

Working with gender-based violence offenders in probation

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SUMMARY

- The Basque Country: between Spain and France
- Spanish Penal Code (1995)
- Basque Penalty Management Service
- *Gakoa* and *Aldatuz* programs (GBV)
- Final thoughts - conclusions

THE BASQUE COUNTRY



THE BASQUE COUNTRY

Spanish political context nowadays (1982-2025)

- Independence of Catalonia
- End of ETA
- Rise of the Extrem-Right
- Political instability
- Economy and Inequality

THE BASQUE COUNTRY

Relationship with Spain

- Autonomous community located in northern Spain (not fully independent)
- Own parliament and government
- Education, healthcare, security, and culture.
- Prison management

SPANISH PENAL CODE

Statistics

1. Crimes against property
2. Traffic-related offenses
3. Crimes against individuals
4. Sexual offenses
 - +90% men

SPANISH PENAL CODE

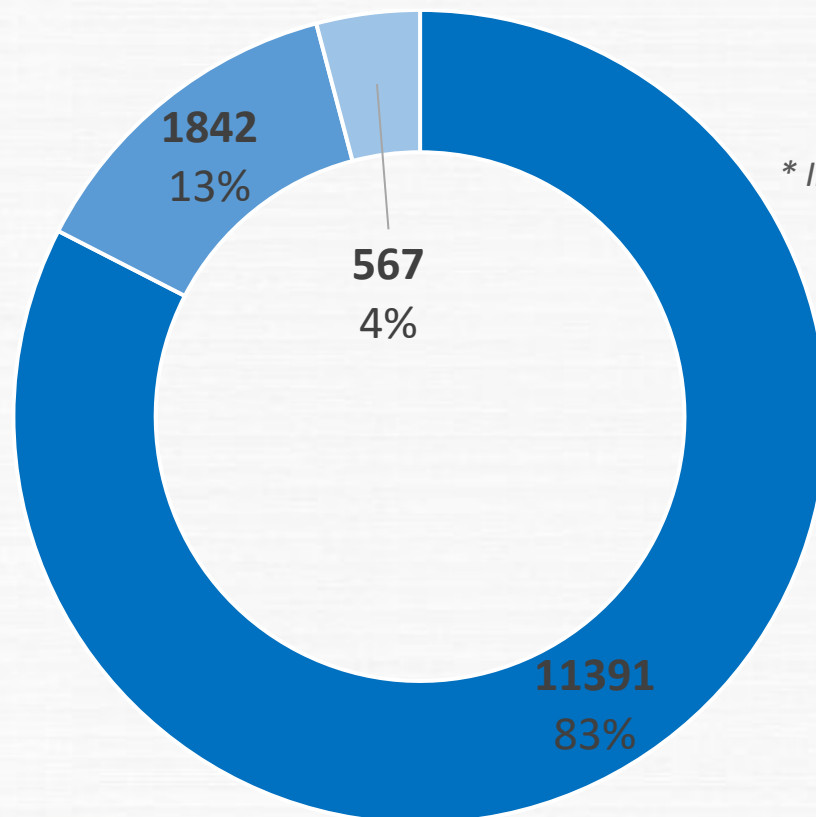
Organic Law 1/2004 on Comprehensive Protection Measures Against Gender Violence

- Definition of gender violence
- Protective measures for victims
- Judicial protection
- Labor protection
- Social awareness programs
- Emergency helpline (016)

BASQUE COUNTRY PENALTY MANAGEMENT SERVICE

- BCPMS (SVGP) Basque Goberment public service since 2011
- NGO “Meridianos ADIS”
- Transfer of powers to the Autonomous Regions (Royal Decree 474/2021, 29 of june)

BASQUE COUNTRY PENALTY MANAGEMENT SERVICE



Classification by type of
measure 2024

(14.427 non-custodial sentences)

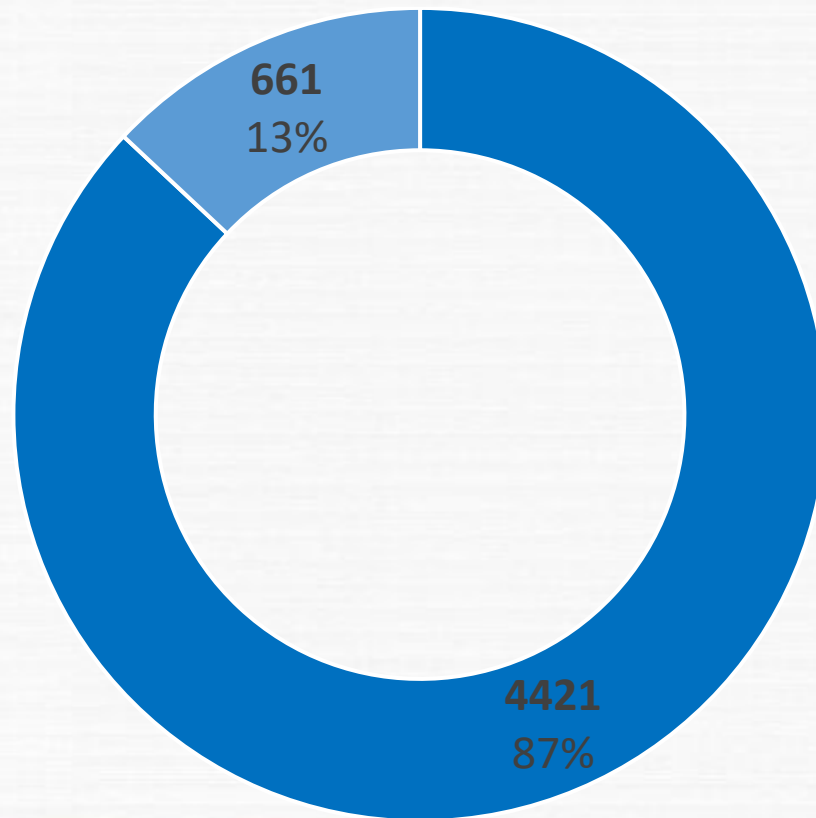
** In progress, old ones and pending execution.*

■ Community service
(11873)

■ Suspended sentences
(2072)

■ Security measures
(482)

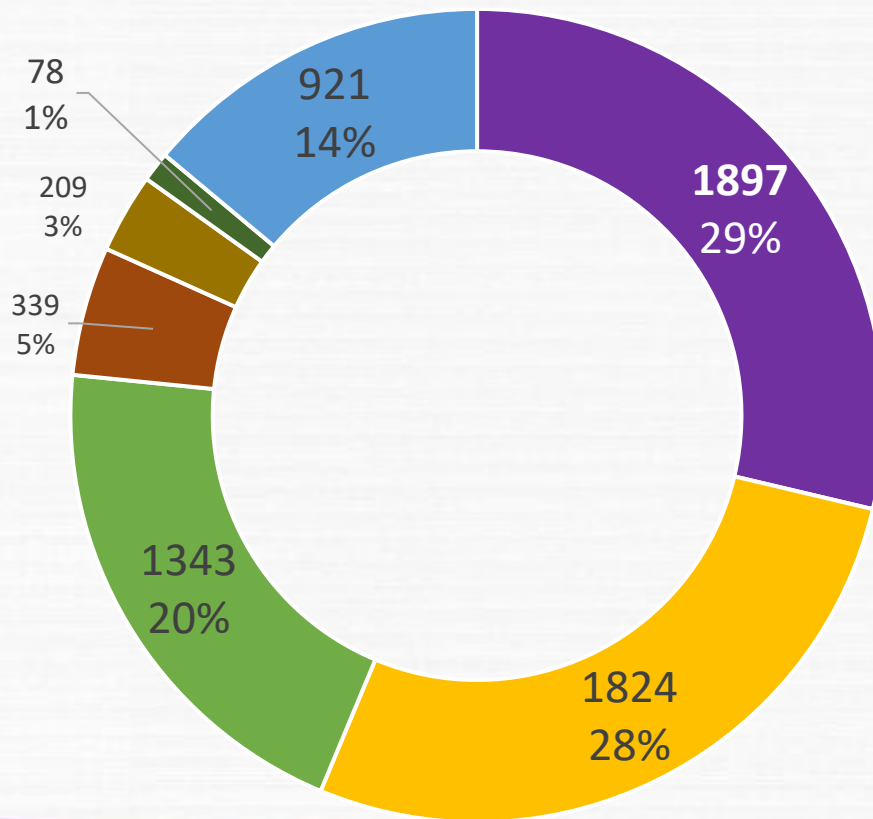
BASQUE COUNTRY PENALTY MANAGEMENT SERVICE



Classification by sex 2024

- Men
- Women

BASQUE COUNTRY PENALTY MANAGEMENT SERVICE



Classification by type of crime 2024 (6858)

** One crime could have several measures*

■ Gender Based Violence

■ Against road safety

■ Robbery

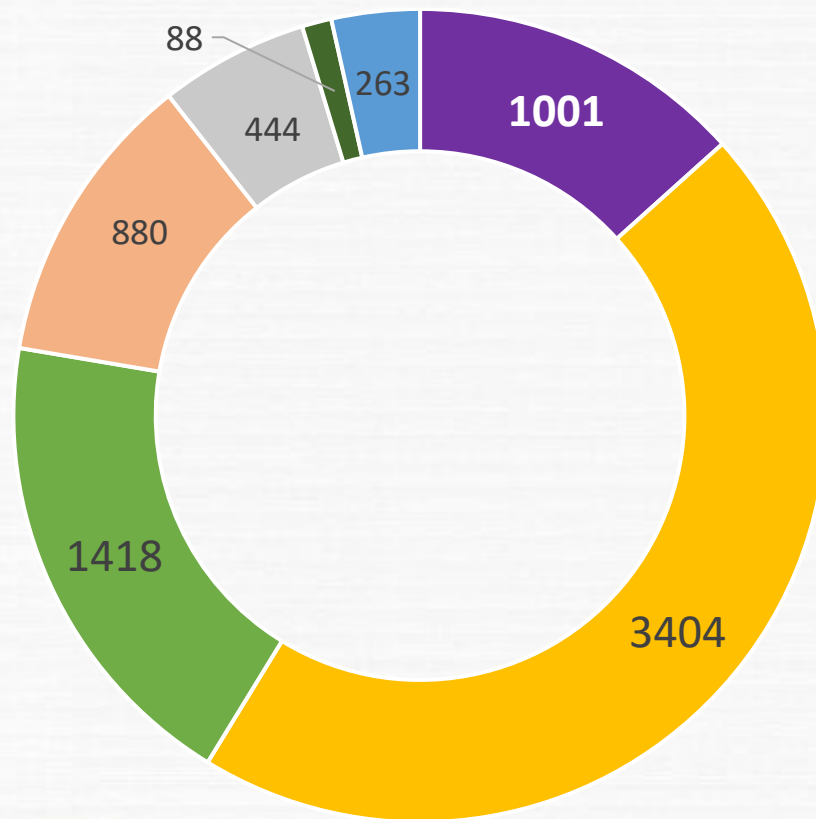
■ Personal injury

■ Against public health

■ Against sexual freedom

■ Others

BASQUE COUNTRY PENALTY MANAGEMENT SERVICE



Classification by type of intervention plan 2024 (7498)

** One user could have several plans*

- Gakoa - Aldatuz
- Community service
- Road safety workshops
- Drug-abuse treatments
- Mental-health treatemens
- Sexual-education program
- Others

ALDATUZ

- Founded in 2020
- Community works (art. 49 Spanish Criminal Code)
- Voluntary
- Psycho-educational program
 - 6 sessions, 4 hours each session
 - Group of 12 users
- Exclusion and selection criteria
 - No active drug abuse
 - Without mayor mental disorder
 - Insight capacity

ALDATUZ

MAIN OBJECTIVE	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES
Raise awareness and sensitize to prevent situations of gender-based violence in intimate partner, ex-partner or sporadic relationships, as well as in family relationships (in case of having children).	• Responsibility and empathy • Causes and consequences of their behavior • Belief system about masculinity • Strategies for non-violent conflict resolution • Space for reflection that helps self-knowledge and constructive self-criticism

ALDATUZ

- 1st session: presentation and group cohesion
- 2nd session: emotions
- 3rd session: jealousy and romantic love
- 4th session: gender stereotypes and symbolic v.
- 5th session: partner violence
- 6th session: new masculinities

IRA

Narra un evento desencadenante de la ira cercano en el tiempo:

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Tu interpretación:

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Factores de vulnerabilidad:

-
-
-
-

Cambios corporales:

-
-
-
-

ACCIÓN → ¿Qué quisiste hacer? → ¿Qué hiciste?:

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¿Qué efectos provocó tu comportamiento?:

En ti	
En lxs otrxs	

GAKOA

- Founded in 2005 and since 2014 part of BCPMS
- Suspended sentences (art. 83 Spanish Criminal Code)
- Conditions to avoid imprisonment (mandatory)
 - Restraining order
 - Prohibition to commit new crimes
- Psycho-terapeutical program (integrative model)
 - Constructivism
 - Logotherapy
 - Cognitive-behavioral components
 - Mindfulness
 - Systemic view

GAKOA

PHASE	OBJECTIVES AND CHARACTERISTICS
First phase	• 2-5 individual sessions • No confrontation • Collect information • Therapeutic relationship
Intervention phase	• Individual sessions • Individual and group sessions • Focus on different aspects of masculinity, emotions and toxic-behaviors.
Monitoring	• Evaluation and following-up what was acquired in therapy.

GAKOA

External evaluation carried out by the Basque Institute of Criminology UPV/EHU

- The program has proven to be effective and has managed to reduce the recidivism rate to 8%, while that of the group of aggressors who do not follow the program remains at 20%.
- Only new complaints were taken into account.

SUSTATZEN

- Specific to sexual violence
- Suspended sentences and security measures.
- Psycho-terapeutical program (sex therapy)
- 88 plans in 2022
- 86% plans completed

WORKING WITH GBV OFFENDERS

- Problems arising from the juridical process
- Aggressive behaviors
- Defence mechanisms
 - Minimization
 - Denial
 - Excuses
 - Displace responsibility
- Social stigma
- Resistance to change

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