

MAN **BEATS** WOMAN



REACTS



RECOGNIZE VIOLENCE AND REACT

WHAT ARE SIGNS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

A woman has a partner who is overly observant.

A woman has chronic pain without obvious physical cause.

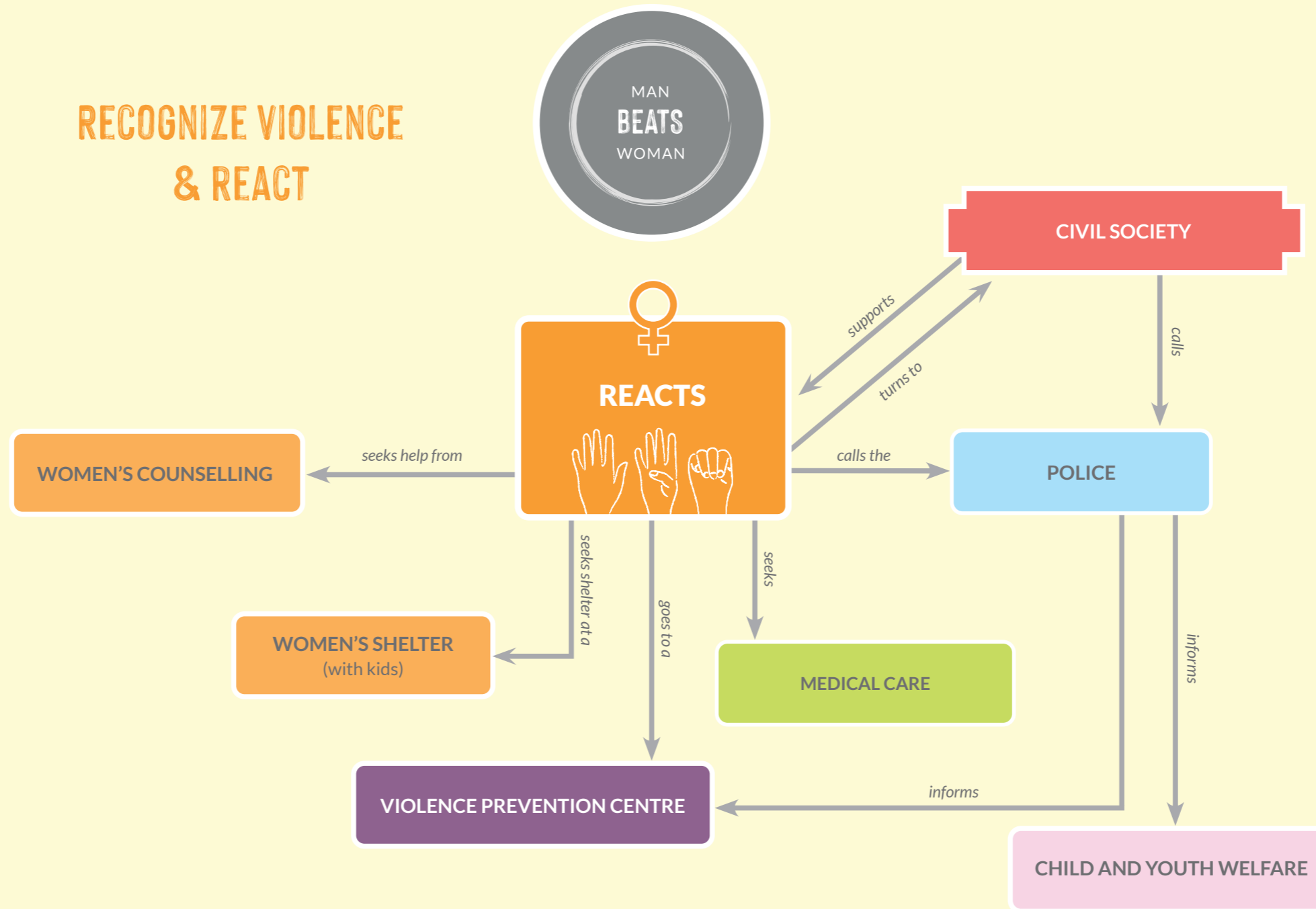
A woman has fears and panic attacks.

A woman has various injuries in different stages of healing.

THE INTERNATIONAL NON-VERBAL SIGN OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:



RECOGNIZE VIOLENCE & REACT



WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Violence against women includes verbal assault, humiliation, threats, intimidation, excessive control, stalking, isolation, sexual assault, beatings, kicks and other forms of physical violence as far as murder. Domestic violence is defined as women experiencing violence in their relationship from their partner or husband. This is the perpetrator's systematic approach to regain his secure his dominance and regain control.

HOW DO I SUPPORT A WOMAN SUFFERING FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?



Give her a sense of safety.
Create a calm atmosphere.
Listen openly impartially.
Take the woman's story seriously.
Signal your intent to help her.
Ask simple, precise questions.
Inform about offers to help.

How do I talk to a woman suffering from domestic violence?

"How do you feel at home?"

"I have a feeling, that you are not doing well"

"I see you are hurt; can I help you?"

"Nobody has the right to physically or mentally harm you."

WOMEN'S COUNSELING

All over Austria women receive free, anonymous and confidential support in women's counseling centers in all questions of life, including domestic violence. Women advisors are committed to discretion, no confidential content is given away to any governmental agency.

PUBLIC/CIVIL SOCIETY

This aspect includes everyone of us. Every person, who detects domestic violence in their surroundings should offer support and help actively. Actions everyone can take include actively talk to the affected woman, thereby letting her know, that her situation was noticed. It is also very helpful, to share information regarding women's shelters, Violence protection centres, women's counselling centres and other specialised institutions. Discretion and a careful manner of acting are vital to not endanger the victim. Helpers without training should not be discouraged by initial rejection, but rather ensure, that they are always ready to provide the help/support necessary. Frequently, the women affected by violence themselves know the best timing for changing their current situation. It is important to know that – similar to providing medical first aid – self-protection takes precedence over third-party protection. Always contact the police in case of imminent danger.

POLICE

As one of three parts of state authority, the police possess the state monopoly of violence. This enables them to legally use their weapons as well as to enter private property in cases of domestic violence. If the police are called in a case of domestic violence, they can legally ban the offender from entering the respective apartment, for up to two weeks, as well as forbid him to approach the offended for the same amount of time. The violent offender is stripped of his keys and is handed information regarding temporary housing options. The police will monitor the observance of the restrictions during the following three days. Whenever the police impose such a ban, the violence protection centre is informed, which will counsel and support the woman concerning further steps. The police will file charges against the perpetrator, in cases of mayhem, stalking or rape. The police is required to take data of all persons involved, therefore anonymity is not possible.

WOMEN'S SHELTER

Women's shelters provide protection and a place to stay for women affected by violence as well as their children in case living at home is no longer an (as safe) option. Women's shelters are always available. During their stay, women and their children are comprehensively cared for and supported for them to be able to/so that they can build up an independent life(style). In cooperation with women's counselling centres, the police and violence protection centres, women affected by violence are supported in upholding their (legal) rights. Additionally, women's shelters offer a supportive role in finding a (stable) job and (a permanent) home, debt-settlements, raising and caring for children, as well as support in case of psychological problems or a crisis. The first week of staying at a women's shelter is free of charge. After a contribution to costs can be charged, based on income. Women's shelters are funded by public authorities/the public, an anonymous stay is not possible. However, the aspects of support/what kind of support a woman receives at a women's shelter are confidential.



VIOLENCE PROTECTION CENTRE

The law requires state-wide violence protection centres (in Vienna: "intervention centre against violence"), which support victims of violence in upholding their rights. If the police issue a temporary ban, the violence protection centre is informed and will actively contact the victim, to offer support. Violence protection centres will also offer support for people actively contacting them. Further important competences of a violence protection centre are supporting the victim in achieving an extension of police-issued bans via a court injunction as well as individual counselling concerning personal protection and safety.

HEALTH CARE

The health care system is often(times) the first point of contact for women affected by violence. People affected by not only physical but also effects of psychological violence frequently turn to hospitals, practitioners, mobile carers, staff in care facilities, school or company doctors, pharmacists, psychologists, psychotherapists and more. The aspects of confidentiality guarantee an adequate manner concerning the handling of sensitive topics. Regardless, there are cases in which the health care provider is legally required to report to the authorities, for example, when a person's health or even life are in jeopardy.

A LIST OF ALL WOMEN'S COUNSELLING CENTRES, WOMEN'S SHELTERS AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION CENTRES IN LOWER AUSTRIA CAN WE FOUND AT:

www.frauenberatung-noe.at

CHILD- AND YOUTH WELFARE

Children and adolescents may also be affected by domestic violence. Even if they do not directly see or hear anything, they certainly react both physically and mentally and as a result, suffer from it. One of the tasks of Child- and Youth Welfare is the protection of children and adolescents from domestic violence and its consequences. In especially severe cases, child and youth welfare can arrange for the children's out-of-home accommodation.

Members of civil society can contact child- and youth welfare, if they suspect that children or adolescents are affected by domestic violence. Additionally, the police inform child- and youth welfare whenever they issue any bans within a family with children. Child- and youth welfare have the task to follow up on every report concerning child welfare risk by contacting the parents.

TOOLBOX

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

Women's helpline in case of violence
0800 222 555

European emergency telephone number
112

Police
133

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