



# European Family Justice Center Alliance

## Family Justice Centers and Restorative Justice

Pascale Franck  
Bert Groen

European Family Justice Center Alliance

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CEP and EUROPRIS  
Workshop on Domestic Violence  
in prison and probation

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# European Family Justice Center Alliance



A Family Justice Center is the co-location of a multidisciplinary team of professionals who are cooperating under one roof to offer help and support to victims of domestic violence and genderbased violence and their families.

Movie: [www.efjca.eu](http://www.efjca.eu)



## European Family Justice Center Alliance

The EU FJCS started with a Daphne-project (European Commission) in 2013-2015, building FJCs in 6 European Cities (Italy, Germany, Poland, Belgium and The Netherlands).

The EFJCA is a result of this international collaboration.

Today, the EFJCA:

- has more than 80 members and partnerships in 36 countries
- is connected and has a joint-ventures with a range of EU networks
- fulfills ongoing tasks in connecting professionals, volunteers and survivors to tackle gender-based violence, domestic violence and child abuse in a multidisciplinary way
- helps regions and organisations to create and build FJCs and co-related centers





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## Domestic violence urges to a specific approach

- Widespread and under-reported problem
- Complex and escalating underlying dynamics
- The family members involved often remain in each other's environment (parents, children, relatives, ...)
- It has a huge and negative impact on children
- Many gaps in the interventions, approach and expertise
- Often involved many diverse organizations and services



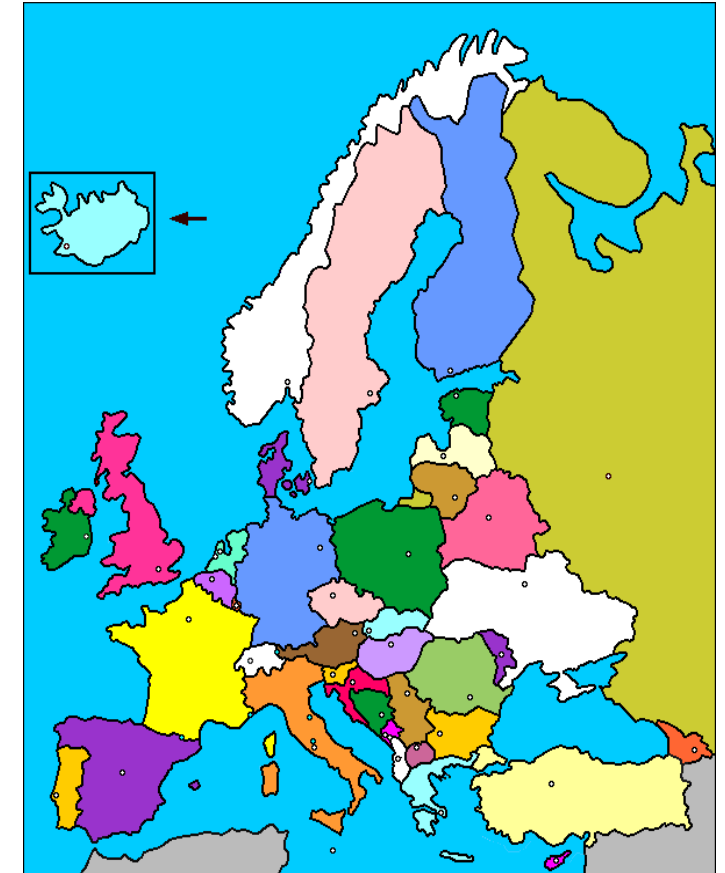


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## FJC's in Europa

- The Netherlands: Tilburg, Rotterdam, Leeuwarden
- Poland: Warsaw
- Germany: Berlin
- Belgium: Antwerpen, Hasselt, Mechelen, Kempen
- N. Ireland: Derry
- Italy: Milan
- Iceland: Reykjavik, Akureyri, Victoria Hills
- Sweden: Malmö
- France: Paris, Bordeaux
- Aruba
- Bonaire





## Restorative Justice and Domestic Violence?

-> Perpetrators taking accountability, starting from the safety of victims





## RJ and Domestic Violence Istanbul convention

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence:

Prevention, protection, prosecution and elimination of genderbased and domestic violence

Asks states to ban *mandatory* alternative conflict resolution, including mediation and reconciliation:

Victims of domestic violence cannot take an equal position as the perpetrator,  
Risk of perpetuation of violence (with the help of the judiciary) is real.







## Contra-indications in cases domestic violence?

When:

- Victim's safety is not guaranteed
- Victim cannot freely defend her interests (dependency - relationship)
- Intimidation and power by the perpetrator (coercive control)
- Meeting the needs of the victim is very insecure (victim agrees to conditions and agreements out of fear and not because they match needs)
- Long-term intervention is not insured (follow-up?)



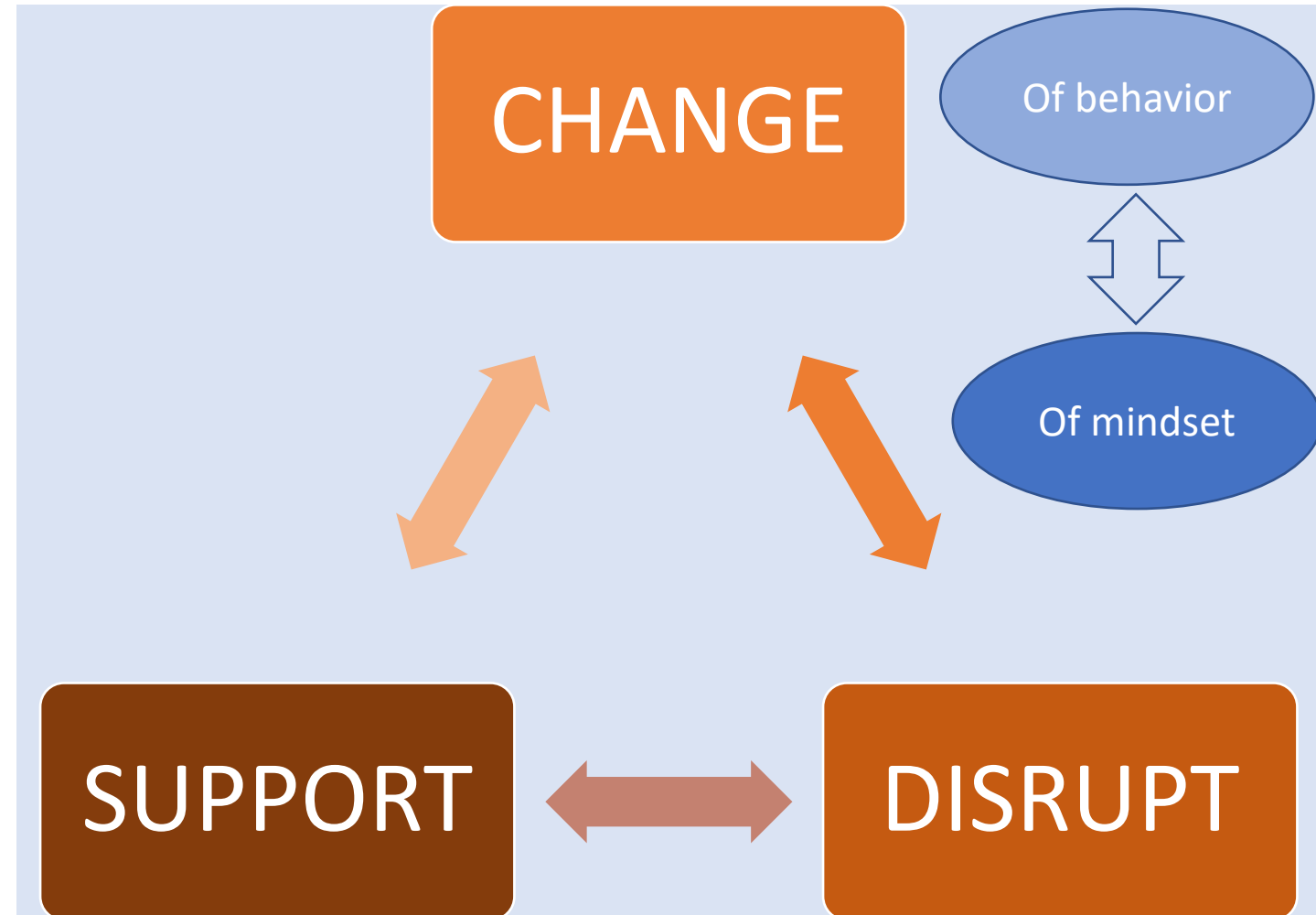




## Triangel – Work With Perpetrators

### Conditions:

- Multidisciplinary approach,
- Risk taxation – and management: ongoing
- Accountability of perpetrators starting from safety of victims
- From extrinsic to intrinsic motivation
- Hope and perspective





## Role of RJ in situations of DV?

Not to repair the relationship itself,  
but to start recovery of damage or a conversation about certain aspects:

Examples:

- Agreements about custody and raising the children
- Agreements about finances
- Agreements about respect for privacy
- Insight on the impact of violence on victims and children
- Communication about and repairing of damage
- Conversation for forgiveness





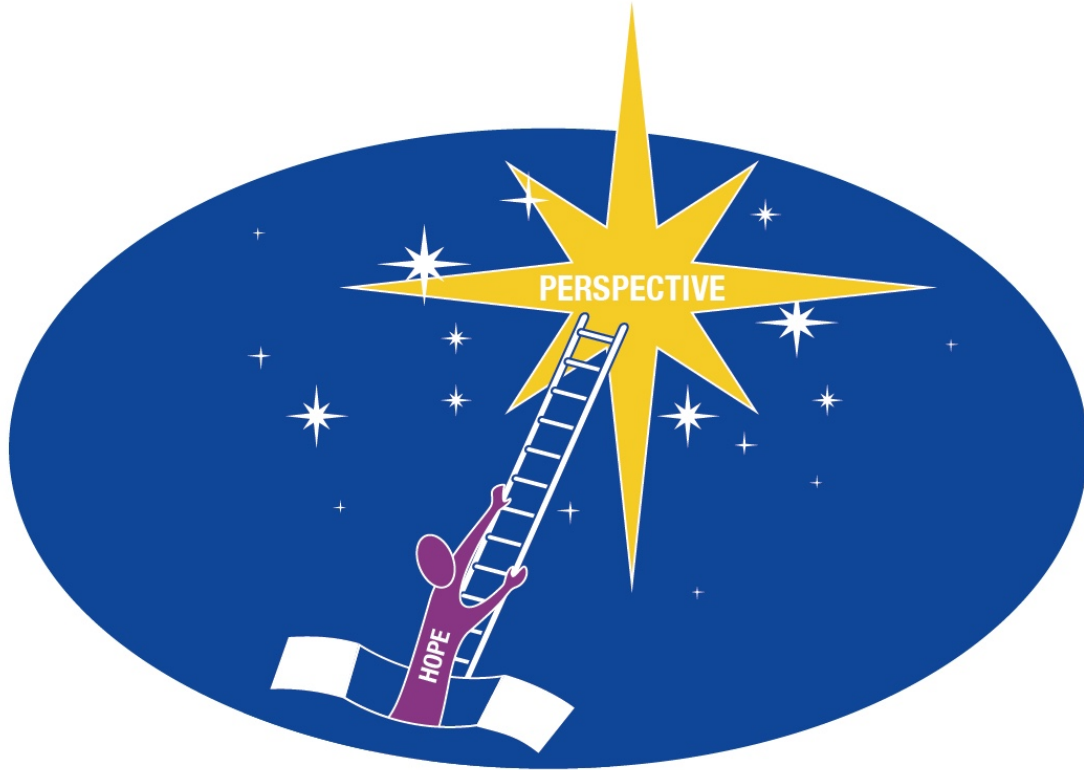
## Conditions to work with RJ in cases DV

- Violence has stopped and victims' safety is guaranteed
- Multidisciplinary collaboration
- Risk assessment and follow-up
- Never with coercion or obligatory
- Victim's interests are represented
- Follow-up of agreements made





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[p.franck@efjca.eu](mailto:p.franck@efjca.eu)  
[b.groen@efjca.eu](mailto:b.groen@efjca.eu)

[www.efjca.eu](http://www.efjca.eu)

