



Stop Male Violence Group

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BMSZKI Temporary Hostel for Families

The BMSZKI Temporary Hostel for families provides accommodation for 21 families (94 in total), with a separate apartment for each family. It is a unique accommodation form in Budapest.

The length of stay here is 12 months by law, which can be extended by 6 months or until the end of the school year. After that, it is possible to use an external accommodation (6 apartments are available for this, with a maximum of 43 people allowed).

In the two forms of service, supported families can spend maximum 3 years.

In 2019, 43 families moved in and 20 moved out of the Hostel.

The main reason for moving in is the loss of the rented housing (15 families) and the escape from overcrowded, unsuitable housing conditions (14 families). In other cases, families moved from other hostels or from emergency shelters.

Families living here usually raise 2 or more children and typically have two parents.

The purpose of supportive work with the target group is to help families:

- be able to support themselves and solve their problems,
- to get empowered to meet the physical, mental and emotional needs of their children.

Each family has a social worker (helping to solve social difficulties) and a child care worker (supporting parents in practical childcare activities, being connected with kindergartens and schools, and runs children's programs at the institution).

The Stop Male Violence Project wishes to engage those men who want to do against women's subordination and violence against women in their own lives or on a societal level.



Their activities are:

- a men's group, whose members engage in a self-critical revision of the male role;
- training sessions for professionals in the field of domestic violence;
- publication and dissemination of books and leaflets;
- occasional appearances at events and the media;
- a gender film club;
- the Stop Male Violence Information Hotline.

Men's Group in practice

We invited men to the group who live in our institution and who have been signaled by the mothers to abuse them, or who have found themselves behaving abusively towards their families.

The group was led by 2 social workers, with 5 participants. For some men, joining the group was a condition for maintaining their legal relationship, while others came voluntarily.

They gathered once a week for the originally planned 1.5 hours long occasion.

Participants had an active role - all took part in discussions and activities and they had many questions...

Working methods

The facilitator reflects back to the abuser that his behavior is not acceptable and can only continue to do so because the Hungarian social system favors men and the roles are divided on the basis of gender.

We work with men who commit violence in such a way that we question both patriarchal presuppositions and prerogatives and support them with respect and compassion.

Activities:

- Educational conversations by using new tipology to understand the nature of the violent and abusive behaviour and its impacts on women and children
- Conversations about behaviors and acts carried out by the participants
- Role play activities

Experiences and impacts

The group was continuously working from April 2019 to April 2020, when due to the epidemic situation all group activities were suspended.

Since then 3 of the men who participated left or was resigned from the service.

Due to the demand of service users, the activity restarted in October this year.

Presently 3 men attend regularly. 2 participated on the previous one and there is a new one who joined voluntarily.

There is an agreement between the participants not to open for others because they feel safe and accepted only among those who already shared and listened to their stories.

Publication

Szil, Péter (with contribution from Gábor Kuszing): Why does he abuse?
Why can he abuse? 2005.

Bonino, Luis – Szil, Péter (with contribution from Gábor Kuszing):
Everyday male chauvinism, Intimate partner violence that is not called
violence 2006.

<http://www.stop-ferfieroszak.hu/en/publications/books>

Photo: <http://www.stop-ferfieroszak.hu>

THANK

YOU

for your attention!