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**PREVENTION AND PROTECTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
(SWEDEN EXPERIENCE)**

Violence in close relationship means, for example, implementation of power over somebody through control, violence or threats. The application of force and threat of violence in relation to other people are prohibited in Sweden. This is the violation of human rights and criminal offence. Family violence is prohibited in Sweden. Violence in close relationship includes all kinds of violence, which may happen between family members. This means that it is prohibited to beat children, husband, and wife of your actual partner.

Despite the prohibition, family violence however happens. More often men beat women. Family violence may be physical, mental, economic, material or sexual.

When a child sees that one of parents is subjected to violence, this is a serious form of voluntary infliction of mental harm. It is often the case that physical abuse in family is decreased and rejected both by those who are beaten and those who beat. Nevertheless, children see, hear and feel. It is not unusual for the child to be beaten. Steady stress, arising from the fear of violence can bring bad mental and physical health effects. Physical violence includes infliction of blows, hair pulling, or pushing. Mental violence can be expressed in threats, neglect, intimidation or humiliation. These may also be offensive words, addressed to the other person. A prohibition to meet friends can be an example of the violence. Economic violence happens when one person being in a relationship controls all the money, in such a way that another person lacks money for a living.

Violence can also be material, for example, when someone spoils your things. Sexual violence includes rape and other sexual activities, to which a person is forced or against whom a person does not dare to object. The threat of violence or violence against other people is prohibited in Sweden. These are criminal acts.

Girls often suffer from violence in the name of family honor, but boys may also be subjected to violence. In this case, LGBT persons are at-risk population group. Violence in the name of family honor is natural first of all for collectivist societies, in which men have much more power than women. Both women and men can use force in the name of family honor with a purpose to punish a person, violating the norms and traditions of the generation or family. The decision to use violence is taken jointly. Sweden signed and ratified the UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights. Such rights imply that all individuals can control their lives and determine their

future. In particular, it means that all people have the right to freely dispose their body and sexuality, and to choose a partner willfully.

The social service bears ultimate responsibility for provision of support and assistance to children, women and men, who are subjected to violence in close relationship. The municipal government is also responsible for protection of persons, who are subjected to threats of violence, protection against further violence for example by means of protected housing.

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### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CONSTITUTE A CRIME**

Domestic violence (family violence) is considered as violent, abusive or bullying behavior in a family. The scientists allocate some kinds of domestic violence, for example emotional, sexual, social, financial, spiritual and physical abuse. For violence to be ‘domestic’, it doesn’t have to take place in the frame of a family, only within a relationship (involving a family member or a partner). It happens when someone wants to have power and domination over another person. There are a number of ways in which this control or abuse can be demonstrated.

*Emotional abuse* is used to gain power and control in relationships, it can take many forms, including: insults, criticism, threats, gaslighting, ridicule, intimidation, swearing, lying, humiliation and neglect. The concept ‘*sexual abuse*’ includes rape, indecent assault and a number of other unwanted sexual behaviors applied by offenders as a way to dominate their victims. Social domestic violence takes place when someone offends or embarrasses a person in front of other people, keeps she/he isolated from family and friends, or controls what he/she does and where goes. *Financial abuse* (is a form of domestic violence when someone tries to manage your finances and access to money, and keeps you financially dependent on them so that you always must ask them for money). *Spiritual domestic violence* includes preventing he/she from having his/her own opinions regarding religion, cultural beliefs and values. It may also include causing someone to doubt his/her thoughts on spirituality in order to make he/she feels powerless. Attempting to cause shame is an important part of spiritual abuse, as is preventing people from practicing their religious or cultural beliefs. *Physical abuse* is battery intentional acts that cause unlawful harm, which can result in physical or mental health problems or even the death of the victim, as well as the degradation of his honor and dignity. Some above mentioned types of