



# ABOUT THE INITIATIVE "STRONGER THAN VIOLENCE"

"Stronger than Violence" (Stärker als Gewalt) is a nationwide initiative launched by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend, BMFSFJ).

## **Violence concerns us all!**

One in three women in Germany experience physical and/or sexualised violence one or more times in their lives. One in four women suffer physical or sexual violence at the hands of their current or ex-partner at least once. And even men experience domestic violence. This can only change if our society as a whole stands up against violence. Together we are stronger than violence!

The "Stronger than Violence" initiative was launched in November 2019. It is part of the Federal Government action programme "Together against Violence against Women" (Gemeinsam gegen Gewalt an Frauen) and works to ensure that

- more women and men have the courage to defend themselves when they experience physical, sexual or psychological violence,
- more people around those affected take notice and provide support,
- during the corona crisis, the "Not Safe at Home?" (Zuhause nicht sicher?) campaign will provide information on help offers to everyone who is at risk of experiencing violence in their own home.

## **How does "Stronger than Violence" help?**

The website [www.staerker-als-gewalt.de](http://www.staerker-als-gewalt.de) is the first platform combining access to a great variety of nationwide support and counselling services. It also informs about different types of violence and explains how to recognise them, how each and every one of us can stand up against them and where to turn to for advice and support. In addition, the initiative brings together partner organisations, social stakeholders, companies and private individuals for joint public information and awareness-raising campaigns.

## **Whom does "Stronger than Violence" help?**

- Every person experiencing domestic, sexualised, psychological or digital violence.
- Every person witnessing such situations of violence.



### **Who forms the initiative "Stronger than Violence"?**

The initiative has brought together many organisations that take action against violence against women and men and provide support:

The "Gewalt gegen Frauen" (Violence against Women) support hotline, the Frauenhauskoordination (Association of Women's Shelters), the "Bundesverband Frauenberatungsstellen und Frauennotrufe" (Federal Association of Rape Crisis Centres and Women's Counselling Centres), the "Zentrale Informationsstelle Autonomer Frauenhäuser" (Central Information Network of Autonomous Women's Shelters), the self-help organisation "Weibernetz" for women with disabilities, the Bundesforum Männer (Federal Forum for Men), the Landesfachstelle Männerarbeit Sachsen (Saxony consulting centre for work with men), the Sozialdienst Katholischer Männer (Social Service of Catholic Men), the Antidiskriminierungsstelle des Bundes (Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency), the bundesweite Koordinierungskreis gegen Menschenhandel (federal NGO network against trafficking in human beings), the Dachverband der Migrantinnenorganisationen (Association of Migrant Women's Organisations), the Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Täterarbeit häusliche Gewalt (Federal Working Group on Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence) and the Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft kommunaler Frauenbüros und Gleichstellungsstellen (Federal Working Group of Municipal Offices of Women's Affairs and Gender Equality Agencies).

### **What is the context around "Stronger than Violence"?**

The initiative is embedded in an overall Federal Government programme on combatting violence against women and their children in the context of implementing the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), as well as the Coalition Agreement. Since 2018, the round table of Federal Government, States and municipal authority representatives called into being by the Federal Minister for Women's Affairs, Giffey, has been working to significantly strengthen and improve the existing support network. The Federal Ministry for Women's Affairs plans to use the Federal funding programme "Together against Violence against Women" (Gemeinsam gegen Gewalt an Frauen) to provide an additional 120 million euros from 2020 across four years for the expansion of counselling centres and women's shelters. Furthermore, non-constructural, innovative measures for advancing support services will also be funded.