

What working with violent men in intimate partner relationships has revealed about the nature of intimate partner violence in South Africa: A review of the NICRO Programme for Perpetrators of Intimate Partner Violence.

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NICRO has been working in the field of domestic violence for over twenty years. Their initial strategies like in the rest of the country focused on working with abused women on issues of advocacy for improved policy and legislation, direct counselling and support (including a court support programme and other practical support) services, large scale education and awareness, and training of service providers in supporting victims of domestic violence. Since 2000, NICRO started to research and explore the development of Programmes for Perpetrators of Intimate Partner Violence, as an additional component to their domestic violence strategy.

The organization already at that point had begun to recognize that working with the victim was not sufficient to stop the scourge of intimate partner violence in South Africa. The first NICRO psycho-educational programme for perpetrators of domestic violence was established by NICRO in Port-Elizabeth, in the Eastern Cape. The programme then rapidly expanded to Gauteng, the Western Cape, KZN, and the North West Province between the period 2001-2007. A formative evaluation of the programme began in 2004, and in 2007 another review followed.

The presentation would focus on the eye-opening findings of these two internal NICRO reviews, and what they revealed about the complex and multidimensional problem of intimate partner violence in South Africa, which has impacted on the new design of the NICRO Intimate Partner Violence Programme. The paper will further explore –*what the organization learnt about why men are violent in intimate partner relationships in South Africa? Fresh perspectives on interventions facilitating change in the behaviour of the perpetrators of such violence. What supplementing interventions are needed for the abusive man? What steps need to be taken to ensure the safety of women and children while the perpetrator is involved in a programme? What services and interventions need to be in place for the women and children? And what further interventions are needed and currently missing to solve the problem of intimate partner violence in South Africa?*