

## **FIGHTING AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE IN THE USA**

If the victim of violence (and in 97% of cases these are women) calls the police, the police arrive at home within a few minutes. There is no "yes, sort it out yourself", "darlings scold only amuse themselves." The police are specially trained in the dynamics of relationships in situations of domestic violence and take such calls very seriously. The police examine the victim for signs of physical abuse: bruising, etc. The apartment is examined for damage, broken walls with the fist, etc. If something is found, the abuser is arrested and placed in prison for 24 hours. During these 24 hours, a court hearing in the presence of a judge takes place. Even if the victim withdrew the application, the abuser continues to be judged by the state. This amendment came to the law, because many victims of violence for a variety of reasons take the statement back. Usually, for the first time, the abuser receives a warning and must undergo 26 sessions of therapy: one hour once a week, that is, it lasts for six months. The offender pays for therapy out of pocket. Each state has its own variations, but this is exactly what they have in Illinois according to the Illinois Protocol for Enforcing the Domestic Violence Act. The therapist writes a report on the "successes" of the abuser for the court every month, because after 26 weeks, the court considers what to do with the abuser next. Abuser therapy usually takes place in a group of no more than 12 people. The format is not punishing, but educational, debatable, and never degrading or ridiculing. Abusers and offenders are treated the way they want them to treat their partners who are victims of their violence. Specially trained certified therapists model for them effective behavior in conflict situations. People who resolve conflicts exclusively through scuffle and psychological violence are taught new ways to resolve conflicts.

All arrests, protective warrants, and accusations are recorded in the criminal history of the offender, and this affects the finding of work, citizenship, career, etc. The Domestic Violence Act is a comprehensive approach to domestic violence. It involves the police, the court system, psychologists, social workers, employees of shelters for victims of violence, etc. All these people undergo special trainings and specially trained to know how to behave, including in the most life-threatening situations. After the introduction of the law in the 80s in the United States, the number of women who died at the hands of their husbands and boyfriends fell from 10 thousand to 1.5 thousand per year (per 300 million people). For comparison, in Russia today this figure is simply monstrous: 14 thousand women a year (for 140 million people).

*Language adviser T. M. Kalchenko*