



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
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**TRAINING COURSE ON
GENDER MATTERS**

Developing the competence of
trainers to address gender-
based violence affecting young
people.



European Youth Centre Budapest
9-18 April 2008

Course presentation

www.coe.int/youth
www.coe.int/hre

Why a Training Course on Gender-Based Violence?

*“My violence infringes your human rights,
and yours mine, full stop!”¹*

Gender based violence?

*Does this mean it makes a
big difference to be a
woman or a man, when
being confronted with
violence?*

*Does it mean being a
victim of violence has
something to do with
your sex?*

Are men more violent than women?

*Can women deal better
with violence than men?*

Is violence visible?

What is gender?

*Are young people more
frequently perpetrators or
victims of violence?*

Violence is a serious issue in the lives of many young people, and various types of violence inflict crushing damage on their well-being, integrity and life possibilities. Gender-based violence remains a key human rights challenge in contemporary Europe. Central to this is recognition that gender-based violence takes many forms, is perceived and evaluated differently in different societies, and involves men and women as victims, perpetrators and agents of change alike ².

The term “gender” refers to the socially constructed roles of women and men which are attributed to them on the basis of their sex. Gender roles are learned and vary widely within and between cultures, moreover these roles are subject to constant change.

Violence is not a theoretical phenomenon; the experiences and stories recounted during the activities of the Human Rights Education Programme of the Directorate of Youth and Sport testify to the trauma, anger, fear, secrecy and helplessness that result from being confronted by violence. Furthermore, violence is not an abstract phenomenon; it must always be seen and understood in its context. Violence prevention work encompasses those types of physical violence that hinder self-realisation in very stark and obvious ways, but also verbal and psychological violence, institutional violence of different kinds, the socio-economic violence of marginalisation, poverty and multiple discriminations, and the hindering of self-realisation through rigid gender roles and expectations².

The training course on Gender Matters aims to develop the competence of trainers to address gender-based violence affecting young people through youth work and non formal education. The recently published manual *Gender Matters* will be introduced and used as a main tool throughout the course. The training course will support the preliminary dissemination of the manual throughout Europe and develop ways through which to actively promote the manual.

The training course is an important element in the Council of Europe’s youth programme “Youth promoting human rights and intercultural dialogue”. It will explicitly deal with challenges that young men **and** young women face in dealing with violence in their everyday life, be it in school, in their free time, in the streets or in their families.

¹ Adapted from *Youth Work with Boys and Young Men as a Means to Prevent Violence in Everyday Life Seminar Report*, Council of Europe, p 6. Budapest, March 2003.

² *Youth Policy Recommendation on violence and young people*, draft version, Gavan Titley, 2003

Overall aim of the course

To develop the competence of participants and enable them to train other youth workers and trainers on addressing gender-based violence affecting young people through the use of the manual *Gender Matters*.

Objectives of the course

- To discuss current issues and young people's experience of gender-based violence
- To develop participant's competences in adapting activities from *Gender Matters* to various groups and situations;
- To reflect on personal and professional values, experiences, attitudes and behaviour in gender-based youth work;
- To introduce and investigate *Gender Matters* as a tool for youth leaders in addressing gender-based violence and contribute to the manual's preliminary dissemination across Europe;
- To develop ideas on mainstreaming gender-based violence issues in youth work;
- To develop activities and projects to be implemented at local, national and European level preventing gender-based violence;
- To examine the issue of gender-based violence within human rights education;
- To contribute to the network building of participants for further work on gender-based violence

Methodology of the course

The working methods of the course will facilitate the exchange of information and will provide training for the development of new competences. The projects and experiences of the participants will serve as a basis for reflection and discussion of good practice. Contributions by participants and invited experts will give a broad picture of existing theories, initiatives, projects and approaches to work with young women and men aiming to prevent everyday violence. Inputs and discussions in plenary sessions, thematic working groups and workshops on different approaches to address gender-based violence will provide further knowledge and understanding of the issue. A particular emphasis will be put on exchanging non formal educational practices and establishing links between the fields of youth work in women's rights and violence against women with youth work with boys and young men.

The manual on addressing gender-based violence in youth work, *Gender Matters*, will be extensively used throughout the course. *Gender Matters* documents different methods, educational approaches and practices used in addressing gender-based violence. Furthermore, the manual contains the essential theoretical information needed for this type of work.

Profile of participants

The course will bring together 30 participants who are:

- Active trainers and youth workers who are strongly interested in developing their competence in training and running youth projects related to gender-based violence and gender mainstreaming.
- Professionals or volunteers active in projects relating to gender-based violence and gender

mainstreaming in youth work.

In general all applicants should be:

- actively involved within youth or human rights non-governmental organisations, associations and initiatives OR within relevant governmental organisations, institutions and agencies in Europe;
- motivated to contribute to the course and share experiences in the field of gender-based violence and gender mainstreaming;
- experienced in non-formal education practices;
- in the position to act as trainers or multipliers in organisations and projects at local, national and European level after the course;
- preferably aged between 18 and 35;
- able to work and communicate in English or Russian;
- committed to attend the full duration of the activity.

Languages

The working languages for the course will be English and Russian, In order to better adapt the course to the actual language needs of participants, all candidates are requested to state in their application forms all languages that they can work in comfortably. Candidates must have sufficient understanding of one of the working languages in order to comprehend and complete the application form without assistance from another person.

Preparatory team

The programme of the course is designed and conducted by a multicultural team of experienced trainers. These trainers are experts in the fields of gender-related youth work and training, some of them recruited from the DYS Trainers' Pool. Other experts, if needed, will support the preparatory team.

Application, procedure and selection of participants

All candidates must apply online by accessing the online application form at the following web address: <http://coe.opencontent.it/>.

The preparatory team will select thirty participants on the basis of the profile outlined above. It will try as far as possible to respect the organisations' priorities, while also ensuring a balance between gender, geographical regions, different types of experience, cultural backgrounds and organisations, institutions or projects. A waiting list may be established. Candidates will be informed by mid March. The accepted candidates will receive the course documentation directly from the European Youth Centre Budapest.

Deadline for applications

The application form must be submitted online (<http://coe.opencontent.it/>) by 22 February 2008.

Financial and practical conditions of participation

Travel expenses

Travel expenses and visa costs are reimbursed (upon presentation of the relevant receipts) according to the rules of the Council of Europe. Only participants who attend the entire training course can be reimbursed. Payment will be made either by bank transfer after the course, or at the end of the course in cash (in Euros).

Accommodation

Board and lodging are provided and paid for by the Council of Europe at the European Youth Centre Budapest.

Enrolment fee

An enrolment fee of **55 Euros** is payable by each participant. This amount will be deducted from the amount to be reimbursed for travel expenses or paid at the EYC Budapest during the course.



Human rights education, the promotion of human dignity and social cohesion

Since 2000, the Council of Europe Directorate of Youth and Sport runs a Youth Programme on Human Rights Education, aiming at mobilising young people and those working with young people for human rights education. This programme focuses on the promotion of equal dignity for all and on the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights. The programme consists of various educational, training and policy development activities and includes the production of educational materials such as *Gender Matters* and the creation of practitioners' networks and co-operation activities with a variety of partners from the political, social and educational spheres.