



Call for Papers, No. 2 - 2023

Male Violence in Intimate Relationships

Edited by Grazia Moffa & Alessandra Pauncz

The Istanbul Convention, signed by the Council of Europe on April 7, 2011, and ratified by the Italian Republic through Law No. 77/2013, states that programs aimed at perpetrators of violence are an integral part of the prevention strategy and fight against violence against women, while prioritizing the protection of victims. Based on this, Law No. 69/2019 "Codice Rosso" of July 19, 2019, refers to the possibility for "perpetrators of mistreatment" to participate in "specific recovery programs provided by organizations or associations dedicated to the prevention, psychological assistance, and rehabilitation of convicted individuals [*our translation*]" for domestic and gender-based violence offences. The need to establish and support programs and services for male perpetrators of violence and male education to counter gender-based violence is further emphasized in the National Strategic Plan on Male Violence against Women 2021-2023, which promotes their broader use for an authentic process of changing male attitudes "for the benefit of potential victims, the community, and the individuals themselves who benefit from these programs [*our translation*]" rather than for instrumental purposes to obtain a reduction or suspension of punishment. Furthermore, it is important to underline the significant role of Legislative Decree No. 38/2009, known as the Warning to the Police Chief, which introduces an additional preventive tool allowing the victim to obtain rapid and early protection before the definition of the criminal proceeding.

More recently, on September 14, 2022, an agreement was signed between the Government, Regions, and the Provinces of Trento and Bolzano (No. 184/CRS) in order to establish the minimum requirements for Centers for Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Perpetrators. This agreement reaffirms the centrality of victim safety, the importance of integrating violence perpetrators programs into the service network, the structural and organizational requirements of Centers, the need for adequate training for operators and the presence of qualified personnel, and the level of essential services to be guaranteed in the territories.

The idea of implementing preventive and treatment programs for violence perpetrators is not new. The first experiences, now consolidated internationally, date back to the 1970s, with the establishment of male collectives in the United States closely connected to associations and feminist movements that were already addressing violence from the perspective of supporting victims. In Europe, the first intervention models based on a psychotherapeutic approach emerged in the late 1970s. Thanks to the European Union's Daphne II Action Program, different European initiatives now converge in the Work With Perpetrators of Domestic Violence in Europe (WWP) network to exchange knowledge and experiences, promote research, evaluate the quality and effectiveness of models, develop guidelines and standards, and foster the development of new initiatives throughout Europe.

In Italy, programs for male perpetrators of violence have a recent history that began in the 2000s. Among the first centres dedicated specifically to the treatment of male perpetrators of violence in Italy are the "Centro di Ascolto Uomini Maltrattanti" in Florence, the "Centro Italiano per la Promozione della Mediazione" in Milan, the listening center of the "Associazione Cerchio degli Uomini" in Turin, and the "Centro di Ascolto e sostegno al cambiamento" of the "Associazione White Dove" in Genoa. In particular, the "CAM" in Florence, associated with CAV Artemisia, was established as an autonomous association in 2009. With multiple locations in Italy, CAM is part of the WWP network and promotes the national network RELIVE - Relazioni Libere dalla Violenza (relationships freed from violence), which has been continuing and specifying its mission on the national territory since 2015.

Referring to the year 2017, the "ViVa" project of IRPPS-CNR mapped 52 services for abusive men active in the national territory, of which only 1 out of 4 were in Southern Italy. This shortage of centers, particularly in Southern Italy, is still an unresolved problem.

As a result of the dramatic increase in male violence in intimate relationships "violenza maschile nelle relazioni intime" (IPV) during the period of domestic isolation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and considering the renewed institutional framework, the issue of the relevance of programs for male perpetrators of violence has decisively returned to the center of public attention.

However, the topic is not without its difficulties, both regarding the practical aspects of implementing such public policy and the opportunity in light of the scarcity of available resources to coordinate these interventions with a more comprehensive strategy that prioritizes providing protection and support to victims of violence.

The aforementioned reflection requires the scientific community to address various issues that raise different questions, some of which are mentioned below.

What are the most effective interventions to ensure the safety of women and prevent gender-based violence? How can these interventions consider the cultural and social differences in how gender-based violence is addressed and perceived?

How can we ensure that programs for violence perpetrators effectively account for the content of their programs? How can these programs be evaluated to ensure they meet the needs of the participants and address the root causes of gender-based violence?

How can the work of practitioners be structured to provide an integrated and coordinated response to gender-based violence?

How can the understanding of psychological and emotional factors influencing gender-based violence be integrated into effective interventions to prevent it?

How can we balance effective intervention with an understanding of the social and cultural level of the gender-based violence phenomenon?

The guest editors are particularly interested in contributions that:

- provide an evidence-based in-depth analysis of the prevalence of male violence in intimate relationships and explore its complexity from an intersectional perspective;
- investigate the variety and specificity of strategies to counter male violence in intimate relationships implemented by public and private social entities in Italy or reflect on the comparison between Italian and international experiences;
- reflect on the reception in Italy of the indications of the Istanbul Convention specifically regarding the establishment and support of programs for male perpetrators of violence, as well as the implementation of priorities 1.5 and 3.4 of the National Strategic Plan on Male Violence against Women 2021-2023 and the State-Region Agreement No. 184/CSR of September 14, 2022;
- examine the impact of new regulations (such as Law No. 69/2019, "Red Code") on these programs;
- analyze regional and territorial differences in intervention programs targeting male perpetrators or potential perpetrators of violence;
- explore the training needs of frontline workers from the perspective of activating and implementing programs for male perpetrators of violence in different territories;
- address the issue of the relationship between specialized services and programs for the treatment of male perpetrators of violence and support services for victims.

Additional proposals that are consistent with the Call for Papers and approach the presented theme from different and original perspectives will also be considered.

Each proposal must include:

- a title, even if provisional, that clearly identifies the topic addressed;
- an abstract, between 300 and 500 words, in Italian or English;
- 3 to 5 keywords.

Abstracts should be uploaded to the dedicated web platform on the website www.cussoc.it.

The editorial guidelines for the preparation and submission of contributions are available at the following address: <https://www.cussoc.it/journal/about/submissions>

Deadline for abstract submission: June 25, 2023

Notification of abstract acceptance: July 5, 2023

Deadline for paper submission: August 15, 2023

Publication: December 2023