

Prevention of domestic violence/gbv in Austria



Autonome Österreichische
FRAUENHÄUSER

ZONTA Club Conference

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The Austrian Women`s Shelter Network, AÖF

www.a oef.at

Women`s Helpline against violence 0800/222 555

www.frauenhelpline.at

Living free of violence is a fundamental right!

**Every person, woman, child and man
has the RIGHT to live free of violence!**

These rights are committed in the:

- **UN Convention on human rights,**
- **UN Convention on the Rights of Women (CEDAW),**
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child,**
- **Council of Europe Convention/Istanbul Convention**
- **These conventions are binding under international law**

Almost all countries in the world ratified! Austria included!

Human Rights=Women's Rights=Children's Rights

Everyone has the right to life, freedom and physical, mental and spiritual integrity. These are the most basic rights of every person.

(Preamble to the UN Convention on Human Rights 1948)

Violence against women is a violation of human rights and discrimination. Every woman has the right to self-determination and to a non-violent life.

(UN Convention on the Rights of Women-CEDAW 1979)

Children have the right to be protected from violence, abuse and drugs. They have the right to a safe home and for someone to take care of them.

(UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989)

GBV is a global phenomenon which mostly takes place at home

Main victims: women and children

Perpetrators: husband, partner, ex-partner, male family members

Children's rights are also enshrined in the Austrian constitution

Home is often the **most dangerous place for women and children.**

Violence against women happens **at all levels of society**, in all communities, religions.



In 2014 Austria signed the Istanbul Convention

....and undertook the oath to support every single woman affected by violence comprehensively and with the greatest care.

Gender equality is also anchored in the Austrian constitution!

Children's rights are also enshrined in the Austrian constitution!

**The prevalence of violence against women
is higher than ever!**

Austria has long been considered an international role model in violence and victim protection.

That has changed.

Now we are called a country of femicides in the EU.

Austria has many laws and measures and also a good nationwide infrastructure of victim protection facilities.

BUT still the extent of violence against women and children is particularly high and alarming in Austria.
Higher than ever.

-

- **More and more women are living in “high-risk situations”.**
- **The many femicides and attempted murders are also worrying.**
- **Femicides are increasing instead of decreasing, and murder attempts are gradually increasing.**

Statistic Austria 2023:

- Every 3rd woman experiences physical and/or sexual abuse from the age of 15 (this are almost 35% of the female population)
- Every 3rd woman is sexually harassed from the age of 15.
- Every 5th woman is affected by stalking from the age of 15
- Every 3rd child is affected by abuse from adults
- Abuse and harassment at the workplace: one in five employees (crime scene workplace)

Police Statistics/Intervention Centers 2022

In 2022, there were **14.643** restriction orders: that's an average of about **40 entry bans/approach bans per day**.

According to FRA study 2014: Only every 5th woman knows where to turn in case of violence!

FEMICIDES

FEMICIDES and attempted murders

According to police crime statistics, there were **41 murders of women in 2018**. By comparison, 19 women were killed in 2014. Since then, there has been more than a doubling of the murdered women - a sad record. About 2 women are murdered every month in Austria.

2019: 39 femicides

2020: 31 and 28 attempted murders

2021: 31 femicides and 63 attempted murders

2022: 28 femicides and 30 attempted murders

2023: 19 femicides and 36 attempted murders

Statistic Austria 2023:

The increasing number of femicides among women over 60 and older women is also striking.

- **In 2021 it was 29% (9 out of 31 femicides)**
- **In 2022 it was already 35% (10 out of 28 femicides)**
- **In 2023 there are already 36% women over 60 femicide victims (7 out of 19 women).**

Austria is considered a country of femicides in the EU because murders of women are increasing and homicides against men are decreasing.

FEMICIDES

FEMICIDES and attempted MURDERS

They are shot or stabbed to death by a person they are very close to – **some in front of their children**. Often the murder is the terrible climax of a long history of violence and most of the time the murderers announce their act in advance.

But femicide is only the tip of the iceberg.


Definition of femicide



Femicide is the deliberate killing of a woman by a man on the basis of her gender or because of "violations" of the traditional social and patriarchal roles of women.

Femicides are therefore among the hate crimes. The definition goes back to the South African sociologist and author **Diana Russell**, who was one of the **first to use the term in 1976**.

Gender-based violence



Is abuse directed against a woman because **of her gender. Women are disproportionately more affected than men.**

GBV is a worldwide social phenomenon that is rooted in the historically grown inequality of men and women.

Main causes of GBV?

Questions?

Causes of GBV against women?

Causes of partner violence?

The main causes of GBV are...

- Lack of and genuine equality/policy between women and men
- The deep-seated patriarchal system and patterns of behavior (abuse of power, control and possessiveness, toxic masculinities/traditional role models)
- No or less consequences for abusers/perpetrators
- Laws and authorities that trivialize violence and shift responsibility to those affected and do not take it seriously (victim blaming and victim-perpetrator reversal)



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The main causes of GBV

are not.....

**Migration,
jealousy,
love or
passion**



These are not the cause of abuse against women and femicides.

ASSOCIATION AUTONOMOUS AUSTRIAN WOMEN'S SHELTERS - AÖF

Umbrella organization of 16 autonomous women's shelters in Austria, founded in 1988. Organization of regular meetings, conferences and training courses for the staff of the women's shelters as well as press, public relations, information and campaign work

5 PILARS



1. Information Centre Against Violence

www.aodef.at, informationsstelle@aodef.at

2. National Women's Helpline 0800/222 555 (24/7 counselling)

www.frauenhelpline.at, frauenhelpline@aodef.at

3. HELPCHAT (Online-Counselling)

www.haltdergewalt.at

4. StoP-Districts without Partner violence

www.stop-partnergewalt.at

5. BAKHTI-Empowerment centre for Girls (and Boys)

www.bakhti.at und www.burschen.bakhti.at

ASSOCIATION AUTONOMOUS AUSTRIAN WOMEN'S SHELTERS - AÖF



We are the umbrella organisation of the autonomous women's shelters in Austria.

We are feminist-critical-activist-preventative-informative-politically independent, but partial to the women and children affected

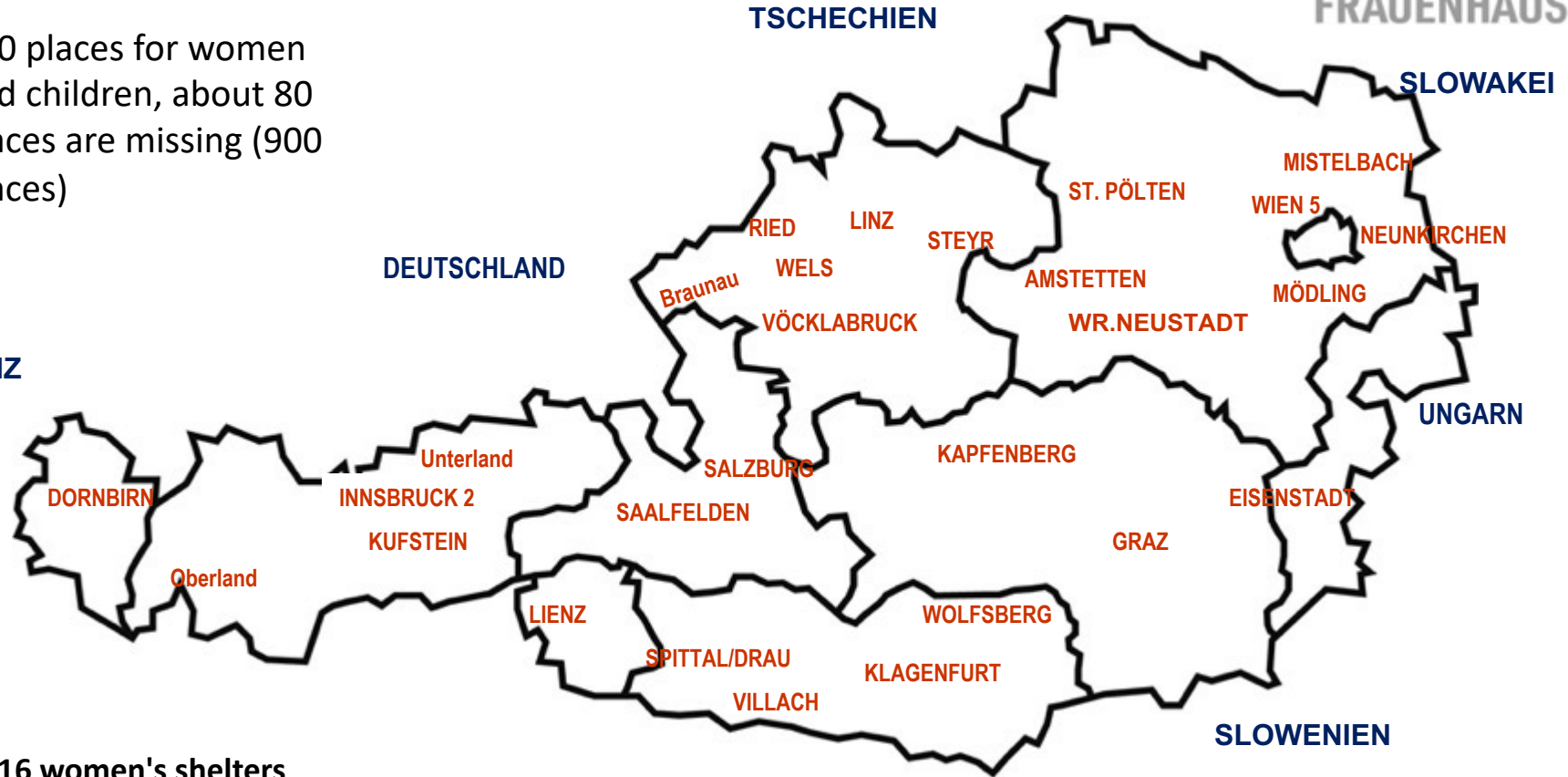


33 specific Women Shelters



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820 places for women
and children, about 80
places are missing (900
places)



AÖF: 16 women's shelters
and 17 women's shelters are in no networks

WOMEN'S HELPLINE AGAINST VIOLENCE 0800/222 555



Home | Impressum | Links | Kontakt

Search



0800 | 222 555

Angebote | Über Uns | Ziele | Zielgruppen | Muttersprachliche Beratung | Berichte | Kampagnen | TV-Spots | Archiv | Spenden



Website übersetzen



Was ist im Falle von (akuter) Gewalt zu tun?

Nummer Polizei: 133 oder 112
SMS Polizei: 0800 | 133 133
(auch Notruf für Gehörlose)
Frauenhelpline: 0800 | 222 555
Frauenhäuser: zu den Frauenhäusern

Wenn Sie Opfer von Gewalt

Fragen und Antworten

- ▶ Ich bin von Gewalt betroffen – was kann ich tun?
- ▶ Ich kenne eine Frau, die von Gewalt betroffen ist – was kann ich tun?
- ▶ Welche Formen der Gewalt gibt es?
- ▶ Was tun bei Sorgeregelungen, Konflikten und/oder Gewalt?

Aktuelles

NEU!

Auf der Website www.frauenberatung.gv.at finden Sie einen Überblick über diverse Beratungsangebote in Österreich zu diversen Themen. Diese Seite hilft, schnell das gewünschte Beratungsangebot zu finden.

WOMEN'S HELPLINE AGAINST ABUSE 0800/222 555



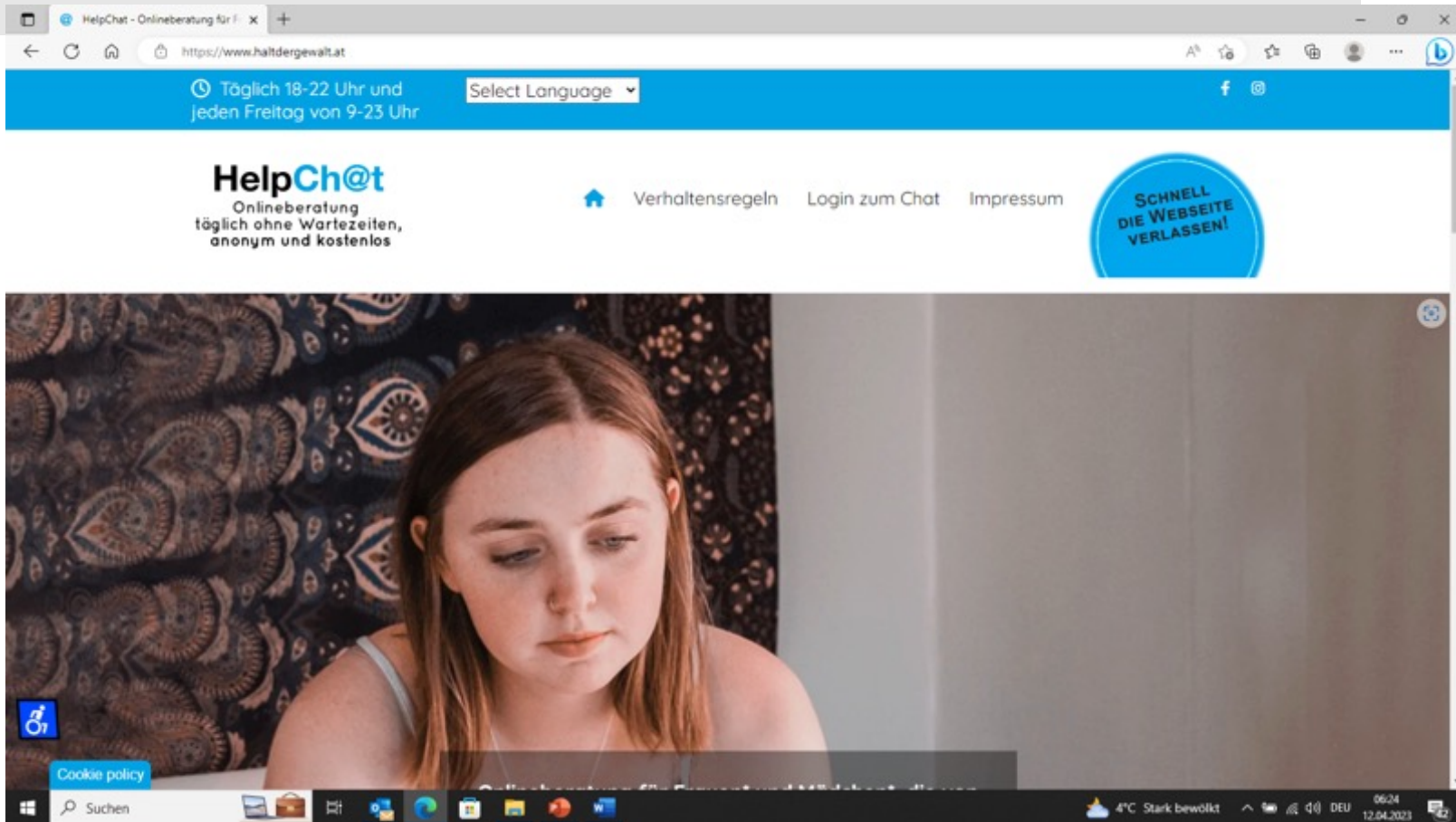
But The national Women's Helpline is the free telephone counselling centre and first point of contact for all **female victims** of (domestic) abuse in Austria.

And also for **neighbours, work colleagues, relatives, acquaintances of those affected women and children**
It is available 24/7 and 365 days in a year

**Multi-lingual advice is possible at certain times:
Arabic, Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, English, Farsi/Dari,
Romanian, Spanish and Turkish.**

ONLINE COUNSELLING FOR WOMEN: www.haltdergewalt.at

HelpCh@t



The screenshot displays the website for HelpCh@t, an online counseling service for women. The browser address bar shows the URL https://www.haltdergewalt.at. A blue banner at the top provides the service hours: 'Täglich 18-22 Uhr und jeden Freitag von 9-23 Uhr' and includes a 'Select Language' dropdown menu. The main header features the HelpCh@t logo with the tagline 'Onlineberatung täglich ohne Wartezeiten, anonym und kostenlos'. Navigation links include 'Verhaltensregeln', 'Login zum Chat', and 'Impressum'. A blue circular badge on the right says 'SCHNELL DIE WEBSEITE VERLASSEN!'. The main content area shows a video of a young woman with long brown hair looking down. A 'Cookie policy' link is visible in the bottom left corner of the video player. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the system tray with a temperature of 4°C, weather 'Stark bewölkt', and the date '12.04.2023'.

Available daily

Monday to Sunday from 6-10 p.m and Friday 9-23 p.m



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Project - BAKHTI is a joint project between the Association of Autonomous Austrian Women's Shelters and the Vienna Intervention Centre against Violence.
Exists since 1.1.2023



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Project - BAKHTI - EmPOWERment Centre for girls and young women, who are indirectly affected by violence as well as an external offer for boys and young men who are also affected by violence

Age: 14-25 years



Why BAKHTI?

The name "Bakhti" is meant to remember the young 14-year-old woman from Afghanistan who tried to separate from her family in 2017, **where she experienced violence from her father and brother, and who fled to a crisis center and even reported her father for violence.** But on her way to school, she was killed by a brother of the family.

We chose to name the empowerment center Bakhti because we do not want to forget her, but rather chose to remember her courage and strength to set an example and protect other girls from abuse and similar fate.

Program for girls



We empower through the following comprehensive offers:

- ♀ Psychotherapy, free psychosocial counselling and support for girls and young women.
- ♀ Workshops and offers on education, sports/yoga, dance, theatre, health, art, culture and political activism.
- ♀ Learning support

PROGRAM of BAKHTI-Empowerment Centre

Program for Boys



Our program for boys is intended to empower adolescent men against abuse through workshops, counselling and other offers.

As well as to teach them that abuse is not ok.



StoP Stadtteile ohne
Partnergewalt

www.stop-partnergewalt.at

STOP – DISTRICTS WITHOUT PARTNER VIOLENCE

StoP-Stadtteile ohne Partnergewalt



StoP Stadtteile ohne
Partnergewalt

www.stop-partnergewalt.at



The History of StoP



StoP Stadtteile ohne
Partnergewalt

www.stop-partnergewalt.at

Has been implemented in Austria since 2019.

- Started in the 5th District Margareten, Vienna
- populous district in Vienna, almost 56,000 inhabitants



Since 2021: a total of 28 locations throughout Austria and in all 9 federal states and in 9 districts in Vienna

28 StoP-Standorte in Österreich



StoP Stadtteile ohne
Partnergewalt

www.stop-partnergewalt.at





StoP Stadtteile ohne
Partnergewalt

www.stop-partnergewalt.at

What is StoP?

Community-oriented neighborhood prevention project that is against domestic violence

Project method: "Community Organizing"

Concept: Sabine Stövesand from HAW Hamburg

Project began in 2010 in several districts in Hamburg and Germany.

The StoP project is protected by copyright!



StoP Stadtteile ohne
Partnergewalt

www.stop-partnergewalt.at

StoP sees itself as a link between community work and victim protection work and supplement to the work of women's shelters/victim protection institutions

The objectives are:

1. Bringing about a social "climate change" so that GBV, Partnerviolence, domestic Violence is no longer ignored and tolerated
2. To support the awareness of gender roles among men and women, girls and boys and the expansion of possibilities for action
3. Promoting the practice of civil courage and practical solidarity with those affected.



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StoP Stadtteile ohne
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Working with Men:

Men are actively motivated to participate in violence prevention initiatives like:

- Men Table
- Feminist Men work



Free Legal Assistance

(§§ 66 StPO, 73 b ZPO)



Victims of violence have the right to free of charge psychosocial and legal process support!

- In the case of victim protection institutions with a contract with the BMJ (e.B. women's shelters, GSZ/IST, emergency calls, women's and girls' counselling centers, child protection centers, Weißer Ring, Neustart, ...)
- Granting quickly and unbureaucratically, if necessary and on request
- Preparation and support for complaints, information on criminal proceedings, , representation by lawyers
- Since 1.6.2009 psychosocial PB in civil proceedings (divorce, custody, spousal and child support, child abduction, issuance of an EV)
- Since 2021 PB also by Cybercrime and witnesses of violence/children have got the right to free legal assistance.



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Violence Protection Act: Through the Security Police Act § 38a Security Police Act

**“Whoever hits goes”
We show violent criminals the red card
Paradigm shift**



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The Violence Protection Act consists of four elements

- 1. Restriction orders/entry/
approach ban - it is forbidden for the person
to approach 100 meters.**
- 2. Interim injunction (EV)**
- 3. Violence protection centers/intervention
center**
- 4. Violence prevention advice/compulsory
perpetrator advice**

1) Restriction order

- **The police are obliged to intervene properly in cases of abuse**
- **The police are obliged to evict the endangering person from the dwelling immediately regardless of origin, income**

The victims can stay safely in the house or apartment while the abuser has to leave.

1) Restriction order

- Protection of children and teenagers under 14: the restriction order includes schools and other childcare institutions
- **Duration: 2 weeks** → if you need protective measures after this period has expired, you can turn to the district court →
- The restriction order will **be prolonged to 4 weeks**
- Intervention centres offer free counselling and assistance: they will contact you automatically after a barring order has been made by police



2) Longer term protection

Temporary injunction (§§382b & e EO)

- **With restriction order:** When there has been a restriction order you have to turn to the district court of your residency within 2 weeks and apply for a temporary injunction
- **Without restriction order:** You do not have to bring a lawyer.
BUT: It is essential to get legal counselling at the intervention centres

2 Variants:

1. **Protection in the sphere of living: Duration: 6 months**
2. **General protection from abuse: Duration: 1 year; it can be prolonged**

3.) Intervention/protection Centers

- **Pro Active approach of the Intervention centres to the victims**
- **In the event of a restriction order, the intervention centers will contact the victim**
- Victim protection facilities
- More than 1 centres in every federal state (9 in Austria)
- Free counselling and assistance
- Information and advice
- Companion at any appointment at police, court and authorities
- Help with the enforcement of law
- Psycho-social and legal process support
- victims also can call the Intervention centres and seek for help
- Help with stalking

4. Councelling of perpetrators

Binding instrument



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New

Since 1st of September 2021

Expelled perpetrators must report to perpetrator counselling centers within 5 days and receive 6 hours of advice

(Providers are Neustart, PSD, Caritas men's advice)



Thank you!



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