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Improving Law Enforcement's Victim-Centric Responses to Sexual Assault: Global Best Practice Catalog

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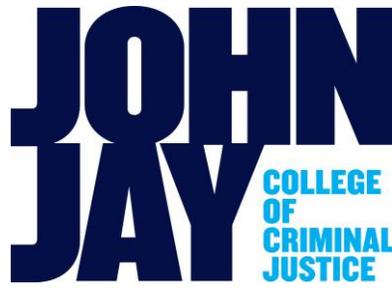
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**Improving Law Enforcement's Victim-Centric Responses to Sexual Assault
Global Best Practice Catalog for the American Citizen Services - Consular
Section, U.S. Mission to Thailand**

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John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Master of Arts Degree Program in International Crime and Justice

Capstone Course in International Crime and Justice

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©

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Introduction

This catalog was compiled as part of a U.S. State Department Diplomacy Lab Project entitled “Improving Law Enforcement’s Victim-Centric Responses to Sexual Assault,” in fall semester of 2019, for American Citizens Services, US Embassy Bangkok. It is intended to cover best practices in law enforcement response to sexual assault across the globe, including laws, policies and programs.

The 10 graduate students in the capstone course of the Master of Arts Degree Program in International Crime and Justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice began their search for the best practices included in this catalog by discussing the criteria for inclusion in class and came to a consensus that our best practices should meet 5 of 8 agreed criteria:

- 1) Follows a victim centered approach: the systematic focus on the needs and concerns of a victim to ensure the compassionate and sensitive delivery of services in a non-judgmental manner
- 2) It should be a collaborative action (referral services for law enforcement, medical services, social workers, etc.)
- 3) The best practice should be corroborated by more than one source (it should be in existence.).
- 4) Realistic goals
- 5) Easy to apply in different contexts, transferable
- 6) Prompt response
- 7) Accessibility to service (for all victims)
- 8) Provide an identifiable benefit

After reaching consensus on these criteria, five teams covered five continents to find up to 20 best practices, formatting each entry to about one page and including:

Title of the Practice, Location and Link if available

Listing of the class best practice criteria that it meets (5 out of 8)

Paragraph description of the practice, to include:

- how long it has been in practice
- what the main components of the best practice are
- scope: local, national or regional
- who it affects (target population)
- costs if available (how it is funded)
- who is in charge of it (e.g. police force, NGO/organizational structure)
- results of any independent evaluations
- whether it has been exported elsewhere (used in another area of the country or another country)

Bibliography, to include any journal articles, websites, media references (print media, social media, videos, etc.)

AFRICA

“Rape Courts”/Sexual offenses courts

Location: South Africa

- Follows victim centric approach
- Prompt response
- Accessibility to services
- Collaborative action
- Easy to apply. It is transferable
- Corroborated by more than one source.

Sexual offenses courts started in 1993. Sexual offences courts are special courtrooms that only deal with sexual offences. These courts have trained staff specially to deal with the cases of sexual violence. Trials are processed much faster in these courts and the conviction rates are much higher. Along with courtroom these courts also have a testifying room with CCTV equipment. It is for children so they do not have to see their perpetrator while they testify. These courts provide coordinated services where medical staff, police and court work together. These courts are located next to police stations. The courts are mandated to have adjudicating task teams that include police, medical and court staff to investigate and solve the cases. These courts provide prompt and effective response, making it less traumatic for the victims. It provides more hope and successful results for the victims.

These courts were established by South African government due to the high rates of sexual violence in the country. They were suggested as a homegrown solution to the problem. These courts are national in their scope. They experienced challenges and many of them were dissolved. Some of the challenges included “the lack of a specific framework to establish these courts, a dedicated budget, poor visibility of these courts in remote areas, restricted space capacity in courts, lack of training of court personnel and monitoring and evaluation mechanism developed specifically for the management of these courts” (“South Africa Reinstates Rape Courts, 2013). In 2013, the courts were brought back due to their efficiency and success in dealing with the prevalent problem of sexual violence in South Africa.

Itano, N. (2003, January 29). S. Africa finds 'rape courts' work. *The Christian Science Monitor*. <https://www.csmonitor.com/2003/0129/p01s04-woaf.html>

Part 1: The History of Sexual Offences Courts in South Africa. (2019, July 8). Retrieved from <https://rapecrisis.org.za/part-1-the-history-of-sexual-offences-courts-in-south-africa/>.

South Africa reinstates rape courts. (2013). Retrieved from <https://www.pri.org/stories/2013-08-14/south-africa-reinstates-rape-courts>.

Victim Friendly Unit (within police department)

Location: Zimbabwe

Link: <http://www.zrp.gov.zw/>

- Follows victim centric approach.
- It is a collaborative action.
- It is corroborated by more than one source.
- Easy to apply, transferable.
- Prompt response.
- It is accessible to all.
- Realistic goals.

The Victim Friendly Unit (VFU) was established in 1996. It mainly deals with the crimes of sexual violence and is focused primarily on women and children. VFU is the key department in dealing with the cases of child sexual abuse in Zimbabwe. VFU provides a more comfortable, friendly and private environment to the victim. It is staffed by personnel specifically trained to deal with the victims of sexual violence. VFU conducts investigations, makes arrests of offenders, and conducts needed referrals for the victims. VFU prioritizes the reports of sexual violence. It provides support to victims and helps them in getting access to medical services. VFU officers are responsible for escorting the victim for medical examination. The VFU officer is also responsible for preparing victims for the appearance in court during the proceedings. VFU is responsible to refer the victims to the counselor, social worker or psychologist. The scope of VFU is national. It works under the Zimbabwe Republic Police.

Protocol on the multi-sectoral management of sexual abuse and violence in Zimbabwe. (2012). Retrieved from <https://searchworks.stanford.edu/view/12683417>.

Training nurses and police in Zimbabwe to end sexual violence. (2018). <https://restlessdevelopment.org/news/2018/05/23/training-nurses-and-police-officers-who-handle-cases-of>.

Victim Friendly Unit Officers trained in Online Safety. (2017). Retrieved from <https://zimbabwe.savethechildren.net/news/victim-friendly-unit-officers-trained-online-safety>.

Ceebla Crisis line

Location: Somalia

Link: <https://www.swdcsom.org/2015/10/10/ceebla-crisis-line-5555/>

- Follows victim centric approach.
- Prompt response.
- Easy to apply, transferable.
- Realistic goals.
- It is a collaborative action.
- Corroborated by than one source.

Hotline Ceebla meaning “no shame” was launched in 2015 in Somalia. The hotline has a toll free number 5555. It was initiated by Somali Women’s Development Centre (SWDC) to tackle the problem of sexual violence in Somalia. It is available 24 hours a day. Victims can call this number and report the incident. The hotline centre will inform the police and emergency services. The Somali Police Force sees it as a way to enhance communication between police and victims. The service aims to improve timely reporting of the incident. The service also provides victims with the information needed to access medical, psychological and legal support. Ceebla hotline facilitates timely reporting and also provides confidentiality to the victims. It works in collaboration with other assistance programs and service providers to help victims. The hotline receives assistance from several UN agencies and many other non-profit organizations. The hotline is accessible nationwide primarily focusing on female victims of sexual violence. The main focus of the service is IDPs.

Hotline for sexual abuse victims launched in Somalia.

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/AXLFL0qLh6c>

Somalia Seeks New Ways to Stop Sexual Abuse Cases. (2016). Retrieved from <https://bridgeafrica24.com/2016/05/02/somalia-seeks-new-ways-to-stop-sexual-abuse-cases/>.

The success story of Ceebla crisis line.

<https://vimeo.com/148057500>

UN-supported toll-free hotline aims to help tackle gender-based violence in Somalia | Africa Renewal. (2015). Retrieved from <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/news/un-supported-toll-free-hotline-aims-help-tackle-gender-based-violence-somalia>.

SARPCCO training manual on violence against women and children.

Location: South African region

Link: <https://www.sadc.int/themes/politics-defence-security/police-sarpcco/>

- Follows victim centric approach
- Prompt response
- Realistic goals
- Collaborative action
- Easy to apply. It is transferable
- Corroborated by more than one source.

Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (SARPCCO) has developed a comprehensive training manual to enhance police response to women and children who are victims of violence. The manual developed by SARPCCO has established standardized guidelines for police in the region: they include an instructional curriculum and a participant manual. The focus of this training manual is primarily women and children victims of crimes. The crimes addressed in this manual include rape, sexual harassment and other types of violence. The training manual provides guidelines for police action and also provides guides for prevention. Established courses under the training manual provide training to police for handling cases of sexual violence and the treatment of victims. It focuses on the required sensitivity by police towards victims. It ensures the prompt response with protection of the privacy of victims. It is a complete guide that also provides training to police on how to refer the victims to different needed services. The training package is delivered across the region. SARPCCO was formed in 1995 in Zimbabwe. The organization is a regional level force for police cooperation in Southern Africa. The organization receives its supports from Sub-regional Bureau of INTERPOL.

Dissel, A. & Tait, S. (2011). *Implementing the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (SARPCCO) Code of Conduct*. Capetown, South Africa: African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum (APCOF)

<http://apcof.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Implementing-the-SARPCCO-Code-of-Conduct-.pdf>

TfP/ACCORD participate in integrated gender and gender-based violence course for police advisors in peace missions. Retrieved from

<https://www.accord.org.za/news/tfpaccord-participate-in-integrated-gender-and-gender-based-violence-course-for-police-advisors-in-peace-missions/>.

UNODC (2010) *Handbook on effective police responses to violence against women*. Vienna: UNODC.

https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/Handbook_on_Effective_police_responses_to_violence_against_women_English.pdf

Victim friendly room

Location: South Africa

- Follows victim centric approach
- Prompt response
- Realistic goals
- Collaborative action
- Easy to apply. It is transferable
- Corroborated by more than one source.

Police in South Africa have established more than 900 victim friendly rooms across the country. Most of them are located in the police stations. A small number of these rooms are established at airports or other different service points. The rooms are part of the policy by the Ministry of Police in South Africa to reduce barriers to the reporting of sexual offenses and domestic violence. The crime of sexual violence or domestic violence has a lot of stigma and shame attached that keeps victims from reporting. Victim friendly rooms give victims a private space to be interviewed. These rooms are mainly used to take victim statements and provide information to the victim. These rooms are effective in reducing trauma and giving victims confidence to report as their privacy is more protected. These rooms provide them a non-threatening environment. These rooms are effectively equipped to provide comfortable environment to the victims. A trained and permanent member of police is available as the coordinator. The scope of victim friendly rooms is national. They are administered and run by South African Police Service with support services from other departments.

IRIN part of the Guardian development network. (2013, November 4). South Africa's rape problem: why the crime remains under-reported. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2013/nov/04/south-africa-rape-problem-crime-under-reported>.

Police establish 906 victim friendly rooms. (2013, November 19). Retrieved from <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/police-establish-906-victim-friendly-rooms>.

Services: SAPS (South African Police Service). Retrieved from <https://www.saps.gov.za/newsroom/msspeechdetail.php?nid=12207>.

Victim Empowerment Service in the South African Police Service. Retrieved from https://www.saps.gov.za/resource_centre/women_children/amended_victim_empowerment_service.pdf.

Sexual violence and gender based violence examinable subject in police schools.

Location: Ghana

- Follows victim centric approach.
- Prompt response
- Transferable
- Realistic goals
- Corroborated by more than one source.

Sexual and gender based violence has been made part of the curriculum in police schools of Ghana. It is also been made an examinable subject. Although this is newly implemented in police schools of Ghana this has been long advocated for. The curriculum of SGBV training in the police school of Ghana was developed by UNFPA and Ghana police service in 2015. It is also examinable subject in police schools. The main purpose is to empower police to investigate, protect and provide justice to the victims of SGBV. Ghana police services included the sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) as the subject in police schools to improve the response of police towards the victims. This will help police officers to handle the cases of SGBV with sensitivity. The curriculum is designed to install the understanding of the trauma and suffering that the victims of SGBV has endured. The curriculum also provides knowledge of reproductive health and rights. The program is supported by the United Nations population fund UNFPA. The program is of national level in its scope with the main focus on women victims.

Ghana Police Service makes Sexual and Gender Based Violence an examinable subject in police schools. (2019, September 18). Retrieved from <https://ghana.unfpa.org/en/news/ghana-police-service-makes-sexual-and-gender-based-violence-examinable-subject-police-schools>.

US, UNFPA and Ghana Police Service train officers on policing domestic, sexual and gender-based violence. (2018, January 23). *B&FT online*. Retrieved from <https://thebftonline.com/2018/local-economy/us-unfpa-and-ghana-police-service-train-officers-on-policing-domestic-sexual-and-gender-based-violence/>.

GRIP's Court intervention program (Court care rooms)

Location: Nelspruit, South Africa

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/GRIP-235583873183137/>

- Follows victim centric approach.
- It is a collaborative action.
- Realistic goals.
- Prompt response.
- Transferable.
- Corroborated by more than one source.

GRIP Court intervention program was established in 2000 as a response to the widespread sexual violence problem in South Africa. It is a multi-sector program with cooperation between South African Police Service, the health department, department of justice and other departments. Greater rape intervention project (GRIP) is an NGO that is providing and operating these care rooms for the victims of sexual violence throughout the capital city of Nelspruit. GRIP has provided 29 care rooms. The majority of these rooms are situated in police stations and others in hospitals and courts. Police, medical, emotional and courtroom assistance are provided in these care rooms for the victims. The purpose of the program is to provide immediate care and make the criminal justice process less overwhelming for victims. It is ensured in these care rooms that victims receive prompt and meaningful police and the medical attention that is required. The care room staff also help victims navigate the process. The main focus population for the program is women and children. The scope of the program is citywide.

Greater Rape Intervention Project (GRIP): SHARE. (2013). Retrieved from <https://www.hivsharespace.net/organization/greater-rape-intervention-project-grip>.

Human and fundamental rights - European Parliament. (2013). Retrieved from [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/576011/IPOL_BRI\(2016\)576011_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/576011/IPOL_BRI(2016)576011_EN.pdf).

Women and Children's Protection section (WACPS).

Location: Liberia

- Prompt response
- Victim-centric approach
- Collaborative action
- Transferable
- Realistic goals

Women and Children's Protection Section (WACPS) is a special unit created by Liberian national police (LNP) in 2005. The main purpose behind these units is to improve the response to sexual and gender based violence victims. WACPS headquarters is located in Monrovia, the capital city of Liberia. WACPS unit is part of the Liberian Police Force. WACPS is spread out to many different locations in Liberia. The section is focused on enhancing protection for women and children in the cases of sexual violence and gender based violence. WACPS officers are specially trained to handle the cases of SGBV with sensitivity. WACPS trained police officers are stationed throughout the country in different police stations. To make the section more responsive towards the victims, more female police were recruited over the time. WACPS officers also participate in the outreach session to increase public awareness about the crime of sexual and gender based violence. UNICEF and UNMIL supported the creation of this section. The scope of WACPS is national. These units initially received most of their funding from the Norwegian government.

Bacon, L. (2015). Liberia's gender-sensitive police reform: Improving representation and responsiveness in a post-conflict setting. *International Peacekeeping*, 22(4), 372-397.

De Carvalho, B. & Schia, N. N. (2009). *The protection of women and children in Liberia*. Policy Brief. Oslo: Norwegian Institute of International Affairs.
<https://www.nupi.no/en/Publications/CRIStin-Pub/The-Protection-of-Women-and-Children-in-Liberia>

Medie, P. (2015). Women and postconflict security: A study of police response to domestic violence in Liberia. *Politics and Gender*, 11(3), 478-498.

Police gender and children's desk.

Location: Tanzania

- Follows victim centric approach.
- Realistic goals.
- Prompt response.
- Transferable.
- Corroborated by more than one source

There are more than 400 desks units in police stations across the country of Tanzania. The initiative was proposed by Tanzanian Police Female Network to improve the interactions between police and women in community. The initiative was funded by UNICEF and European Union. The gender and children's desk units provide special handling of the cases and privacy to the victims. These desk units are staffed by police officers who are trained to interview and investigate reports of gender based violence. They have specially trained detectives to handle sexual offense cases. It is part of the national action plane to end violence against women and children. The plan aims to establish a total of 600 of these desk units across the country. The numbers of gender based violence cases reported have increased mainly due the impact of gender desk units.

Grant, R. (2018, August 15). How to get women to trust the police? 'Gender' Desks. Retrieved from <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2018/08/15/638872938/how-to-get-women-to-trust-the-police-gender-desks>.

Makoke, K. (2013). Tanzania police set up special desks for gender violence cases. Thomson Reuters Foundation News. Retrieved from <http://news.trust.org/item/20131128131537-fitsc/>.

UN Women (2018, October 9). Tanzania - Police, Gender and Children's Desk. Retrieved from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/unwomen/31338224598>.

Family Support Units (FSUs)

Location: Sierra Leone

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/www.fsu.slp.org>

- Follows victim centric approach.
- It is a Collaborative action.
- Realistic goals.
- Prompt response.
- Transferable.
- Corroborated by more than one source.

Family support units (FSU) are specialized units that investigate and handle the cases of all types of violence including sexual violence against children and women. These units were established in 2001 in Sierra Leone. FSU units are within the police facility. Almost 41 family support units are working across the country. FSU police officers receive special training in handling SGBV cases. The unit provides initial response to the victims. Units are responsible for making referrals for victims to get legal and medical assistance. The FSU unit of police is also involved in the outreach campaigns to raise awareness on the issue. These units operate under Sierra Leone police with the support from the Ministry of Social Welfare. After the inclusion of these units across the country, Sierra Leone has witnessed a decrease in reporting of sexual crimes, indicating the impact of the units.

Frances Fortune Associates Ltd. (2014). *A desk review for Search For Common Ground on the worst forms of violence against children in Sierra Leone*. Freetown: Frances Fortune Associates Ltd. Retrieved from https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Appendix-05_Desk-review-Final_Violence-Against-Children_June-2014_FFA.pdf

Global Database on Violence against Women. (2010). Retrieved from <http://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/africa/sierra-leone/2010/family-support-units>.

Overview. Accessed November 22, 2019. <https://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/1092-overview.html>.

One Stop Centre

Location: Swaziland

- Follows victim centric approach.
- It is a collaborative action.
- Easy to apply, Transferable.
- Prompt response.
- Realistic goals.

The One Stop Centre is located in the capital city Mbabane, Swaziland. It was established in 2013 by Swaziland Ministry of Justice. The Centre treats victims of sexual violence, mainly women and children. It provides medical, psychological and social services under one roof. It also works to reduce secondary trauma for the victims of sexual violence. The One Stop Centre always has two police officers, a nurse, prosecutor and one counselor present at all times. Government and NGOs have also been providing services for the victims through this particular One Stop Centre. These services include case management and psychosocial care to help vulnerable victims in timely manner. The One Stop Centre in Mbabane connects healthcare, police services, legal institutions and other non-profit service providers to help the victim. It is very local in its scope. It receives support from UNICEF, PEPFAR and other NGOs.

In Swaziland, a rape victim finds a safe space for recovery. (2016, January 15). Retrieved from https://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/swaziland_89829.html.

More One Stop Centres Needed. (2018, August 2). Retrieved from <http://www.swagaa.org.sz/one-stop-centre/>.

United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator (2016). Swaziland: Drought. Office of the Resident Coordinator Situation Report No. 2 (as of 14 Mar 2016) Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/swaziland/swaziland-drought-office-resident-coordinator-situation-report-no-2-14-mar-2016>.

ASIA

Women and School Violence Victim ONE-STOP Support Center

Location: South Korea

The One-Stop support center in South Korea was first established in 2013. Although some police hospitals in major urban cities already had similar support system for survivors, the names of these support centers changed to One-Stop in 2013 as the Ministry of Gender Equity and Family aimed to create a support system that would protect and support victims and survivors of sexual harassment and domestic violence. Since then, many cities in South Korea, including many sub-urban and rural areas began to establish One-Stop support centers in local police hospitals. These centers are supported and run by the city ministry, city police, as well as the police hospital. Currently as of 2018, there are 33 One-Stop support centers across the nation. Many cities are also continuously working to open more One-Stop Support Centers, making it even more accessible for local citizens. This support center offers free urgent medical services for victim survivors 24 hours a day. As a One-Stop support center, victims can find counseling, medical, reporting, investigation, and legal aid for free. Furthermore, a female police officer is always placed at the center to help investigations to reduce secondary victimization.

The support center follows a victim centered approach, and also aims to keep confidentiality for survivors. As it is open 24 hours, 365 days a year, the One-Stop support center is very responsive. Once a survivor enters the One-Stop support center, they are immediately taken care of in terms of medical checkups and medication.

Time: Established in 2013

Population: Available nationwide for all victims of domestic violence and sexual assault

Scope: Create a support system that would protect and support victims and survivors of sexual harassment and domestic violence all in one stop

Cost: Covered by the government

List of criteria met: Provide an identifiable benefit, corroborated by more than one source, victim centered approach, collaborative action, prompt response, accessibility to service (6 out of 8 criteria met)

References:

Kim B. (2018) “단국대병원 신삼철 부원장 보건복지부장관 표창수상” *Chungchung Daily News*. Retrieved from

<http://www.ccdailynews.com/news/articleView.html?idxno=975437>

Lee C., & Kang J (2008). “청소년대상 성범죄 피해자 지원제도의 현황과 개선방안” *피해자학연구* 16(1), 177-198.

Yoo S. (2014). Characteristics of the sexual violence victims who visited the one-stop support center for female victims and school violence victims and the proposal on the support system; focused on Gyeonggi Nambu Center. *Kyeonggi University Thesis Press*

Victim Support Call Center & Women's Emergency Hotline

(http://www.mogef.go.kr/sp/hrp/sp_hrp_f002.do)

Location: South Korea

There are various sexual harassment victim support call centers as well as women's call centers that provide 24 hour hot line service for survivors and victims. There are 18 hot lines for victims of sex work, 24 for female victims against violence, 9 for child sexual harassment, 2 for foreigners, and 1 for overall sexual harassment issues called 1366. This practice will specifically mention about the one hotline, 1366.

1366 is also called the Women's Emergency Hotline. Victims and survivors just need to simply dial 1366 to be connected with the closest hotline center. Every metropolitan city has its own call center established, totaling to 16 centers (although only one number is used). Any victim/survivor in South Korea can use it, and it runs 24 hours a day for 365 days. Because there are many call centers and runs with many workers, the call center is very responsive, and provides help immediately (especially when they need assistance in calling the police.) Call center workers are placed on 8 hour shifts, with three rotations in order to make the system more efficient.

The 1366 hotline includes support such as counseling, emergency help (such as connecting with the police and ambulance), medical help, and shelters. The call center is a combination of social work, medical work, legal work, and criminal justice work. The 1366 hotline is managed and supported by The Ministry of Gender Equity and Family. This support center also follows a victim centered approach, as its main goal is to also help human rights. The call center can be used for both victims of domestic violence and sexual harassment.

Time: Established in 2014

Population: Available nationwide for all victims

Scope: A 24/7 hotline to assist victims and survivors of sexual harassment, violence, sex trafficking, and domestic violence

Cost: Covered by The Ministry of Gender Equity and Family.

List of criteria met: Victim centered approach, collaborative action, corroborated by more than one source, easy to apply, prompt response, and accessibility to service (6 of 8 met)

References

Lee C., & Kang J (2008). “청소년대상 성범죄 피해자 지원제도의 현황과 개선방안” *피해자학연구* 16(1), 177-198.

Lee S. (2019). “여성긴급전화 1366 경북센터, 김천지역 유관기관과 업무협약” *Break New* Retrieved from <http://www.breaknews.com/678871>

Justice for Her

Location: India

India reports one of the highest rates of rape globally. According to Toor (2018), the crimes against women increased 34% during the past four years. However, not many women seek help and report to the police. To help the increasing number of victims, a training program for police officers and lawyers in India was established in 2016 titled *Justice for Her*. This program was established and designed by Sheffield Hallam University's Helena Kennedy Center for International Victims.

Justice for Her is a training program that guides police officers and law officials on how to deal with cases and treat victims by using different methods such as role playing, group discussions, lectures, and workshops. This is a collaborative training program, as it involves police officers, lawyers, NGOs, and other members from civil society.

Currently, this training system is ongoing in "the four states to senior police trainers across a range of police training academies." (Toor, 2018). A training manual is also distributed, and identifies the many types of gender violence that exists in India, along with best practices for police officers to investigate and support victims.

Many police officers also visit different countries such as the United Kingdom to see how other officers deal with gender violence. This method was very useful, as it ended up also opening a total of 51 one-stop victim support centers that were influenced by similar support centers in the United Kingdom.

The goal for this practice is very realistic, as it is to raise awareness and provide good practices to police and lawyers that are dealing with victims and survivors of gender-based crimes. To help this, the manual was also created.

Time: Established in 2016

Population: Available nationwide for all victims

Scope: Guide police officers and law officials on how to deal with cases and treat victims and raise awareness to police and lawyers.

List of criteria met: Victim centered approach, collaborative action, corroborated by more than one source, realistic goals, identifiable benefit (5 of 8 met)

References

- Thomas, M. (2018). "Can training the police make Indian women less afraid to report sexual assault?" *Quartz India*. Retrieved from <https://qz.com/india/1199584/justice-for-her-wants-to-train-indias-police-so-women-arent-afraid-to-report-sexual-assault/>
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Tokyo Rape Crisis Center (telephone center)

(<http://www.tokyo-rcc.org/center-hp-english.htm>, <https://fewjapan.com/resources/>)

Location: Japan

The Tokyo Rape Crisis Center was first established in September 1983 to support victims of rape. This is a telephone center that provides counseling services to victims and survivors of sexual violence. The center also established a *Women Support Women Fund*, and through this fund, the center can lend victims up to two hundred thousand yen (approximately little less than 2,000 USD) for victims to use legal services such as prosecuting the rapist. Currently in Japan, there are no 24-hour government funded victim centers for sexual harassment, and most hospitals do not have rape test kits. Furthermore, rape victims themselves must pay for rape test kits, which can be hard for victims that face financial burdens.

This support center follows a victim center approach as the first thing they assure to do is to tell the victims that whatever happened was not their fault. Through this phone call, the victims are provided with any necessary medical and/or legal information they needed. The center also helps by providing information of female doctors and lawyers the victims can work with.

The Tokyo Rape Crisis Center is funded by donations and contributions from supporters. People become members of this center and contribute by paying a membership fee of 3,000 yen per year (approximately 30 USD). Other donations come from churches and other private organizations. This center is also accessible, as anyone residing in Japan can call the number to be connected.

Time: Established in 1983

Population: Available nationwide for all victims

Scope: A telephone service center to help support victims and survivors of sexual violence

Cost: Covered by donation/support

List of criteria met: Victim centered approach, collaborative action, accessible, realistic goals, identifiable benefit (5 of 8 met)

Reference

Kittaka, G. L., (2016) "Tired of government inaction, activist works to make Japan rape crisis center a reality" *The Japan Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/community/2016/07/03/how-tos/tired-government-inaction-activist-works-make-japan-rape-crisis-center-reality/>

Maya's Organization

<https://www.mayasorganisationphilippines.org/>,

<https://www.facebook.com/mayasorganisationphil/>

Location: Philippines

Maya's Organization in the Philippines was established in 2017 by Maya, a survivor of abuse. The main objective of this organization is to protect children against sexual abuse. Their mission statement is "*to raise awareness on the prevention of the child sexual abuse and establish a shelter for holistic healing of sexually abused children*".

Maya's Organization works with counsellors, psychologists, and missionaries to help sexually abused children. The collaborative action assists children in many ways such as providing the shelter and giving them free counseling. It follows a victim centered approach because it focuses on the victim's experience more than anything else. The main goal is to prevent and protect the children in the Philippines. Furthermore, not only does Maya's organization work to provide shelter and protection the children, but they also work to help educate citizens to end rape and child abuse against women and children overall. Not only would this raise awareness, but Maya's Organization hopes that this would also help individuals "highlight it to the relevant authorities"

The organization has two short-term goals: 1) "to establish in Davao City a shelter for sexually abused children within 3 years" and 2)"to conduct Information Education Campaign on the prevention of child sexual abuse in the Third Congressional District of Davao City." The organization have realistic goals, as these goals are short-term, and the organization currently have four programs set up to achieve these goals. The four programs include: shelter program, advocacy program, resource mobilization, and institution development. If similar programs can be implemented with the police, it can bring forth a much more collaborative action.

Time: Established in 2017

Population: Within Philippines (Davao City)

Scope: to raise awareness on the prevention of the child sexual abuse and establish a shelter for holistic healing of sexually abused children

Cost: Covered by donation/support

List of criteria met: Victim centered approach, collaborative action, corroborated, realistic goals, identifiable benefit (5 of 8 met)

Taiwan Women's Link Website and Hotline

Location: Taiwan

Link: <https://www.ait.org.tw/u-s-citizen-services/victims-of-crime/information-special-cases/>
https://www.worldvision.org.tw/english/03_work/domestic.php?m1=3&m2=11&m3=53&m4=0

Taiwan also has a culture for people to keep down their voices when it comes to sexual topics – including sexual assault and harassment. Because of this, many Taiwanese victims and survivors choose not to report. To help overcome the difficulties of victims and survivors reporting, The Taiwan Women's Link, the Taipei Association for the Promotion of Women's Rights, the Taiwan Occupational Safety and Health Link, and End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism – Taiwan launched a support program of a 24-hour serviced hotline and website.

Through either the hotline or website, victims and survivors are provided with activist groups, lawyers, and counselors to receive any help they need. This includes counseling and prosecuting. The goal for this organization is to help

The World Vision Taiwan is currently also operating a 113 protection hotline. Through this, victims can quickly be connected with professional social workers and seek counseling services. The hotline also provides: child protection, family violence, and sexual abuse consulting. This service is accessible, as it is a toll-free number with workers 24 hours, 365 days a year. Anyone can access this service by simply dialing the number. Furthermore, interpretation is also available for English, Indonesian, Vietnamese, Thai, and Cambodian.

Time: Established in 2017

Population: Taipei City

Scope: Victims and survivors are provided with activist groups, lawyers, and counselors to receive any help they need. This includes counseling and prosecuting. The goal for this organization is to help

Cost: Covered by organizations such as Taiwan Women's Link

List of criteria met: Victim centered approach, collaborative action, corroborated, realistic goals, identifiable benefit, accessible, responsive (7 of 8 met)

References

- Hsiahan Y., & Liu, K. (2018). "Taiwan sets up website, hotline for sexual assault, harassment victims" *Focus Taiwan*. Retrieved from <http://focustaiwan.tw/news/asoc/201803150007.aspx>
- Lai, J. (2018). "'Me Too' campaign takes off in Taiwan, with a new hotline and website for sexual harassment victims." *Taiwan News*. Retrieved from <https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3383463>

Women Support & Investigation Division

Location: Bangladesh

(<http://dmpwsid.gov.bd/view/details/how-we-can-help-you/how-we-works>)

Bangladesh established a women support and investigation division within the Dhaka metropolitan police. The Victim Support Center within the Women Support and Investigation Division was first established on February 17th, 2009. The goal for this center and division was to provide legal assistance and services for women and children victims and survivors.

The Women Support & Investigation Division offers many services for victims and survivors. It carries a victim centered approach because they treat the victims and survivors with honor and dignity and ensure that they provide any necessary information needed. Furthermore, they make sure to prevent any secondary victimization. The division also assists in reporting and leading the victim to legal processes. Emergency medical assistance and psychological counselling is also provided. The division works with many other government and non-government organization, which makes it a collaborative work to provide long term assistance.

The Women Support and Investigation Division is accessible to many people, because there are many ways to file a request. It can be done directly by the victim, by visiting the police station, by emailing, calling, text messaging, visiting the website, or even being referred from different non-government organizations.

Various trainings are also provided for police officers that communicate with the victims. These training courses include Advanced English Language course, Psychological Support for Abuse Children, Promote Gender Issues and Prevent Violence Against Women, Promoting Gender Sensitive Policing, and Child Friendly Interview Skills.

Time: Established in 2009

Population: Within Bangladesh

Scope: Police training system to help officers treat victims and survivors with honor and dignity. Several training systems are also provided to help officers communicate with different language, just in case victims are from abroad

Cost: Covered by the government

List of criteria met: Victim centered approach, collaborative action, corroborated, realistic goals, responsive (5 of 8 met)

Best practices and policies to strengthen the human security of displaced Syrian women and girls, Minimum Initial Services Package (MISP)

Location: Jordan

This practice is an intervention that involves a standard of care in humanitarian emergencies. It's implemented in Zaatari (a Jordanian refugee camp.) Its goal is to improve sexual health services for women of reproduction age.

The service package that includes minimal health services aims to prevent and manage the consequences of sexual violence experienced by women and girls, prevent HIV transmission, as well as reduce excess maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality.

Time: Established in 2007.

Population: Target population includes refugees, but not limited. Available for anyone who experienced violence.

Scope: The scope is to prevent and manage the consequences of sexual violence, reduce HIV transmission, prevent maternal and newborn death and illness, and plan for comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care, integrated into primary health care.

Cost: Costs are covered by organization

List of criteria met: Victim centered approach, collaborative action, corroborated by more than one source, realistic goals, identifiable benefit (4 of 8 met)

Reference

Lisam, S. (2014). Minimum initial service package (MISP) for sexual and reproductive health in disasters. *Journal of Evidence-Based Medicine*, 7(4), 245-248.

The Dubai Foundation for Women and Children (DFWAC)

Location: United Arab Emirates

The DFWCA offers a multitude of services (of which are geared but not limited to children) but their abuse/violence services includes “three main types of innovative care and rehabilitation services for children who are victims of abuse: residential (‘sheltering’) services, non-residential services (for clients not in need of sheltering services), and a helpline.

Entertainment and travel assistance services are also provided, if needed. DFWAC promotes community awareness through educational outreach and research of issues related to child abuse.

Time: Established in 2012.

Population: Geared, but not limited to children with trauma.

Scope: DWAC offers social, legal, psychological and medical support.

Cost: Costs are covered by organization

List of criteria met: Victim centered approach, collaborative action, realistic goals, easy to apply, and identifiable benefit (5 of 8 met)

Reference

Al Gharaibeh, F., & Gibson, L. (2019). Care and rehabilitation services to child victims of abuse in the United Arab Emirates: Examples of innovation. *Children and Youth Services Review, 101*, 87-98.

Randomized Control Trial of a CBT Trauma Recovery Program

Location: State of Palestine.

The program is a skills-based CBT program, Teaching Recovery Techniques (TRT) trauma recovery program (within the context of ongoing violence.) TRT programs have been around for a long time, and there are multiple studies related to this technique. Twenty school counselors who were trained in TRT went to Nablus, State of Palestine, and they first had students take a Children's Revised Impact of Events Scale test and those who scored the highest were selected for the program.

This cognitive-behavioral program includes five sessions that focus on normalizing trauma and strategies for intrusive memories, hyperarousal, and avoidance symptoms of PTSD. The fifth session focuses on children's response to loss. Sessions were delivered over 5 consecutive weeks. Each session lasted 1 hour and 30 minutes. Similar programs can be implemented with police officers to help train for trauma recovery for victims.

Time: Established over a decade ago.

Population: Children that experienced trauma.

Scope: To minimize trauma resulting from psychological counselling

Cost: Costs are covered by organization

List of criteria met: Corroborated action, realistic goals, easily applicable, prompt response, and identifiable benefit (5 of 8 met)

Reference

Barron, I. G., Abdallah, G., & Smith, P. (2013). Randomized control trial of a CBT trauma recovery program in Palestinian schools. *Journal of Loss and Trauma, 18*(4), 306-321.

One Stop Shop, Siti Hawa Centre in Malaysia

Location: Malaysia

As one-stop care centers (OSCC) are a common practice in Asia, Siti Hawa's OSCC is viewed as one of the OSCC originators. OSCC's are known for being equipped to respond to victims and survivors of sexual and, or domestic violence. Siti Hawa Center tries to maximize its resource to help victims and survivors.

Siti Hawa has promising practices in initial responses including ensuring the availability of female examiners and police officers and adapting forensic examination to the facts of the case. The organization is located outside of police stations, and at many times, is linked to hospitals. This makes it easier for survivors to undergo examinations and receive extra care that is needed.

Time: Established in 2000

Population: Adults and children that are victims of any form of violence

Scope: Executing promising practices in initial responses

Cost: Most of the costs are covered by NGO's.

List of criteria met: Corroborated action, realistic goals, accessible, easily applicable, prompt response, collaborative action, and identifiable benefit (7 of 8 met)

Reference

Kelly, L. (2005). *Promising practices addressing sexual violence*. Expert paper prepared for Expert Meeting "Violence against women: Good practices in combating and eliminating violence against women." Vienna: Division for the Advancement and Women and UNODC. Available at:

<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/e50f/863cac3d6123dad913fa5c5c4d92a613579b.pdf>

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)

Location: Papua New Guinea.

MSF's goal is to address gender based violence, and it is totally free of charge to clients. (MSF) is an international, independent, non-governmental medical humanitarian organization that assists populations affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural disasters, and exclusion from healthcare. Services provided include "medical treatment for injuries; provision of tetanus and hepatitis B vaccination; emergency contraception; HIV testing, post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV; treatment and prevention of other sexually transmitted infections; provision of medical certificates documenting the service provider's findings of the medical examination; referral for further medical treatment or other services; and therapeutic counselling services based on principles derived from brief trauma-focused therapy as outlined in the MSF-OCA mental health guidelines." Like many other programs in Asia, community awareness for health services for survivors was raised through outreach activities including disseminating printed health promotion materials, radio messages and participative dialogue with community groups. The intended scope of MSF was regionally, and significant results were found. Patients over 16 years of age who received more than one counselling session, the majority reported improved functioning (81.2%) and improvement in the presenting complaint (85.5%).

Time: Established in 2008

Population: Anyone impacted by gender-based violence

Scope: Assist populations that are affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural disasters, and exclusion from healthcare.

Cost: Free of charge of those who use it.

List of criteria met: Corroborated action, realistic goals, easily applicable, prompt response, and identifiable benefit (7 of 8 met).

Reference

Lokuge, K., Verputten, M., Ajakali, M., Tolboom, B., Joshy, G., Thurber, K., Plana, D. Howes, S., Wakon, A. & Banks, E. (2016). Health services for gender-based violence: Médecins Sans Frontières experience caring for survivors in urban Papua New Guinea. *PloS one*, 11(6), e0156813.

One-Stop Abuse Forensic Examination (OneSafe) Centre

Location: Singapore

In 2017, Singapore's Ministry of Home Affairs established One-Stop Abuse Forensic Examination (OneSafe) Centre, collaborating with Ministry of Social and Family. The first OneSafe Centre was established in Police Cantonment Complex (the location of Criminal Investigation Department [CID]) together with Singapore General Hospital (SGH). It provides medical examinations for victims, who reported within 72 hours, and the victims were interviewed for only one time, so that the victims do not need to tell their stories, travel to public hospital, or conduct examination repeatedly, and their trauma would be reduced. The SGH also protects victims' privacy. According to Deputy Commissioner of Police, Tan Chye Hee, who was also the director of CID, said that each year there were approximately 150 rape cases, most were reported within 72 hours. Initially, there was a shortage of medical examiners, and they might not arrive at police station immediately. However, more hospitals, including National University Hospital and KK Women's and Children's Hospital, planned to participate in OneSafe Programme. In order to encourage victims, the police and Ministry of Law published pamphlets to educate the victims on the investigation and court proceedings. Moreover, the police also worked with Association of Women for Action and Research (AWARE) to develop training videos to improve investigation officers' sensitivity. According to OneStop working staff, among all 149 cases in 2016, and all 191 cases in 2017, only 1 case was unsolved.

Time: Established in 2017

Population: Available for all victims that report within 72 hours

Scope: Victims do not need to retell their stories, travel to public hospitals, or conduct examination repeatedly; victims' trauma will be reduce and their privacy can be protected

Cost: Funded by the government

List of criteria met: Victim centric approach, collaborative action, accessible, easy to apply, corroborative action (5 of 8 met).

References

- Ong, J. (2017, March 29). New forensic centre, extra training to better protect sexual crime victims. *Channel News Asia*. Retrieved from <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/new-forensic-centre-extra-training-to-better-protect-sexual-crim-7586598>
- Yi, S. B. (2017, February 17). New one-stop centre for alleged rape victims. *Straits Times* Retrieved from <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/new-one-stop-centre-for-alleged-rape-victims>.
- Soh, W. (2018, February 23). 警方计划扩大一站式性侵法证中心 试行让性侵受害者只录一次口供. *Lianhe Zaobao*. Retrieved from <https://www.zaobao.com.sg/znews/singapore/story20180223-837252>

Evidential Video Interviewing

Location: New Zealand

Similar to the OneSafe Centre in Singapore, New Zealand also has the facilities, where victims can receive forensic examination and police interview in a private setting. These facilities are operated by New Zealand Police, in corporation of District Health Boards, the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC), and other partners. Within these premises, the videos will be taking for Evidential Video Interviewing (EVI), in order to reduce re-victimisation. It also enables the police to enhance interview techniques by reviewing videos. The EVI allows the victims to provide their own narrative of their experiences, because the questions are less directive and inquisitorial.

However, the limitation of video interview is that the video evidence lacks admissibility on court, because some lawyers and judges think videos are “messy, disjoint, and lengthy”, and some parts are irrelevant. Despite the limitation of admissibility, evidential video interviewing can still be a good practice. The officer needs to notify the victims that the videos may not be admissible on court.

Time: Unknown

Population: Available for all victims

Scope: Victims do not need to retell their stories, which will reduce their trauma. The police can enhance interview techniques by reviewing the videos

Cost: Funded by the government

List of criteria met: Victim centric approach, realistic goals, applicable, corroborated by more than one source, and identifiable benefit (6 of 8 met).

References

Rowe, M., & Macaulay, M. (2017). *Review of New Zealand Police's progress in response to the 2007 Commission of Inquiry into Police Conduct*. (pp. 1–28). Wellington, New Zealand: Victoria University of Wellington.

https://www.victoria.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1175245/WP17-03-coi-review-report-rowe-macaulay.pdf

Westera, N. J., Kebell, M. R., & Milne, R. (2011). Interviewing rape complainants: Police officers perceptions of interview format and quality of evidence. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 25(6), 917–926. doi: 10.1002/acp.1770 https://research-repository.griffith.edu.au/bitstream/handle/10072/41862/74201_1.pdf?sequence=1

Cognitive Interview

Location: New Zealand

Cognitive interviewing is an interviewing technique to ensure the accuracy and completeness of victim testimony. In order to ensure the accuracy and completeness, the police utilize cognitive interviewing, which includes four primary cognitive mnemonics in the form of instructions for the witness to reinstate context, report everything, recall events in a variety of orders, and recall events from a different perspective. According to some studies, the cognitive interview can enhance victims' recall of memory compared to standard interview sessions. Officers found that complaints were less credible and less accurate when the questions were leading, instead of open-ended questions. Therefore, it not only provides a victim-centric approach and avoids re-victimization, but also helps them to restore control and dignity.

Time: Unknown

Population: Available for all victims

Scope: To avoid revictimization and to help victims restore control and dignity

Cost: Funded by the government

List of criteria met: Victim centric approach, realistic goals, applicable, corroborated by more than one source, and identifiable benefit (6 of 8 met).

Reference

Westera, N. J., Kebbell, M. R., & Milne, R. (2011). Interviewing rape complainants: Police officers perceptions of interview format and quality of evidence. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 25(6), 917–926. doi: 10.1002/acp.1770 https://research-repository.griffith.edu.au/bitstream/handle/10072/41862/74201_1.pdf?sequence=1

Sexual Assault Reporting Options (SARO)

Location: New South Wales, Australia

In Australia, New South Wales Police Force provides two ways for sexual assault victims to file report: visit the nearest police station, or complete and email the questionnaire of Sexual Assault Reporting Options (SARO) to the specialised sex crime unit. The questionnaire can be filled out by both typing and handwriting. The questions on the SARO questionnaire are very comprehensive; for example, it lists 18 different types of offenders' behaviours. When the report is fully completed, the police will know when, where, who, what, and how about the incident. From the report, the police will know whether this incident is intimate partner violence or not. The idea of SARO is to make the victims more comfortable when reporting assaults, so that they will not have as much stress as being questioned by the detective face to face. For the victims, who are still afraid of filling questionnaire, or confused, the police advise them to fill in the form with the assistance from victim services. Another benefit of this questionnaire is that it provides data for statistical purposes, so that police can determine their focus, improve their strategies, and so forth.

Time: Unknown

Population: Available for all victims in New South Wales

Scope: To avoid revictimization and to protect confidentiality. Also, victims are able to provide detailed information that can be used for statistical purposes

List of criteria met: Victim centric approach, realistic goals, applicable, corroborated by more than one source, and identifiable benefit (5 of 8 met).

References

Morton, N. (2012, January 12). Informal reporting option for sex assault victims.

Retrieved from <https://www.centralwesterndaily.com.au/story/794466/informal-reporting-option-for-sex-assault-victims/>.

Reporting sexual assault to NSW Police. (2019, May 14). Retrieved from

<https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/support/personal/sexual-assault-harrasment/reporting-sexual-assault-and-harassment/reporting-sexual-assault-to-nsw-police>.

Sexual Assault Reporting Options (SARO)

https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/475794/SARO_Form_200213.pdf

RainLily Crisis Center

Location: Hong Kong

Established by Association Concerning Sexual Violence Against Women (ACSVAW) in 2000, Rainlily was established as the first, perhaps the only sexual assault crisis centre in Hong Kong. RainLily provides free services on 24-hour one-stop service, immediate and post medical support, counselling services, forensic emotional support legal support, and more to provide emotional support on victim-survivors. It also provides training to police, lawyers, and healthcare personnel to let them understand the needs of victims, when they handle a case. The service users can be victim-survivors, who 14 or above, their family members or primary supporters, and related professionals. The goal of RainLily is to minimise the need for victims-survivors to travel to different agencies, and to repeatedly tell their stories, and to avoid decision making under duress. The victim-survivors will have free choice to decide whether to report to the police or not. RainLily also provides accompaniment services. However, the challenge is that victims might experience re-victimisation on trial, where they will see the perpetrators, which is unavoidable.

Time: Established in 2000

Population: Available for all victims 14 or above. The one stop service is available for all victims that report within 24 hours.

Scope: To avoid revictimization while protecting confidentiality.

List of criteria met: Victim centric approach, realistic goals, applicable, corroborated by more than one source, and identifiable benefit (5 of 8 met).

References

- Karacs, S. (2014, November 18). RainLily rape crisis centre offers victims safety, support. *South China Morning Post*. Retrieved from <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1642414/rainlily-rape-crisis-centre-offers-victims-safety-support>
- RainLily - ACSVAW. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://rainlily.org.hk/eng/service>.

One Stop Crisis Center

Location: Malaysia

In Malaysia, One Stop Crisis Centres are set up in almost every hospital. OSCC is a team of NGOs and four governmental departments, including Royal Malaysia Police, Department of Social Welfare, Legal Aid Department and medical department, and is managed jointly. Its tasks are assisting victim-survivors of rape, sodomy, child abuse, domestic violence, etc. on medical treatment, forensic examination, reporting crime, legal assistance, counselling and sheltering under one roof. OSCC is based on Canadian model, and has been implemented in Bangladesh, Namibia and Thailand. However, the programme is underfunded. Also, although established in 1996, still, many victims will go to the police station first instead of using Emergency & Trauma Unit with OSCC, and they are not aware of it. Therefore, the NGOs urge victims to go to trauma unit before going to the police station.

Time: Established in 1966

Population: Available for all victims in Malaysia

Scope: To bring out services such as medical and forensic examination, legal counseling, and police interview into one roof to help reduce the victim's trauma

List of criteria met: Victim centric approach, applicable, accessible, collaborated by different agencies, and corroborated by more than one source (5 of 8 met)

References

- Edgar, N. (1969, December 31). NGO urges victims of abuse and violence to attend to trauma prior to going to police. Retrieved from <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/community/2014/01/14/treatment-first-report-later-ngo-urges-victims-of-abuse-and-violence-to-attend-to-trauma-prior-to-go>.
- Colombini, M., Mayhew, S., & Watts, C. (2008). Health-sector responses to intimate partner violence in low- and middle-income settings: a review of current models, challenges and opportunities. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 86(8), 635–642. doi: 10.2471/blt.07.045906 <https://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/86/8/07-045906.pdf>.
- One Stop Crisis Centre (OSCC). (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.osccmy.org/>.

Police Response

Location: New Zealand

In New Zealand, the victims could go through five steps: Report, First Interview, Emotional Support, Medical Check-up, and Formal Interview.

Victims can dial 111 or go to the nearest police stations to report, and when they arrive, they can talk to the counter to speak to specialised personnel in a private space. Victims are encouraged to bring their family or friends to come with, or the police will offer personnel from support agencies. Then, the specially trained detectives will conduct the first interview to find out what happened, where and when it happened. During the interview, the detectives will advise the victim to use victim services, and victims can decide whether to use or not.

The emotional support is provided by counsellors from supporting agencies, to help the victims from the beginning to the end. The duties of counsellors are to make sure that the victims understand the process and police questions. They can be called to different places, for example the school. During the formal interview, the victims can bring their support personnel, and relatives or friends. Most interviews are video recorded, and another detective will be in the monitoring room to watch and take notes. The interviewer will let victims express their feelings. The victims' statements will be taken as a part of the investigation.

Time: Unknown

Population: Available for all victims in New Zealand

Scope: To help reduce victims' trauma and bring a close collaboration between the police and other agencies or services.

List of criteria met: Victim centric approach, collaborated action, accessible, applicable, prompt response, and realistic goals (6 of 8 met)

References

Reporting Sexual Assault to Police - Steps 1-5. (2017). Retrieved from

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=9&v=KWQG8jJZBwk&feature=emb_logo

Video resources. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.police.govt.nz/advice/sexual-assault/video-resources>.

Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Teams (SOCITs)

Location: Victoria, Australia

In the State of Victoria, Australia, Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Teams (SOCITs) are available across the state. SOCITs are made of detectives who are specially trained to investigate sexual offences and child abuses. Their tasks are not only to investigate crime and arrest offenders, but also work in partnership with other supporting agencies in Multidisciplinary Centres (MDC). MDC is located in a building with multiple agencies, including SOCIT, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for child protection, Centres Against Sexual Assault (CASA) for counselling and advocates, community health nurses, and forensic medical personnel. MDCs are located away from police station, and the police officers do not wear uniform. MDCs are designed as welcoming, safe and confidential environment, and the victims' privacy is guaranteed. Video statement will be taken during police interview. The victims will establish ongoing relationships with one or two police officers and will not need to retell their stories.

Time: Unknown

Population: Available for all victims in the State of Victoria

Scope: To help reduce victims' trauma by bringing different types of services under one roof.

List of criteria met: Victim centric approach, collaborated action, accessible, applicable, prompt response, and realistic goals (6 of 8 met)

Reference

Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Teams. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.police.vic.gov.au/sexual-offences-and-child-abuse-investigation-teams-1>.

South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence. (n.d.). Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team. Retrieved from <https://www.secasa.com.au/pages/sexual-offences-and-child-abuse-investigation-team/>.

Reporting Sexual Abuse to the Police. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://westcasa.org.au/resources/reporting-sexual-abuse-to-the-police/>.

Police Response

Location: Western Australia, Australia

In Western Australia (WA), the police offer various options for victims to report sexual assault, including visiting nearest police stations, calling the police, and contacting the Sexual Assault Squad via phone or email. When reporting to the police, the victims will be offered access to free and confidential counselling services by Department of Health. The counsellors will arrange forensic medical examination, if the victims agree. For victims who prefer not to involve the police in reporting stage, they can call the hotlines of Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC) for counselling and medical services. The police officers aim to be respectful, non-judgemental, understanding, and supportive during the investigation, and the safety and welfare of victims is the primary concerns for the police. No action will be taken without victims' permissions. Detectives will provide information on resources of counselling services, forensic examinations, and victim compensations.

Time: Unknown

Population: Available for all victims in Western Australia

Scope: To help reduce victims' trauma by bringing various options to report

List of criteria met: Victim centric approach, collaborated action, accessible, applicable, prompt response, and realistic goals (6 of 8 met)

Reference

Western Australia Police. (n.d.). Sexual Assault. Retrieved from <https://www.police.wa.gov.au/Your-Safety/Sexual-assault>.

EUROPE

Sexual Assault Referral Centres (United Kingdom)

- Follows a victim-centred approach
- Should be a collaborative action
- Should be corroborated by more than one source
- Realistic goals
- Easy to apply in different contexts, transferable
- Prompt response
- Accessibility to service (for all victims)
- Provide an identifiable benefit

Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC) in the United Kingdom are commissioned by the National Health Service of the United Kingdom. SARC's are located throughout the country, while also providing a 24/7 call center for greater access. There are no geographical limitations to utilization of SARC's in regards to where the assault occurred, where the victim is from, and reporting the assault (NHS). SARC services are provided free of charge to all victims, regardless of age and gender, who utilize the services regardless of whether or not the assault was reported to the police.

Many of the SARC's have relationships with the local police departments and are often jointly funded. If needed, the SARC refers victims to other institutions including the police. Some police stations run separate facilities to provide SARC services whilst others are maintained in NHS premises. General services include support during police investigations and forensic examinations. Immediate services provided by SARC are medical exams to screen and treat for sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy. These centers can provide emergency contraception as well as treatments for anything contracted from the assault. SARC also offers to store evidence in case of a later report to the police. SARC will never force victims to report their crimes to the police, but provide the resources if they wished to do so. Trained professionals, known as Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVA), are also on site to provide counseling and support to victims. ISVA's can provide further information about obtaining psychological counseling outside the SARC.

One example of a SARC is St. Mary's Centre, in Manchester, which was the first SARC established in 1986. Not only do they provide services listed above, they also provide community and professional training. St Mary's also allows for a specially trained police officer to conduct interviews at their Centre to provide an interview in a more comfortable setting. At St. Mary's, six free counselling sessions are given after the assault, as well as additional counseling pre and post trial.

Resources:

Rape Crisis England & Wales. (n.d.). What is a SARC?: Rape Crisis England & Wales. Retrieved from <https://rapecrisis.org.uk/get-help/looking-for-information/sexual-assault-referral-centres-sarcs/what-is-a-sarc/>.

Saint Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre. (n.d.). St Mary's Centre :: Home. Retrieved from <https://www.stmaryscentre.org/>

Gee, D. C. S. D., & Sproson, D. S. J. (2004). Sexual Assault Referral Centres “Getting Started” Guide. Retrieved from

http://library.college.police.uk/docs/acpo/getting_started_guide.pdf

Rape crisis centres (Germany)

- Follows a victim-centred approach
- Should be a collaborative action
- Should be corroborated by more than one source
- Realistic goals
- Easy to apply in different contexts, transferable
- Provide an identifiable benefit

Description:

The ‘Federal association of women’s counseling and rape crisis centres’ (Bff) runs rape crisis centers in all 16 German states. They provide personal and telephone counseling to women who have been victimized. Some centres provide “on-call services for crisis intervention and psychotherapy” as well. The umbrella organization, Bff, runs awareness campaigns and conducts trainings and networking events to prevent sexual violence. Services are free of charge and the female employees are bound to confidentiality (Bff, 2019).

LARA is a rape crisis centre in Berlin for female victims over the age of 14. Victims do not have to disclose any information and can receive help free of charge. Referrals to hospitals, legal services, and other victim services are advertised on the LARA website. The LARA in-house lawyers are female and give advice to victims of sexual assault and rape. LARA is funded by the administration of the state (LARA, 2019).

Both, Bff and LARA offer to accompany victims to the criminal police department in the aftermath of a sexual assault or rape.

Resources:

Bff (Bundesverband Frauenberatungsstellen und Frauennotrufe). 2019. Rape crisis centres. Retrieved October 23, 2019 from <https://www.frauen-gegen-gewalt.de/en/rape-crisis-Centres.html>.

LARA (Fachstelle gegen sexualisierte Gewalt an Frauen). (2019). Rape Crisis and Counseling Centre. Retrieved October 23, 2019 from <https://www.lara-berlin.de/en/our-offer/welcome/>.

Istanbul Convention on Action Against Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (Council of Europe)

- Follows a victim-centred approach
- Should be a collaborative action
- Should be corroborated by more than one source
- Realistic goals
- Easy to apply in different contexts, transferable
- Prompt response
- Accessibility to service (for all victims)
- Provide an identifiable benefit

Description:

The goal of this Protocol is to establish guidelines for nations to “take measures to prevent violence against women, protect its victims and prosecute the perpetrators” (Council of Europe:Istanbul Convention). The guidelines follow a victim-centred approach, where the rights of the victims are the most important. While addressing the needs of the victim, this protocol also highlights the needs of addressing societal factors that contribute to violence against women. The protocol advocates for public-awareness campaigns and programs as well as women’s empowerment movements. Along with this, teaching about violence against women is encouraged in all levels of education. The protocol mandates cooperation between all relevant agencies and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

For those professionals directly involved with victims of acts of violence, stronger training should be implemented, focusing on the needs of the victim as well as preventing secondary victimization. Services, when achievable, should be located in one location, to help prevent secondary victimization and provide more comfort to the victims.

One extremely important measure highlighted in this protocol is, “The provision of services shall not depend on the victim’s willingness to press charges or testify against any perpetrator” (Council of Europe, 2011). Many countries in Europe have created action plans in order to adhere their practices to this protocol, such as in Ukraine, where partners from different organizations are cooperating to implement the best policies in accordance with this protocol.

Resources:

United Nations. (2011, May 11). Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. Retrieved from <https://www.refworld.org/docid/4ddb74f72.html>.

The Istanbul Convention: a tool to advance in fighting violence against women and domestic violence in Ukraine (2018-2020). (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.coe.int/en/web/genderequality/the-istanbul-convention-a-tool-to-advance-in-fighting-violence-against-women-and-domestic-violence-in-ukraine>.

Protocol between the Police Service and Crown Prosecution Service in the Investigation and Prosecution of Rape (United Kingdom)

- Follows a victim-centred approach
- Should be a collaborative action
- Should be corroborated by more than one source
- Realistic goals
- Easy to apply in different contexts, transferable
- Prompt response
- Accessibility to service (for all victims)
- Provide an identifiable benefit

Description:

The “Protocol between the Police Service and Crown Prosecution Service in the Investigation and Prosecution of Rape” provides an outline for the entire criminal justice process after a rape has occurred. This protocol provides guidance for both law enforcement and prosecution on what steps they need to take to handle rape cases. This protocol highlights the need for all those involved to be considerate of the victim and their needs. The protocol highlights that the use of video recordings is on a case by case basis and is up to the victim whether or not it is utilized. Another key item of this protocol is requiring the use of a dedicated examination room for sexual assault as well as any examination has to be conducted by appropriately trained staff.

Another useful document provided is the “Toolkit for Prosecutors on Violence Against Women and Girls Cases Involving Vulnerable Victims.” This purpose of this toolkit is to offer prosecution the proper guidance in interacting with victims. The toolkit provides tables that allow prosecutors to help better understand a situation. These tables include, “Assessing the credibility of the overall allegation by understanding offender tactics and behaviours, Issues to consider related to a vulnerable victim’s account, and Support for vulnerable victims throughout the criminal justice process.” While this toolkit is made for prosecutors, this toolkit provides great guidance on how to interact with victims of sexual assault and can also be utilized by police.

Resources:

Association of Chief Police Officers, & Crown Prosecution Service. (2015, January 8). ACPO-CPS protocol on the investigation and prosecution of allegations of rape, January 2015. Retrieved from

https://www.cps.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/publications/cps_acpo_rape_protocol_v2-1.pdf

Crown Prosecution Service. (n.d.). Toolkit for Prosecutors on Violence Against Women and Girls Cases Involving Vulnerable Victims. Retrieved from

https://www.cps.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/publications/toolkit_for_prosecutors_on_vawg_cases_involving_vulnerable_victims.pdf

Intervention Protocols (Sweden)

- Follows a victim-centred approach
- Should be a collaborative action
- Should be corroborated by more than one source
- Realistic goals
- Easy to apply in different contexts, transferable
- Accessibility to service (for all victims)
- Provide an identifiable benefit

Description:

Victims of sexual assault and rape have a right to understand protocol related to their cases. Many victims would prefer to have the investigative process laid out to them upfront to avoid a surprising “dearth of communication after a period of intense activity” (Bradley, Brooks-Hay & Burman, 2019, p. 7). The European Institute for Gender Equality suggests intervention protocols for law enforcement as good practice towards a victim-centred approach. These protocols deal with the different stages throughout the investigative process and aim to improve services for victims (EIGE, 2013).

From 2010 to 2012, the Prosecution Authority Development Centre (PADC) in Göteborg together with federal police established a “joint best practice working model for investigating sexual crimes and violence in intimate relationships” to harmonize and improve national investigations on said crimes. PADC takes on nationwide responsibility on supervision, methodology, information, cooperation, and knowledge sharing with other agencies in charge of sex crime investigations. To account for proper implementation, the joint project developed and introduced checklists, protocols, and templates to improve response to sex crimes (AI, 2019).

The initiative has been reviewed twice, first in 2016 and the second time in 2018 “as part of [...] legal reforms”. Internal inspections in 2019 revealed that rape investigations were more successful and of better quality in districts that fully complied with the model. Another positive outcome was “higher prosecution rates” that resulted from compliance with the model as well (AI, 2019).

Resources:

AI (Amnesty International). (2019, April 3). Time For Change. Justice For Rape Survivors In The Nordic Countries. Retrieved from <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur01/0089/2019/en/>.

Brooks-Hay, O., Burman, M., & Bradley, L. (2019). Justice Journeys: Informing Policy and Practice Through Lived Experience of Victim-Survivors of Rape and Serious Sexual Assault. In: *Justice Journeys*, no. 4/2019. University of Glasgow. 2019.

EIGE (European Institute for Gender Equality). (2012, November 7). Study to identify and map existing data and resources on sexual violence against women in the EU: Report. Retrieved from <https://eige.europa.eu/publications/study-identify-and-map-existing-data-and-resources-sexual-violence-against-women-eu-report>.

Alliance Against Violence (Austria)

- Follows a victim-centred approach
- Should be a collaborative action
- Should be corroborated by more than one source
- Realistic goals
- Provide an identifiable benefit

Description:

The Austrian Ministry of the Interior introduced the “Alliance against violence” project in 2010 to promote collaboration between law enforcement and medical services (Heinisch-Hosek, 2014; UNW, 2016). The cooperation promotes networking and skill sharing between actors to prevent violence against women and girls. In 2010, the alliance’s headquarters became part of the Federal Criminal Police office.

One of their key projects is “MedPol” which focuses on the identification and documentation of injuries caused by violence. The purpose is to “strengthen staff confidence” when dealing with issues of sexual violence and assault. Key findings are included in training courses for police and prevention officers. MedPol also released a “brief user-friendly check-list” for victims to “facilitate[...] the provision of evidence in criminal proceedings”. Another key element of MedPol are injury documentation questionnaires. Said checklist became part of a national action plan to further protect women against violence (GoE, 2016, p. 20).

Resources:

GoE (Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence). (2016, September 6). Report submitted by Austria pursuant to Article 68, paragraph 1 of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Baseline Report). Retrieved from <https://rm.coe.int/16806ee8b2>.

Heinisch-Hosek, G. (May 2014). Federal Minister of Education and Women’s Affairs. Status of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Vienna. 2014. Retrieved from https://www.frauen-familien-jugend.bka.gv.at/dam/jcr:5abaa8ae-974d-4ee3-9238-7d48ecf48d7b/Austria_Beijing_20_Austrian_Report_May_2014.PDF.

UNW (United Nations Women). (2016). Alliance Against Violence. Retrieved from <http://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/europe/austria/2010/alliance-against-violence>.

Joint Police & NGO Response (Austria)

- Follows a victim-centred approach
- Should be a collaborative action
- Should be corroborated by more than one source
- Realistic goals
- Accessibility to service (for all victims)
- Provide an identifiable benefit

Description:

The presence of women's NGOs can improve the victims' perception of investigative work (WAVE, 2015). Training initiatives between the Women's Shelter Network and the Federal Ministry of the Interior in Vienna started in the 1980s. In Austria, two people usually conduct training for police officers – one in-house staff and one resource from a women's NGO (CoE, 2016; Logar, 2008; WAVE, 2015). Occasionally other agencies are involved as part of a multi-agency cooperation framework (WAVE, 2015).

Police training in Austria nowadays is mandatory for all levels and is conducted in a joint approach by police and women's NGOs. Further, frameworks have been established to refer survivors of violence to receive additional services (WAVE, 2015). Continuous education and knowledge sharing in health care, for example, improves access for victims (Vandenberghé et al, 2018).

Resources:

CoE (Council of Europe). (2016). Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), Report submitted by Austria pursuant to Article 68, paragraph 1 of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Baseline Report), 1 September 2016, GREVIO/Inf(2016)2, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/57d00ad34.html>.

Logar, R. (2008). Good Laws are not Enough. Experiences from Austria in Developing a Comprehensive Intervention System to Prevent Violence against Women and support Survivors. OSCE Conference on Violence against Women 20 – 22 October 2008, Dushanbe/Tajikistan. Retrieved from <https://www.osce.org/gender/34702>.

Vandenberghé, A., Hendriks, B., Peeters, L., Roelens, K., & Keygnaert, I. (2018). Establishing Sexual Assault Care Centres in Belgium: health professionals' role in the patient-centred care for victims of sexual violence. *BMC health services research*, 18(1), 807. doi:10.1186/s12913-018-3608-6.

WAVE Team. (2015, February). Supporting the Sustainability and Autonomy of Women's Organizations Providing Services in Eastern Europe for Women and Children

Survivors of Domestic Violence (2015). Retrieved from <https://www.wave-network.org/2019/05/28/supporting-the-sustainability-and-autonomy-of-womens-organizations-providing-services-in-eastern-europe-for-women-and-children-survivors-of-domestic-violence-2015/>.

Garda Divisional Protective Services Units (Ireland)

- Follows a victim-centred approach
- Should be a collaborative action
- Should be corroborated by more than one source
- Realistic goals
- Easy to apply in different contexts, transferable
- Prompt response
- Accessibility to service (for all victims)
- Provide an identifiable benefit

Description:

The police in Ireland, An Garda Síochána (Garda), have implemented Divisional Protective Services Units. These units are specialized in investigations of domestic and sexual assaults. These units are situated, or plan to be situated, in all the Garda stations across Ireland. Each unit is solely dedicated to sexual violence crimes. These units also partner with related organizations in order to provide the utmost care. One goal of these units is to guarantee greater confidence in the Garda to handle these crimes, as well as guarantee greater professionalism among staff. The overall goal of these units is to assure the needs of the victims are addressed in an appropriate and timely manner.

During training for personnel assigned to these units, presentations by victims ensure the police gain a better understanding of a victim's experience throughout the entire investigative process. The Garda are informed, and have relationships with local victim service centers, in order to refer victims to proper services. Once contact is made with a victim, the Garda will accompany the victim to a Sexual Assault Treatment Unit, which are currently located in the following areas: Dublin, Galway, Limerick, Mullingar, Waterford, Donegal and Cork. Each unit is staffed with properly trained nurses and counselors, where all medical needs will be addressed. These units are open 24/7.

All processes by the Garda follow guidance from the Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Bill 2015, which also established minimum rights guaranteed to support and protect victims.

Resources:

Rape Crisis Network Ireland. (2012). Guide to the legal process for survivors of sexual violence. Retrieved from <https://www.rcni.ie/wp-content/uploads/Guide-to-the-Legal-Process-for-Survivors-of-Sexual-Violence-2nd-Edition.pdf>

Government of Ireland. (2015, July 14). Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Bill. Retrieved from [http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/CRIMINAL%20JUSTICE%20\(Victims%20of%20Crime\)%20BILL%202015.pdf/Files/CRIMINAL%20JUSTICE%20\(Victims%20of%20Crime\)%20BILL%202015.pdf](http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/CRIMINAL%20JUSTICE%20(Victims%20of%20Crime)%20BILL%202015.pdf/Files/CRIMINAL%20JUSTICE%20(Victims%20of%20Crime)%20BILL%202015.pdf)

Tourist police and community policing (Eastern Europe)

- Follows a victim-centred approach
- Should be a collaborative action
- Should be corroborated by more than one source
- Realistic goals
- Easy to apply in different contexts, transferable
- Prompt response
- Accessibility to service (for all victims)
- Provide an identifiable benefit

Description:

In May 2018, the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs established a special police force to protect foreign visitors in the capital Tbilisi. The tourist police officers patrol the entertainment district equipped with video cameras. Ten crews have been deployed but there are plans in place to increase the headcount gradually (Georgian Journal, 2018).

In Ukraine, the Ministry of Internal Affairs launched a tourist police unit in 2018 as well. The city of Odessa strives to protect visitors from abroad during the busy summer season. The EU's Advisory Mission (EUAM) provided "bicycles and bicycle patrol equipment" to support policing in the "city's busiest tourism spots" (The Financial, 2018).

Other European countries such as Greece, Spain, and Poland implemented special tourist police units or similar measures for tourists as well.

Resources:

Georgian Journal. (2018, May 21). Tourist police officers to assist foreign visitors of Georgia from today. Retrieved from <https://www.georgianjournal.ge/society/34502-tourist-police-officers-to-assist-foreign-visitors-of-georgia-from-today.html>.

The Financial. (2018). EU Advisory Mission hands over patrol bikes to Odessa Tourist Police ahead of summer visitor surge. Retrieved from https://finchannel.com/Main_News/Tech/74213_UNIFI_and_Alcatel-Lucent_team_up_to_deliver_broadband_connectivity_to_Albania_via_undersea_cable/.

Ministry of Sport and Tourism of the Republic of Poland. (2016, June 19). Emergency Line for foreign tourists. Retrieved from <https://www.msit.gov.pl/en/news/7325,Emergency-Line-for-foreign-tourists.html>

Diana Group (Spain)

- Follows a victim-centred approach
- Should be a collaborative action
- Should be corroborated by more than one source
- Realistic goals
- Easy to apply in different contexts, transferable
- Prompt response
- Accessibility to service (for all victims)
- Provide an identifiable benefit

Description:

The local police force of Seville (Spain) established the ‘Diana Group’ in 2002. This initiative resulted from a multiagency project between the Department of Equality and the local administration in Seville.

The Diana Group is a special police unit tasked with gender-based violence by focusing on the prevention of secondary victimization. Officers receive special training to address the needs of victims effectively, according to their mission statement “immediacy, proximity and continuity.” The name of the unit was chosen to actively promote cooperation and remove barriers between victims and police. Further, officers do not wear uniform to “get closer to survivors” (AI, 2005).

Resources:

AI (Amnesty International). (2005). Spain More than Words. Making protection and justice a reality for women victims of gender based violence in the home. Retrieved from: <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/84000/eur410052005en.pdf>.

Peterson, D. S., & Schroeder, J. A. (Eds.) (2016). *Domestic violence in international context*. Routledge Studies in Crime and Society. London: Routledge. doi: 10.4324/9781315618098

United Nations Development Programme. (2019). International Consultant for the Organization of the Study Tour on Prevention and Response to Domestic Violence in Spain. Retrieved from: https://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=46971.

Specialized Women Police Units (Portugal)

- Follows a victim-centred approach
- Should be a collaborative action
- Should be corroborated by more than one source
- Realistic goals
- Easy to apply in different contexts, transferable
- Prompt response
- Accessibility to service (for all victims)
- Provide an identifiable benefit

Description:

In 1991, Portugal stipulated by law to set up specialized police stations run by female officers to accommodate the needs of victims (Kelly, 2003). In 2002, the Ministry of Internal Administration launched a nation-wide government-funded project called INOVAR aiming towards victim support and improving police response to sexual assault and domestic violence (AGIS, 2004). The project seeks to improve police attitude towards victims of sexual violence, to ramp up police and support services, and to strengthen networking capacities between police and NGOs.

Further, the concept of a front office was established and is run by the police and open 24/7 throughout the year. Each of the 725 police stations implemented such a front office to improve victim response (OSCE, 2002). On top of that, Portugal police implemented and trained specialized units on domestic violence, set up comforting rooms for victim testimony, and developed a database of other agencies such as NGOs to foster multi-agency cooperation (OSCE, 2002). Each victim has the right to speak to a female officer and female aspirants increased significantly over the last twenty years.

Resources:

AGIS (Framework programme concerning police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters). (2004). Crime prevention in Portugal and an example of the city of Matosinhos. *SecuCities Cultures of prevention*. Retrieved from:

https://efus.eu/files/fileadmin/efus/pdf/Portugal_Matosinhos_EN.pdf

Kelly, L. (2003). *Violence against women and children: Vision, innovation and professionalism in policing: VIP guide* Council of Europe Publishing.

OSCE Portugal (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe). (2002). *Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting "Preventing and Combating Violence against women"*, final report. Vienna, 18-19 March 2002. Retrieved from <https://www.equalrightstrust.org/sites/default/files/ertdocs//OSCE%20Report%20on%20Violence%20Against%20Women.pdf>.

More female police officers (Kosovo)

- Follows a victim-centred approach
- Should be a collaborative action
- Should be corroborated by more than one source
- Realistic goals
- Prompt response
- Accessibility to service (for all victims)
- Provide an identifiable benefit

Description:

Victims of sexual assault and rape are traumatized. They benefit from a supportive and empathic environment when dealing with the police. Studies on reporting sexual crimes suggest hiring female investigators and examiners as a possible measure to reduce stress for both male and female survivors of sexual assault (Bradley, Brooks-Hay, & Burman, 2019; Chowdhury- Hawkins et al., 2008; Kelly, 2003; Jamel, 2010; Rich & Seffrin, 2014). Female police officers do engage more often with victim advocates which proves to be beneficial for victims (Vetten, 2005; Rich, Seffrin, 2014). Further, the number of female officers positively influences reporting habits of victims of sexual violence (Stickings, 2015).

Female police officers and forensic examiners are common practice in Europe (Hagemann-White, Kelly & Roemkens, 2010; Hoh & Stanko, 2015). Some Balkan states made the hiring of police women a top priority (UNW, 2017; OSCE, 2019). Police academies in Kosovo averaged 18% female recruits back in 2010 (UNODC, 2010). In 2018, the OSCE Mission arranged for a knowledge sharing workshop between female officers from Kosovo with South Wales police to share best practices (OSCE, 2019). Women in some South East European countries accounted for 6.5% to 19.2% of police officers according to data from 2013 (SEESAC, 2015). Trainings for the police on “gender-based and sexual violence” have been implemented with the help of UNDP (Zveržhanovski & Balon, 2012, p. 11).

Resources:

Brooks-Hay, O., Burman, M., & Bradley, L. (2019). Justice Journeys: Informing Policy and Practice Through Lived Experience of Victim-Survivors of Rape and Serious Sexual Assault. In: *Justice Journeys, no. 4/2019*. University of Glasgow. 2019.

Chowdhury-Hawkins, R., Mclean, I., Winterholler, M., & Welch, J. (2008). Preferred choice of gender of staff providing care to victims of sexual assault in Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs). *Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine, 15(6)*, 363-367.

Hagemann-White, C., Kelly, L., & Roemkens, R. (2010) Feasibility study to assess the possibilities opportunities and needs to standardise national legislation on violence

against women, violence against children and sexual orientation violence. *European Commission, Publications Office of the European Union*. Retrieved from: <https://doi:10.2758/3026>.

Hohl, K. & Stanko, E. A. (2015). Complaints of rape and the criminal justice system: Fresh evidence on the attrition problem in England and Wales. *European Journal of Criminology*, 12(3), 324–341. Retrieved from: <https://doi.org/10.1177/1477370815571949>.

Jamel, J. (2010). Researching the Provision of Service to Rape Victims by Specially Trained Police Officers: The Influence of Gender—An Exploratory Study. *New Criminal Law Review: An International and Interdisciplinary Journal*, 13(4), 688-709.

Kelly, L. (2003). *Violence against women and children: Vision, innovation and professionalism in policing: VIP guide* Council of Europe Publishing.

OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe). (March 11, 2019). Strong Women on the Rise in the Kosovo Police. Retrieved from <https://www.osce.org/mission-in-kosovo/413726>.

Rich, K. & Seffrin, P. (2014). Birds of a feather or fish out of water? Policewomen taking rape reports. *Feminist Criminology*, 9(2), 137-159.

SEESAC (South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons). (2015). Women in Police Services in South East Europe. Retrieved from <http://www.seesac.org/f/docs/Gender-and-Security/Women-in-Police-Services-in-South-East-Europe-.pdf>.

Stickings, M. (2015). Establishing and Strengthening an Association of Women Police. Retrieved from <https://eca.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2016/04/establishing-and-strengthening-an-association-of-women-police-in-kosovo>.

UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime). (2011). Handbook on Effective Police Responses to Violence against Women. *Criminal Justice Handbook Series*. doi: 10.18356/ee73215b-en.

UNW (United Nations Women). (February 24, 2017). Bringing women on equal footing with men in Kosovo Police. Retrieved from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/2/feature-bringing-women-on-equal-footing-with-men-in-kosovo-police>.

Vetten, L. (2005). Violence against women: Good practices in combating and eliminating violence against women. Division for the Advancement of Women. *Council of Europe*.

Zveržhanovski, I. & Balon, B. (2012). Guidelines For Gender Sensitive Policing: with an emphasis on recruitment, selection and professional development of women in police services. *South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC)*.

Police Training (United Kingdom)

- Follows a victim-centred approach
- Should be a collaborative action
- Should be corroborated by more than one source
- Realistic goals
- Easy to apply in different contexts, transferable
- Prompt response
- Accessibility to service (for all victims)
- Provide an identifiable benefit

Description:

The UK introduced “Specially Trained Officers (STOs)” or “Sexual Offences Investigative Trained officers (SOITs)” (Hohl, Stanko, 2015). They help with sexual assault investigations and receive special in-house training tailored to reduce trauma and stress on victims during investigations and evidence collection. Their training includes forensic interviewing to accompany the needs of the victim as first responders.

Training incorporates findings from academic research to build a bridge between efficient investigations and victims’ needs (Nogala et al, 2016). SOLOs in Scotland receive special training such as “Trauma and the Brain” to better understand the needs of victims (Bradley, Brooks-Hay, Burman, Kyle, 2018, p. 20).

Resources:

Bradley, L., Brooks-Hay, O., Burman, M. & Kyle, D. (2018). Evaluation of the Rape Crisis Scotland National Advocacy Project - Final Report 2018. *Briefing No.01/2018. The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research.*

Hohl, K. & Stanko, E. A. (2015). Complaints of rape and the criminal justice system: Fresh evidence on the attrition problem in England and Wales. *European Journal of Criminology*, 12(3), 324–341. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1477370815571949>.

Nogala, D., Neyround, P., Vera, A., Ferreira, D. & Nagy, J. (2016). Global Trends in Law Enforcement Training and Education. CEPOL 2016. Research and Science Conference. Luxembourg. *Publications Office of the European Union*, 2017. Retrieved from <https://www.cepola.europa.eu/sites/default/files/research-science-conference-2016-programme.pdf>.

Police Training (Luxembourg)

- Follows a victim-centred approach
- Should be a collaborative action
- Should be corroborated by more than one source
- Realistic goals
- Easy to apply in different contexts, transferable
- Provide an identifiable benefit

Description:

NGOs (Profamilia, Femmes en Détresse and Fondation Maison de la Porte Ouverte) together with national police have developed special training material for police officers to improve response to victims of sexual violence. The training became part of the 2-year basic training for all police staff and covers psychological aspects of domestic violence, police interventions and incident recording. With this, trainees learn first-hand about domestic and sexualized violence (WAVE, 2018). The law gave birth to other supporting tools for law enforcement such as “checklists, intervention protocols, crime reports and an information card for victims and perpetrators of violence (available in 13 languages)”.

Since 2003, several training sessions have been conducted that reached approximately 1500 police officers. Training focuses on victim protection, appropriate information to give victims and perpetrators, and aspects in regards to the work of the public prosecutor. Research has proven that training effectively supported the implementation of the law. Police actions and conviction rates increased while the reports of problematic police interventions were only 1% in 2011. The law and its associated training measures are reevaluated on a regular basis to include new research on victimization. Knowledge sharing is implemented with German police to leverage insights and develop new best practices.

Resources:

EIGE (European Institute for Gender Equality). (2015). Preventing domestic violence - Good practices. Lithuania: *Publications Office of the European Union*, 2015. doi: 10.2839/79046.

WAVE (Women Against Violence Europe). (2018). Working Group on Sexualised Violence. Report of Baseline Information on service provision for sexualised violence within the WAVE Membership. Vienna. 2018. Retrieved from https://wave-network.org/wp-content/uploads/WGSV_SurveyReport_2018.pdf.

Police Training (Finland)

- Follows a victim-centred approach
- Should be a collaborative action
- Should be corroborated by more than one source
- Realistic goals
- Easy to apply in different contexts, transferable
- Accessibility to service (for all victims)
- Provide an identifiable benefit

Description:

Finland promotes generalism amongst police, prosecutors, and judges, which requires each profession to gain insights on a broad variety of topics. In order to improve investigations of sexual offences, the Police University College included victim-centered modules in their courses.

Over the course of their three-year program, police aspirants acquire knowledge on “sexual violence, [...] victim psychology, victims’ rights and interviewing victims” (AI, 2019). NGOs and other victim support organizations are involved in teaching those classes, such as Crime Victims Finland and Rape Crisis Centre Tukinainen. Subsequently, graduates have the possibility to attend a “specialized course focusing on sexual crimes and children”.

Since 2017, online courses on intervention and prevention of intimate partner violence are available for police officers, medical professionals, and social workers (AI, 2019; MOSAAH, 2019). They are part of a national program (EPRAS) to implement and comply with requirements set out by the Istanbul Convention on Action Against Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (MOSAAH, 2019).

Resources:

AI (Amnesty International). (2019). Time for Change. Justice for Rape Survivors in the Nordic Countries. Amnesty International. London. 2019. Retrieved from <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/EUR0100892019ENGLISH.PDF>.

MOSAAH (Ministry of Social Affairs and Health). (2019). Action Plan for the Istanbul Convention for 2018 - 2021. Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. Helsinki. 2017. Retrieved from <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-00-3972-1>.

Recorded Victim Statements (United Kingdom)

- Follows a victim-centred approach
- Should be corroborated by more than one source
- Realistic goals
- Easy to apply in different contexts, transferable
- Prompt response
- Accessibility to service (for all victims)
- Provide an identifiable benefit

Description:

Westera et al. suggest video recording of victims' accounts to preserve valuable evidence in a more advanced, accurate, and authentic manner (2016). Doing so eliminates human error and reduces bias, which can result in higher conviction rates. Being a common practice in the UK, recorded statements release the traumatized victims from experiencing their victimization again (Hohl & Stanko, 2015).

Scottish survivors of sexual assault and rape expressed their wish to have their statement recorded to ensure that “the statement remained in their own words and preventing the need to hear it back at the end of such a demanding process” (Bradley, Brooks-Hay, Burman, 2019, p. 5). One SARC in Wales provides a “full Police interview suite which consists of a comfortable interview room with discreet cameras and microphones and full recording facilities” (New Pathway, 2019). Another alternative to ease the victims' pain is to accept “third-party reports of domestic violence” as implemented in the UK. That way, traumatized victims can rely on the help of friends or advocates to report on their behalf (UNODC, 2010).

Resources:

Bradley, L., Brooks-Hay, O. & Burman, M. (2019). Informing policy and practice through lived experience of victim-survivors of rape and serious sexual assault. In: *Justice Journeys*, no. 4/2019. University of Glasgow. 2019.

Hohl, K. & Stanko, E. A. (2015). Complaints of rape and the criminal justice system: Fresh evidence on the attrition problem in England and Wales. *European Journal of Criminology*, 12(3), 324–341. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1477370815571949>.

New Pathway (New Pathways Family Friendly Therapeutic Centre of Excellence). (2019). This is how we can help. Retrieved October 24, 2019 from <http://www.newpathways.org.uk/sexual-assault-referral-centre/>.

UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime). (2010). Handbook on effective police responses to violence against women. Vienna: UNODC. Retrieved from <https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison->

reform/Handbook_on_Effective_police_responses_to_violence_against_women_English.pdf.

Westera, N. J., Kebbell, M. R., & Milne, B. (2016). Want a Better Criminal Justice Response to Rape? Improve Police Interviews With Complainants and Suspects. *Violence Against Women*, 22(14), 1748–1769. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801216631439>.

Early Evidence Kits (UK)

- Follows a victim-centred approach
- Should be corroborated by more than one source
- Realistic goals
- Easy to apply in different contexts, transferable
- Prompt response
- Accessibility to service (for all victims)
- Provide an identifiable benefit

Description:

The “forensic window” allows for evidence to be collected upon a sexual crime within a specific timeframe. Trained professionals use early evidence kits (EEK) to secure forensic samples of urine, for example (Hohl, Stanko, 2015). Securing DNA traces at an early stage prevents contamination of evidence and the victim is free to use the bathroom, drink, or smoke (Vetten, 2005).

Ideally, police officers serve a dual purpose, that is to respond to the needs of the victim and rigorously safeguard evidence. First responders should secure evidence using the swabs for mouth, hands and nails. Securing traces using a rear seat cover kit is a common practice as well. Police should carry these kits in every vehicle. In the UK, first responders do take intimate swabs from the complainant (Angliolini, 2015).

Resources:

Angliolini, E. (2015). Report of the Independent Review into The Investigation and Prosecution of Rape in London, April 2015. Retrieved from https://www.cps.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/publications/dame_elish_angliolini_rape_review_2015.pdf.

Hohl, K. & Stanko, E. A. (2015). Complaints of rape and the criminal justice system: Fresh evidence on the attrition problem in England and Wales. *European Journal of Criminology*, 12(3), 324–341. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1477370815571949>.

Vetten, L. (2005). Violence against women: Good practices in combating and eliminating violence against women. Division for the Advancement of Women. *Council of Europe*.

Emergency removal order for intimate partner violence (Germany)

- Follows a victim-centred approach
- Should be corroborated by more than one source
- Realistic goals
- Easy to apply in different contexts, transferable
- Prompt response
- Accessibility to service (for all victims)
- Provide an identifiable benefit

Description:

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is on the priority list for European law enforcement agencies. The majority of states introduced guidelines for the criminal justice actors involved and some released “special procedures for investigating” IPV. Laws on domestic violence in Germany include sexual violence, such as sexual assault and rape (Hagemann-White, Kelly, Roemkens, 2010).

Several member states protect rape complainants by law. Austria introduced the emergency removal order (alternatively ‘go order’ or ‘barring order’) in 1998 and several member states followed suit. Under certain conditions the police can impose a ban on the perpetrator from home that can last up to several weeks (FRA, 2014; Hagemann-White, Kelly, Roemkens, 2010; UNODC, 2010).

In case of an imminent threat, the police can remove the offender despite the wishes of the victim. German Police have to investigate reports on domestic violence *ex officio*. Austria, Germany, and Luxembourg ensure protection until the civil protection order can be issued which comes at no cost for the victim (Hagemann-White, Kelly, Roemkens, 2010). Certain European countries offer protection in court such as closed courts, hiding the complainant’s name, or allow reports to be provided via video stream (Hagemann-White, Kelly, Roemkens, 2010).

Resources:

FRA (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights). (2014). Violence against women: an EU-wide survey. Main results. Luxembourg: *Publications Office of the European Union*, 2015. Retrieved from https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2014-vaw-survey-main-results-apr14_en.pdf.

Hagemann-White, C., Kelly, L. & Roemkens, R. (2010). Feasibility study to assess the possibilities opportunities and needs to standardise national legislation on violence against women, violence against children and sexual orientation violence, European Commission, *Publications Office of the European Union*, Luxembourg, 2010. doi:10.2758/3026.

UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime). (2010). *Handbook on effective police responses to violence against women*. Vienna: UNODC. Retrieved from https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/Handbook_on_Effective_police_responses_to_violence_against_women_English.pdf.

LATIN AMERICA

Campaigns to promote the reporting of a sexual assault within 72 hours after the assault

Link:

http://www.spog.org.pe/web/images/spog/DOCs/Documentos_Tecnicos/BuenasPracticasAtencionViolenciaSexual.pdf

Location: Guatemala

This practice is based on the document “Buenas prácticas para la atención de la violencia sexual contra las mujeres” (Ortiz, 2010). This document suggested the promotion of reporting within 72 hours after the assault (Ortiz, 2010, p.29)”. This practice has been implemented in Guatemala, and has also been proposed in Brazil (Ortiz, 2010, p.29).

The objective of this practice is to prevent HIV, STD, and pregnancy (Ortiz, 2010, p.30). This practice promotes the victim’s report within 72 hours and allows options for reporting.

How long has been practiced: it was proposed at least ten years ago in Latin America.

Criteria:

1. Victim Centered Approach
2. Realistic goals
3. Collaborative Action
4. Transferable
5. Provide an identifiable benefit
6. Prompt response
7. Corroborated by more than 1 source
8. Accessibility to service
- 9.

Population: the target population are the potential victims and current victims

Scope: This practice is proposed using a national scope.

Costs: This is a non-expensive practice, demanding some training for police workers and promotion through mass and social media.

References:

Ortiz, J. (2010). Buenas prácticas para la atención de la violencia sexual contra las mujeres. *FLASOG*, 1-51.

Creation of a hotline available on the internet and by phone to report and denounce sexual assaults

Link:

https://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTLACREGTOPPOVANA/Resources/Morrison_Ellsberg_Bott.pdf

Location: Costa Rica

This practice has been suggested for Latin America countries (Morrison, Ellsberg & Bott, 2004) and implemented in Costa Rica (Creel, Lovera & Ruiz, 2001). Considering that the concepts of privacy and family honor are important in Thailand society, providing a way to report avoiding physical interaction could be very useful to increase the report rates.

How long has been practiced: At least ten years

Criteria:

1. Victim Centered Approach
2. Realistic goals
3. Collaborative Action
4. Transferable
5. Provide an identifiable benefit
6. Prompt response
7. Corroborated by more than 1 source
8. Accessibility to service

Scope: National

Population: Victims and potential victims

Costs: This practice requires investing for the creation of communication channels, training of workers, and paying workers to provide the service 24/7.

References:

Creel, L., Lovera, S., & Ruiz, M. (2001). Domestic violence: An ongoing threat to women in Latin America and the Caribbean. Retrieved from: <https://www.prb.org/domesticviolenceanongoingthreattowomeninlatinamericaandthecaribbean/>

Morrison, A., Ellsberg, M., & Bott, S. (2004). Addressing gender-based violence in the Latin American and Caribbean region: A critical review of interventions. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 3438. https://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTLACREGTOPPOVANA/Resources/Morrison_Ellsberg_Bott.pdf

Recording system to exchange information between criminal justice actors

Link: <https://lac.unfpa.org/es/publicaciones/buenas-pr%C3%A1cticas-y-lecciones-aprendidas-en-materia-de-salud-sexual-y-reproductiva-y>

Location: Colombia

This practice promotes the exchange of sex crime data between criminal justice agencies and civil society actors. It has been successfully applied in Colombia (UNFPA, 2013, p.35). The exchange of information promotes better coordinated responses to address gender violence. Also, the proposal places emphasis on the protection and confidentiality of the victims.

How long has been practiced: 9 years

Criteria:

1. Victim Centered Approach
2. Realistic goals
3. Collaborative Action
4. Transferable
5. Provide an identifiable benefit
6. Prompt response
7. Corroborated by more than 1 source
8. Accessibility to service

Scope: National

Population: governmental agencies and civil society actors

Costs: This practice requires investment in the creation of communication channels, training of workers, and pay/hire workers to provide the service 24/7.

References:

UNFPA (2013). *Aprendiendo a responder. Buenas prácticas y lecciones aprendidas en materia de salud sexual y reproductiva y violencia de género en situaciones de emergencia en América Latina y el Caribe*. Available online: <https://lac.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pubpdf/UNFPA.pdf>

Allow police bodies to dictate precautionary measures before the judge's decision

Link: http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_ato2019-2022/2019/lei/L13827.htm

Location: Brazil

This practice is based on a recent modification of the Law N°13.827 (Maria Da Penha Law) in Brazil. This modification is included in article 12-c, and allows police officers to undertake precautionary measures before the judge's decision in high risk cases.

How long has been practiced: This law was enacted this year in 2019 so there is no evidence yet about its effectiveness.

Criteria:

1. Victim Centered Approach
2. Collaborative Action
3. Provide an identifiable benefit
4. Prompt response
5. Accessibility to service

This practice does not meet the following criteria: transferable, corroborated by more than one source, and is not entirely realistic. However, this is understandable considering the novelty feature of this practice.

Scope: This could be progressively implemented, starting at the local level.

Costs: this is an expensive practice. First, it requires a legal modification of the Thailand criminal justice to allow police bodies undertake precautionary measures. Secondly, this practice requires training and a strong collaboration among the actors of the criminal justice system.

Reference: Law N°13.827 (“Maria Da Penha Law”, Brazil).

Mandatory gender training to all public workers

Link: <http://www.derechofacil.gob.ar/leysimple/ley-micaela-capacitacion-en-genero-y-violencia-contra-las-mujeres/>

Location: Argentina

Argentina enacted this year a law requiring mandatory training for all public workers on gender issues (Law 27,499). Considering the patriarchal culture dominant in Thailand, police training is a central issue to improve their responses regarding sexual assaults.

Criteria:

1. Victim Centered Approach
2. Realistic goals
3. Collaborative Action
4. Transferable
5. Provide an identifiable benefit
6. Prompt response
7. Corroborated by more than 1 source
8. Accessibility to service

Scope: National

Costs: The cost depends on the nature of the training (workshops, permanent training, creation of an institute focused on the promotion of gender and sexual rights).

Resource: Ley Micaela - Capacitación en género y violencia contra las mujeres " Derecho fácil. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.derechofacil.gob.ar/leysimple/ley-micaela-capacitacion-en-genero-y-violencia-contra-las-mujeres/>.

Women's Police Stations/ Specialized Units

Location: Women's Police Stations (WPS) and specialize and specialized units such as domestic violence units have been established in South American countries including Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Ecuador, among other countries.

Criteria:

1. Victim Centric Approach
2. Collaborative Action
3. Corroborated by more than 1 source
4. Realistic Goals
5. Transferable
6. Provide an identifiable benefit.

Background: The first WPS opened in Sao Paulo, Brazil in 1985. The creation of WPS has helped to raise awareness to the public on violence against women (MacDowell Santos, 2005). The WPS were created as a result of feminist movements throughout Latin America to end violence against women by “breaking the silence, changing the discriminatory social values and power structures that underlie violence against women ...” (Jubb et al., 2008). According to Jubb et al. Brazil has approximately 400 WPS while in Latin America in general, approximately 13 countries have some sort of a specialized police station. They are able to issue restraining orders and help with court proceedings. In addition, WPS assist women in finding “safe havens and psychological treatment” (p. 5). A 2003 case study conducted in different Latin American countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Colombia etc. found that each WPS is unique and serves different types of populations, depending on the country and its laws (Denham, 2008). Its services are provided in partnership with state and non-state actors. The study found that, in addition to protecting women from violence, WPS provide free of charge legal, medical, and psychological services to all women, especially those who are poor (Denham, 2008).

References:

- Derham, T. (2008). Police Reform and Gender. Gender and Security Sector Reform Toolkit. Geneva: DCAF, OSCE/ODIHR.
- Jubb, N., Camacho, G., D'Angelo, A., Yañez De la Borda, G., Hernández, K., Maccassi, I., Santos, C., Molina, Y., Pasitano, W. (2008). Regional mapping study of women's police stations in Latin America. Quito, Ecuador: Centro de Planificación y Estudios Sociales CEPLAES. Retrieved from:
https://www.peacewomen.org/assets/file/Resources/NGO/LawRef/VAW_LatinAccessJusticeEN_CPES_2008.pdf
- Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XA5PAsE1Xmc>
- MacDowell Santos, C. (2005). *Women's police stations: Gender, violence, and justice in São Paulo, Brazil*. Palgrave MacMillan.

Centro de Emergencia de Mujer (CEM)

Location: Peru

Link: <https://www.mimp.gob.pe/homemimp/centro-emergencia-mujer.php>

Criteria:

1. Victim Centered Approach
2. Realistic Goals
3. Accessibility to Service
4. Provide an identifiable benefit
5. Prompt response
6. Transferable
7. Corroborated by more than 1 source
8. Collaborative Action

Background: In the mid-1990s, Peru started its multiple-services centers that handled cases of violence against women, family violence, and violence against children. By 2012, a total of 162 centers were created throughout Peru. These centers provide psychological, legal, medical and social services to victims of violence. CEM is also able to collaborate and refer people to different community services depending on their needs. Research has shown that people appreciate CEM and its services, however, CEM is often understaffed.

CEM's services are free of charge and available to anyone no matter their social status, age or gender. To access CEM, one can simply visit www.gob.pe, the official website of the Ministerio de La Mujer y Poblaciones Vulnerables. In addition, CEM can be accessed through police stations and hospitals. CEM operates in a national level, and according to the ministerio website, there are currently 245 centers throughout Peru. 77 of the 245 centers are available through police stations operating 24 hours a day all year long to assist more people.

Reference:

Denunciar Violencia Familiar y Sexual - Centros de Emergencia Mujer - CEM. (n.d.). Retrieved from: <https://www.gob.pe/480-denunciar-violencia-familiar-y-sexual-centros-de-emergencia-mujer-cem>.

The Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women (Convention of Belem do Para)

Location: Belem, Brazil

Criteria:

1. Victim Centered Approach
2. Realistic
3. Corroborated by more than 1 source
4. Provide an identifiable benefit
5. Collaborative (between countries)

Background: The Convention of Belem do Para was adopted in 1994, in Belem, Brazil. The convention affirms that violence against women violates human dignity and adds on to the unequal power relations between men and women (oas.org). The following countries, Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brasil, Costa Rica, Chile, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, have signed the convention and have agreed to the following: (Article 2)

“Violence against women shall be understood to include physical, sexual and psychological violence:

1. that occurs within the family or domestic unit or within any other interpersonal relationship, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the woman, including, among others, rape, battery and sexual abuse;
2. that occurs in the community and is perpetrated by any person, including, among others, rape, sexual abuse, torture, trafficking in persons, forced prostitution, kidnapping and sexual harassment in the workplace, as well as in educational institutions, health facilities or any other place; and
3. that is perpetrated or condoned by the state or its agents regardless of where it occurs.” (oas.org)

Article 4 of the convention includes the rights that women should be recognized to and that includes: the right to live her life respected, the right to her personal liberty and security, the right to associate freely etc. Additionally, article 6 states:” the right of every woman to be free from violence includes, among others:

- a. The right of women to be free from all forms of discrimination; and
- b. The right of women to be valued and educated free of stereotyped patterns of behavior and social and cultural practices based on concepts of inferiority or subordination.

Reference:

(Convention of Belem do Para) Retrieved from
<https://www.oas.org/juridico/english/treaties/a-61.html>.

Telephone lines to report violence against women and children

Location: Peru, Chile, Colombia, Mexico.

Link: <https://www.end-violence.org/members/anar-foundation-aid-children-and-adolescents-risk-peru>

Criteria:

1. Victim Centered Approach
2. Realistic goals
3. Collaborative Action
4. Transferable
5. Provide an identifiable benefit
6. Prompt response
7. Corroborated by more than 1 source
8. Accessibility to service

Background: Countries such as Chile, Colombia, Peru and Mexico have set up specialized and confidential telephone lines to report violence against women and children. These state-funded initiatives have followed the examples of NGOs such as the Aid to Children and Adolescents at Risk (ANAR) Foundation. ANAR Foundation was created in 1994 and started its ANAR Telephone program in 1998. They help children in need of psychological counseling, legal and social support, free and confidential. ANAR also serves youth ages 18-25. The foundation assist children in dealing with family violence, school violence, emotional problems, sexual abuse etc.

ANAR has been recognized internationally by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. Unicef has also recognized ANAR as a “good practice” (n.d. end-violence.org) in advocacy and public policies.

ANAR Foundation collaborates with different organizations and agencies such as governments, the Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Population, District Attorney’s Offices, police stations, NGOs, and universities. (n.d end-violence.org).

References:

ANAR Foundation (Aid to Children and Adolescents at Risk) - Peru: End Violence. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.end-violence.org/members/anar-foundation-aid-children-and-adolescents-risk-peru>.

Phone Applications to combat sexual violence

Location: Mexico, Argentina, Peru, Chile.

Link: <https://www.dw.com/en/in-latin-america-women-turn-to-apps-to-combat-sexual-violence/a-50664628>

Criteria:

1. Victim Centric Approach
2. Corroborated by more than 1 source
3. Realistic goals
4. Transferable
5. Prompt response
6. Accessibility to service

Background: Currently, the usage of technology has become increasingly popular. A great number of people own a Smartphone of some kind, are able to download certain applications and use it to connect with people via social media. As violence increases in Latin America, a large number of applications have emerged and they are being used largely. According to Deutsche Welle, Latin American countries, such as Chile, Mexico, Peru, and Argentina, have come up with a solution to violence against women by creating free applications featuring a panic button that alerts selected contacts or users nearby. The application transmits geo-data sources which allows the recipient of the emergency to find the application user's location. The applications have different names based on the country. For example, in Mexico it's called "We Help". In Argentina, the app is called "Boton de Panico No Una Más". "No Estoy Sola" is an app created by the Women's Rights Office in the Mexican city of Juarez that sends an alarm when the phone is shaken. Sometimes a victim will not have the time to write a message or open the app (n.d. dw.com).

References:

Deutsche Welle. (n.d.). In Latin America, women turn to apps to combat sexual violence: DW:05.10.2019. Retrieved from <https://www.dw.com/en/in-latin-america-women-turn-to-apps-to-combat-sexual-violence/a-50664628>.

Sex Offender Registration Laws

Registration and community notification about local sex offenders, residence restrictions on sex offenders (e.g. prohibiting them from living near schools) and electronic monitoring of sex offenders, have taken place in a limited number of high-income countries. Regarding the Latin American case, some countries such as Chile have prohibited perpetrators of sexual assaults against minors from working in environments where children are present. In Jamaica, access to the registry is strictly confidential and it is restricted to be used for official use only. However, we would recommend such registry to be accessible to the public.

Location: Jamaica, Chile, Argentina, and the Bahamas.

Link:<https://www.chileatiende.gob.cl/fichas/15062-registro-de-personas-con-prohibicion-para-trabajar-con-menores-de-edad>; <https://www.smart.gov/pdfs/global-survey-2016-final.pdf>; https://elpais.com/elpais/2017/04/27/inenglish/1493286430_833981.html; <https://www.dcs.gov.jm/pages/probation-services/sex-offender-registry/>

Criteria:

1. Victim Centric Approach
2. Transferable
3. Realistic
4. Corroborated by more than 1 source
5. Prompt Response
6. Provide an identifiable benefit

Background: Multiple countries in Latin America have passed different sex offender registration laws. Chile, for example, in 2012 enacted the Sex Offender Registration Law No. 20.594 that prohibits people convicted of sex assaults against minors to work in places near children and requires them to register as sex offenders. The public can search the registration database and check if a person is allowed to work. Similarly, Argentina passed its national sex offender registration law in 2013. (US Department of Justice, 2016). Having a sex offender registry may be the key evidence needed to finding the truth when it comes to DNA evidence. After the rape and murder of Lucila Yaconis, a 16 year old from Buenos Aires, police was able to find DNA evidence from her body but unfortunately, it did not match anyone. If the Sex Offender Registry had been operating at the time of the crime, the case may have had a different outcome. (Centenera, 2017).

Moreover, sex offender public registration could be a useful tool for deterrence. Considering the shame and humiliation involved in this registration system, people could be prevented from committing these kinds of crime.

References:

Centenera, M. (2017). Argentina to create a DNA registry of convicted sex offenders. Retrieved

from: https://elpais.com/elpais/2017/04/27/inenglish/1493286430_833981.html.

US Department of Justice. (2016). Smart Summary. Global Survey of Sex Offender Registration and Notification Systems. Retrieved from: <https://www.smart.gov/pdfs/global-survey2016-final.pdf>

Sex Offender Registry. (n.d.). Retrieved from:

<https://www.dcs.gov.jm/pages/probationservices/sex-offender-registry/>

Act 5777

Location: Paraguay

Link: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/3/news-paraguay-criminalizes-femicide>

Criteria:

1. Victim Centered Approach
2. Collaborative Action
3. Transferable
4. Realistic Goals
5. Prompt Response
6. Corroborated by more than one source

Background: In 2018, Paraguay passed a new law that protects women against gender-based violence and other types of violence. By passing the new law, Paraguay has become the 18th country in Latin America and the Caribbean to criminalize gender-based killings and violence. According to UN Women, the new law recognizes “femicide and obstetric violence” as criminal offences. The law provides free legal assistance, access to shelters, and skills training for survivors (n.d. UN Women).

References:

Paraguay passes new law to end violence against women, including femicide. (n.d.). Retrieved from: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/3/news-paraguay-criminalizes-femicide>.

Spatial analysis and Hotspots

Location: Brazil

Criteria:

1. Victim Centered Approach
2. Realistic goals
3. Collaborative Action
4. Transferable
5. Provide an identifiable benefit

Background: Barbosa et al (2019) conducted a comparative study of violence injury hotspots in familial and non-familial settings in Campina Grande, Brazil. The data for this study were collected in 2015 from the Forensic Institute of Campina Grande. The institute is a Scientific Police Service where the victims of violence are examined by a trauma physician. The reports are then used to assist with the criminal proceedings. A victim needs to report the crime before being admitted to the Forensic Center for examination, and the ones who did not report, were not included in the study.

The Spatial Analysis was created using ArcGis to map the locations of violence, including domestic violence and community violence. The results of the study showed that domestic violence is concentrated in one zone, whereas community violence tended to be more scattered throughout the city. The collection of this geographical data from police bodies and medical sources is a useful resource to inform both police and citizen measures.

Resources:

Barbosa, K.G.N., Walker, B.B., Schuurman, N., Cavalcanti, S.D.L.B., Ferreira e Ferreira, E., & Ferreira, R.C. (2019) Epidemiological and spatial characteristics of interpersonal physical violence in a Brazilian city: A comparative study of violent injury hotspots in familial versus non-familial settings, 2012-2014. *PLoS ONE*, 14(1): 1-19

PlaNovi – Sistema Nacional de Atención y Prevención de la Violencia contra las Mujeres

Location: Costa Rica

Link: <https://www.inamu.go.cr/planovi>

Criteria:

1. Victim Centered Approach
2. Realistic goals
3. Collaborative Action
4. Transferable
5. Provide an identifiable benefit
6. Prompt response
7. Corroborated by more than 1 source
8. Accessibility to service

The National Plan for Intra-Family Violence (PLANOVI) was created in Costa Rica in 1995. This plan suggested implementing municipal women's offices to provide support and guidance to women on domestic violence and information on their rights (Larrain, 1996). Since its creation PLANOVI has proven to be a realistic response to violence against women including intrafamily violence. PLANOVI has had fundamental contributions in legal matters and has helped in creating multiple laws including "Law Against Domestic Violence (7586); "Law on Criminalization of Violence Against Women (8589); reforms to the Law against Sexual Harassment in Employment and Teaching etc. PLANOVI also has a website available to the public where individuals can report violence against women, register and created an account and take advantage of their services. Some of the services PLANOVI offers are emergency lines (911), consultations on women's rights, legal advisement, etc. (Instituto Nacional de la Mujer).

References:

Larrain, S. (1996). Curbing Domestic Violence: Two Decades of Action. Instituto Nacional de la Mujer. Retrieved from: <https://www.inamu.go.cr/planovi>.

International Justice Mission – Protecting children from sexual violence

Link: ijm.org/Guatemala

Location: Guatemala

Criteria:

1. Victim Centered Approach
2. Realistic goals
3. Collaborative Action
4. Transferable
5. Provide an identifiable benefit
6. Prompt response
7. Corroborated by more than 1 source
8. Accessibility to service

Background: The International Justice Mission is an organization that serves children in zones of high and extreme violence. Sexual violence in children in Guatemala is a big issue and when IJM was created many doubted its mission. After a decade, this organization contributed to the creation of a new law and a new Sex Crimes Unit by bringing awareness to sexual assaults. In 2014, The Vice President of Guatemala signed an agreement to work with IJM to strengthen the Specialized Sex Crimes Unit of the National Police. The IJM receives their cases through social services, police, churches and other community members. They work with law enforcement to ensure suspects are arrested and brought to justice. IJM helps in evidence collection and shows support to victims who choose to share their truth in court (n.d. Guatemala).

References:

Guatemala: Protecting Children from Sexual Violence. (n.d.). Retrieved from: <https://www.ijm.org/guatemala>

NORTH AMERICA

Predictive Early Interventions/Warning Systems to Prevent Adverse Interactions with the Public

Location: Chicago, IL (United States)

Early Warning Systems (EWS), or Early Intervention System (EIS), are implemented to track and predict which officers within a department have a high likelihood of having an adverse interaction with the public. It will flag officers with recurring complaints and auto-notify supervisors when a certain threshold is reached so that an intervention effort can be made. Though it is tailored to preventing misconduct, the data could be utilized or tweaked to flag those officers who lack appropriate victim interviewing skills causing re-traumatization. The study referenced above appears to meet 5 out of 8 of the criteria. It was carried by the University of Chicago center for Data Science and Public Policy in partnership with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, located in North Carolina. Though EWS/EIS is widely used in police departments and other agencies across the country, this particular study commenced in 2015 through a White House initiative to help departments improve community-policing interactions through data. In 2007 a Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) survey revealed that 65% of PD's with 250+ officers had a similar system in place. Thus, implementation is carried out by the police department and data is gathered by employed or contracted analysts. The results of this study suggest that accuracy in identifying problematic officers increased by 15-20% and reduced false positives by 55%. The Scope is largely based at the local level, between different precincts, but has the potential to overlap and affect whole regions if implemented in multiple areas.

Predictive Early Interventions/Warning Systems to Prevent Adverse Interactions with the Public. (n.d.). Retrieved December 19, 2019, from <http://www.dssgfellowship.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/identifying-police-officers-3.pdf>.

<http://www.datasciencepublicpolicy.org/projects/public-safety/early-warning-and-intervention-systems-for-police-departments/>

Trauma Informed Policing – Virtual Simulation Training: Introduction of Avatar Based Simulation Module

Location: California, United States

This is an online interactive training with the trauma informed approach at its foundation. In this case, the subjects are tribal youth. Rather than your typical question and answer online training, this one offers numerous scenario situations that force the participant to think critically and choose the best decision. The training was instituted by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in California through their partnership with the Tribal Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center. It appears to meet 5 out of 8 criteria. If utilized, the scenario-based training could be tailored to working with sexual assault victims in both rural and suburban areas. From the literature, it is unclear how long it has been in use or the cost of implementation as it was funded by both federal and local governments. Thus, its use has been limited to the target population in California. The literature indicates that it is most widely used to train law enforcement personnel. If properly tailored and implemented at a Thailand police academy, the skills learned could improve interactions across multiple departments.

Trauma Informed Policing – Virtual Simulation Training: Introduction of Avatar Based Simulation Module. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.tribalyouthprogram.org/connect-and-learn/virtual-training-simulation-modules/>.

<http://www.wellnesscourts.org/files/Effective%20Practices%20for%20Law%20Enforcement%20Enh%202017.pdf>

RAINN: National Sexual Assault Online Hotline – (chat online with a trained member who provides confidential crisis support).

Location: Nationwide in the United States

The above link is for RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) which is the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization. In light of the large amount of assaults which go unreported, this is a great resource focusing on the victim service prior to the act of reporting. If a victim chooses not to go through with the process, the chat is available 24/hrs each day and associates have access to resources across the country to serve every caller. If implemented in Thailand, a partnership with local law enforcement may prove beneficial as police can offer victims with case updates over the phone and complete interviews with the victims who are visiting from overseas. This may open the door to a variety of counseling and law enforcement services such as the ability to file a police report online. The latter link is a branch of the online victim services in that it auto-notifies victims when the perpetrator has been released from incarceration. The exact length of use and implementation costs for either of service is unknown as they too are largely funded by state and federal governments. Together they appear to meet 8 out of 8 criteria. As the process is anonymous, no evaluations to their effectiveness have been conducted. However, the benefits of both are very clear.

RAINN: National Sexual Assault Online Hotline – (chat online with a trained member who provides confidential crisis support). (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://hotline.rainn.org/online> <https://www.vineline.com/#/home> - Victim notification everyday (VINE) – notifies victims when a perpetrator is released from imprisonment.

How Do You Fix A Broken System?

Location: Philadelphia, PA

This article speaks on the ‘Philadelphia Approach’, which allows advocates to review police sex assault files alongside high-ranking officers in search of faults. Such a practice appears to meet 6 out of 8 criteria and has been in place for 17 years, resulting from the highly publicized rape/murder case of Shannon Scheiber. The commissioner at the time mandated that an audit going back 5 years be conducted into all sexual assault allegations reported to local departments. Since this time, the unfounded rape allegation rate in Philadelphia has dropped to 4%, whereas the national average stands at about 7%. As the collaboration serves more as a community partnership, the primary cost is the time of community stakeholders within the rape advocacy field and law enforcement personnel. Such a practice has spread and currently being tailored for use in in Canada as well. As such, while its scope is local to the immediate community and precinct, its effectiveness can prove to be far reaching. Though the police department would serve as the primary investigative role, community members bring fresh eyes to cold cases and give the victim an impression of continued hope.

How Do You Fix A Broken System? The Philadelphia Approach. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/investigations/unfounded-one-us-city-offers-a-model-for-handling-sex-assault-cases/article33982423/>.

Sexual Violence Resource Cards

Location: Nationwide in United States

The Sexual Violence Police Advisory Committee developed resource cards for police to distribute to victims of sexual violence. It provides the victim with a summary of their rights and wishes at each stage of the Criminal Justice process. Also, it provides local information on where the victim can find various support services. The blank space on the cards are where the victim would write down the name of their case investigator and contact info for on-going communication. This practice appears to meet 5 out of 8 criteria and was implemented in 2017. Despite its short use, countless college campuses across the country have implemented a similar program. Costs associated with such a resource are limited to that of the ink and material used to create the cards. The agency in charge could be a college, local police department, NGO or community-based programs.

Sexual Violence Resource Cards. (n.d.). Retrieved December 199, 2019, from <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/f4826d59-6228-4f72-9453-fe20e8360be9>.

Be More Than a Bystander

Location: United States and Canada

This is an educational campaign that works to bring stakeholders together and coordinate support for victims in areas where there is no central resource hub. The main components of the program are to provide consultation, resource development, establish training and service standards, as well as research and education. The end goal is to increase awareness through education and multicultural outreach programs. In this particular program, the target population was young adults and high school student athletes. As Thailand appears to have areas lacking in resources, a traveling campaign would raise awareness and encourage established community agencies to also serve survivors of sexual assault. This campaign appears to meet 5 out of 8 criteria and has been in use since 2011. Though having a central location, the traveling campaign brings the scope of reach to the national level with a particular focus on the smaller under resourced communities. The literature did not provide specifics on the costs associated with each campaign and there have yet to be any independent evaluations conducted to determine its effectiveness in raising awareness of sexual assault as a crime. Given the goal of establishing partnerships, providing education and training standards, such a resource can be spearheaded by a government entity or community program. With a growing stakeholder population, local police departments would be encouraged to participate in campaign efforts, community meetings and the appropriation of increased resources.

Be More Than a Bystander. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://endingviolence.org/prevention-programs/be-more-than-a-bystander/>.

Ending Gender Bias in the Law Enforcement Response to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence – You Have Options Program (YHOP)

Location: Washington, Nevada, New York, Missouri, Oregon, Virginia, New Hampshire and Colorado

This initiative was implemented at a Police Department by a female patrol officer who faced a culture of disbelief within the department. Based on the questions she would ask victims, she developed 20 elements now utilized in every sexual assault investigation. The goal was to make the investigation more victim centered and help them understand that law enforcement is a route to justice. The elements aim to increase reporting, identification of offenders and give the investigator a road map for their investigation in dealing with the victim. Considering the above, primary use and implementation of this program would be by the police department. The approach appears to meet 5 out of 8 criteria and has been utilized since 2013. The main components serve the interviewer but open a doorway for collaboration with the victim as well. In this sense, both parties benefit. As is with other interviewing tactics, the scope of the training is limited to the department in which it is implemented, and costs associated are those pertaining to the length of training. The research cites Washington, Nevada, New York, Missouri, Oregon, Virginia, New Hampshire and Colorado as locations where it has been implemented. However, due to no follow-up evaluations, its effect is unclear.

Martinson, R. & Gamache, D. (2016). Ending Gender Bias in the Law Enforcement Response to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence – You Have Options Program (YHOP) . Battered Women’s Justice Project. Retrieved December 19, 2019, from <https://www.bwjp.org/assets/documents/pdfs/ovw-gender-bias-roundtable-report.pdf>.

Sexual Assault Training for Rural Law Enforcement Personnel

Location: Arkansas, AR

The University of Arkansas Criminal Justice Institute offers an in-depth and thorough online training for law enforcement officers. The classroom style training is spread across a 2-month period and touches on topics such as report writing, foundations of the investigation as well as executive and line officer roles throughout the process. The training is specifically focused on those working within a rural setting, which is very appropriate for Thailand outside of the Bangkok area. Given its structure, the education appears to meet 5 out of 8 criteria and has been offered through the institute since 2002. Its main components are to teach law enforcement officers the skills needed to deal with sexual assaults in rural areas, how to investigate them communicate with the victim. These three tools are shown to help move the investigation process along and assist the line officer and administrator in establishing a consistent style in which the reports should be written. Depending on the number of officers which would take the class each year, costs associated can range from \$125 - \$6,250 for up to 200 attendees. Fidelity in report writing would be up to law enforcement personnel, whereas training and education would be carried out by the CJI for the University of Arkansas.

Sexual Assault Training for Rural Law Enforcement Personnel. (n.d.). Retrieved December 19, 2019, from <https://www.cji.edu/programs/sexual-assault-training-for-rural-law-enforcement-personnel/>.

NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION BEST PRACTICES GUIDE

Location: Virginia, California and Minnesota

The National District Attorneys Association and NDAA Women Prosecution Sections developed a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) in 2011 that utilizes a multi-disciplinary, victim sensitive approach to investigating and prosecuting sexual assault cases. This development and its core members were comprised of include law enforcement, victim advocates, forensic medical/laboratory personnel (i.e. SANE's and DNA experts), forensic interviewers, and prosecutors. These teams work together collaboratively to ensure a coordinated response ensuring victims' needs are a priority, this will increase public safety and result in an increase in offender accountability. The development was a national implementation with local benefits. These teams can be effectively utilized even in smaller jurisdictions. While the source of funding for this development is not available, it appears to meet 8 of 8 criteria of the global practice catalog. This development was implemented in Virginia, California and Minnesota with mainly prosecutors and other professionals such as victim advocates forensic medical/laboratory personal (i.e SANE's and DNA Experts) and Forensics interviewers. The program would be implemented by the Police Department of each respective state.

NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION BEST PRACTICES GUIDE. (n.d.). Retrieved December 19, 2019, from <https://www.ciclt.net/ul/ndaajustice/WhitepaperFinalDraft-SA.pdf>.

Practical Approaches for Strengthening Law Enforcement’s Response to Sexual Assault

Location: Scottsdale, AZ; Salt Lake City, UT; Fayetteville, NC and Chattanooga, TN.

The Police Executive Research Forum (“PERF”) began to research these issues in 2011, when we convened a national meeting of police chiefs and leaders of women’s and crime victims’ organizations to discuss problems and solutions. This research addressed the unwarranted “unfounding” of sexual assault allegations by police agencies, backlogs in the testing of DNA evidence in sexual assault cases, the special considerations regarding sexual assaults on university and college campuses, and the extremely outdated definition of rape that the FBI was using to gather national statistics on rates of rape. This research highlights also highlights solutions, including Philadelphia’s model program for external review of police case files on sexual assault investigations by victim advocacy leaders, to identify weaknesses in the investigations that can be corrected. This program appears to meet 8 of 8 and funded by the U.S. Justice Department’s Office on Violence Against Women to be implemented by All National Police Chiefs throughout all law enforcement agencies and academies/trainings in Scottsdale, AZ; Salt Lake City, UT; Fayetteville, NC and Chattanooga, TN.

Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). (2018). Executive Guidebook: Practical Approaches for Strengthening Law Enforcement’s Response to Sexual Assault. Washington, D.C.: PERF. Retrieved December 19, 2019, from <https://www.policeforum.org/assets/SexualAssaultResponseExecutiveGuidebook.pdf>.

The Promise of Primary Prevention of Sexual Violence: A Five-Year Plan To Prevent Sexual Violence and Exploitation in Minnesota

Location: Minnesota

This research highlights several of the following goals to confront and prevent sexual violence and exploitation in Minnesota;

Goal 1: Strengthen social norms that encourage healthy and respectful relationship;

Goal 2: Identify and train leaders across the state to educate people about primary prevention;

Goal 3: Ensure that all voices are heard to prevent sexual violence;

Goal 4: Increase the ability of individuals, groups, and communities to prevent sexual violence;

Goal 5: Seek action by local and state public and private policy entities;

Goal 6: Implement and evaluate data and best practices for preventing sexual violence.

The goals are interdependent and many of the strategies overlap. The strategies were selected based on conversations with a diverse group of stakeholders and are not intended to be an exhaustive list of possibilities. The goals and strategies will help create supportive policies and environments, increase awareness, and change behavior to achieve the long-term vision of “a world without sexual violence or exploitation.” The preventive methods begin in June 2009 in the State of Minnesota and Funded by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It appears to meet approximately 5 of 8 criteria of the global practice catalog and highly recommended by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to different countries in Minnesota, officers and stakeholders.

Minnesota Department of Health (2009). *The promise of primary prevention of sexual violence: A five-year plan to prevent sexual violence and exploitation in Minnesota.*

Retrieved December 19, 2019, from

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/injury/pubs/documents/svpplan.pdf>.

Policing and Prosecuting Sexual Assault in Los Angeles City and County: A Collaborative Study in Partnership with the Los Angeles Police Department, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Location: Los Angeles, CA

Collaboration between law enforcement agencies from different jurisdictions led to the capture and decrease in the capture of sexual assault predators. Below are the findings and statistics of the LAPD and LASD and the research also identify the themes that emerged from interviews with officials in each agency and with sexual assault survivors.

There were 5,031 rapes and attempted rapes reported to the LAPD from 2005 through 2009. Of these cases, 45.7% were cleared either by arrest (12.2%) or by exceptional means (33.5%), 43.4% were open cases in which the investigation was continuing, and 10.9% were unfounded. The LADA filed charges in 82.2% of the 591 cases that resulted in the arrest of at least one suspect and the conviction rate for cases in which charges were filed was 80.2%. Of the 390 defendants who were convicted, 59.2% were sentenced to prison, 37.0% were given probation, and 3.8% received a jail sentence. There were 2,269 rapes and attempted rapes reported to the LASD from 2005 through 2009. Of these cases, 88.3% were cleared either by arrest (33.9%) or by exceptional means (54.4%), 10.6% were open cases in which the investigation was continuing, and 1.1% were unfounded. The LADA filed charges in 66.0% of the 614 cases that resulted in the arrest of at least one suspect and the conviction rate for cases in which charges were filed was 78.1%. Of the 317 defendants who were convicted, 57.0% were sentenced to prison, 35.3% were given probation, and 7.6% received a jail sentence.

Based on the above, collaboration between those different law enforcement agencies led to the capture of predators which in turn help victims of sexual assault get a relief. As such, in Thailand it seems that law enforcement agencies do not collaborate as the victim must always report the crime to their jurisdiction. Therefore, if Thailand adopted this practice they would probably be able to catch more predators and help victims of sexual assaults to come forward, which in turn would create more reporting then under-reporting.

Spohn, C. & Tellis, K. (2012). *Policing and Prosecuting Sexual Assault in Los Angeles City and County: A Collaborative Study in Partnership with the Los Angeles Police Department, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office*. Final Report to the U.S. Department of Justice. Retrieved December 19, 2019, from <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/237582.pdf>.

The Impact of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Programs on Criminal Justice Case Outcomes: A Multisite Replication Study

Location: United States, Nationwide.

The research addresses the underreporting and under prosecution of adult sexual assaults, communities throughout the United States have implemented multidisciplinary interventions to improve post-assault care for victims and the criminal justice system response. One such model is the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program, whereby specially trained nurses provide comprehensive psychological, medical, and forensic services for sexual assault. In this study, we conducted a multisite evaluation of six SANE programs (two rural programs, two serving mid-sized communities, two urban) to assess how implementation of SANE programs affects adult sexual assault prosecution rates. At each site, most sexual assaults reported to law enforcement were never referred by police to prosecutors or were not charged by the prosecutor's office (80%-89%). This program emerged in the 1970s and implemented nationally by all national police chiefs. This program is funded and monitored by the department of justice and appears to meet 8 of 8 criteria.

These findings suggest that the SANE intervention model does have a positive impact on sexual assault case progression in the criminal justice system. Nevertheless, there is still a pressing need for improvement as the clear majority of both pre-SANE and post-SANE resulted in nonreferral/no charges filed. So far, the SANE program seems to only be practiced nationally.

Campbell, R., Bybee, D. Townsend, S.M., Shaw, J., Karim, N. & Markowitz, J. (2014). The impact of sexual assault nurse examiner programs on criminal justice case outcomes: A multisite replication study. *Violence Against Women*, 20(5):607-625.

National Best Practices for Sexual Assault Kits: A Multidisciplinary Approach

Location: Nationwide in the United States

In 2013, Congress passed the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reporting (SAFER) Act as part of the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.³ It was created, in part, to develop practices “appropriate for the accurate, timely, and effective collection and processing of DNA evidence, including protocols and practices specific to sexual assault cases, which addresses appropriate steps in the investigation of cases that might involve DNA evidence.” More specifically, these practices outline parameters for identifying and prioritizing sexual assault kits (SAKs) to be tested; time periods for testing; processes for communicating information about evidence testing between stakeholders; and auditing standards for all SAKs, including those SAKs that were collected but not reported and those that have never been submitted to a laboratory for testing. The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) — the research, development, and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice — convened several working group meetings representing victims, victim advocates, sexual assault nurse examiners, medical examiners, forensic laboratories, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and the judiciary. This act project was mainly tested in Detroit with future of extending nationally. This act met approximately 8 of 8 criteria with recommendations of being implemented at law enforcement academies, health care professional specifically trained in the collection of evidence relating to sexual assault cases.

National Institute of Justice (2017). *National best practices for sexual assault kits: A multidisciplinary approach*. Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Justice. Retrieved December 19, 2019, from <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/250384.pdf>.

Attorney General Standards for Providing Services to Victims of Sexual Assault

Location: New Jersey

The Council's mandate was to develop statewide standards for providing services to victims of sexual assault. The use of a "victim-centered" approach became the guiding principle of the Council in their development of standardized protocols. The Council defined a victim-centered approach as "the systematic focus on the needs and concerns of a sexual assault victim to ensure the compassionate and sensitive delivery of services in a non-judgmental manner." In 1998, the Office of the Attorney General issued the Council's recommendations in New Jersey's first Attorney General Standards for Providing Services to Victims of Sexual Assault. The objective of the first Standards was to improve the provision of services to sexual assault victims by coordinating the efforts of healthcare providers, confidential sexual violence advocates, and law enforcement. The Department of Justice ("DOJ") monitors and provides trainings and thus far this program seems to only be practice in New Jersey and surrounding counties.

NJ Department of Law & Public Safety Division of Criminal Justice (2018). Attorney General Standards for Providing Services to Victims of Sexual Assault. Retrieved December 19, 2019, from <https://www.nj.gov/oag/newsreleases18/AG-SART-Standards.pdf>.