

# Help and Services for the Victims in Finland

Helena Ewalds



# Content

- Systematic enquiry of domestic violence in social and health services
- Support to victims and perpetrators of domestic violence in basic services
- Special services for victims:
  - Shelters
  - Hotline 24/7
  - Support Centers for Victims of Rape
  - Barnahus


# The best way to prevent violence is to talk about it

- ***The things you don't talk about do not exist.*** Shame, disguise, or fear often prevent both the victim and the abuser from broaching the subject of violence.
- ***Call violence by its proper name.*** Do not call violence a family dispute or an interaction problem. Calling violence by its proper name helps children from violent homes to break the cycle of intergenerational violence.
- ***Talking about violence helps in processing the experience.*** It helps to understand that the real responsibility for the violent acts always lies with the abuser. Children often blame themselves for violence in their homes.

# Systematic enquiry of domestic violence

*THL recommends that domestic violence are assessed systematically by using the Domestic violence enquiry and assessment form*

- as part of all social and health services*
- as part of the general assessment of the client's situation.*

 TERVEYDEN JA HYVINVOINNIN LAITOS Lähsuhdeväkivallan suodatin- ja kartoituslomake (1)

Asiakkaan/potilaan nimi: \_\_\_\_\_ ( Hetu: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ )  
Toiminta-/hoitoyksikkö: \_\_\_\_\_  
Työntekijä: \_\_\_\_\_  
Päivämäärä: \_\_\_\_\_

### Suodatin kysymykset

- 1 Onko Sinun kohdistunut lähsuhteisasi\* jossakin elämäntilanteessasi fyysistä, henkistä tai seksuaalista väkivaltaa tai kaltoinkohtelua?  
Kyllä  Ei
- 2 Vaikuttaako kokemasi väkivalta edelleen terveytesi, hyvinvointisi tai elämäntilanteitasi?  
Kyllä  Ei
- 3 Onko lähsuhteisasi tällä hetkellä fyysistä, henkistä tai seksuaalista väkivaltaa tai kaltoinkohtelua?  
Kyllä  Ei

Jos kysymyksiin 2 tai 3 on vastattu KYLLÄ, lyy seuraavat kartoituskysymykset:

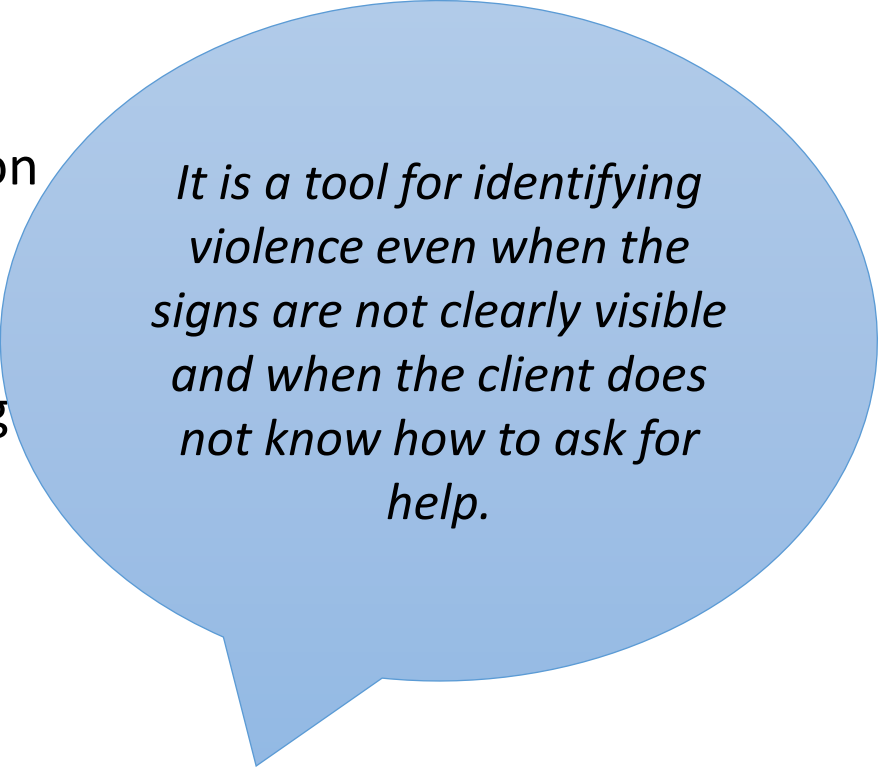
### Kartoituskysymykset

- 1 Millaista lähsuhdeväkivaltaa olet kokenut?  
 fyysistä väkivaltaa (esim. tönnöttäminen, lyöminen, potkiminen) tukistaminen, pään hakkaaminen, raapiminen, repiminen, ravistelu, ampuma- tai teräaseen käyttö, fyysisellä väkivallalla uhkailu)  
 henkistä väkivaltaa (esim. alituminen, arvostelu, nimittely, halveksunta, kontrollointi, sosiaalisen kanssakäymisen rajoittaminen, voimakas mustasukkisuus, eristäminen, tavaroiden hajottaminen, koteloitten vahingoittaminen tai jollakin näistä tai esimerkiksi itsemurhalla uhkaaminen)  
 seksuaalista väkivaltaa (esim. raiskaus, raiskauksen yritys tai seksuaalisen kanssakäymisen eri muotoihin painostaminen tai seksin pakottaminen, seksuaalisella väkivallalla uhkailu, seksuaalinen hävittäminen, pornografian pakottaminen, ehkäisyvälineiden käyttöön kieltäminen, aborttiin pakottaminen, seksuaalisen itsemääräämisoikeuden rajoittaminen)  
 kaltoinkohtelua tai laimiyöntä (esim. lapsen, vanhuksen tai vammaisen jättäminen valitsematta hoitoa, apua tai huolenpitoa tilanteissa, joissa hän on ollut niistä riippuvainen, toisen ihmisen vahingoittaminen lääkellä, päihteillä, kemikaaleilla tai liuotteilla)  
 taloudellista väkivaltaa (esim. itsemurhan rahan käyttöön estäminen, taloudelliseen päätöksentekoon osallistumisen estäminen tai pakottaminen oman rahojen antamiseen toisen käyttöön, taloudellista väkivallalla uhkailu tai kiristäminen)  
 kulttuurista tai uskonnollista väkivaltaa (esim. uskonnolliseen vakuutuseseen pakottaminen, väkivallalla uhkaaminen tai sen käyttö uskontoon tai kulttuuriin viittaamalla, kuten ns. kunniaväkivalta, uskontoon liittyvillä asioilla uhkailu)
- 2 Milloin olet viimeksi ollut kuulemasi lähsuhdeväkivallan kohteena?  
vuorokauden  viikon  kuukauden  vuoden sisällä  joskus aiemmin
- 3 Kuinka usein olet joutunut lähsuhdeväkivallan kohteeksi?  
vain kerran  useita kertoja  toistuvasti  jatkuvasti
- 4 Kuka tai ketä ovat olleet väkivaltaisia Sinua kohtaan?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Tämä kysymys kysytään vain, jos lähsuhdeväkivaltaa on tällä hetkellä.  
Onko perheessäsi alaikäisiä lapsia, jotka ovat altistuneet väkivallalle?  
Kyllä  Ei
- 6 Tämä kysymys kysytään vain, jos asiakas/potilas on raskaana.  
Onko puoliso kohdistanut Sinun väkivaltaa raskauden aikana?  
Kyllä  Ei

\* Lähsuhdeella tarkoitetaan asiakkaan/potilaan perhe-, sukulaus- tai seurustelusuhteita tai muita näihin rinnastettavia riippuvuusuhteita tai erityisen läheisiä ja tunnetuiksi ihmisiksi.

# Benefits of systematic DV enquiry

- Starting the process of reinforcing the safety of the victim.
- Providing information on how common domestic violence is and on the services available.
- Treating all clients equal.
- Developing a routine and improving expertise.
- Providing more comprehensive support and treatment.



*It is a tool for identifying violence even when the signs are not clearly visible and when the client does not know how to ask for help.*

# Support to victims and perpetrators of domestic violence in basic services

- Support services was not earlier separately regulated integrated to the general legislation on social and health services
- 2015 New social welfare legislation: it is an obligation for the local authorities to make available the necessary support and supervision for victims of domestic violence
- Good examples how to integrate DV support services in basic services;
  - Basic knowledge of the issues of DV is necessary

# Shelters in Finland

- The Act on reimbursement out of State funds for providers of shelters for victims of domestic violence (1354/2014) took effect on 1 January 2015. The responsibility for financing the services provided of shelters rests with the State.
- The law is a **historical improvement** to secure the victims of DV acute help and protection all over the country
- The purpose is to **guarantee qualitative and comprehensive** shelter services
- Government decree of the competence of the staff
  - The leader of the work has to be a social worker, master degree
  - Staff members are professionals in social services or health care, university degree of applied science and special training in DV issues

# Shelters' network 2022

- 29 shelters
- 228 family places

## Statistics 2021:

- 4 964 clients, 2840 adults (57 %), women 2596 (91 %), men 244 (9 %) and 2120 children (43 %)

## Growth from the year 2015:

- Number of shelters 19 → 29
- Number of family places 119 → 228
- Financing: EUR 11,5 million → EUR 24,55 million

1 Rovaniemi	10 Kuopio	19 Turku
2 Oulu	11 Joensuu	20 Raasepori
3 Raahe	12 Pori	21 Porvoo
4 Kajaani	13 Tampere: Kaukajärvi, Keskusta	22 Pääkaupunkiseutu: salainen osoite
5 Kokkola	14 Mikkeli	23 Espoo
6 Vaasa	15 Imatra	24 Vantaa
7 Seinäjoki	16 Hämeenlinna	25 Kerava
8 Äänekoski	17 Lahti	26 Helsinki: Toukola, Marjaniemi, Hertta
9 Jyväskylä	18 Kotka	





# THL national coordinator

- THL is responsible for the national coordination and development of the shelters
  - To follow up the quality of the work
  - To coordinate the education and training
  - To collect national data
- Finland adopted the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) 17 April 2015.
- It's the States responsibility to provide shelter services. This improvement was made thanks to the Istanbul Convention.

# SHELTERS FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - provide support to victims

- The shelter is a home-like environment where victims find a refuge from violence and where they get help to stop the violence.
- Each client or family have their own room during their stay in the shelter. The shelters have locked doors and camera surveillance and other forms of technical equipment to ensure safety.
- The shelter is meant to be a short-term refuge during a crisis. Length of stay is always individual.
- The shelter has staff available 24 hours a day, and victims can go there either on their own initiative or on referral. It is possible to go there anonymously. Staying in a shelter does not cost anything for the client.

# WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A STAY IN THE SHELTER?

- The staff at the shelter explore together with the client what kind of support he or she will need after the stay in the shelter. Where necessary the staff will also collaborate with the municipality and other service providers.
- The municipality is responsible for providing community care for those of its residents who have experienced domestic violence as well as for arranging support after clients leave the shelter.
- According to section 11(5) of the Social Welfare Act (1301/2014), the municipality must arrange social services to support those who have experienced domestic violence or other forms of violence or abuse.

# National quality standards for shelters

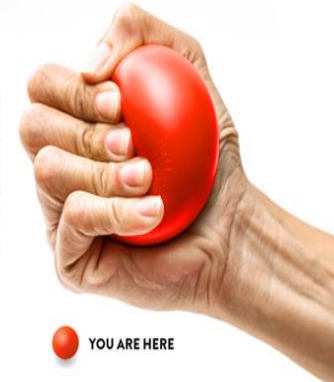
- The first national quality standards for shelter services came out in 2019
- The aims:
  - Improve the quality of shelters and
  - Give uniform norms for granting a shelter license
- Drawn up together with national and local agencies and NGOs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtjKxGND-MY>

# Nollalinja - 080 005 005

- Is a helpline for victims of domestic violence and violence against women.
- Nollalinja was opened in Finland 19th december 2016.
- Nollalinja phone service is organized by the THL. The service provider is Setlementti Tampere Association.
- Nollalinja is the state's specialized service which is funded by fees charged of perpetrators (Ministry of Justice).
- Further information: [www.nollalinja.fi](http://www.nollalinja.fi)

**NOLLALINJA**  
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
**080 005 005**  
CALL FOR SUPPORT. FREE OF CHARGE.



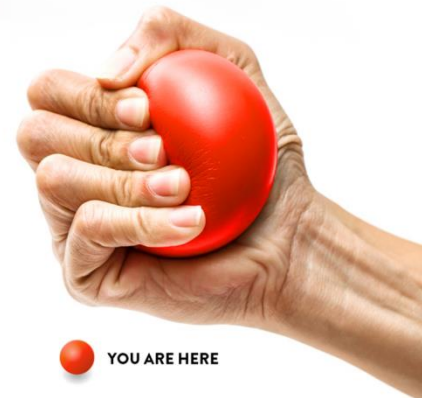
 YOU ARE HERE

# Nollalinja

## Nollalinja helps:

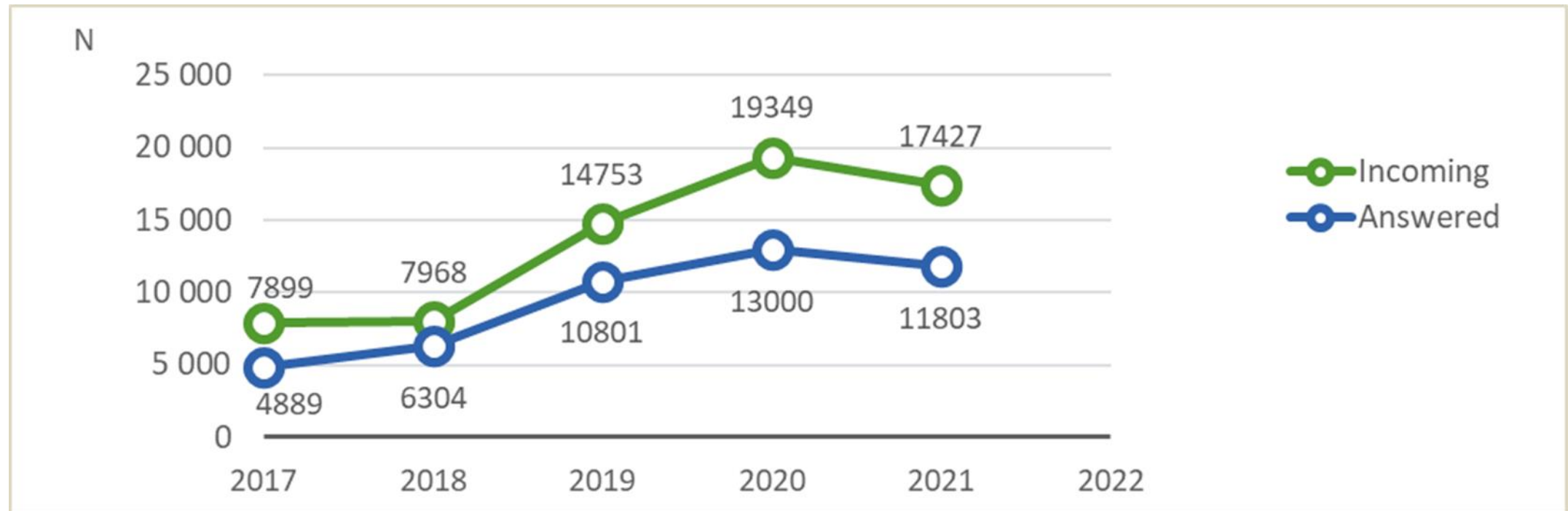
- women who have experienced psychological, physical or sexual violence or threat of violence
- anyone who has experienced psychological, physical or sexual violence or threat of violence in an intimate relationship
- family members of victims of violence
- professionals and officials who need advice in their customer work

**NOLLALINJA**  
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
**080 005 005**  
CALL FOR SUPPORT. FREE OF CHARGE.



 YOU ARE HERE

# Incoming and answered calls to Nollalinja



# Support Centers for Victims of Rape

- In Finland the first support center opened in Helsinki University Women's Hospital in May 2017.
- By the summer of 2022 there are 16 support centers in Finland and eight more are to be established.
- The Seri Support Centers are at Women's Hospital
- It's a support unit for people over 16 years of age, regardless of gender, who have experienced sexual violence.
- Seri Support Centers offer a low-threshold service to the victims of rape
- The care is free of charge for the customer
- To the centers clients can go by victim her/himself, with relatives or under the guidance of a public authority within a month of traumatic experience.



# Support Centers for Victims of Rape

- Support Centers offer:
  - forensic samples
  - psychological counseling
  - medical treatment
- Support Centers also warmly encourage victim to report a crime
- In the Support Centers it is possible to influence caregivers (mainly doctors) gender

# Support Centers for Victims of Rape in Finland

[www.thl.fi/seri](http://www.thl.fi/seri)

## Seri-tukikeskukset Suomessa

- |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1 Helsinki     | 9 Seinäjoki  |
| 2 Turku        | 10 Kokkola   |
| 3 Tampere      | 11 Vaasa     |
| 4 Pori         | 12 Kajaani   |
| 5 Kuopio       | 13 Kemi      |
| 6 Oulu         | 14 Joensuu   |
| 7 Rovaniemi    | 15 Jyväskylä |
| 8 Lappeenranta | 16 Ivalo     |

thl

Lähde: THL 2022



# Barnahus in Finland

- Since 2015 mandatory to report all types and all incidents of violence towards children not only to the CPS but also to the police → number of reports increasing in Finland
- In **Finland**, the development of the Barnahus model (since 2019 -) has been connected to pre-existing collaborative structures, the Forensic Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Units at the five university hospitals
- Units have a strong relationship to healthcare (child psychiatry)
- Child investigative interviews are conducted by forensic psychologists, although these are only carried out when the police request it

# Barnahus in Finland

- Interviews with older children are usually conducted by the police
- The units assess only the most challenging cases / cases with the most vulnerable victims (approx. 15% of cases)
  - preschool children (half of the interviewed children are 4-7 y old)
  - children with disabilities
  - cases involving a severe custody dispute
  - intrafamilial sexual abuse
- The units operate **within the framework of the pre-trial investigation**, and interviews within the units are monitored by the police in charge

# The founding principles

- The multiprofessional composition of the unit staff as well as the unit's right to obtain information from various organizations quaranteed by law
- Screening of the cases: services tailored according to individual needs
- Child friendly premises
- Evidence based assessment
  - Hypothesis-testing
  - NICHD-protocol



# Cases handled within the Units in 2020 and 2021

- **2020: 1003 referrals**
- **2021: 1245 referrals**
- Currently, the emphasis is not in increasing the capacity of the current units, but rather to develop satellite services to the basic level (e.g. collaboration with the Family Centers)

Oikkariyksiköittäin vuosilta 2020 ja 2021

	2020 yhteensä	2021
HYKS	283	276
KYS	243	287
OYS	182	256
TAYS	161	260
TYKS	87	95
VAASA	47	71
<b>Kaikki yhteensä</b>	<b>1003</b>	<b>1245</b>

# Thank you!

Helena Ewalds

hetuew@gmail.com