

# Violence and abuse against women in Hungary

Presentation on the 3rd LTTA of  
'Breaking the Silence: fights against violence and abuse of women'  
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# What Anthropolis does in this project?

## 1. Establishing the role of our association as a new actor in this field

- networking with other NGOs (NANE, Krízisambulancia, Hungarian Women's Lobby, PATENT)
- participation in a local team of professionals (HEGY2) of the XIV. District, Budapest (facilitated by the educational service)

## 2. Primary focus - prevention work for youth

- adaptation of existing educational tools (DST, P4C...ongoing)
- modern slavery training (1 day training for educators, workshop for highschool and university students, teaching materials)
- increasing our capacity (participating in workshops, writing applications - aims: protocol and educational kit for teachers to recognize violence against children, but including sexual harassment against children and youth)

## 3. Teaching DST - for dissemination purposes

We share DST within this project for dissemination purposes



**TUDTA?**

**A bevándorlási válság kezdete óta  
ugrásszerűen emelkedik a nők elleni  
zaklatások száma Európában**

**NÉPSZAVAZÁS  
2016. OKTÓBER 2.**

## The Political climate

“DID YOU KNOW?  
Since the migration  
crisis the number of  
harassment against  
women is critically  
increasing”

2016: the best way to combat violence against women is to preventing migration (O. V. said in Parliament)

2017: “Illegal immigrants do not respect European norms, among others the rights of women. Since the immigrant crisis began the number of assaults on women has grown by leaps and bounds.” (national referendum about EU prescribing *the obligatory settlement of asylum seekers...*)

2019 municipal elections: smear campaign - politicians were accused of sexual harassment, not for the interest of the victims (it is rather the tool of the governing party)

# Ratification of Istanbul Convention

2014: is signed, but still not ratified.

2017: unsuccessful campaign of opposition parties

## Reasons for not ratifying:

- VAW: **decreasing tendency!!!** (matter of interpretation of the numbers of reported cases)
- The word of **gender, rights of LGBT+** people (misconceptions and misleading arguments regarding how the word “gender” is used in the Convention)
- This is an **internal issue** of every society, EU should not have competence in it
- Some **terms are questioned**: sexual abuse is not a violence but often an inappropriate behavior toward women, so we can not claim it as crime
- The Hungarian **government already defend the hungarian women** (they only talk about women!)

# Violence against women is a social problem in Hungary

(2014 study)

**400.000 women + children** are affected yearly by domestic violence

**every 5th women** in Hungary suffer from abuse and violence from her partner/husband (over the age of 15) = 1 million women (over 200.000 women live in an abusive partnership currently)

**27% of girls** (under the age of 15!) experience abuse (physical, sexual or psychological)

**7 % of adult women** can be considered victims of domestic violence

One death /week

According to a Hungarian NGO:

- an abused women goes back 7 times to the abuser before leaving
- a woman is beaten 5 times before seeking for help
- cases ending with death is increasing
- officers, court do not receive education (if they do - it is an exception)

# Human trafficking / sexual exploitation

Hungary is a source, transit (of other Eastern European countries), and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking.

Vulnerable groups are mainly women: women living in extreme poverty, undereducated young adults, Roma women and girls, single mothers, asylum-seekers ....

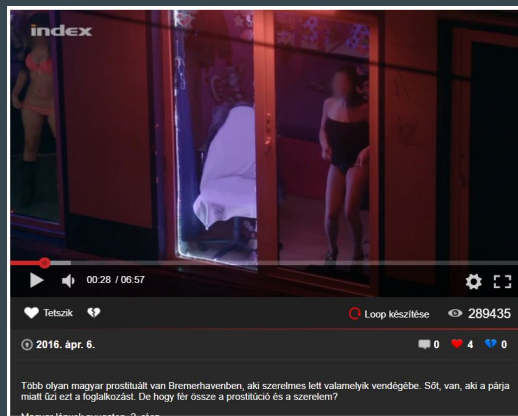
!!! particularly **Romani women and girls** and **girls/young women from state care institutions**, they are exploited in sex trafficking in large numbers - Germany, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands (girls are recruited when they leave these institutions)

(recent data: “95 % of registered victims of sexual exploitation are female, 2015-2016, EU Member States)

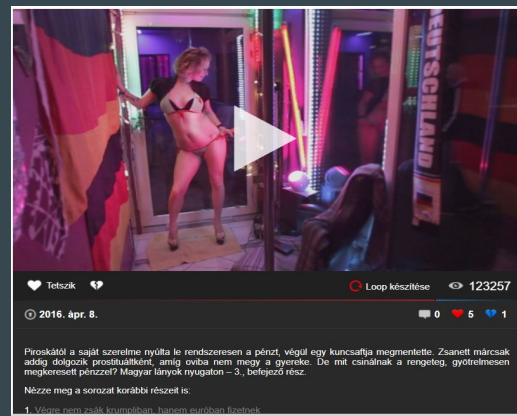
# A documentary series on women 'working' as sex workers in Germany



Part 1 - Youtube Hun  
Dub



Part 2 - Indavideo  
Hun Dub



Part 3 - Indavideo  
Hun Dub

A film made by HCLU (TASZ) / Hungarian Civil Liberties Union



## Social embeddedness of the normalization of VAW

President of Parliament: violence against women would not arise if women had four-five children... (2018)

Right wing party claims (Jobbik): abortion is the most brutal domestic violence

Hungarians are fully aware of the problem of domestic violence in their country:

20%: a very serious problem, 53%: it is widespread, and all the others accept it in a way...

Acceptance on sexual violence is high:

50%: believe that there are certain situations in which sexual violence is acceptable (when the sexual act is not based on consensus) - being drunk, woman willingly accompanies a man home after a party, sexy clothing, “no” is not explicit enough (Eurobarometer survey)

According to Hungarian NGO: many women don't know what kind of act can be considered as violent

# Legal treatment of victims

Instead of domestic violence, the following term is used in the law: violence within relationship (from the 90': violence within family (not 'family violence')).

According to NGO's study: There is no a systematic legal defense and not enough shelters for victims

- the legal system is not effective to treat male violence within domestic violence (i.e.: the abuser is not charged for domestic violence , but 'only' for rape)
- husband is accused for rape not for domestic violence, the violent events between two attacks is not taken into consideration)
- the law does not guarantee automatic prosecution of all forms of domestic violence
- the practice of launching an investigation happens only after the victim files an official complaint
- distance order: 2-3000 women initiate it, 72 hours + maximum 60 days
- common experience: when the attacker is set free, the victims are not notified, the victims are risking a criminal procedure for slander if she talks about the abuser's violent attacks, testimony of family members are rejected, mediation still is part of the legal practice
- abusers have visitation rights over his children, so only the fathers' rights seem to be acknowledged.

# Prevention

- When a domestic violence is suspected or detected, social worker is not available
- In the National Core Curriculum - knowledge or information gender based violence is not part of the curriculum, there is no specific prevention program for children, youth
- Only a few NGO visit schools and give workshops (HEARTBEAT - we will introduce this manual on the next meeting)
- There is no specific intervention program guided by experts, working with men who had committed sexual violence, there is no available help for abusers (NGOs know about a few groups, i.e: group for sexual abusers in prison)
- According to NGO: first they always do a risk analysis for the victims in order to measure the impact of the help on the situation of the victim
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- ! There is no adequate training and continued re-training of the officials (police, courts, educators).

**How police think what prevention is about  
It's your fault/ You can avoid it! You can act against it!**



# To read about the Hungarian situation in English

Article about the protection and failed treatment of police:

[https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Europe/2019/0826/Hungary-wants-more-children.-But-is-it-protecting-them-and-their-mothers?fbclid=IwAR1OrvBTh\\_ijkZlx9q5PymCUVnKgKnBcvqQghTedb3RtlmtyoBOX3JRGQRg](https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Europe/2019/0826/Hungary-wants-more-children.-But-is-it-protecting-them-and-their-mothers?fbclid=IwAR1OrvBTh_ijkZlx9q5PymCUVnKgKnBcvqQghTedb3RtlmtyoBOX3JRGQRg)

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