

EHRA

Policing domestic violence  
Belgian approach

HIER. NU. POLITIE

ZONE RUPPEL MORGEN.



## Pompidou Group statement on bringing human rights into drug policy development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation

■ The Council of Europe is an international organisation with 47 member states. Its objective is to promote and protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The Council of Europe serves over 820 million people across Europe. **The Pompidou Group – or Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs – is the Council of Europe’s drug policy cooperation platform.** It is a Council of Europe enlarged partial agreement, open to voluntary membership of Council of Europe member states as well as other countries. It has 39 member states including three from outside Europe.<sup>1</sup>

■ The Pompidou Group upholds the core values of the Council of Europe – **human rights, democracy and rule of law** – and promotes a **balanced approach to drug policy**, supporting both demand and supply reduction of illicit drugs. It offers a forum for open debate, exchange of experiences and, as a platform for science and evidence-based innovation, it links policy, research and practice.

■ There is a need to have processes in place for on-going assessment to ensure that human rights are and remain respected and safeguarded.

■ To pursue this objective, member states will:

- ▶ Promote the respect of the rule of law;
- ▶ Recall the constant and determined opposition to the death penalty, in all places and in all circumstances, and urge all States still applying this inhuman punishment to establish a moratorium for its definitive abolition;
- ▶ Condemn extrajudicial executions and all forms of arbitrary or extrajudicial arrest and detention, and the use of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in all circumstances;
- ▶ Adopt and implement comprehensive and balanced national drug policies in order to improve prevention, especially for juvenile audiences, and access to healthcare for drug dependent people, including those in detention;
- ▶ Contribute to reducing stigma and discrimination of drug users;
- ▶ Promote the mainstreaming of gender aspects in all areas of drug policy;
- ▶ Increase awareness of human rights instruments and the need to implement them.

# Domestic violence in the area

- About **1000 interventions** a year;
- Families with **children**;
- **Abuse of substances** (legal or illegal) mostly involved – **aggressor side**;
- Police only involved **after multiple acts** of violence;
- Physical AND Psychological violence;
- Police is **not the best partner** BUT available 24/7;
- Legal and moral obligation to stop the violence.

# Multi Agency approach

**ONE-STOP-SHOP** for victims of family violence where professionals come together and families come first – A SAFE PLACE

- A Family Justice Centre provides a wide range of coördinated services under one roof;
- Improving access for victims of domestic violence, child abuse and sexual abuse;
- Victims and their families are the focus of the FJC.





# Multi Agency approach

- Police
- Prosecutor
- Women's aid
- Shelters
- Services for child abuse
- Services for social welfare
- Counseling
- Medical services
- Services for housing
- Probation
- Perpetrator programs
- Services for migrants and asylum seekers
- Youth care
- Centre for mental health
- Services for job seeking
- Local authorities

## On site services:

- Peer groups
- Support by voluntary co-operators
- Self-defense courses
- Legal advice
- Focus groups
- Medical examination

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# Belgian police – our role

- **Stop** the violence;
- **Separate** the actors – restraining order for aggressor, secure the children, file a report;
- **Follow up** on the victims (proactively – social service of police) and on the conditions of the perpetrator/respect of restraining order;
- **Introduction to FJC approach** – case management (member of staff police organisation);
- **Report** to authorities about incidence and prevalence.