

# „Terminological“ Challenges in Interdisciplinary Research on Treating Perpetrators of Domestic Violence: Insights from a Czech Republic Project - 4 Steps

Hana Přesličková, Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention

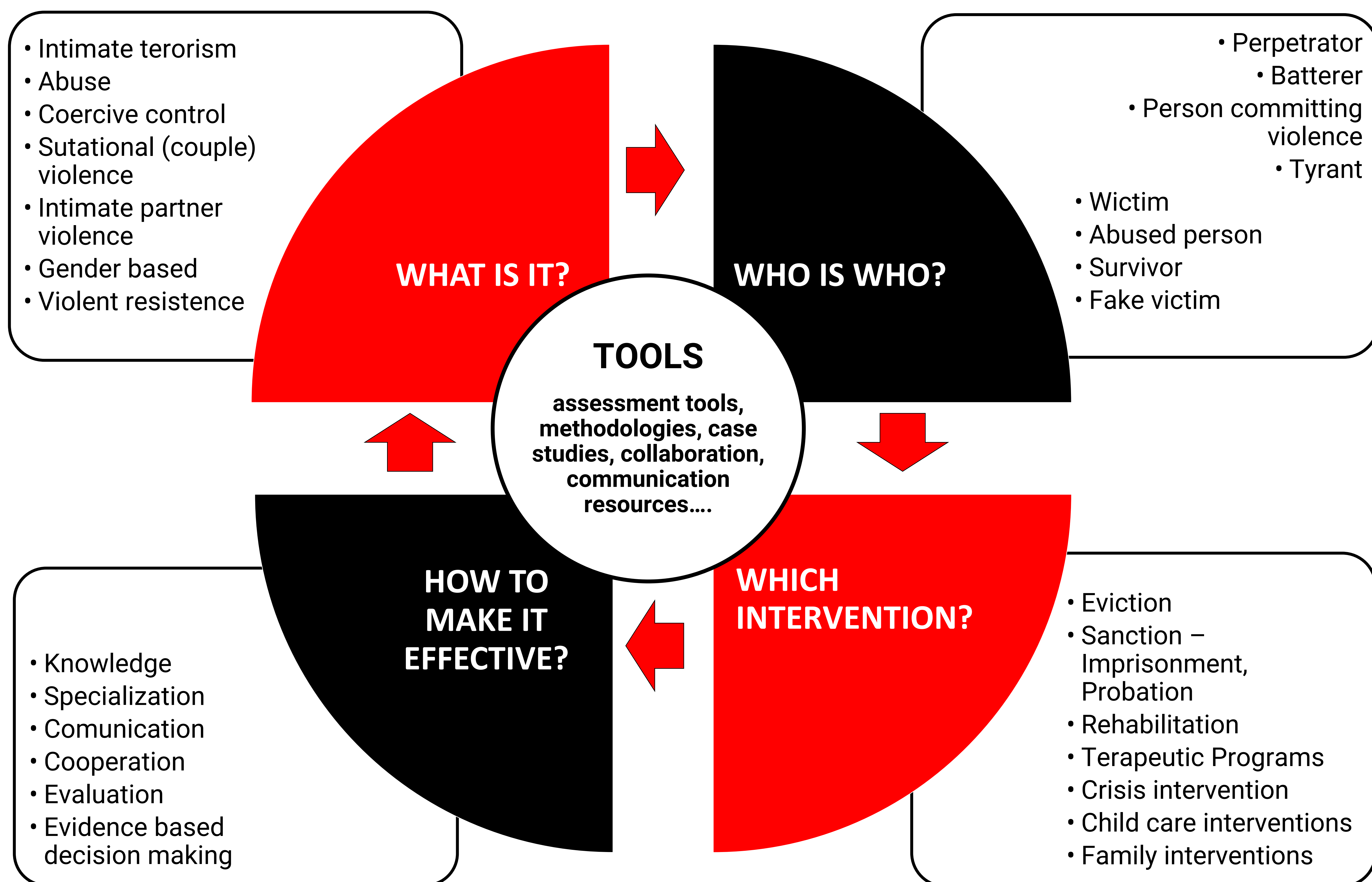
Introducing the insights of Norwegian-funded ViolenceOFF project. The project aims to improve the system of treatment of perpetrators and support of victims in cases of domestic and gender-based violence in the Czech Republic. The main objective of the project is to identify good practices and gaps in the current system and to propose effective measures that will improve the situation of victims by reducing the harm caused by violent people.

- Project: PDP7 "Improving the treatment of perpetrators and support for victims in cases of domestic and gender-based violence in the Czech Republic"
- Implemented by: the Institute for Criminology and Social Prevention
- Financial support: Norway Grants 2014 - 2021
- Implementation period: 01/2020-03/2024

## Can we follow the Duluth model?

In order to choose an appropriate response to violence between persons in close relationships, it is necessary to understand and identify important categories in the issue. An interdisciplinary approach, which is essential in dealing with domestic violence cases, implies primarily explanation important concepts and terms within the intervention group (judicial and law enforcement agencies, social work agencies and therapeutical approaches) and to name clearly the needs in all levels. This requires both a significant degree of existing defining tools and, above all, cooperation that is distinctive and specialized in practice.

On the basis of 4 focus groups and a questionnaire survey among judges, prosecutors, police officers, representatives of misdemeanour departments, intervention centres and NGOs providing programmes for violent persons, we identified 4 important categories - steps in which individually and mutually it is necessary to seek consensus on terminology and clarify needs among relevant actors: What is it, who is who, what are the most appropriate interventions and how to ensure that interventions are effective?



The results of the ViolenceOFF research Project suggest that the Czech system lacks the necessary terminology to effectively deal with perpetrators of domestic violence. Specifically, there is a need to develop communication tools that can bridge the gaps in understanding between the relevant actors, facilitate the definition of terms and allow for more nuanced interpretation in the different languages spoken. Consequently, there is also a lack of information sharing between relevant parties, i.e. law enforcement agencies, courts, prosecutors on one hand, and those working with offenders at a social and therapeutic level on the other hand.

