

## **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

Information provided by the Federal Ministry of Health and Women in May 2005.

### **Introduction**

For many years there has been a broad political and social consensus to combat violence against women and children with numerous initiatives and measures. The general public has been made more aware of, and sensitive to, the problem of domestic violence by numerous publications, surveys, information campaigns and seminars.

### **Legislation Relating to Violence Against Women**

#### Austrian Criminal Code:

Due to the large range of existing forms of violence against women, numerous general offences from the Austrian Criminal Code need to be mentioned at this point, the most important being:

Murder, manslaughter, wilful bodily injury, coercion and aggravated coercion, dangerous threat, rape, sexual coercion, sexual abuse of minors, trafficking in human beings and trafficking for prostitution. Some of these regulations will be dealt with in detail later on.

Apart from the above mentioned regulations some further relevant legislation will be dealt with in the following subsections.

#### **Domestic violence**

##### Protection from Violence Act:

With the enactment of the Federal Act on Protection against Violence in the Family ("Protection from Violence Act") on May 1, 1997, the legal provisions for quick and effective protective measures for victims of domestic violence were considerably improved.

##### Barring Order by the Police Authorities, Security Police Act:

Police officers are authorised to expel a (potential) perpetrator from the family home and to issue a barring order (§ 38a Security Police Act/Sicherheitspolizeigesetz). Barring orders are issued if "a dangerous assault on a person's life, health or freedom appears imminent". These security police provisions apply to all persons living in a home, regardless of ownership or whether they are related to one another. The decision on imposing eviction and barring orders lies exclusively with the police, showing that domestic violence is no longer perceived as a private "conflict".

When intervening, the police officers are held to inform the abused person about suitable victim protection facilities, i.e. the Intervention Centres (more on that later) and to immediately notify the Intervention Centre in charge about the issuing of a barring order.

Each barring order is to be reviewed by security police organs within 48 hours. Compliance with barring orders has to be checked by the police at least once within the first three days. The order is valid for a maximum of 10 days. If the victim applies to a local Family Court for a interim injunction within the set term, the order is prolonged for a maximum of 20 days.

Since 1997 about 26.724 barring orders were issued.

year	Barring orders
1.5. – 31.12.1997	ca. 1.450
1998	2.673
1999	3.076
2000	3.354
2001	3.283
2002	3.944
2003	4.180
2004	4.764
total	ca. 26.724

#### Interim Injunction by Family Courts:

Every person who lives or lived with the perpetrator in a family-like relationship may apply for an interim injunction.

The family court has to issue an interim injunction, banning the perpetrator from the home of the person at risk (even if it is their common home) and from the immediate vicinity, if the situation makes life or the encounter with the perpetrator intolerable for the victim and the victim urgently needs to live there.

Moreover, the court may, upon request, forbid the presence of the perpetrator at certain locations (workplace of the woman, kindergarten/school) and further forbid him to establish any form of contact with the victim, as long as this is not prejudicial to the perpetrators gravest interests.

An interim injunction is valid for a maximum period of 3 months. If a family-law action is brought against the perpetrator within this period, e.g. a divorce suit, the interim injunction may remain effective until the suit is closed.

#### Intervention Centres against Violence in the Family:

Intervention Centres against Violence in the Family play an important role in the implementation of the Protection from Violence Act. They are private facilities, which act by order of and are funded by the Federal Ministry of the Interior and the Federal Ministry of Health and Women (§ 25(3) Security Police Act: The Federal Minister of the Interior is authorised to order reliable and appropriate institutions concerned with the protection of victims to contact persons exposed to violence for the purpose of offering counselling and immaterial support.)

The first Intervention Centre was already installed in December 1995, followed by 4 more in 1998. Since autumn 1999 each federal province has its own intervention centre, two provinces support additional regional offices.

The Intervention Centre has to be notified without delay of any eviction/barring order imposed by the police.

Subsequently the Intervention Centre contacts the victim on the phone or by letter and offers active support. The main task of the Intervention Centre is to guarantee the safety of the victims, hence to assess in cooperation with the victim the threat posed by the perpetrator and to set up a crisis plan as well as safety programme.

Apart from that, help services include legal counselling, particularly on interim injunctions by the court which prolong the expulsion of the perpetrator from the home, as well as socio-psychological services.

The Intervention Centre coordinates the entire intervention process between all occupational groups involved to optimise its support to the victims, e.g. saving them from having to repeatedly explain the act of violence.

Of course, victims can contact the Intervention Centres on their own initiative too. Therefore in 2004 8.916 persons (most of them women) were supported by the Intervention Centres (while 4.764 barring orders were issued).

year	Barring orders	Persons supported by I.C.
2001	3.283	4.849
2002	3.944	6.479
2003	4.180	7.942
2004	4.764	8.916

#### Cooperation and networking between all occupational groups:

In order to meet the objective of putting an end to violence, it is necessary for all occupational groups concerned to work closely together and form networks.

Apart from the security police, the following institutions are involved: criminal and civil courts (the latter being responsible e.g. for interim injunctions under the Protection from Violence Act, claims to alimony and divorce suits); the youth welfare authorities, if children are involved; social services departments; other non-governmental institutions, e.g. women shelters and counselling services for debtors.

The Intervention Centres play an important role not only in handling individual emergency cases, but also in establishing and extending the cooperation and network of all relevant occupational groups.

#### Training of Law Enforcement Authorities:

Since 1989, police officers follow a two-day seminar on violence against women in the course of their basic training.

#### Quality assurance through training of all occupational groups concerned:

To assure high quality of all counselling services and intervention procedures special training courses for all occupational groups which are in contact with victims of violence (courts, police authorities, youth welfare officers, employees of women's institutions, health personnel, teachers, etc) are essential.

In 1996/97, a series of training courses was offered to the relevant occupational groups across the country.

Employees of institutions concerned with women's affairs, which offer counselling and support for women exposed to violence, are not represented by any trade association responsible for their special training or further education. In response to this need, state funded seminars for this target group were regularly held since 1998.

In addition cooperation between all occupational groups were supported by state funded interdisciplinary seminars, regularly held from 1998 till 2003. Since then, cooperation is furthermore assured by the Intervention Centres – at present, there is no need for additional seminars.

Furthermore an extensive information brochure explaining the Protection from Violence Act and including an extensive list of counselling and support services was published in 2001 (and is about to be updated). This brochure is sent free of charge to all interested relevant information centres for further distribution.

#### Mandatory reporting for physicians:

In Austria, all punishable offences, which are to be prosecuted by law, can be reported by any person. Naturally, this is also true of cases of domestic violence.

According to the Physician Law of 1998 (Ärztegesetz) physicians are sworn to secrecy about all secrets entrusted or made known to them in the execution of their duty. But in case of reasonable suspicion that an act punishable by law has lead to death or serious bodily injury of a person, they are obliged to report this to the police. In the latter case, they have to inform the victim about institutions for the protection of victims.

Hence, minor bodily injuries are not subject to mandatory reporting.

If the victim is under age, special provisions apply: If a minor is suspected of having been maltreated, tortured, neglected, or sexually abused, the physician is obliged to report the case. If the suspicion is directed against a close relative, reporting may be omitted as long as this is necessary for the well-being of the minor and results in a cooperation with youth welfare authorities and, if necessary, the intervention of a child protection team in a hospital.

#### Migrants

Women migrants who fell victim to domestic violence are also supported by the above mentioned Intervention Centres, which, if necessary, call in translators. Some Intervention Centres also employ native speakers.

In addition, several institutions are promoted in various Austrian provinces, which put particular emphasis on counselling and support services for women migrants.

Taking into account that most women migrants come to Austria following their husband and – according to current legal position - regularly do not qualify for a work permit during the first five years of their residence, there are special regulations for women migrants victim to domestic violence (an amendment to facilitate access to labour market is in preparation).

Lawfully established foreigners may obtain a work permit, if they cannot be expected to continue to live with their spouses as the result of an assault on themselves or on their minor child, the threat to commit such an assault or the conduct of the spouse which is considerably harming the victim's psychical health.

For this rule to apply, one of the following criteria must be met: for one of the above mentioned reasons the spouse must have been convicted under criminal law, an interim injunction under the Protection from Violence Act must have been issued by the court or the marriage must have been divorced. As of May 2003 the law has been amended, making it easier for the victim to take advantage of this exception. Also if e.g. a doctor or relevant NGO, like an Intervention Centre, confirms suspicion of an above mentioned act of violence, a working permit may be issued.

## **Legislation on Violation of Sexual Integrity and relevant Regulations**

### Rape/Sexual Coercion

#### Rape:

Rape is realised if the victim is forced (by violence or severe threats or by confining illegally) to perform sexual intercourse or "a sexual act similar to sexual intercourse". The sentence ranges from 6 months up to ten years in prison.

If the offence leads to severe bodily injury, pregnancy (as of May 2004) or if the victim is humiliated or tortured in a particular manner, the length of the sentence ranges from 5 up to 15 years, and if the victim dies from 10 up to 20 years or life imprisonment.

#### Sexual Coercion:

The offence of sexual coercion is realised if the victim is forced by violence or severe threats to perform a sexual act, which is not sexual intercourse, or any other comparable behaviour defined as rape. Sexual coercion is subject to a sentence up to five years in prison. If the offence leads to severe bodily injury, pregnancy (as of May 2004) or if the victim is humiliated or tortured in a particular manner, the length of the sentence ranges from one year up to 10 years, and if the victim dies from 5 to 15 years.

### Rape/sexual coercion in marriage or cohabitation

Since 1989 rape and sexual coercion in marriage and cohabitation are punishable as crimes. As of May 2004 no more legal differences are made whether the crime has been committed in marriage/cohabitation or otherwise.

### Child Sexual Abuse/Incest

In Austria a wide range of measures is taken to prevent violent acts directed at children and young people as well as to disclose and stop them as quickly as possible, comprising numerous legal measures such as enacting a prohibition to inflict corporal punishment, introducing the health professionals' duty of reporting cases of violence to the youth welfare authority.

The most important offences from the Austrian criminal code will be dealt with here.

#### Incest

The consummation of sexual intercourse with a person who is related in a direct line is punishable with imprisonment of up to three years. Whoever seduces a person for sexual intercourse with whom he or she is related in a descending line shall be punished with imprisonment of up to three years. Sexual intercourse with siblings is punishable with imprisonment of up to six months.

### Abuse of a position of authority

The misuse of a position of authority is punishable. Whoever misuses a minor relative in a descending line, an adopted child, stepchild or ward for sexual intercourse or who seduces the same to perform any illicit sexual practices on himself to sexually excite himself/herself or any third party shall be punishable with imprisonment of up to three years ("minors" are persons who have not yet completed their 18<sup>th</sup> year of life). If someone misuses a minor in the above described way who is under his/her upbringing, education, training or supervision - by using his/her position over that minor - the same penalty is laid down.

### Sexual abuse of minors

A reform of the criminal law on sexual offences came into force in October 1998. "Severe sexual abuse of persons under age" (children up to the 14<sup>th</sup> birthday) not only covers mere sexual intercourse, but also all "acts similar to intercourse", which includes all forms of oral, vaginal or anal penetration for the satisfaction of the sexual urge (also with objects). Such acts will thus become subject to sentences of imprisonment ranging from one to ten years (5-15 years in case of severe injuries or pregnancies as a consequence of the offence, 10-20 years or life imprisonment in case of death).

"Sexual abuse of persons under age" is the provision for less intensive sexual contacts and is punishable with imprisonment of six months up to five years (1-10 years in case of severe injuries as a consequence of the offence, 5-15 years in case of death). The offender will not be punished if the offender's age does not exceed that of the minor by more than four years and the minor is not less than twelve years of age - if none of the above mentioned consequences (severe injury or death) have occurred.

### Pornography concerning minors

Legislation on pornography concerning minors has been changed as of May 2004. Sentences have become more severe and a new regulation has been introduced for further protections of minors from prostitution or pornographic actions.

### Pornographic images with persons under age

Whoever produces pornographic images with minors (pictorial illustrations of a sexual act on minors or minors on himself/herself, or on another person or with an animal that, when regarding the image, would give the impression that such a sexual act occurred during its production) or imports, conveys or exports such images for the purpose of dissemination, or offers, procures, hands over, shows or makes accessible in any other way such images, shall be subject to punishment with imprisonment of up to three years. When such a crime is committed for profit the sentence may range from 6 months to five years. If the crime has been committed by a criminal organization, or by using severe violence or at the risk of the victim's life, the sentence ranges from one year to 10 years.

The procurement for oneself and the possession of such images is punishable with imprisonment of up to two years.

The term of "pictorial illustrations" contained in the provisions shall also include visual or data recordings such as CD-ROM, hard disks and diskettes. This therefore takes into account the new phenomenon of the dissemination of illustrations of child pornography on the Internet. The "possession" of illustrations of child pornography does not include the search for child

pornography on the Internet according to prevailing legal opinion, which is therefore not punishable. However, if the document is saved and printed out, then this falls under the term possession. Dissemination is regarded as the input of illustrations of child pornography on the Internet as well as the setting of links to respective data.

#### Encouragement of Prostitution and pornographic acts of minors

Whoever recruits, offers or procures minors either for prostitution or pornographic actions or who wants to profit himself/herself or wants to let someone profit by the prostitution or pornographic actions of minors, is punishable up to three years of imprisonment.

If the crime has been committed within a criminal organisation, if severe violence has been applied, if the life of the victim has been endangered or if the crime leads to severe disadvantages to the victim, the sentence ranges from 6 months up to 5 years. If the victim is under age the sentence ranges from one year up to ten years.

The Internet has become a new medium for child pornography, breaking down the barriers to accessibility. In answer to the resultant increase in the dissemination and consumption, a reporting agency of Interpol for child pornography on the Internet was set up by the Ministry of the Interior in 1998. At the end of October 1998, a national action plan drawn up by experts for combating child pornography on the Internet was passed by the Austrian government.

#### Statute of limitations

If the victim of rape, sexual coercion, (severe) sexual abuse of persons under age or abuse of a position of authority has been a minor at the time of the crime, the statute of limitations starts only with the day the victim has completed its 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

#### **Legal provisions to prevent post-traumatic symptoms and observing the victim's individual sphere of life**

During all official proceedings or the supply of information to third parties the victim's identity and her or his individual rights are to be safeguarded. In this context the media law holds protective provisions including claims for damages if these rights are violated.

During police interrogation women who fell victim to violence have the right to be questioned by a female officer and to be accompanied by a person enjoying her confidence.

Also in the course of criminal proceedings against domestic or sexual violence offences, the victim is entitled to demand that a person enjoying her confidence be present during questioning and that the public may be excluded.

The victim also may ask for a "considerate interrogation" before the examining magistrate to spare her the need to testify again during trial. In the course of this interrogation, the accused, his defending counsel and the public prosecutor need to be given the opportunity to ask questions. Upon request of the victim, the interrogation may be videotaped in such a way that the victim does not have to be questioned in the same room as the accused.

Persons under the age of 14 which fell victim to a sexual offence have to be interrogated in such a way even without having to file a petition.

In penal proceeding on sexual offences the involved (lay) judges and members of the jury (according to the type of court) have to include a certain number of persons of the same sex as the victim. This is intended to minimise the distress caused to the victims of sexual offences by being questioned in court and to enable more account to be taken of gender-specific perspectives.

Moreover, each victim may refuse to give evidence, if the accused is a relative.

### **Psycho-social and legal court accompaniment system**

Even when interrogated by video transmission and not directly confronted with the accused, minors and even adult victims are subject to considerable stress in court proceedings.

The experience of sheer helplessness felt not just by the victims but also by the people who are closest to them caused a model project "psychological and legal court accompaniment in case of sexual abuse suffered by girls, boys and young people" from 1998-2000.

When in late 2000 the Federal Ministry of Justice began to make direct case-to-case payments for psycho-social and legal court accompaniment services, the Federal Ministry of Social Security and Generations commissioned a project to implement the service on existing structures.

At its central objective, the project aimed at training staff in order to ensure a professional level and to secure quality standards. Secondly, the project intended to initiate and support cooperation between the providers of services to victims of sexual abuse by establishing "co-operation forums" and interdisciplinary "roundtables" in the nine provinces of Austria. To ensure a professional level the Federal Ministry of Social Security, Generations and Consumer Protection funded follow up activities like interdisciplinary workshops and supervision of court accompanying.

Numerous counselling centres in all of Austria offer psycho-social and legal court accompaniment to all victims (children and adults) free of charge and at a professional level.

To guarantee victims of severe physical or sexual violence psycho-social and legal court accompaniment services, an amendment is in preparation at present.

### Sexual Harassment

#### Sexual harassment and public sexual acts:

As of May 2004 sexual harassment and public sexual acts are punishable under the Criminal Code. The crime is punishable with imprisonment of up to 6 months or a penalty of up to 360 per diem rates. This new provision is a strong signal towards society that sexual harassment is not tolerated – so far sexual harassment – as long as not achieving sexual coercion – was not punishable (only in cases of sexual harassment in the workplace regulations for compensation existed, see following point).

#### Sexual harassment in the workplace:

The Federal Act on Equal Treatment (Gleichbehandlungsgesetz) inter alia lays down the provisions for the principle of equal treatment for men and women at work applicable to the private sector including laws on sexual harassment in the workplace.



The following definition of sexual harassment is stipulated in the Act on Equal Treatment: Sexual harassment is any conduct of a sexual nature which affects a person's dignity, is unwanted, unwelcome or offensive and creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment for the harassed person; if submission to or rejection of such conduct on the part of the subordinate, employer or co-worker, either explicitly or implicitly, is used as the basis for disadvantageous decisions affecting the individual's access to vocational training, employment, further employment, promotion or pay, or is made a condition of another disadvantageous decision on the employer-employee relationship.

Sexual harassment therefore not only applies to criminal offences, but also to a much lower level of relevance (e.g. the displaying of pornographic posters may, under certain conditions, constitute such an offence).

The offence of discrimination by sexual harassment will also be committed when the harassment occurs by "third parties" (i.e. colleagues, customers, guests or clients) also if the employer is not at any fault concerning failure to lend assistance.

The Equal Treatment Act provides that victims are entitled to compensatory damages for pecuniary losses and emotional harm. The amount paid for emotional harm shall not fall below € 720,--.

Corresponding provisions are laid down in the Federal Equal Treatment Act of 1993 (Bundesgleichbehandlungsgesetz), applicable to the public sector.

### **Prostitution**

The legal competence for prostitution lies with the provinces. The matter is therefore governed in nine different provincial laws. Though the restrictions imposed differ in detail, prostitution is legal in all provinces.

### **Trafficking in women**

The consistent battle against sexual exploitation of women has been given special attention in the past few years, particularly because of outside factors that result from Austria's geographical situation and its function as a transit and target country for trafficking in women.

Article 217 refers to recruiting aliens for prostitution, being the key provision for the prosecution of traffickers. The penalties are higher if trafficking for prostitution occurs through deception regarding the purpose of the journey to the country or through coercion or use of force. Depending on the severity of the offence, the offender is liable to imprisonment for up to ten years.

Two further articles in the Criminal Code deal with this problem.

Article 104, trafficking for the purpose of slavery, which may lead to a prison sentence of from 10 to 20 years, and Article 104a, trafficking in human beings, which becomes effective as of May 2004. It penalises not only trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation but also for the purpose of exploitation of labor and trafficking of organs. Depending on the severity of the offence, the offender is liable to imprisonment for up to ten years

The Aliens Act, Article 104, smuggling of aliens, contains criminal law provisions on alien smuggling, being punishable with up to 10 years of imprisonment – depending on the severity of the offence.

Article 105, exploitation of aliens (in force since 2003), of the Aliens Act prohibits the exploitation of unlawful resident aliens - without specifically requiring demonstration of prostitution as a goal and without requiring demonstration of assistance in the illegal entry of aliens.

In combination with the provisions against human trafficking existing under criminal law, this provision is intended to enable effective action against criminal organisations and gangs which induce women, mostly under false pretences, to entrust themselves to these organisations and gangs. This offence is punishable also with up to 10 years (if the alien's exploitation causes his/her death).

The Austrian Aliens Act refers to the particular situation of victims of trafficking: For humanitarian reasons, the authority may issue a restricted residence permit for the time necessary not only to witnesses to ensure prosecution but also to victims to assert civil claims against the perpetrators.

Deportation of women who illegally stay in Austria as victims of human trafficking is therefore delayed for the purpose of the prosecution of the perpetrator and the assertion of civil claims of the victims.

According to the Aliens Act the authority may also refrain from giving orders for a pre-expulsion detention, if there are valid reasons to believe that its purpose may also be achieved through more lenient measures.

An Intervention Centre for Victims of Trafficking in Women (IBF) is established in Vienna, run by a NGO. It provides support, especially to obtain a residence permit for humanitarian reasons. The Centre also provides emergency accommodation for the victims if law enforcement authorities apply lenient measures instead of pre-deportation detention.

year	Women supported by IBF	Under it: women placed in the emergency flat
2001	163	34
2002	208	24
2003	142	50
2004	167	37

Some other associations provide counselling for female victims of trafficking (e.g. MAIZ, the Caritas).

Numerous bilateral agreements on police cooperation are also engaged in a cooperation for the combat against human trafficking. Similar agreements between different departments or, in some cases, governments exist in particular with neighbouring countries of Austria, the succession states of former Yugoslavia and several other Eastern European countries, as well as some African, Asian and American states.

In May 2003, an informal working group, dealing with trafficking in persons, was disposed in the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs. In 2004, this working group was formally disposed by the Federal Government as a Task Force. Its main goals are to exchange relevant informations between all concerned ministries and to coordinate their positions, including regarding multilateral negotiations.

## Sex tourism

Austria agrees to measures for the protection of children and young people in poor countries who are affected by sex tourism. As a result of the 1996 Amendment to the Criminal Code, it is now possible to punish sexual offences committed on children and young people (up to 18) outside of Austria according to Austrian law, irrespective of the law at the place where the offence was committed, if the offender is an Austrian and has his/her habitual place of residence in Austria.

## **Female genital mutilation**

FGM not only violates the right to physical integrity, but also results in considerable mutilation. Under the Austrian Criminal Code (Strafgesetzbuch) such an offence constitutes a bodily injury with severe after-effects, §§ 83 to 87.

Consent of the injured is not possible. § 90 (3) Criminal Code stipulates: "It is not possible to consent to a mutilation or other injury of the genitals that may cause a lasting impairment of sexual sensitivity". The person performing the operation therefore remains liable to punishment, even if the woman gives her consent (for whatever reason) to the operation.

The explicit elimination of legal justification to consent shall stress the fact that the injury to the (female) genital organs is a crime and, in agreement with worldwide efforts to take steps against these practices, a clear statement against female genital mutilation is therefore given.

In the case of minors both the physician performing the operation of FGM, as well as the parents giving their consent make themselves liable to punishment. According to § 12 Criminal Code it is not only the direct perpetrator who commits a punishable offence but each person who determines another person to carry out the act or contributes in any way to the execution thereof.

Physicians who perform FGM further commit a serious offence against their professional duties as medical practitioners laid down in the Physician Law of 1998 (Ärztegesetz). The physician may also be subject to a disciplinary offence.

## **Support/ Protection**

### Emergency telephone numbers:

In 1998 a 24-hour helpline for women exposed to violence was established. The helpline is financed by State funds.

The toll-free 24-hour nationwide service acts as a "first-aid" centre for victims of violence, as well as their environment, such as family members, neighbours, fellow workers, etc.. The helpline offers introductory and crisis counselling and the transfer to local counselling and support facilities. Each consultation is handled anonymously and confidentially. In the case of emergency violence situations the police is called to intervene or contact to the nearest women shelter is established (on request of the victim).

2004 there were about 88 incoming calls per day, 16.986 of them could be answered.

### Intervention Centres against Violence in the Family and Intervention Centre for Victims of Trafficking in Women:

For details please see the comments above.

### Refuges for battered women:

If chances are high that victims remain exposed to further acts of violence if they stay in their homes, and if prerequisites for the detention of the perpetrator are not sufficient, the risk of escalating violence, which is particularly high during times of separation, can only be prevented by moving the victims to a safe place.

At present, Austria has a total of 29 refuges (women shelters, emergency flats and Social-House), which temporarily accommodate women and children exposed to domestic violence.

In 2004, 2.767 persons (1.430 women, 1.337 children) were accommodated by 24 autonomous women shelters, which are associated with the Autonomous Austrian Women's Shelter Network and a total of 157.777 days of stay was counted (women: 80.545 days of stay; children: 77.232 days of stay) in these shelters.

### Counselling agencies:

Numerous counselling agencies for women, which focus on the support of female victims of domestic violence, currently receive state funding. Their support includes e.g. legal services, psychological support, housing and financial information, etc.

Furthermore 6 emergency numbers – one of them achievable around-the-clock - are presently installed in Austria, which provide counselling and support for rape victims.

### **Men's Programmes – Prevention:**

One aspect of the issue "violence in the domestic sphere and social environment" is the treatment of people who maltreated or sexually abused children and women. Numerous scientific studies demonstrated that social work with the perpetrators decreases the ratio of recidivism and thus helps to prevent suffering in the future.

Therefore social work with the perpetrators makes an important contribution to protect victims and to prevent additional acts of violence.

In Austria a working group developed standards for perpetrator programmes, the model project "Work with men who abused children" was realised, the key insights obtained by research evaluation were published in september 2002.

Concerning domestic violence, the Counselling Agency for Men in Vienna and the Intervention Centre Vienna carry out a joined program to work with perpetrators since several years. The program consists of three elements:

- an Anti-Violence-Training for perpetrators (carried out by the Counselling Agency for Men),
- a support programm for the partners of the participants (carried out by the Intervention Centre) and
- monitoring and cooperation to safeguard the victim's safety (carried out by both of them).

In Tyrol, one of Austria's nine provinces, in november 2004 a similar project has started, carried out by the Intervention Centre Tyrol and the Counselling Agency for Men in Innsbruck (the capital of the province Tyrol).