



Miessakit association

Statement regarding "Call for submissions: COVID-19 and the increase of domestic violence against women"

Miessakit Association is a non-governmental expert organization established to support the mental, psychological and social growth of men. The organization complements the existing crisis services available for men and offers consultations and training.

To what extent has there been an increase of violence against women, especially domestic violence in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns?

Please provide all available data on the increase of violence against women, including domestic violence and femicides, registered during the COVID-19 crisis.

- Within our work there has been no particular signs of increased or decreased domestic violence against men or women during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In the society there has been some concerns whether the lockdowns would increase domestic violence. Police house calls in general have increased, but according to the police not regarding domestic violence.
- Statistics on domestic violence produced by Statistics Finland are available at the end of the year 2020.

Are helplines run by Government and/or civil society available? Has there been an increase in the number of calls in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?

- All helplines are available despite the pandemic.
- Some helplines report increases some decreases in the number of calls.

Can women victims of domestic violence be exempted from restrictive measures to stay at home in isolation if they face domestic violence?

- Yes.

Are shelters open and available? Are there any alternatives to shelters available if they are closed or without sufficient capacity?

- Shelters are open.

Are protection orders available and accessible in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Yes.



What are the impacts on women's access to justice? Are courts open and providing protection and decisions in cases of domestic violence?

- Courts are open and provide protection and decisions in cases of domestic violence.

What are the impacts of the current restrictive measures and lockdowns on women's access to health services?

Please specify whether services are closed or suspended, particularly those focusing on reproductive health.

- All health services are open.

Please provide examples of obstacles encountered to prevent and combat domestic violence during the COVID-19 lockdowns.

- If anyone of those who has been part of the domestic violence situation seek help, help is offered. So, the main obstacle is if no-one seeks help ("speaks out"). Therefore COVID-19 has no impact in this.
- The actual face-to-face help has been mostly shutdown during the springtime. But help has been fully available via remote connections.

Please provide examples of good practices to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence and to combat other gendered impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by Governments.

- Finland has a comprehensive state-funded shelter network. The shelters offer 24/7 advice and support to victims of domestic violence. The shelters are short-term refuges for men and women and their children in situations where staying at home would be impossible or dangerous because of violence, threat or fear.

Please provide examples of good practices to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence and to combat other gendered impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by NGOs and NHRIs or equality bodies.

- Miessakit Association's "Lyömätön Linja" -work provides specialist services for men with intimate partner and family violence issues. The clients are men that have used psychological or physical violence towards their intimate partners or children, or other persons close to them. Clients are also men who fear using violence or want to assess their own and their family's need for help. The aim is that the client will better understand his own actions, the background issues affecting them as well as learning to realize the alternative forms of action to violent behavior. Types of work are individual meetings face to face or via video, that can be supplemented with pair meetings and group meetings.
- Miessakit Association's "Men Who Have Experienced Violence" -work provides specialist services for men who have experienced mental or physical violence at home or out on the streets. They can get help via phone and email, with personal meetings and in guided peer support group meetings.



- The city of Helsinki launched a large campaign (in all main media) against domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. The good practice included is the understanding that it is critical that both the victims and the perpetrators get help to their problem. That's the most impressive way to prevent and combat domestic violence.

Please send any additional information on the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on domestic violence against women not covered by the questions above

- In Finland both men and women suffer from domestic violence – both as victims and perpetrators. That's why we offer professional help targeted for male or female perpetrators or victims. Our professional organizations have learned by their long-term work, that the best way to prevent and combat domestic violence is to help all parties within the violent situations.

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More information

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