

Swedish Experience. Preventive measures for decreasing violence



Effective Solutions for Preventing Domestic Violence and Violence against Women

Peter Söderström

Riga, Latvia

2017 11 30



International background - UN

- Violence prevention is an issue that has been increasingly highlighted globally during the last 25-30 years, and has begun to be integrated into declarations, conventions and other important international governance documents.
- UN - 1979; CEDAW
- UN - 1993; Declaration on Elimination of violence against women
- UN - 1995; Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing
- UN - 2013; Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)



International background - EU

- In the face of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the European Parliament notes that no major progress has been made in combating violence against women and gender-related violence.
- On March 4, 2016, the Commission proposed that the EU be joined to the Istanbul Convention, the first legally binding instrument for the prevention and combating of violence against women at international level.
- All EU countries have signed the convention, but only 14 (22) of them have ratified it.



International background - WHO

- 2003, WHA Resolution 56.24 (Sweden in May) assumes that member states commit to use the report's recommendations to improve and develop violence prevention efforts, as well as all support efforts for those exposed to violence
- In 2005, WHO published a comprehensive study on how women's health is affected by violence.
- In 2013, the WHO presented a global synthesis of research on sexual and physical violence against women in which the perpetrator was the partner of the woman and sexual violence against women where the perpetrator was not the woman's partner.



Swedish Context

- Kvinnofridspropositionen 1997/98
- Slag i Luften 2014
- The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (BRÅ), 2010
- Government reform 2011-2014-follow up on reform work
- WHO Global Report 2014
- 2015 National Strategy on Men's violence against women



National Strategy-2015

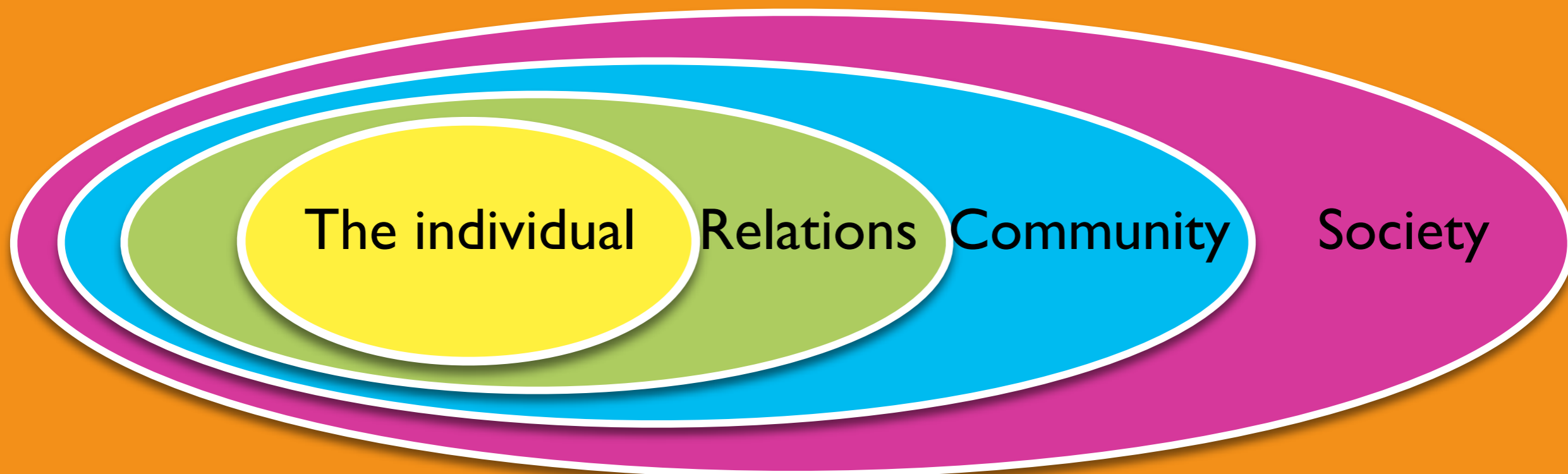
- Society efforts to prevent men's violence against women and honor-related violence and oppression shall be developed and strengthened in all relevant areas.
- Organization and structures for formal coordination in the field of violence prevention work need to be developed
- The violence prevention work will be developed and strengthened in all areas and, to an increasing extent, based on evidence-based knowledge
- High-quality violence-preventive efforts in a holistic perspective will be implemented to a greater extent and reach a larger target group
- Regional and local differences in quality, results and availability should decrease



Gender - a risk factor

- ❑ The link between violence in close relationships and sexual violence, as well as the central societal factors, lack of gender equality and social injustice have been analyzed to a very limited degree, but two specific risk factors prove to be strongly associated with violence in close relationships and sexual violence. The uneven life situation for women in a certain relationship and in society, as well as the normative use of violence to resolve conflicts.
- ❑ WHO believes that it is important to make the relationship to gender standards, gender differences and gender-specific injustices visible and should therefore be the top priority for research within this field of knowledge.
- ❑ One of the seven evidence-based strategies that the WHO advocates to prevent violence against women is to promote gender equality





Socioecological model with definitions of levels and risk factors

The individual	Relations	Community	Society
<p>Consists of an individuals biological and psychological conditions, personal history, socio-economic status, gender, age</p> <p><u>Ex of risk factors</u></p> <p>a history of being exposed to violence</p> <p>harmful use of alcohol, drugs and pornography</p> <p>acceptance of violence</p> <p>risk factors for being a victim of violence as well as a perpetrator</p>	<p>Consists of close relations to family members, friends, partners and how relations can protect or become a risk for violence</p> <p><u>Ex of risk factors</u></p> <p>stereotypical norms</p> <p>codes of obedience</p> <p>family stress (unemployment, isolation, strained economy)</p> <p>encouragement and approval from friends/</p>	<p>Consist of a community, connections and a context where personal relations can take form, like schools, workplace or neighbourhoods</p> <p><u>Ex of risk factors</u></p> <p>no sanctions from the society regarding abuse</p> <p>discrimination in the workplace</p> <p>men´s right to use violence</p>	<p>Consists of our social and cultural norms and terms for (ex) men´s dominance over women and children, parents dominance over children, political conflicts, economical and social inequality.</p> <p><u>Ex of risk factors</u></p> <p>traditional gender norms which supports violence</p> <p>devaluation of women</p> <p>the status of children</p>

Gender-perspective and violence prevention

- WHO conducted an examination of 58 evaluated programs targeting boys and men in the area of sexual and reproductive health, in which gender violence is a part.
- The examined programs show **convincing evidence that well-made program with boys and men could result in significant changes in behaviors and attitudes** related to, for example; men's use of violence against women, questioning of violence against other men and other areas related to men's health.
- The evidence indicates that programs with a **gender-transformative approach and which promotes gender equal relations is more effective in producing behavioural changes**. Even programs that reach beyond the individual level and addresses the broader social context is more effective.

Barker 2010 - Questioning gender norms with men to improve health outcomes - Evidence of impact



WHO - conditions to develop violence prevention

- One reason for structured violence prevention is that it is organized in a coherent manner nationally, regionally as well as locally.
- A key factor for a development is that there are institutions and networks that together become a driving force that can hold together and inspire capacity development at all violence-preventive levels.
- Without a sustainable system, according to the WHO, a necessary structure of national action plans, coordination mechanisms, information systems, guidelines, programs, services and laws for the prevention of violence can not be developed and achieved through practical work and could result in structural change.



#metoo



The "Me Too" movement was initially launched 2006 by activist Tarana Burke, who started metoo.support, a website that supported and amplified the voices of survivors of sexual abuse, assault, and exploitation.



ME TOO ♀♀



THANK YOU!



Peter Söderström

Mobil; +46 70 362 35 25

E-mail; peter.gev@gmail.com

