

# PRO YOUTH – EMPOWERING YOUTH WORKERS AND YOUTH IN THE PROTECTION AND PREVENTION FROM HONOR VIOLENCE

Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership –project

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# Pro Youth – Partners

- Suomen Setlementtiliitto
- Loisto settlementti ry
- Cooperativa Sociale Shannara Onlus (Portici, Italy)
- Arab Women Media Center (Amman, Jordan)
- Associated Partners, such as the police, NGOs, media representatives



# Pro Youth – Target groups

- Children and young people who face honour related control, restriction and violence, or the threat of it, from their own family and/or community.
- Professionals who work with children and young people, for example social workers, youth workers, police and other authorities.

# Pro Youth – objectives/results

- Building the knowledge level and professional capacity of the professionals who work with youth, about the phenomenon of honour related violence
- Improving the ability to recognize honour related violence and the ability to intervene
- Empowering the youth by getting information, support and help on the issue of honor related violence
- Increasing the transnational cooperation in EU on the topic of honour related violence, and creating connections/cooperation among the professionals and authorities concerned with the phenomenon

# Outputs – the manual

The Pro Youth Manual for Professionals:

- The manual gives insight and knowhow on how to recognize honour related violence and the threat of it, bringing more understanding of the dynamics and related issues to the professionals, and knowhow and tools on how to support and help the victims or potential victims
- The manual will be produced in English, Finnish, Arabic and Italian as online material

# Outputs – the mobile app

The mobile application for youth:

- Designed for youth (and with youth)
- Serves for them to get information and support on the issue of honour related violence
- The languages of the app: Finnish, Italian, English and Arabic

# Outputs – training modules

Training modules for professionals:

- Training days for social workers and child protection to recognize victims of honour related violence and best methods to support the victims
- Training days for police officers

# Where we are now?





# PRO YOUTH MANUAL

Supporting persons affected by honour related violence: practical tools for professionals in the fields of social work, youth work and education

Sanja Sillanpää



# About the manual

- Core deliverable of the Pro Youth project, co-developed with project partners from Jordan and Italy
- Published in spring 2023, in Finnish, English, Arabic and Italian
- Opportunity to exchange knowledge and ideas on honour related violence transnationally
- Shared recommendations, country-specific case examples and information



# Who is it for?

Specifically for professionals looking for information and tools to support persons, when:

- issues related to honour cause conflict and disagreement in families and potentially heighten the risk of violence
- a threat of violence is connected to concerns about reputation, shame or stigma in the person's family or wider social network
- violence is perpetrated to maintain or restore a person's or group's honour

# Why helping might feel difficult

- Difficult to understand what is happening in a client's life and what they are afraid of
- Not knowing how to help or where to refer a client to get help
- The whole situation seems complicated so it seems safer or easier if I do not intervene at all
- A client suddenly does not want my help anymore and is saying that everything is okay now
- Intervening might put me in danger or under pressure
- It is about their traditions and culture so it is not my role to intervene

# In a nutshell, the manual..

- Gives a framework to understand honour related violence as a global development and human rights issue
- Brings attention to the complexities of people's situations
  - risk management and protection
  - being heard, understood and getting the help needed
  - awareness of larger pictures
- Is client-centered
  - Listen to those affected or involved carefully to understand the case
  - no case is the same
- Highlights the need to work comprehensively, in collaboration with other professionals across sectors and to map situations and needs carefully

# About the content

Three main parts:

- Theoretical framework
- How to recognize honor related violence
- How to help



# Theoretical framework – chapters

- Violence is socially regulated
- Violence has a severe impact on health and well-being
- Gender inequality one of the root causes for honour related violence
- Intersecting risk factors for violence: the ecological approach
- Defining honour related violence
- Recognise this about honour related violence – a checklist

# Theoretical framework – example

Multiple factors on different levels of the society affect the risk for victimization or perpetration of violence. Specifically for HRV:

- gender, sexual, religious norms and other social norms especially when there is a risk of social sanctioning for norm-breaking
- the fear of stigmatization, shame, even ostracism
- the impact of patriarchal hierarchies in families or communities
- the pressure different persons face from the need to conform and play their perhaps narrowly and externally defined roles



# Example continues..

But also:

previous oppressions, intergenerational patterns of violence and traumatization, poverty, unemployment, discrimination, questions about belonging, acceptance and identity, location and time specific conditions, including laws, policies, services, migration histories, family hierarchies, access to education etc..

# Why does the theory matter?

Our values and our view of humans and the world influence what kind of services we build, where we put resources, how much value we put in meeting all our clients as individuals with individual life stories and narratives, and how much space we give them to tell their full stories.

The situations can be complex and our help should reflect that.

# How to recognise HRV – chapters

- Warning signs of victimisation to violence
- Honour related conflicts – a potential warning sign
- Recognising different forms of violence
- Early recognition: Questions to help recognise honour related conflict and potential risk for violence
- Risk management – assessing the safety situation

# How to help – chapters

- Recognition and referral in the service structure
- First meetings: support in crisis and earning the trust
- Protection – planning for safety
- Holistic, multisectoral support
- Dialogue with family members: prevention and conflict mitigation
- Long-term support if detaching or being rejected by family

# Sopu-work's approach

The decisions clients need to make are not easy ->

- time is needed to process, offer help patiently
- create trust and be trustworthy
- help to believe that there can be a way out of the situation
- build self-confidence to draw boundaries
- solutions come from the client themselves, through mutual brainstorming
- don't be afraid of contacting the various conflict parties or the persons perpetrating the violence (with client's consent)

# Reflections on the writing process

The co-development process:

- abstract phenomenon, practical approach to manage risks
- despite different social, legal contexts and service structures, a shared understanding of the phenomenon
- each project partner benefits from the process for different reasons

→ The manual can be used to understand violence taking place in many different social contexts

# How to get the manual?

- After submitting the seminar feedback form tomorrow, you can give permission to receive powerpoint presentations from this seminar as well as the manual (in the spring)
- The Pro Youth project's end seminar *May 2023*

