



CEP Sex offenders and Domestic Violence Expert groups meeting

Centre for Legal Studies and Judicial Training – Barcelona, Spain

28th November 2023

15:00 – 17:30 CET

REPORT

Participating Experts:

Ms. Jana Spero – CEP Secretary General (Croatia)
Ms. Marie Klassen – CEP Supportive Policy Officer (The Netherlands)
Ms. Carmel Donnelly – Assistant Principal Probation Officer (Ireland)
Ms. Mary Anne Zammit - Probation Officer (Malta)
Ms. Laura Negredo - deputy assistant director-general for open regime and alternative measures (Spain)
Ms. Simona Svetin Jakopič – Secretary (Slovenia)
Ms. Anna Kristin Newton - Prison and Probation Service of Iceland (Iceland)
Ms. Kieran McCartan – Professor at UWE Bristol University (United Kingdom)
Mr. Anvars Zavackis – Lead Data Analyst (Latvia)
Ms. Kathrin Manovski - clerk in the head office of BGBW (Germany)
Ms. Sarah Henfrey – Chartered & Registered Practitioner Forensic Psychologist – Strategy, Planning & Performance Directorate, HMPPS, former Chair of the Domestic Violence Expert Group (United Kingdom)
Ms. Anna Esquerrà Roqueta – Policy officer, Confederation of European Probation, Catalonia (Spain)

Apologies:

Ms. Sabrina Reggers, House of Flanders, Belgium

Jana Spero from CEP welcomed the participants to the CEP Sex Offenders and Domestic Violence Expert Groups meeting in Barcelona on the 28th of November 2023. The meeting was moderated by **Ms. Jana Spero**, CEP Secretary General, and the chair of the meeting was **Ms. Sarah Henfrey** guiding the group on Domestic Violence and Sex Offenders. Then we continued with a round of introductions.

Chairs of the EG on Sex offenders and Domestic Violence

Professor Kieran McCartan – Professor at UWE Bristol University, chair of the Sex offenders Expert Group
Ms. Sarah Henfrey – Chartered & registered Practitioner Forensic Psychologist – Strategy, Planning & Performance Directorate, chair of the Domestic Violence Expert Group

Professor Kieran McCartan, UWE Bristol University, Chair of the Sex Offenders Expert Group, presented the group to the summary of work done on “***the results of the CEP sexual abuse study***”.

Professor Kieran McCartan presented to the group that the Confederation of European Probation has always focused on sexual abuse and people who sexually offend as part of their core work over the last 10-15 years clearly evidenced through the topic being the focus of a working group, and being the subject of many of their conferences, workshops, and training events. Following on from this, the CEP working group on sexual offences



decided to have a closer look at the different practices and policies in the assessment, treatment and integration of people convicted of a sexual offence across the countries involved in CEP, which gave us the opportunity to develop some general themes as well as a drill into the core challenges and good practices in each country. Thereby, Professor Kieran McCartan explains, that during the conducted research, the countries sampled have indicated that there was a broad spectrum of support being offered by employers to enable staff who worked with people convicted of a sexual offence. Thereby, what you also see that there is a high percentage of staff burnouts and poor retention. Therefore, a better more co-ordinated approach to its understanding of risk management strategies is needed in order to help people who are convicted of a sexual offence. With that said, Professor Kieran McCartan concludes that Risk assessment is inconsistent across Europe with different scales and approached being used, while it operates at the heart of sentencing, treatment, and risk management. Also, he mentioned that seen from a transnational coordinated approach to risk, risk assessment, and management, boundaries become fluid, by which the network on gender-based violence have also created the possibility to chare values, terminologies, and outcomes of a certain case. This will not only help people to reintegrate back into society, but also tackle online sexual abuses, in conjunction with a more coordinated practices and policy approach to online safeguarding.

Jana Spero concluded that the result of the work of expert group is important to share on these recommendations of Professor Kieran McCartan to improve sexual violence, but also child abuse to be more studied in depth from a European level. To which the European Union, still can learn a lot from.

Ms. Sarah Henfrey – Chartered & registered Practioner Forensic Psychologist – Strategy, Planning & Performance Directorate, presented **the aims of EuroPris & CEP Joint Domestic Violence (DV) Expert Group**.

Ms. Sarah Henfrey started out with the aims of the group, in order to promote adaption of the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention, in order to raise awareness of DV across European Prison and Probation Services across Europe, increase knowledge of how to deal with DV and abuse, promote cooperation and the exchange of the information between national and international agencies. But also, to be an information resource on DV for the benefit of CEP, Europris and relevant parties. And last but not least, to contribute to training for prisons, probation, and NGO staff to improve their work with DV. Therefore, achievements of the work of the group should be continued and go forward. Everyone is an expert in their own jurisdiction, and therefore it's amazing to exchange ideas and share experiences through this expert meeting. Some issues are better tackled together at the Council of Europe and a gap in knowledge is something CEP wants to overcome, by collecting information across Europe. All information on the work of the group are to be found on the CEP website.

Jana Spero stressed that the mission is to connect practices with research. We have to be aware that practices don't have time for detailed knowledge, therefore CEP likes to connect them together, since even countries with the lowest caseloads are overburdened with the probation services work.

Discussion on the Gender-based violence expert group, members of the expert group and plan direction for the coming 2 years:

- New expert group: does this mean the same in all European jurisdictions?
- Not used domestic violence but gender-based violence, in terms males and female approaches.
- Gender-based violence also gives the opportunity for merging sexual and domestic violence, as it's not about excluding but including.
- To have an **Introductory Paper**; to highlight and see what is actually happening; gender-based violence is here and cannot be ignored, and we have to talk about these concepts within expert group meetings.
- What do we mean by this gender-based violence? We need to explain the definition first.



- Different perspectives on domestic violence – more groups need to be included in gender-based violence.
- Sub-groups with a diversity of tasks so different types of offences are highlighted.
- First task of the new expert group will be to identify aims/purpose and tasks; then to draft this explanatory text on what do we understand by gender-based violence.
- Gender based differences, since majorities in the history is more focused on the male, but we need to broaden our horizons. Therefore, must be seen as a guiding principle, programs needs to be gendered due to different genders.

The call for the EG on Gender-based violence will be open by 26.1.2024.

Link: <https://www.cep-probation.org/expert-groups-meeting-on-domestic-violence-and-sex-offenders/>

