

**THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT OF
GERMANY'S CAMPAIGN
FOR COMBATTING
VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN**

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CAMPAIGN FOR COMBATTING VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN

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Germany

Action Plan 1

***German Parliamentary Act passed in December
1999***

Goals of the Campaign:

- Violence against women and children must be banned
- To improve the prevention of and protection from violence
- Increased cooperation between all involved agencies must be set into place to avoid violence and to improve the protection of any victims

Action Plan 2

Goals of the Campaign:

- Effective laws for the protection of the victims must be developed and targeted for action
- Measures directed at behavioural changes in offenders
- International cooperation must serve to represent the interests of the women affected by domestic violence

Action Plan 3

Future Steps of the Overall Plan

Prevention:

To educate the general public as to the causes of domestic violence:

- (a) Protection of any victims and social ostracism of the perpetrators
- (b) Gender equality in all aspects of life
- (c) Neutralization of the cycle of violence

Action Plan 4

Legislation:

- The lawful enactment of the right of a child to be raised in a non-violent atmosphere
(Civil Code)
- Amendment as to the right of autonomous residency for spouses
- Improvement in the protection of handicapped girls and women
(Ban on the Discrimination of the Handicapped, Art. 3 Para. 3 GG)
- Review of the Employment Protection Law for the Public and Private Sectors with regard to sexual harassment at the workplace

Action Plan 5

“Domestic violence against women is not just something that happens within the family, which the government doesn’t involve itself in”

(Bonn Action Plan, 1999 p 19)

- Domestic violence goes against civil and criminal law, in which the perpetrator must reckon with government sanctions
- Federal lawmakers have created measures to improve the protection of women and children from domestic violence

- A Protection Against Violence Law was set in place at the beginning of 2002

Action Plan 6

Goals of the Protection Against Violence Law:

1. To simplify the procedure for temporarily removing the perpetrator from the domestic household at perpetrator's cost
2. To provide for eviction orders against the perpetrator
3. To create special ground rules for restraining orders regarding contact and harassment
4. To improve both police and legal protection

Action Plan 7

Cooperation and Integration

Cooperation between government authorities and non-governmental help organizations is to be striven for and should support the legal regulations. The term cooperation is the process to be understood whereby the following points are taken into account:

- The political intention to cooperate shall be manifested through lasting support from all participants
- Cooperation must be institutionalised
- The decision-makers should be integrated so as to avoid non-committal interchanges
- Government agencies and non-governmental projects must be represented in adequate proportions
- One office provides coordination and contributes to the continuity of the work

Organization of the interfaces through definition of jurisdiction and contact people.

(Bonn Action Plan, 1999 p 28)

Action Plan 8

Contents of the Work

- To work out a joint analysis of the problem
- Agreement as to a common goal and the necessary steps to get there
- Review of the steps
- To work under the principle of consensus
- Clear roles and allocation of duties
- Acknowledgement of reciprocal competencies in the field
- Willingness to learn from one another

(Bonn Action Plan, 1999 p 28f)

Action Plan 9

Consequences for Offenders

- Offenders must be confronted stronger than before with the negative consequences of domestic violence, including social sanctions.
- The intensification in prosecution will therefore be striven for from the government side. Preliminary proceedings must be instituted, civil law must protect the women more strongly from the perpetrators.
- These points must be supported by corrective measures on the behalf of the offenders in the form of offering rehabilitation programmes aimed at changing offenders' behaviours.

Action Plan 10

Measures for Creating Public Awareness

Support must be given to bring the topic of domestic violence, its victims and its perpetrators to the public notice.

This includes:

- Information concerning the situation and condition of women and children affected by violence with regard to the dynamics of violent relationships
- Information about the laws and their discretionary powers for the benefit of the victims of domestic violence (for instance, clear guidelines for the police)

Action Plan 11

Measures for Creating Public Awareness (2)

- Recognition of one's own limitations in professional capacities and the necessity for cooperation with other facilities
- Training concepts, recommendations, training, subject-related conferences for the professionals (police, courts, women's shelters, schools, etc.) confronted with domestic violence
- Publishing of findings, brochures, informational campaigns, etc.

(Bonn Action Plan, 1999 p 37ff)

Action Plan 12

The German Federal Government works with different international committees to:

- Represent the interests of women affected by domestic violence
- Learn how other countries approach the issue
- Inform other countries of German actions/approaches
- Work for and support international agreements

This takes place at the following levels:

- The European Union
- The Council of Europe
- The United Nations