



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## REAL EQUALITY IS ONLY POSSIBLE IN RELATIONSHIPS THAT ARE FREE OF VIOLENCE

Domestic violence and, as one of its most frequent manifestations, intimate partner violence cause above all a great deal of human suffering. They furthermore violate basic human rights and contravene Swiss law.

Since 2003, we have been working on behalf of the Federal Council to reinforce and add to the measures we have to combat genderspecific violence.

We concentrate on preventing and combating violence between couples who are in a relationship or going through a process of separation and we take into account the situation of both the victim and the perpetrator, regardless of their gender.

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA  
**Federal Office for Gender Equality FOGE**

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra



## Legal bases

An overview of the legal bases for combating domestic violence at federal and cantonal level can be found on our website.

[www.ebg.admin.ch](http://www.ebg.admin.ch)

## Figures

Every year cases of domestic violence are registered in the police crime statistics. An indepth analysis of these data that permits statements on the development of these figures can be found on the website of the Swiss Federal Statistical Office, along with victim support statistics.

[www.bfs.admin.ch](http://www.bfs.admin.ch) > Kriminalität/Strafrecht > Häusliche Gewalt

## Consequences for the whole society

As well as the suffering it causes for those directly involved, domestic violence also results in costs which we all pay for. A study by the FOGE sets out, using very conservative estimates, the costs to society arising from use of the police, justice system, support services and the health-care system, as well as from lost productivity (due to illness, invalidity and death). They are estimated at around CHF 164 million to CHF 287 million each year.

## Causes

Researchers today agree that there is no one single cause of violence, but that it is the result of a combination of different causes. A study by the FOGE has identified risk factors that increase the potential for domestic violence and thus provides important information on how to prevent it using targeted measures.

## **Victims find support...**

There are recognized victim counselling services in all cantons. Their services are provided free of charge and do not require criminal charges to have been brought.

[www.opferhilfe-schweiz.ch](http://www.opferhilfe-schweiz.ch)

## **... as do those perpetrating violence**

There is also cantonal advice and support provision for the persons perpetrating violence.

[www.fvgs.ch](http://www.fvgs.ch) > Beratungsstellen

## **Coordinated action**

In the cantons, intervention and coordination structures to prevent and combat domestic violence have been set up. Their objective is to stop violence, protect victims and make the perpetrators of violence take responsibility for their actions. These bodies have come together to form the Swiss Conference against domestic violence SKHG.

## **Wide-reaching commitment to stopping violence**

In Switzerland, numerous different umbrella and specialist organizations are committed to improving ways of preventing and combating domestic violence. We work continuously with these bodies.

# WHAT WE DO

## **We inform and keep records**

In a range of studies, reports, evaluations and information sheets we illuminate the causes and effects of domestic violence and thus contribute to the development of efficient measures and tools for prevention and intervention. Our Domestic Violence Toolbox provides information and intervention materials for experts in this area (available in DE, FR and IT only).

[www.toolbox-häusliche-gewalt.ch](http://www.toolbox-häusliche-gewalt.ch)

## **We coordinate and connect**

We promote cooperation and networking within the Federal Administration as well as between the Confederation, cantons and non-governmental organizations.

## **We organize specialist events**

At the national conference on domestic violence held each year, experts from the cantons discuss various aspects of the problem and current practical issues.

## **We are involved in the drafting of legislation and in parliamentary business**

We give our opinions and prepare reports as part of internal federal consultation processes and in response to parliamentary motions, and strive to achieve effective legal protection against domestic violence.