

### Background

Every fourth woman in Germany suffered physical and/or sexual violence as intimate partner violence. Violence has a serious impact on health, health behaviour and health prospects. Health care providers play a key role in the intervention and prevention against violence.

The S.I.G.N.A.L.- intervention project against domestic violence started in 1999 at the Charité University Medicine in Berlin. The implementation of the intervention programme was monitored and evaluated (2000-2003). First survey of female patients at A&E Dept. to describe prevalence, health impact of DV and health care needs.

### S.I.G.N.A.L. – Guideline

- S**peak to the patient and indicate your willingness to help
- I**nterview the patient using simple questions
- G**auge new and old injuries with detailed examination
- N**ote and document all medical findings and information in such a way that they could be used as evidence in court
- A**ssess the patient's safety
- L**ist of contacts and individual safety plan

### Association

Interdisciplinary team (staff and facilities from health care, women's shelter and council center, public health research)

### Aim

- Dissemination of the S.I.G.N.A.L.-Intervention programme in health care facilities to improve health care for abused women
- Sensitisation of health care professionals, enhancing competencies



### Awards

- Margherita-von-Brentano-Award of FU 2002 (Implementation of S.I.G.N.A.L.-intervention programme at Charité)
- Berlin Prevention Award of Berlin Commission against violence 2004
- Good Practice Model:
  - WAVE Women Against Violence Europe (2000)
  - Robert Koch Institute Berlin (2008)

## National Pilot Project 'Medical Intervention against Violence' (MIGG)

### Aim

Capacity building in ambulatory health care. Support physicians in medical practices and development of a practical intervention and cooperation programme against domestic and sexual violence with 20 - 25 pilot practices in 5 locations.

### Participant organisation

- SIGNAL e.V. (Berlin) / GESINE Netzwerk (Ennepe-Ruhr-Kreis)
- Institute of Forensic Medicine Düsseldorf (Düsseldorf, Kiel, München)

### Funding

Federal Ministry of Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (2008-2011)

### Scientific Advisory Board

German Medical Association, Agency for Quality in Medicine, Prosecution, Women's Association etc.

### Scientific Evaluation

Institute for Women and Gender Research (GSF), Frankfurt

[www.migg-frauen.de](http://www.migg-frauen.de)



### Project realization S.I.G.N.A.L. e.V.

Achieve 25 medical practices (general practitioners, gynaecologists)

### Modulare Training Concept / Monitoring

- Basic Module (5 h)
- Specific Module / Trainings (2-3 h)
- Quality circle, Jour fix, Case review

### Cooperation

- Conferences and networking
- Cooperation with women's shelter and counselling centers
- Institute of Forensic Medicine at Charité

### Material

- Patient Informationen (flyer, brochure)
- Material for health care professionals (poster, tools)
- Homepage

### First Results

- increased sensitisation, enhanced capacity
- data on prevalence
- increased contacts with counselling centers, shelters

## 'Coordination and Intervention Center' (2010)

### Trainings, Vocational and Continuing Education

- Nursing Schools, Midwife Schools, Medical Training
- Trainings for physicians, nurses, midwives and other health care prof.
- Train-the-Trainer Seminars

### Material

- Information for inpatient and outpatient care (guidelines, flowchart, S.I.G.N.A.L.- documentation etc.)
- Material addressing patients (safety cards)

### Counseling and Coaching

- Hospital staff and management, medical practices (programme implementation)

### Public relations

- presentation, workshop, tutorial

### Funding

Senate Department for Health, Environment and Consumer Protection

## Participation in EU Projects

### Pro Train (Daphne II)

Improving multi-professional and health care training in Europe – Building on Good practice in violence prevention (2007-2009)  
Coordinator: Sabine Bohne, Universität Osnabrück  
[www.pro-train.uos.de](http://www.pro-train.uos.de)



### Health Sector Responses to Domestic Violence in Europe (Daphne III)

A Comparison of Promising Interventions Models in Maternity and Primary Care Settings (2009-2011)  
Coordinator: Dr. L. Bacchus, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

### HEVI (Leonardo)

Health and Social Care teachers against Violence (2008-2010)  
Coordinator: Sirkka Perttu, Palmenia Center University Helsinki  
[www.helsinki.fi/palmenia/](http://www.helsinki.fi/palmenia/)

