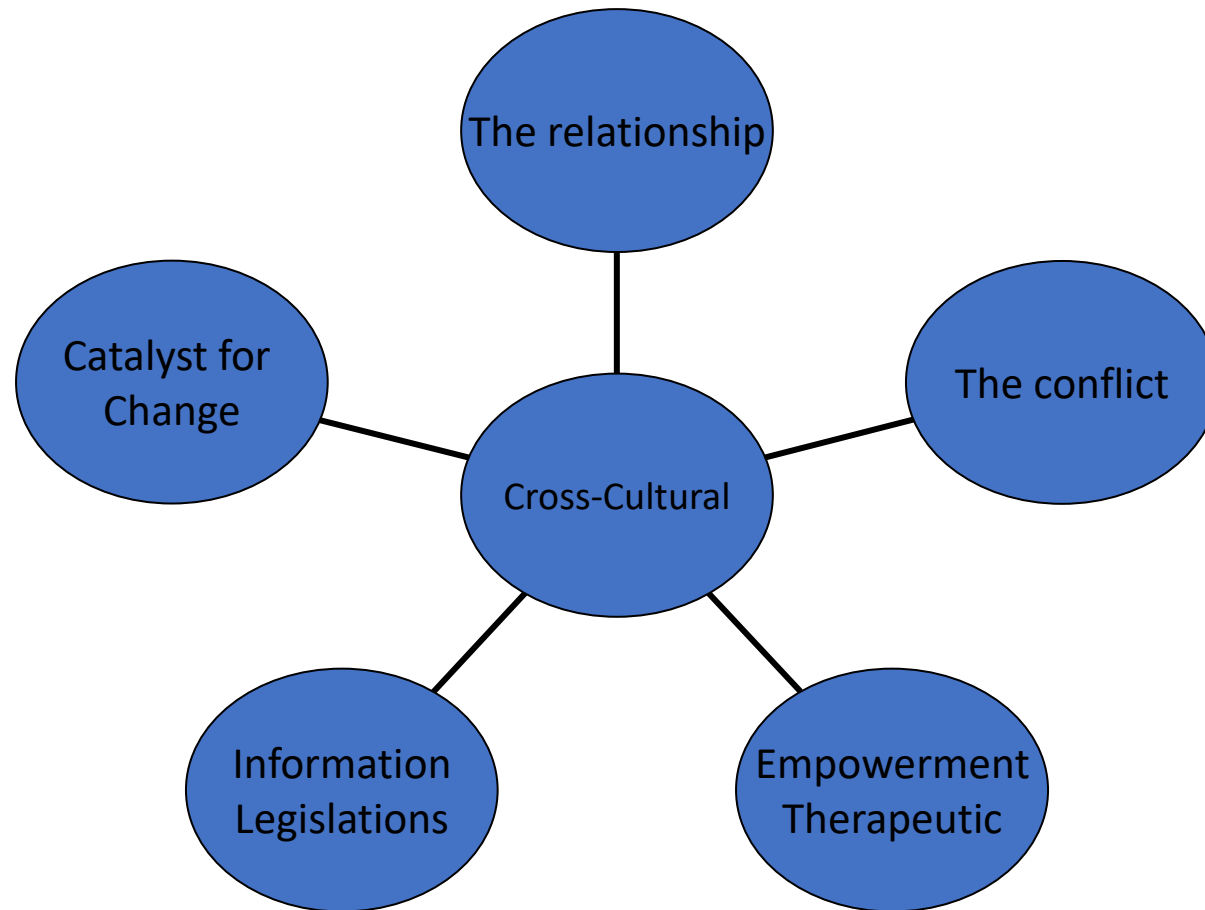
"Conflicts are disagreements that involve tensions within and between people."

(Else Hammerich og Kirsten Frydensberg, 2006:10)

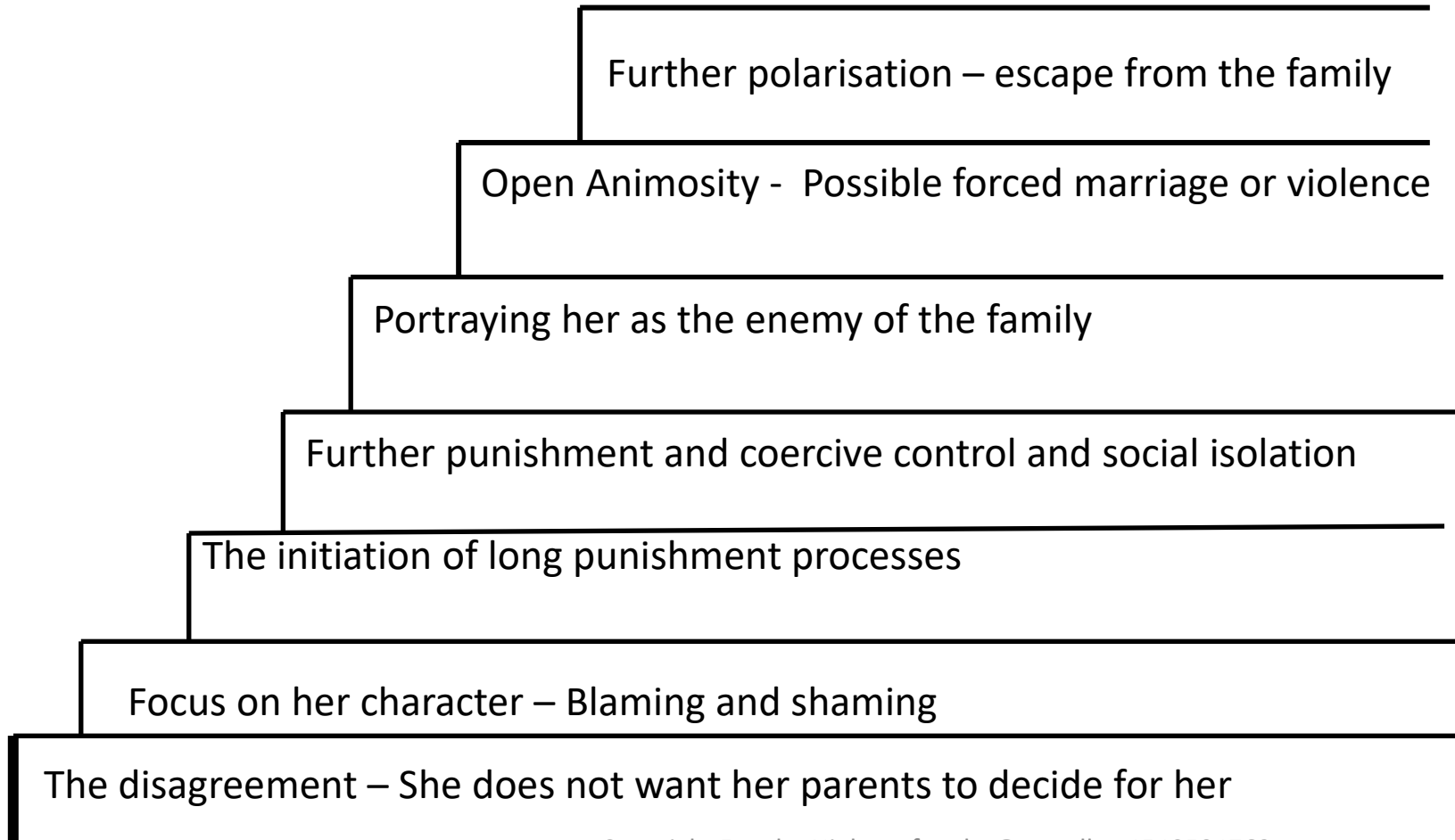




Working Aspects During the Dialogue Process



Conflict Process Steps



Conflict Management Process

