



Cuavs*: Centers for perpetrators of violence. An effective perspective to counter violence against women

Insights from the online seminar
March 8, 2024

* CUAVs are Centres for male perpetrators of gender violence in Italy



The dynamics of the transformation of male perpetrators of violence

What is domestic violence?

Any form of **physical, psychological, or sexual violence** that affects individuals who have, have had, or propose to have an **intimate partner relationship** and individuals within a more or less extended **family unit** who have parental or emotional relationships.

What is gender-based violence?

Any act of gender-based violence that results or is likely to result in **physical, psychological or sexual harm or suffering to the woman**, including the threat of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, occurring in the course of public or private life.

What is intimate partner violence (IPV)?

Any behavior **within an intimate relationship** that causes **physical, psychological, or sexual harm** to those in the relationship, including acts of physical assault, sexual coercion, psychological abuse, and controlling behavior.

Intervention with male perpetrators of violence: Ares Association APS

Ares Association APS offers group or individual psycho-educational pathways, both biweekly for at least 15 months.

A scientific protocol for assessing the risk and effectiveness of the intervention is to be administered.

The **BABOVA METHOD** for individual treatment:

- **EXPLORATION**: Building a good working alliance, various areas are investigated, including self-awareness, relationships, ability to take on others' point of view.
- **AWARENESS OF VIOLENCE**: awareness of having acted and caused harm to victims and the social fabric, assumption of the legal consequences of violent acts and elaboration of the decision to separate from future violent conduct.
- **ALTERITY**: re-reading of experiences with a conscious gaze, analysis of aspects of childhood and adolescence and personal experience related to the construct of trust in others.
- **PROJECTIVITY**: identification of realistic goals for a satisfying and respectful life with others.

Sex offender: the intervention in Cuavs

Who are sex offenders?

Those who commit sex crimes. It is difficult to define a psycho-criminological profile since this is an extremely heterogeneous category of offenders.

What is meant by “sexual acts” (Art. 609a Italian Criminal Code)?

Any act that is aimed at endangering the primary good of the individual's freedom through the arousal and satisfaction of the agent's sexual instinct, even without direct physical contact.

How does treatment practice occur in CUAVS?

Ares APS Association offers a treatment practice that is carried out with an **initial assessment** of the subject who, if suitable, can proceed in the **treatment pathway**, either individual or group. The group pathway is characterized by:

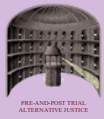
- Support
- Sharing
- Proactivity
- Compliance with the rules of the setting

At the conclusion of the pathway, a **final evaluation** is conducted.

How is the treatment pathway structured?

Ares Association APS works through three main aspects.

- **Goals:** related directly and indirectly to the offense.
- **Modules:** based on the goals and building new efficacy (self-esteem, emotions, otherness, behavior, cognition, and parenting).
- **Structure:** each meeting includes several stages in which thematic modules take shape by taking advantage of interactions among participants and the introduction of activities and reflections.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Teens with antisocial tendency

Antisocial tendency includes a range of transgressive behaviors, such as attention problems, aggression, petty delinquency, substance use, and early sexual behavior.

This tendency can also be observed in normal individuals, but its severity depends on **persistence over time**, with some young people beginning to exhibit these behaviors at an **early age**.

Parental input is crucial: escalating confrontations at an early age can reinforce the child's aggressive behavior, underscoring the importance of **family intervention**.

Witnessed violence, experienced by children exposed to various types of violence, is considered a risk factor for the child's antisocial onset.

Ares APS Association offers the "**CHANCE Project**," which provides psychoeducation interventions to counter juvenile deviance through knowledge, sharing results with practitioners for effective treatment.



Risk assessment

What is the goal of Cuavs?

To prevent the reoccurrence of violence by identifying risk factors and intervening on them. Identifying these factors is complex, with over **134 risk variables**.

How is an assessment conducted in a CUAV?

The **evaluation process** in the Ares APS Association consists of two phases:

1. FIRST PHASE: Assessment interviews with two practitioners:

1st Interview: Addressing the offense and legal documentation.

2nd Interview: Survey of the offender's life, including various aspects such as family history, schooling, work, intimate relationships, and others. PCL-R and HCR-20 are used.

2. SECOND PHASE: Administration of a statistical protocol, including the PAI, ECR-R, POMS, ROCI B/C, PBI, RQ.

What issues may be encountered in this process?

- Eligibility Criteria: Substance dependence, unstabilized psychiatric issues, neuropsychological deficits, insufficient understanding of Italian.
- Critical issues: Low motivation, minimization or justification of the act, victim blaming or denial of the act.



Co-funded by
the European Union



PRE-AND-POST TRIAL
ALTERNATIVE JUSTICE



EUROJUSTICE



Author: Brian Vanzo, psychoanalyst and professor, founder of **Associazione Ares APS**.

Review and coordination: Viviana Gullo, Junior Project Manager and Junior Researcher, Irene Mariotti, Junior Project Manager and Junior Researcher & Sergio Bianchi, General Director and Senior Researcher - **Agenfor International Foundation**



Procura della Repubblica
presso il Tribunale di Venezia



Procura della Repubblica
presso il Tribunale di Trieste



Procura della Repubblica
PRESSO IL TRIBUNALE DI FIRENZE



CORTE DI APPELLO DI VENEZIA



Tribunale di Sorveglianza di Venezia



ORDINE degli AVVOCATI
di RIMINI