



The experience of Associazione LUI: An Italian BIP

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Giulia: Associazione LUI in the Italian Context



Gabriele: The legal framework in Italy



Jacopo: The PUM-CUAV BIP model



Associazione LUI in the Italian context

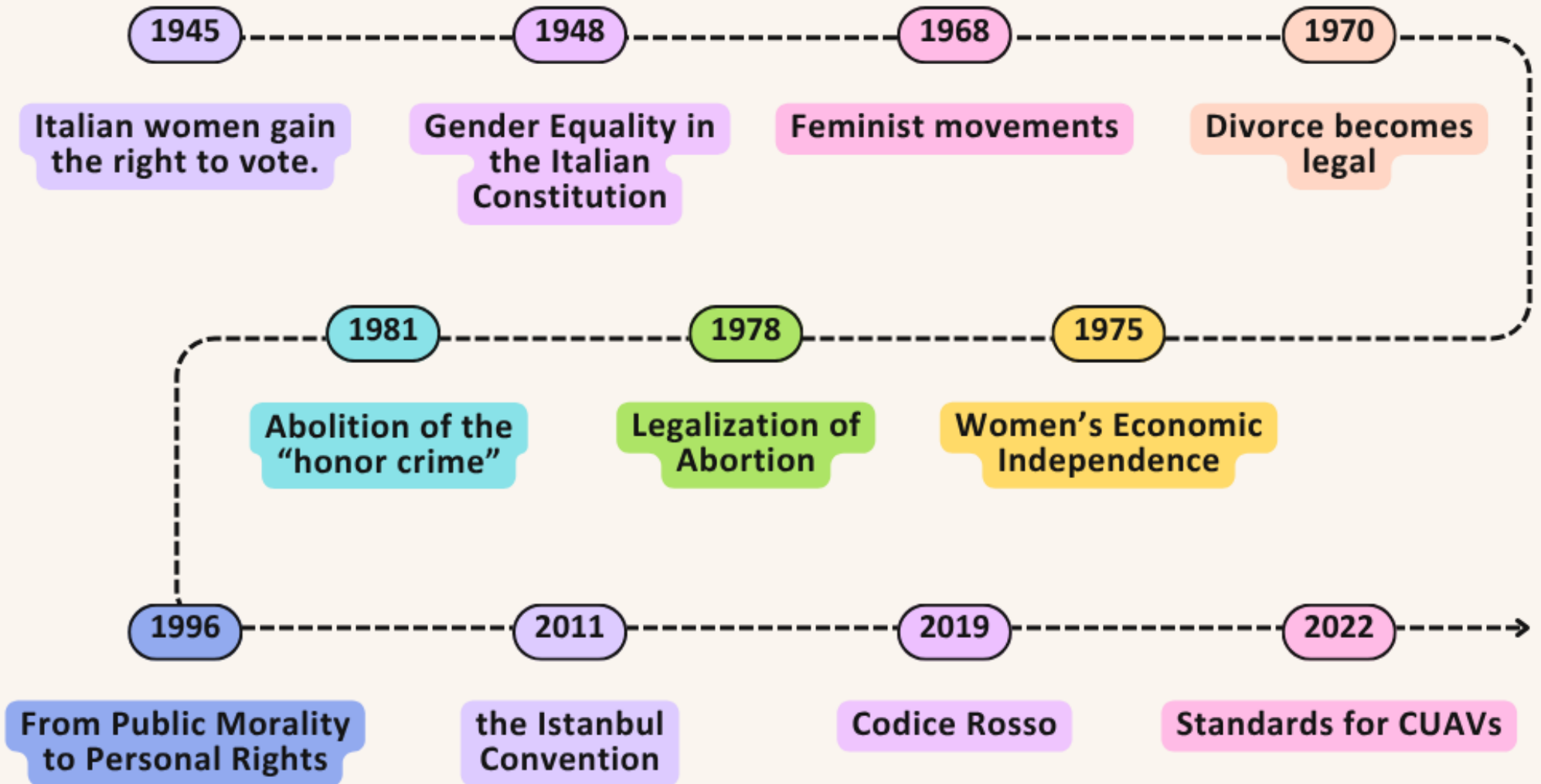
Foundation and growth of our organization



Giulia DE GIOIA
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Italy's Path to Gender Equality

Timeline of the journey toward gender equality in Italy from the post-war period to today







Once upon a time in Livorno...



2008 – Gruppo di Condivisione L.U.I. (Men's Sharing and Awareness Group)

A friendship, and a question:

What does it mean to be a man in today's Italian society?



Associazione LUI is...

Public events

engaging society in discussions and debates on gender and DV

Training programs

and workshops to promote awareness of gender stereotypes, legal and cultural issues, and positive models of masculinity.

Telephone helpline

Information
Guidance
Support

Projects

National and international
Erasmus+

Groups

Fatherhood
Male consciousness-raising group

Website

Updates, resources, and cultural recommendations related to gender and social reflection

PUM-CUAV



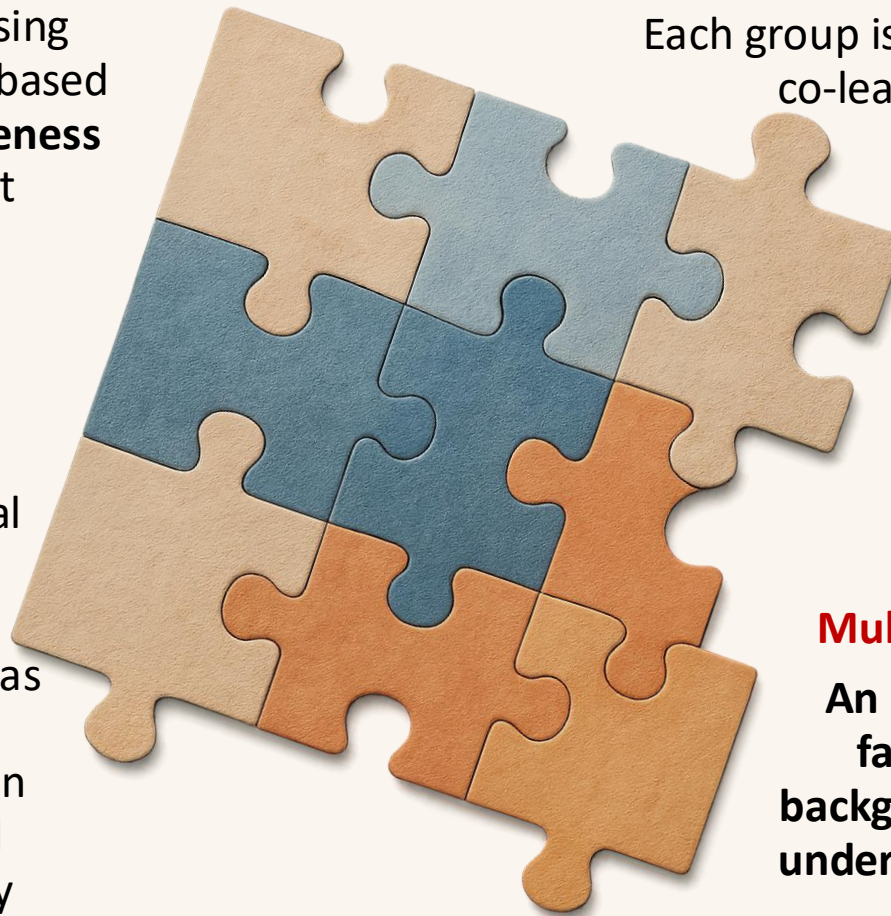


The PUM-CUAV BIP

Intervention Program for Perpetrators of Domestic, Sexual, and Gender-Based Violence

Groups meet biweekly, focusing on topics related to gender-based **stereotypes**, fostering **awareness and responsibility** for violent behavior.

The process involves a critical reflection on one's own violent actions, on common defense mechanisms—such as minimization, denial, and blaming the survivor—and on the legal responsibilities and consequences established by law.



Each group is always facilitated by two co-leaders, often with **different backgrounds**.

Multidisciplinary approach

An integrated approach by facilitators with diverse backgrounds to provide a fuller understanding of gender-based violence.



Violence Against Women in Italy: Some Numbers

2020-2023

- **Stalking** cases increased by 11% from 2020 to 2023, reaching 18,664 cases in 2023.
- **DV** rose by 13%, totaling 24,474 cases in 2023.
- **Sexual violence** saw a 35% increase, with 6,062 cases reported in 2023.

Women make up **75% of stalking survivors, 81% of DV survivors, and 91% of sexual violence survivors.**

So far in 2025...

- **60 femicides** in the first seven months of 2025, of which 38 were committed by a partner or ex-partner.
- Warnings issued by the police chief exceeded **7,571** (+70.6% compared to the same period in 2024).
- **12,192 electronic bracelets** are active, of which 5,929 are for cases of stalking.

Over eight out of ten women are killed in intimate contexts.

Sources:

- Report 8 marzo 2024, Ministero dell'Interno - Dipartimento della Pubblica Sicurezza, Direzione Centrale della Polizia Criminale;
- https://www.ansa.it/sito/notizie/cronaca/2025/10/15/la-strage-senza-fine-quasi-70-femminicidi-nel-2025_e3c89fb7-c878-4f68-a482-9aa882abe846.html 9

The italian legal framework in BIP

Notes on the framework of reference



Gabriele LESSI
Lawyer
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Introduction

- Something about **me**... random facts of life have become **causality**

- **Some data of 2025:**
 - ❑ **96% Judicials accesses** (penal, civil, juvenile, administrative)
4% Others types of access

 - ❑ clients **outside** Jail + clients **inside** Jail (7 correctional facilities)

 - ❑ Clients average **age 43**; minimum age **16**; maximum age **84**;

 - ❑ Most present **nationalities**: 1) **Italy** 2) Albania 3) Morocco



Sources of law: supranational and national

- **2 sources: Council of Europe (COE, 46 states) and Italian Republic**
- **European Union (EU, 27 states) June 1st, 2023 joined COE Istanbul Convention**
- **2011, Istanbul Convention by COE, Highlights:** - It is the first **international document** to contain a definition of gender; - It **criminalizes acts** such as female genital mutilation, forced marriage, stalking, forced abortion and forced sterilization; - It recognizes violence against women as a **violation of human rights** and a form of discrimination; - It holds **states responsible** if they do not respond adequately to this form of violence



Sources of law: COE, 2011: Article 16 of COE **Istanbul Convention**

- **GOAL**: Establish and support programmes aimed at perpetrators of acts of domestic violence, to **encourage** them to adopt non-violent behaviours in interpersonal relationships, in order to prevent further acts of violence and modify violent behavioural patterns and sexual offending
- **PRIORITIES** of such perpetrator programmes should be directed towards the **safety, support and human rights of those affected by the crime**, and should be coordinated, where possible, with specialist **victim support services**



Sources of law: The Istanbul Convention, Council of Europe (COE), 2011

- **NAME**: Council of Europe Treaty Series – No. 210, Council of Europe **Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence**, in Istanbul, 11 May 2011
- Chapter I – Objectives, definitions, equality and non-discrimination, general obligations
- Chapter II – Integrated policies and data collection
- Chapter III – **Prevention (art. 16 on BIPs)**
- Chapter IV – Protection and support
- Chapter V – Substantive law
- Chapter VI – Investigations, criminal proceedings, procedural law and protective measures
- Chapter VII – Migration and asylum
- Chapter VIII – International Cooperation
- Chapter IX – Control mechanism
- Chapter X – Relations with other international instruments
- Chapter XI – Amendments to the Convention
- Chapter XII – Final Clauses



Sources of law: Italy, The first italian legislation against **stalking**: **Law n. 38/2009**

- art. **612-bis** c.p.
- **warning** procedure (aggravated crime if warning is not respected)
- **national free helpline number 1522**



Sources of law: Italy, The first BIP intervention with italian **Law n. 119/2013**

STARTING ADAPTATION-HARMONIZATION of Italian legislation to the **standards of the Istanbul Convention**:

- Introduction of the concept of **child-witnessed violence**
- **Increased penalties** for domestic, sexual and gender-based violence crimes
- **State-funded legal aid for all victims** of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence
- Ability to **modify the precautionary measure** if the defendant successfully **undergoes a violence prevention program (BIP)** indicated by the social welfare services of the territory, the person responsible for the service communicates this to the public prosecutor, the judge and the person injured by the crime for the evaluation purposes



Sources of law: Italy, The first BIP intervention with italian **Law n. 119/2013** %

- **Residence permit for foreign citizens** who are victims of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence
- **Free legal court defense for survivors** of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence (in charge of the State)
- Established stable **Government Economic Action Plan** to Support Women's Anti-Violence Centers, Shelters home and Centers for Perpetrators of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (BIPs)
- Strengthening of the **warning of the Police Commissioner extended** to cases of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence (not only stalking)



Sources of law: Italy, The Red Code with italian **Law n. 69/2019**

- **Obligation to attend a program (BIP) for perpetrators** of domestic, sexual and gender violence for those who request **conditional suspension of sentences for crimes punishable by up to two years of imprisonment**, with costs borne by the participant
- **Introduction of new criminal offences:** deformation of a person's appearance through **permanent facial injuries**, illicit dissemination of **sexually explicit** images or videos, coercion or induction into **marriage**, violation of **orders** to remove oneself from the family home and the prohibition on approaching places frequented by the injured party, increased penalty for the crime of mistreatment against family members or cohabitants with **special aggravating circumstance** for **violence witnessed by minors**



Sources of law: Italy, The Red Code with italian **Law n. 69/2019** %

- **Harsher penalties for crimes** of mistreatment against family members or cohabitants, stalking, sexual violence, sexual acts with minors
- The judicial police, having acquired the news of the crime, shall immediately **report to the public prosecutor for the request for precautionary measures, even in oral form**; the oral communication shall be followed without delay by the written one
- The public prosecutor **must hear the survivor** of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence crimes **within 3 days** from the news of the crime
- Introduction of the **electronic bracelet** device to control the prohibition of approaching the injured person by the perpetrator
- Introduction of the **obligation of at least one year of observation** treatment for prisoners for domestic, sexual and gender-based violence crimes before accessing any penitentiary benefits
- **Mandatory training for the judicial police** on the prosecution of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence crimes



Sources of law: Italy, The government **minimum criteria** of the CUAV (BIP) of **2022**

In 2021, **Associazione LUI** was summoned by Italian public institutions to write the **draft of minimum criteria** for Italian BIPs. Draft that became official with the **government act** between State and the Italian Regions of **14 September 2022**:

- **Definition of CUAV (BIP)**, *Center for men who are perpetrators or potential perpetrators of domestic, sexual and gender violence*
- Definition of the **objectives** of the CUAV: **Responsibility-Accountability, Stereotypes and Defense Mechanisms, Empathy and Effects of violence, Awareness (4 'PILLARS')**
- **Who can create** a CUAV recognized by law
- **Networking** with other anti-violence services
- In any case, the application of any **mediation technique between the perpetrator of violence and the victim is excluded**, and, in the event that activities involving the victims are carried out, such as "**partner contact**", the separation of the programs and environments is ensured.



Sources of law: Italy, The government establishes **minimum criteria** of the CUAV (BIP) of **2022**

%

- **Multidisciplinarity** is required within the work team (males and females), ensuring that CUAV can provide adequate responses to complex needs; **Eligible professionals:** *psychotherapist or psychologist, professional educator, social worker, psychiatrist, lawyer, intercultural mediator, linguistic-cultural mediator, criminologist, other professionals with adequate training*
- **Training or Training curriculum of the staff** must include a **minimum of 120 hours (60 theory + 60 observation)** of which at least 60 hours of support for the operators employed in the CUAV (both for volunteers and for paid staff) + Annual continuing education
- **Types of access** to CUAV: over 18 years of age or minors if the service is specialized for the latter; **volunteers, demanded by the judge, warned by the police commissioner, involved in legal proceedings of family or juvenile law, detained in prison**



Sources of law: Italy, The government **minimum criteria** of the CUAV (BIP) of **2022**
%

- Interviews to **assess motivation** and **assess risk** prior to inclusion in the **individual and/or group** program
- **Minimum CUAV Curriculum:** at least **60 hours** of program in at least **12 months**;
The structure of the program, the way it is carried out and its duration are **defined by the observing team** and the operator in charge of the subject on the basis of elements characterizing the individual situation
- The CUAV can **certify** that the user has undertaken or completed a program. This certification has **no value** as an evaluation of the program and/or of the actual change of the perpetrator of violence
- **Safety of survivors** (or rather, offended persons) with integrated services of the Territorial Anti-Violence Network (Partner contact and recognition of damages suffered by minors)
- **Monitoring activities** and **information flow** to public institutions
- **Public Lists of CUAVs** that comply with legal requirements



Sources of law: Italy, "The Roccella Reform" with Italian Law n. 168/2023

- Strengthening of the Police Commissioner's warning procedure with the inclusion of **spy crimes** indicating gender-based violence (e.g. damage and other crimes based on a complaint). **Revocation of warning only after positive CUAV result (BIP)**
- Strengthening **prevention measures** for socially dangerous individuals
- **Priority in scheduling trials** for domestic, sexual and gender-based violence crimes
- **Automatic precautionary measure** for cases of domestic, sexual and gender violence with the judge's obligation to justify the failure to lapse
- **Mandatory training for judges** on the subject of combating domestic, sexual and gender-based violence
- Increased penalties for **violation** of family abuse protection orders



Sources of law: Italy, "The Roccella Reform" with Italian Law n. 168/2023 %

- **Obligation to inform the person injured** by domestic, sexual and gender-based violence crimes on the termination of imprisonment, termination of protection or precautionary measures (possibility of requesting dynamic surveillance)
- Strengthening of the obligations for the granting of conditional suspension of sentences for crimes: obligation of **meetings at least twice a week** and **emergency procedure** with the judicial system for **any violation** of the CUAV program (BIP) for the revocation of the conditional suspension (**ART. 15, to be read in coordination with the minimum criteria** of the CUAV (BIP) by adapting the new standard of biweekly to all cases of clients with sentences with conditional suspension of the sentence from 9 December 2023)
- **Compensation** for victims of intentional violent crimes and temporary relief pending the end of the trial
- **Recognition and activities** of the organizations and associations organizing **recovery courses for offenders CUAV (BIP)**



Sources of law: Italy, "The Roccella Reform" with Italian **Law n. 168/2023** %

- **Art 18**: reference to the Ministry of Justice Decree to establish the accreditation of CUAVs with the Ministry and national guidelines

Ministry of Justice decree on CUAV accreditation at the Ministry of Justice, March 2025

- Notion of "**criminal**" CUAV: conditional suspension of the sentence and modification of precautionary measures
- Creation of list of CUAVs accredited by the **Ministry of Justice**
- **Requirements** for entities that can create a CUAV: minimum Intesa 2022 requirements, CUAV continuity, statutory and budgetary prevalence over the purpose of art. 16 Istanbul Convention
- **Procedure for connecting** regional lists to the Ministry and direct registration procedure with the Ministry
- **Honourability requirements** for CUAV directors, members and associates
- **Causes of suspension or cancellation** of the CUAV ministerial list: registration and confirmation, continuous training, maintenance of all requirements
- **Continuation** of the program at another CUAV if there is a cancellation



CUAV (BIP) National Guidelines, March 2025

- **Confirmation** of the **minimum CUAV criteria of 2022**
- Networking and **multidisciplinary** facilitators
- **Access, definition of the program and implementation** in close connection with the judicial authority and judicial services
- **Modification** of the program and suspension or interruption of the course in close connection with the judicial authority
- **Safety of the survivor**: no mediation, contact with partners, separation of services for survivors and perpetrators
- **Assessments** of the course carried out by the multidisciplinary team
- **Obligations and communications**: only after taking charge, specific procedure art. 165/5 of the Criminal Code, for precautionary measures involving the public prosecutor and judge in preliminary investigations
- **Network operating protocols** must comply with the guidelines and, if already in progress, apply to the parts not incompatible with the ministerial decree and guidelines



Sources of law: Italy, Further italian legal perspectives

Government bill "**Rocella bis**" n. 1433 of 31 March 2025 for approval by the Italian Parliament:

Introduction of the crime of "**Femicide**" into the penal code, differentiating it from that of homicide due to its peculiar connotation: *anyone who causes the death of a woman when the act is committed as an act of discrimination or hatred towards the offended person because she is a woman or to repress the exercise of her rights or freedoms or, in any case, the expression of her personality, is punished with life imprisonment*

And much more... **THANK YOU.**

The PUM-CUAV Italian BIP Model

Focusing on the re-educational-treatment program of Associazione LUI



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Co-founder and Co-director of Associazione LUI
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The PUM-CUAV Italian BIP Model

Focusing on the re-educational treatment program of Associazione LUI

Associazione Ippogrifo

Center for Battered Women and Shelter
Livorno, Italy

*ANTI-VIOLENCE ORIENTATION
AND EMPOWERMENT*

Acronym: **Anti-Violence OR.E**

co-financed by the **Council of Ministers** –
Equal Opportunities Department (ITALY)



The PUM-CUAV Italian BIP Model

Focusing on the re-educational treatment program of Associazione LUI



**Main inspirations for our
P.U.M. Curriculum
Of ASSOCIAZIONE LUI**

Acronym:
Programma Uomini Maltrattanti
*Program for Men who Perpetrated DV
(from penal crime, art. 572 c.p.)*

The PUM-CUAV Italian BIP Model

Focusing on the re-educational treatment program of Associazione LUI

WHO IS THE CLIENT?

>MEN (92%)

<WOMEN (8%)



- ✓ Warned for stalking
- ✓ Civil Court judge ruling for the person who received allegations about the family situation
- ✓ Voluntary participation due to civil court proceedings
- ✓ Voluntary participation
- ✓ Criminally indictable volunteer
- ✓ Voluntary participation due to juvenile court hearing
- ✓ Person who has been convicted and given a sentence

The PUM-CUAV Italian BIP Model

Focusing on the re-educational treatment program of Associazione LUI

PUM-CUAV

the programme runs for
52 weeks

Different duration based on law procedure (biweekly sessions for probation),
All cases minimum 60h in 12 months

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- ❑ Clients **age**: Average **43**; minimum **16**; maximum **84**;
- ❑ > Clients **nationality**: **68%** Italy, **6%** Albania, **5%** Morocco;
- ❑ > **Crimes** type: **41%** abuse, **22%** lesions, **19%** stalking;





The PUM-CUAV Italian BIP Model

Focusing on the re-educational treatment program of Associazione LUI

Individual Part:

The Curriculum

- Focus on Personal data
- Focus on Health/Psychological aspects
- Focus on Educational-Cultural-Religious aspects
- Legal Aspect
- Focus on Survivor
- Focus on Behavioral and Criminological aspects
- Focus on Risk Assessment



Group Part:

- 2 Tests
- **(4 PILLARS):**
 - Accountability
 - Awareness
 - Stereotypes
 - Empathy



The PUM-CUAV Italian BIP Model

Focusing on the re-educational treatment program of Associazione LUI

Intesa Stato Regioni: minimum standard 60 hours in 12 months

GOALS:

1. **Accountability** - taking responsibility for the violence committed, through a critical review of defensive attitudes (denial, minimization, victim blaming, use of gender stereotypes)
2. **Awareness** - developing an awareness of the harmful effects that violence has on people's health, on parental function, growth and psychophysical development of boys and girls
3. **Stereotypes** – promoting a critical reflection on male identity and the idea of virility and its interconnections with gender-based violence, while deconstructing stereotypes and hostile attitudes towards women
4. **Empathy** – developing an awareness of oneself, of others and of the relationship to improve the management of impulses, negative and destructive affective and emotional states, to expansion of repertoire of constructive and cooperative relational skills and tools



The PUM-CUAV Italian BIP Model

Focusing on the re-educational treatment program of Associazione LUI

Possible Similarities

(with some US BIP models)

Pro-feminist approach

Group model treatment

Open Groups

Payment services

2 Co-Leaders (minimum)

Multidisciplinary Staff and
obligation of Training and
observation

Work outside/inside Jails



Possible Differences

(with some US BIP models)

No different Group based on
Ethnicity, Religion or LGBTQ+

Big intercorrelations with law
procedures

Motivational profiles

4 'pillar' goals given by the law

Evaluation form/Postural
assessment

Type of eligible Professionals strictly
provided by the law

Biweekly meetings for probation
clients

Thank you for listening!



(See you in Italy! )