

QUING

Getting less patriarchal and more European? Discourses on domestic violence in Poland.

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Perpetrator centred frame

Laws and institutions:

- *Law on education to sobriety and counteracting alcoholism*

- *Penal Code (Criminal Code)*

- *Law on protection of human fetus and conditions of availability of abortion*

- *Institutions:*

- *State Agency for Prevention of Alcohol Related Problems*

- *Polish Nation-wide Emergency Service for Victims Of Domestic Violence "Blue Line"*

- *Police*

Perpetrator and alcohol centred frame:

- *conflict between institutions solving alcohol- related problems (AA) and institutions dealing with domestic violence: promoting negative social attitude to alcoholism as an illness*
- *presumed class aspect (poor, badly educated perpetrators and victims). Additional class stigmata to victim and perpetrator*
- *conflict between women's NGOs and organisations dealing with domestic violence- domestic violence is an effect of unequal status of women and men in society, not alcohol abuse*
- *organisations dealing with alcohol problems concentrate on men (perpetrators of violence) and family as a whole*
- *has the highest support from government*

Women centred frame

Laws and institutions:

- **National Action Plan for Women**
- **Stop Violence- Equalizing Chances 1997, 2001-2005**
- **Law on counteracting violence in family**

- **Actors:**
 - **Women's NGOs**
 - **Parliamentary Group of Women**
 - **Plenipotentiary for Women and Family (until 1997)**
 - **Plenipotentiary for Equal Status of Woman and Men (2001-2005)**

Discussions around Law on counteracting DV (2002-2005)

•Debates within civil society:

- general support
- who needs more assistance: victim vs. perpetrator?
- references to gender equality
- reconciliation of family

•Debates within governmental bodies:

- general lack of support for women- centered frames
- eviction order: contradictory with Constitution- protecting rights to freedom and dignity, person cannot be arrested for longer than 48 hours without court decision; presumed innocence; right to private property; social benefits, substitute social apartment; possible homelessness of perpetrator (difficult access to shelters)
- interference in family intimate relations by penal repression “ruins human relationships”

Children centred frame

- Plenipotentiary for Family (1997-2001)
- Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment (after 2005)
- Ombudsman for Rights of Children
- NGOs
- People opposing gender equality
- Strategic frame in debates around Law on counteracting domestic violence? (women and children)
- Dominant frame in debates around Law on counteracting domestic violence in 2010. Defining domestic violence as corporal punishment of children (one of the definitions)
- Successful implementation of restrain order and eviction order.
- Gender blindness of policies after 2005: “*children and other members of family*” as victims of DV