

WHAT WORKS FOR WHOM IN PREVENTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

Intimate partner homicide is rarely a crime of passion but rather the fatal outcome of a long process of coercive control and intimate terrorism by means of physical, psychological or sexual abuse. We can prevent this tragic result of domestic violence by intervening in its process.

Our toolbox highlights two specific aspects:

The need for targeted and tailored approaches. Domestic violence is often treated as a single phenomenon, yet we can identify different types: situational couple violence and intimate terrorism. For prevention, it is important to recognise that the causes of both types are also different and should therefore be approached differently.

Perpetrator programmes. These programmes work with violent men and aim to increase their sense of responsibility and accountability for their behaviour. If these are carried out correctly, research shows that promising results can be achieved with regard to reducing the severity and/or frequency of violence and several other outcomes, such as an expanded space of action for the (ex)partners and safer and healthier childhoods for children growing up in violent households.