COMPARATIVE SOCIO-CULTURAL ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE EUROPEAN NORTH (ARKHANGELSK REGION AND FINLAND)

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ABSTRACT

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This Master’s thesis demonstrates the analysis of the situation of domestic violence in the European North (Finland and Arkhangelsk region, European North of Russia). The objective is to find out features, socio-cultural characteristics of the Russian and Finnish social protection system and the system of prevention in situations of domestic violence. The practical part of the study consists of an analysis of the normative legal documents of the Russian and Finnish law systems, reports and publications. With the objective to collect statistical data about crimes committed inside the family on the Russian side, use was made of the reports of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, the Arkhangelsk Regional Bureau of Forensic-Medical Expertise, the Department for Oversight of Execution of Laws concerning Juvenile and Youth of the Prosecutor of Arkhangelsk region, the Regional Direction of the Investigative Committee of Russian Federation, the Committee of Public Health Services and Social Issues of The Regional Assembly of Deputies. For statistics on the Finnish situation, the following were used: the EU’s Fundamental Rights Agency, the Fundamental Rights Agency of Finland, the National Institute for Health and Welfare of Finland, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland, the Advisory Board on Conciliation in Criminal Matters, Statistics Finland for the last five years.

We formulated the next research questions: (1) are there any differences in understanding the term of ‘domestic violence’ in the Russian and Finnish societies? (2) what kind of attention is paid to the problem of domestic violence by both countries? (3) how is domestic violence addressed in the legislation of both countries? (4) are there any differences in the Russian and Finnish systems of assistance and systems of prevention in situations of domestic violence?

Comparative analysis was used as the main method. The comparative criteria considered in this study were the following: (1) the understanding of term ‘domestic violence’; (2) reflections of the situation of domestic violence (data, statistics of sex offences in the private area); (3) the system of legal protection (the legislation mechanisms of protection in situations of domestic violence); (4) the organization of assistance in situations of violence (system of social services, social assistance, social mechanisms of protection in situations of domestic violence); (5) the organization of preventive work against domestic violence (the role of different kinds of specialist who render the services (medical, pedagogical, social, and legal) to the person). Besides, the main regulations on the theoretical concepts of application of modern social work methods with the victims of violence were considered.

The received results confirm the importance and acute need to improve the system of inter-institutional cooperation (medical, pedagogical, social, and legal services) for early detection of domestic violence at least in the Arkhangelsk region, Russia.

Keywords: domestic violence, abuse, violation of human rights, victim of violence, socio-cultural features of domestic violence, legal protection, assistance for victims of domestic violence.
## CONTENTS

CONTENTS ............................................................................................................................................... 3  

1. INTRODUCTION ................................................................................................................................... 4  

2. THEORETICAL ASPECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ............................................................ 6  
   2.1. Domestic violence as a social problem of human society ......................................................... 6  
   2.2. Causes and factors of domestic violence ...................................................................................... 11  
   2.3. Status of domestic violence in international documents ............................................................. 12  
   2.4. Basis of social work with victims of domestic violence ............................................................... 16  

3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND PURPOSE .......................................................................................... 18  

4. METHODS AND PROCEDURES ........................................................................................................... 19  

5. SOCIO-CULTURAL FEATURES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE RUSSIAN SOCIETY (ARKHANGELSK REGION) .................................................................................................................. 21  
   5.1. Situation of domestic violence in the Arhangelsk region ............................................................... 21  
   5.2. System of legal protection in situations of domestic violence in the Russian Federation and Arkhangelsk region .................................................................................................................................................. 27  
   5.3. System of assistance in situations of domestic violence ............................................................... 31  
   5.4. Organization of preventive work against domestic violence ......................................................... 36  

6. SOCIO-CULTURAL FEATURES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN FINLAND ........................................ 38  
   6.1. Situation of domestic violence in Finland ..................................................................................... 38  
   6.2. System of legal protection in situations of domestic violence in Finland .................................... 43  
   6.3. System of assistance in situations of domestic violence in Finland ............................................. 52  
   6.4. Organization of preventive work against violence ....................................................................... 55  

7. COMPARATIVE SOCIO-CULTURAL ANALYSIS OF SITUATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (FINLAND AND ARKHANGELSK REGION) .............................................................................................................. 58  

8. DISCUSSION ......................................................................................................................................... 62  
   8.1. Conclusion ..................................................................................................................................... 62  
   8.2. Evaluation of the study .................................................................................................................. 65  

LIST OF REFERENCES ................................................................................................................................ 68
1. INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence was considered one of the most crucial social problems that received a negative estimate from society in America and Europe only in the 1960s and 70s. [30] The time was well-known for the struggle of black American women for their rights. The new wave of feminism with the ideas of legal gender equality of men and women was central in that period. Public consciousness with the development of humanistic ideas and its influence on all areas of society had already deemed it unacceptable to keep silent about domestic violence. The existence of such phenomena as corporal punishment of children, cruelty to the elderly, violence against women and other forms of family violence gave rise to lots of ethical, legal, social and other problems in society. Sociological studies on domestic violence also took place in this case: studies on its negative effects, descriptions of the phenomenology of violence, classifications of its forms. Whenever we talk about damage to human being in a situation of domestic violence, it is necessary to solve two main problems: (1) the problem of diagnosis and rehabilitation, and (2) the prevention and overcoming of violence. [12]

Domestic violence breaks a number of human rights - the right of every person to get equal protection of the law and protection against sex discrimination, the right not to suffer abuse, the right to live, the right of physical integrity, and the right to the highest standard of physical and mental health. Due to the dynamic effects of the international human rights organizations (especially women) during the past twenty years, our knowledge about human rights has expanded significantly. The responsibility of governments in cases of domestic violence has changed. It used to be so that the government was only responsible for the actions of their government bodies, but not for the actions of individuals. Today, the principle of "complicity" is used: the government is responsible for systematic failure to prevent or stop the violation of human rights (including in the private sector) in front of the international community.[58]

The problem of domestic violence has spread because of an insufficient effective system of violence detection and reporting of cases of domestic abuse, the lack of the necessary knowledge and skills of professionals for its prevention and social assistance.[68]

The aim of this study is to find out features of legal and family social policy in situations of domestic violence in the Russian and Finnish societies. This investigation
also reflects the mechanisms of the assistance systems for people who have become victims of domestic violence. 

Chapter 2 “Theoretical aspects of domestic violence” aims to summarize different theoretical approaches to understanding domestic violence as a social problem of human society, to analyse its causes and factors, and to define the status of domestic violence in international legislation. Here I present the theoretical aspects of domestic violence to demonstrate domestic violence first of all as a social problem. The causes and factors of domestic violence in relationships will also be explored.

In Chapter 3, I present the research questions of the study and the main criteria used in the socio-cultural analysis of the situation of domestic violence (Finland and Arkhangelsk region). The chosen region and country are also explained in this chapter.

Chapter 4 discusses the methods and the research procedure and characterizes the practical part of the study.

Chapters 5 and 6 make an attempt to describe the situation and support system in cases of domestic violence in Russia (Arkhangelsk region) and Finland.

Chapter 7 presents the comparative socio-cultural analysis of the situation of domestic violence carried out by investigating the situation of domestic violence, legislation and system of social assistance in Finland and the Arkhangelsk region.

In the last Chapter 8 “Discussion” I present the results and conclusions about the comparative socio-cultural analysis of the situation of domestic violence (in Finland and the Arkhangelsk region).
2. THEORETICAL ASPECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

2.1. Domestic violence as a social problem of human society

Domestic violence is a complex social problem. In many cases the solution depends on the features of the methods and technologies used to assist the victims of domestic violence. It also depends on the existing social legislation as a part of national internal government policy. Every society has its own understanding of the term ‘domestic violence’ according to its own cultural context. The meaning of “violence” changes over time and reflects shifting power relationships (Muehlenhard & Kimes, 1999). Lenore Walker, researcher, psychologist and expert in the problem of domestic violence, has underlined in her works that a family conflict could be categorized as domestic violence, but it is necessary that it has repeated at least twice. The conflict usually has a certain concrete problem which can be resolved. In "a chronic" situation of domestic violence, one person constantly controls or tries to control and operate by the behavior and feelings of the other one, and therefore the person exposed to violence can receive psychological, social, economic, sexual or physical harm or trauma. [72]

Another basic difference between domestic violence and other aggressive acts is related to the features of the relations between the object and subject of the violent acts. [31] Differently from a crime committed in the street by a stranger, domestic violence takes place in relations between close people such as married couples or close partners, ex-spouses, parents, children, other relatives, people who have been engaged or are going to get married. In view of the aforesaid, we can formulate a basic definition. Domestic violence is a repeating cycle of physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and economic insults against relatives for the purpose of establishing power and control over them. [68]

The World Health Organization defines violence as deliberate use of physical force or authority, actual or in the form of the threat, directed against oneself, against another person, a group of people or a community which results (or there is a high degree of probability of it) in a psychological trauma, physical injuries, deviations in development, any kind of damage or death. [91] The conception used by the WHO underlines the premeditation and actual fulfillment of an act of violence irrespective of its result. According to this definition, there is no violence in deliberate accidents, such as physical injuries as a result of road and transport incidents or burns. [61]
One of the reasons for resumption of domestic violence from generation to generation is the gendered tendency of upbringing where the behavior of girls is limited to a greater degree than that of boys, implanting inferiority in them, and in boys - superiority. The girls are brought up physically and psychologically defenseless, giving them a feeling of a second grade person. Since childhood the complex of a fault not only for "disreputable behavior for girls", but also criminal behavior of boys is imposed on girls. If a boy behaves badly at the present time, it means that parents are allowing it. As a result, it appears that the woman is guilty in a situation of rape and for this reason the person is undergoing violence from the partner for years. [30]

Violence is not only about physical actions against a person that leads to pain and traumas. The following forms of domestic violence have been identified:
- Physical (assault, other forms of physical injuries). Physical abuse is about the use of physical force against someone in a way that injures or endangers that person. Physical assault or battering is a crime, whether it occurs inside or outside of the family. The consequences of physical violence are expressed in the so-called «syndrome of the beaten woman» - a certain mental condition that appears as a result of years of tortures and insults. For the first time this syndrome was explained by the well-known expert in the field of domestic violence, Lenor Walker (EdD, a professor at Nova Southeastern University Centre for Psychological Studies specializing in work with the victims of domestic violence, particularly battered women and abused children). [90] A person in this condition feels helpless. Such a person considers that she cannot be responsible for her own life. The combination of social conditions - such as absence of an independent source of income, pressure from outside, both societies, relatives constantly reminding of family duties, and also the absence of a safe place where one can be in safety - all those together cause the person to live in intolerable conditions and suffer. [47]
- Psychological (verbal insult, threats, humiliations, etc.). [50] A dangerous and widespread kind of violence is psychological violence - violence by verbal and mental means, disparagement, insult, scornful relation leads to loss of self-esteem, reproaches, swearing, including rude words, intimidation.. Psychological violence consists of deliberate, periodic or constant mental influence of one member of the family on another, for the purpose of establishment of power and control. It can be manifest in ignoring the psychological requirements of the person: requirements for safety, decision-making, self-development and self-realization, isolation – such as tight control over the sphere of communication of the person, prohibition of communication with
friends, colleagues, relatives, in certain cases prohibition of communication with children; constant threats and humiliation; destruction of the personal space of the person, irony, sneers, sarcasm; desire to put the partner in an awkward situation and show other people that he is lacking a partner; the unwillingness of the husband to show an attentive, caring attitude (emotional coldness). The person intentionally depreciates her and she becomes an outsider in her own family. [30]

- Economic (prohibition to go to work or compulsion to leave work, full control of the expenses of the person). An abuser’s goal is to be in control, and he or she will frequently use money to do so.[69] Economic or financial abuse includes rigid control over the finances, withholding money or credit cards, making account for every penny spent, withholding basic necessities (food, clothes, medications, shelter), restricting to an allowance, preventing from working or choosing own career, sabotaging job (doing miss work, calling constantly), stealing or taking money. [48]

- Sexual (imposed sexual contact). Sexual abuse is a situation where someone is forced to participate in unwanted, unsafe, or degrading sexual activity. Forced sex, even by a spouse or intimate partner with whom one also has consensual sex, is an act of aggression and violence. In case of conjugal relationships, physical violence is closely connected with sexual violence, thus, the tougher the form of sexual violence, the stronger this connection is. Sexual violence is a sexual act without mutual consent, against desire, with use of physical force, threats and perpetration; after an assault using sex as means of humiliation and insult. It can be a sexual commerce as a result of force by the man or continued pressure from his side; a perpetration of sexual actions without an agreement of the woman; a compulsion of the partner to unacceptable ways for her sexual preferences. Sexual aggression is a difficult and multilevel phenomenon. It is evident in three basic forms: sexual harassment, compulsion and abuse. Sexual harassment is an obtrusive molestation in the form of physical contact or verbal remarks and offers, in spite of clearly expressed unwillingness of the woman. Sexual harassments are often connected with abuse of power. [10]

The experience of sexual violence is considered to expose women to increased vulnerabilities. These vulnerabilities arise from the act of violence itself and its nature, which deeply violates the intimacy of the other person and her right to decide upon her own sexuality. They are further aggravated by the consequences of falling victim to sexual violence. There are four dimensions to these consequences, i.e. 1) the consequences of the primary victim experience, 2) secondary victimization, 3) indirect
victimization and 4) vulnerability (Walklate 2007; Honkatukia 2010). All these
dimensions of the victim experience can be linked to the sexual violence victim
experience, which can have direct economic, physical, emotional and social impacts,
including trauma, absenteeism, and physical injury. The victims of violence may have
secondary experiences of victimization as they have to deal with the authorities at
different stages of the criminal process. A cynical attitude on the part of the authorities,
for instance, may cause the victim to think that they have not been treated fairly, or that
they have not received all the information, support or advice that they need. Indirect
victimization may be experienced by the friends and family of the victim of rape, for
instance: they will not have experienced the crime first hand, but still have to deal with
its consequences at a personal level. The vulnerabilities created by the violence will
determine what kinds of consequences flow from primary, secondary and indirect
victimization. Each situation of violence determines what kind of help and support is
needed by the victim. [1]

- Neglect of a child’s interests and needs is a separate kind of violence relative to the
  child most of all (the absence of due support of the basic needs of the child in terms of
  food, clothes, domicile, education, medical aid from parents or their guardians for
  reasons of poverty, mental illnesses and etc.).[27]

Talking about domestic violence it is important to mention Dr. Lenore E. A. Walker. In
her book “The Battered Woman Syndrome”, she hypothesised that spousal abuse
generally occurred in cycles characterised by varying degrees of severity. [90] She
argued that in the first ‘tension building’ stage, the victim will be exposed to verbal
and/or emotional abuse and minor incidents of physical violence, such as slapping. In
response, the victim may attempt to pacify her abuser utilising techniques which have
been effective in the past. Walker theorised that although the woman’s primary
objective is to avoid future conflict and her actions during this phase are aimed at
furthering this objective, her passivity will most often reinforce the abusers violent
tendencies and the tension in the relationship will continue until it culminates in the
second stage – the acute battering incident. Although Walker acknowledged that the
severity of violence used in this phase would vary, she argued it was at this time that the
victim’s sense of fear and perceptions of danger were in their most heightened state as
was the risk of death or serious injury. The discharge of tension in the second stage,
according to Walker, would invariably lead to a third phase of ‘loving contrition’ where
the batterer would exhibit conciliatory behaviours and may attempt to convince the
victim of their intentions to change. Although it was not clear from the results of the study precisely how many times a victim must go through this cycle before they might be classified as suffering from BWS, Walker has since argued that once is sufficient for symptoms characteristic of the syndrome to appear and for the victim to fall into the patterns of the behaviour she identified as indicative of “learned helplessness”. The static model of “learned helplessness” is contradicted by the fact that the violence, and the woman’s reaction to it, often changes over time. The first episode of violence is generally minor; victims may be surprised and shocked, and may not anticipate that it will occur again. [90]

Abusers are able to control their behavior. Abusers pick and choose whom to abuse. They don’t insult, threaten, or assault everyone in their life who gives them grief. Usually, they save their abuse for close people, ones they claim to love. Abusers carefully choose when and where to abuse. They control themselves until no one else is around to see their abusive behavior. They may act like everything is fine in public, but the lash out instantly when she/he stays alone. Abusers are able to stop their abusive behavior when it benefits them. Most abusers are not out of control. [77]

The consequences of long-standing violence are also visible in the official statistics. Homicides against women also differ from those against men in that they are rarely the first act of violence committed by the same perpetrator.[5]

Taking into account the complexity of human nature, the features of social interaction and the nature of the family as part of society, it is necessary to consider all the variety of families, individual characteristics of their members and those social deviations which closely intertwine and lead to violence. All of it also attaches special meaning to the mutual influence of people on each other and to their acts which precede violence and follow with it. [10]

Thus, violence is a problem that should be noticed. Any violence is destructive to the development of a person. Violence is an action used as a means to achieve absolute power over another person, complete control of the behavior, thoughts, and feelings of the other person. Ways to achieve similar power and control include humiliation, insults, threats, intimidation, manipulations, blackmail, threat of physical influence, excessive restriction, and the use of physical, psychological, sexual and economic violence. [30]

Official statistical data in many countries does not distinguish domestic violence as an independent category. This makes a considerable part of data on criminality hidden.
from reality. As a result, types of domestic violence are difficult to define. Lack of data about the scale of domestic violence leads to an inability to draw wide attention to this social phenomenon.

2.2. Causes and factors of domestic violence

Nowadays domestic violence is allocated as a special subject in the theory and practice of social work. Violent acts by members of a family against close people take place in all societies, but they have not always been considered a social problem. In certain historical periods, violence has been legitimate and portrayed in culture, social symbols, traditions, rituals and etc.[82] The justification or condemnation of violence depends on the social orientation of a society, and accordingly can amplify or weaken. The reasons for display of violence are numerous enough. [4] It can be defined by a combination of various factors. It is impossible to name one of them separately as responsible for a given phenomenon, therefore it is accepted to consider the reasons and violence factors as a whole. Violence has a sociocultural nature, and it is an integral part of stereotypical representations about the essence of family relationships. One of the reasons for the risk of violence against women is the strict system of gender roles. The tendency of the man in any life conditions to hold the position of the breadwinner and basic provider of a family lays provides the basis for conditions of tight psychological and economic pressure. In case of failure this can lead to alcoholism, life expectancy reduction in comparison with women, and high suicide rates. Thus, behavior connected with violence can be integrated into the masculine identity initially connected with the necessity to earn, to conduct aggressively in the world. Violence in this context appears only as a way of self-affirmation - a man can assert himself by a strong feeling. Cruel behavior can be a result of the life experience of an individual and such relationships can create a moral and psychological basis in which such relationships are considered normal. [52]

On a more general level the reasons for the appearance of violence can conditionally be divided into three groups: (1) reasons caused by the features of the aggressor and history of life; (2) reasons caused by the history of life and personal features of the victim; (3) reasons caused by the features of domestic relations. [25] Each of the reasons can become defining, or together can lead to domestic violence.
1. The most typical reasons for domestic violence connected with the person of the man include: a parental scenario where the father beats the mother; the man in the childhood was a victim of domestic violence; a strict traditional point of view on the position of the man and woman in the family.

2. For women reasons connected with an unfavourable life situation in a parental family, also appear as risk factors. If a girl grows up in a family where the father regularly beats the mother, she unconsciously learns this model of relations between the man and woman, estimates it as available and agrees to violence in her future marriage.

3. The third group of the reasons for domestic violence in relation to a person includes the factors caused by matrimonial relations: a high level of conflicts in relations, the irreconcilability of life positions accompanied by aggressive statements or actions; struggle for power, domination and submission in the family; perception and estimation of physical violence as an admissible norm in human relations; a low social and economic status of the family. [25]

In many cases of violence, the person has a sharp desire to leave the partner. But there are some reasons why it cannot be done. Typical reasons are: ignorance of rights, absence of security measures implemented by the legislative bodies (it is known that offenders after the leaving of a woman can begin to pursue, blackmail or threaten her etc.), domestic problems (in Russia there is no special law to force an offender to move from the apartment), economic problems. [47]

To generalize the abovementioned reasons and factors of domestic violence, it is possible to notice that there is a considerable number of reasons causing or influencing the display of violence. But whatever the reasons for violence are, it leads to negative consequences that the victims of violence are not able to solve by themselves. [26]

2.3. Status of domestic violence in international documents

Until recently the majority of the international documents on human rights were interpreted so narrowly that they could not be adapted to many problems related to women and children, in particular domestic violence. But in recent times legal experts have defended and the international bodies recognized a wider interpretation of human rights documents and norms. [67]

In 1996, the Forty-ninth World Health Assembly adopted Resolution WHA49.25, which declared the problem of domestic violence as a major and growing problem of health
worldwide. The resolution paid attention to the serious consequences of violence - both short and long-term - for individuals, families, communities and countries and emphasized that violence causes great damage to health.

The international conventions can be divided into two kinds: constitutions focusing on social affairs and constitutions focusing on the elimination of discrimination against different vulnerable groups.

The documents include:
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- African Charter of human and people rights
- European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms
- American Convention on Human Rights
- Convention on the Protection of the Rights of the Child
- World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children
- American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Beijing Platform for Action
- others.

According to the General Declaration of Human Rights (1948), all people have the right to life without violence. All people are born free and equal in their own advantage and rights (item 1). No one should be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (item 5). [40] The international community realizing sharpness of the problem of domestic violence tries to develop a single system of prevention of domestic violence and protection of its victims. In a preamble to the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women it is said that for the achievement of full equality of the rights of men and women, it is necessary to change the traditional roles of men and women by all available state facilities. According to modern (not traditional) patriarchal, but humanitarian, democratic morality the state has the right to intervene in the private family life and be responsible for its protection when the family become a victim of violence.

According to the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (by General Assembly, 1979), a participator in which the Russian Federation is, our state must take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women by any person, organization or enterprise and to take all appropriate measures, including
legislation for changing or canceling existing laws, regulations, customs and practices which use discrimination against women. The Convention requires states to modify the social and cultural behavior patterns of men and women in order to eliminate prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women. The 16th Article of the Convention expects governments to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations [19]. It is important to mention that the problem of domestic violence is dependent on understanding by specialists its dynamics and features, using the methods of working with the victims of domestic violence. The inclusion of this issue in the list of the priorities of social policy is obligatory for its solution.

It is stated in Article 19 item 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) that states that are parties to the agreement shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child. [20]

The Criminal Procedure of Crime prevention and criminal justice measures to eliminate violence (by UN General Assembly Resolution 52/86 on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Measures to Eliminate Violence against Women) determines, that member states are urged to review, evaluate and revise their criminal procedure, as appropriate, in order to ensure that: (a) The police have, with judicial authorization where required by national law, adequate powers to enter premises and conduct arrests in cases of violence against women, including the confiscation of weapons; (b) The primary responsibility for initiating prosecutions lies with prosecution authorities and does not rest with women subjected to violence; (c) Women subjected to violence have an opportunity to testify in court proceedings equal to that of other witnesses and that measures are available to facilitate such testimony and to protect their privacy; (d) Rules and principles of defence do not discriminate against women and such defences as honour or provocation do not allow the perpetrators of violence against women to escape all criminal responsibility; (e) Perpetrators who commit acts of violence against women while voluntarily under the influence of alcohol or drugs are not absolved of criminal or other responsibility; (f) Evidence of prior acts of violence, abuse, stalking and exploitation by the perpetrator is considered during court proceedings, in
accordance with the principles of national criminal law; (g) Courts, subject to the constitution of their state, have the authority to issue protection and restraining orders in cases of violence against women, including removal of the perpetrator from the domicile, prohibiting further contact with the victim and other affected parties, inside and outside the domicile, and to impose penalties for breaches of these orders; (h) Measures can be taken when necessary to ensure the safety of victims and their families and to protect them from intimidation and retaliation; (i) Safety risks are taken into account in decisions concerning non-custodial or quasi-custodial. [21]

Resolution 58/147 on the Elimination of Domestic Violence Against Women (UN General Assembly, 2004) calls upon states: (a) To adopt, strengthen and implement legislation that prohibits domestic violence, prescribes punitive measures and establishes adequate legal protection against domestic violence and periodically to review, evaluate and revise these laws and regulations so as to ensure their effectiveness in eliminating domestic violence; (b) To make domestic sexual violence a criminal offence and to ensure proper investigation and prosecution of perpetrators; (c) To adopt and/or strengthen policies and legislation in order to strengthen preventive measures, protect the human rights of victims, ensure proper investigation and prosecution of perpetrators and provide legal and social assistance to victims of domestic violence, and to adopt policies with regard to the rehabilitation of perpetrators; (d) To intensify measures aimed at preventing domestic violence against women; (e) To ensure greater protection for women, inter alia, by means of, where appropriate, orders restraining violent spouses from entering the family home, or by banning violent spouses from contacting the victim; (f) To provide or facilitate the provision of adequate training, inter alia, gender-awareness training, to all professionals who deal with domestic violence, in particular with victims of domestic violence, police officers, judicial and legal personnel, health personnel, educators, youth workers and social workers; (g) To provide or facilitate the provision of assistance to victims of domestic violence in lodging police reports and receiving treatment and support, which may include the setting up of one-stop centres, as well as the establishment of safe shelters and centres for victims of domestic violence; (h) To protect women in the process of seeking redress from further victimization because of gender-insensitive laws or practices; (i) To establish and/or strengthen police response protocols and procedures to ensure that all appropriate actions are taken to protect victims of domestic violence and to prevent further acts of domestic violence; (j) To take measures to ensure the protection of
women subjected to violence, access to just and effective remedies, inter alia, through compensation and indemnification and healing of victims, and the rehabilitation of perpetrators; and etc. [28]

2.4. Basis of social work with victims of domestic violence

Appearance of social work as an independent discipline is connected with the emergence of social concepts, as a special reflection space. At the same time it produced such terms as social workers and social service. The concept of "social worker" came into use at the beginning of 20th century. But as an independent academic discipline and a profession, social work was established only after the Second World War. Ideas of social assistance in the Western Europe of 20th century were expressions of recognition of the human right of deserving of existence and transformation of the state as guarantor of the realization of this right. But it then became clear that good laws and relevant material resources are not enough for the realization of this idea into practice. A special system of individualized assistance is also needed for people who for any reason do not fit into modern society. For effectiveness of government, social assistance should be aimed at a concrete person, serve the needs of the people, and finally be available in practice. [51]

It is well known that the family is the most important component of any society. The family, including a crisis family is a category of special attention in social work. In crisis families there are a great number of problems which are sometimes hard to solve by the families themselves. This process included representatives of many agencies: law, social work, education, medicine, public organizations. In this case, the most important role belongs to the social workers.

History shows that modern society has taken a lot of steps to create a system of assistance for the victims of violence including domestic violence.

In September 1987, the Committee of Ministers of the Council created the Recommendation No. R (87) 21 to member states “on assistance to victims and prevention of victimization”. It waw recommended to the governments of the member states to take measures such as creating, developing or extend supporting for: (a) services designed to provide assistance to victims generally; (b) services for special categories of victims such as children, and, when necessary, also victims of particular offences such as rape, domestic violence, organised crime, racist violence. [16]
In July 2002, the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men of
Parliamentary Assembly published a report entitled “Domestic violence” which
includes recommendations for supporting victims of domestic violence for
consideration by the member states of the Council of Europe in order to combat
domestic violence against women: (a) victims of domestic violence should be provided
with free legal advice and assistance before taking legal action; (b) victims of domestic
violence should be helped, by opening residential centres where women can receive
psychological support and giving financial support to welfare associations and
emergency services; (c) effective measures should be introduced for providing
protection for victims of violence after the incident and during the whole legal
procedure; (d) a special financial support should be given to NGO’s as well as women’s
associations working with victims of domestic violence; (e) social protection measures
should be adopted or reinforced so that injuries caused to women and children by
violent acts are provided for under social protection schemes; (f) training of
professionals working with young people, as well as health personnel should be
promoted to identify children and adolescents growing up in violent homes and to take
the necessary measures to help and assist them; (g) training of medical personnel should
be ensured to enable them to identify victims of violence.

Families in situations of domestic violence need health and human services that
address both the direct and indirect consequences of violence. Social workers interact with 10
major systems as part of their advocacy work, including the legal system, public social
services, law enforcement, housing authorities, health and mental health services, other
domestic violence programs, educational systems, community services, employers/employment agencies, and family systems (Peled and Edleson, 1994). The
links between domestic violence and the use of public assistance (Brandwein, 1998;
Raphael and Tolman, 1997), the co-occurrence of domestic violence with child abuse
(Edleson, 1999), and the prevalence of battered women among homeless women
(Browne & Bassuk, 1997) have also been established. Among all professionals, social
workers are the most frequently contacted by battered women for all problems,
including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse (Hamilton & Coates, 1993). Social
workers’ knowledge and skill to detect domestic violence and work closely with
domestic violence programs are critical for safe and appropriate interventions.
3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND PURPOSE

The objective of the Master’s thesis is to find out socio-cultural characteristics of domestic violence in the Russian and Finnish societies.

The research focus is on domestic violence. The areas of focus in the study are the Russian and Finnish legal systems of protection, and social systems of prevention and protection in situations of domestic violence. The Master’s thesis is addressed to find out features of legal family social policy in situations of domestic violence in Russia and Finland. It also discusses mechanisms of the assistance system for people who have become victims of domestic violence. The Arkhangelsk region in European North of Russia was chosen as the research site. The primary reason is that the city of Arkhangelsk is my native city. I was born and grew up there, got my higher professional education (specialist in social work, 5 years), worked as a teacher in the Northern State Medical University (NSMU), and my scientific interest in the past several years has already been domestic violence. Secondly Arkhangelsk and Oulu have been twin cities since the 3rd of June, 1993. And the third reason is that the Arkhangelsk region and Finland are in a parallel geographic position and thus share lots of similarities.

To reach the aims of the study the next research questions were formulated:
1. Are there any differences in understanding the term ‘domestic violence’ in the Russian and Finnish societies?
2. What kind of attention is paid to the problem of domestic violence by both countries?
3. How is domestic violence addressed in the legislation of both countries?
4. Are there any differences in the Russian and Finnish systems of assistance and systems of prevention for situations of domestic violence?

The next chapter discusses the methods and procedure of the study.
4. METHODS AND PROCEDURES

Comparative analysis was used as an instrument of methodology in this Master's research. We consider comparison as a cognitive operation aimed at identifying the similarities and (or) differences between the phenomena (Fedorov, 2002). The comparison presupposes two procedures. Firstly, the search for a basis for comparison. Secondly, comparison suggesting the definition of comparison criteria - properties which could mark out the similarities and differences of objects. [39]

The practical part of the study consists of an analysis of formal legal documents in the Russian and Finnish law systems, official sites of the Ministries of Justice and Ministries of Social Affairs, reports, publications of Russian and Finnish national organizations and associations for the last 5 years. We decided to formulate the formal view on the situation of domestic violence in both countries by addressing the main formal federal and regional institutions in Finland and Russia: the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, the Arkhangelsk Regional Bureau of Forensic-Medical Expertise, the Department for Oversight of Execution of Laws concerning Juvenile and Youth of the Prosecutor of the Arkhangelsk region, the Regional Direction of the Investigative Committee of Russian Federation, the Committee of Public Health Services and Social Issues of The Regional Assembly of Deputies, and in the Finnish side: the EU’s Fundamental Rights Agency, the Fundamental Rights Agency of Finland, the National Institute for Health and Welfare of Finland, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland, the Advisory Board on Conciliation in Criminal Matters, and Statistics Finland.

It is meaningful in comparative analysis to determine the concrete criteria. In our case, we decided to select the following to produce a complete picture of the problem of domestic violence, solutions and its prevention.

This comparative analysis is based on the following criteria and reflects socio-cultural features of domestic violence:

1. understanding of the term ‘domestic violence’;
2. situation of domestic violence (data, statistics of sex offences in the private area);
3. system of legal protection (legislation mechanisms of protection in situations of domestic violence);
4. organization of assistance in situations of violence (system of social services, social
assistance, social mechanisms of protection in situations of domestic violence);
5. organization of preventive work against domestic violence (role of specialist of any profile who renders the service (medical, pedagogical, social and legal) to the person).

Each criterion of the situation of domestic violence in Finland and Arkhangelsk region will be considered in a separate chapter. We are planning to find out the most important facts (data, law, recommendations, instructions and etc.) about violence in the family, the legal mechanisms of the protection of the family in this situation, the assistance procedures and organization of prevention systems in each country.

And as a result of the analysis we will continue by discussing the main criteria.
5. SOCIO-CULTURAL FEATURES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE RUSSIAN SOCIETY (ARKHANGELSK REGION)

5.1. Situation of domestic violence in the Arhangelsk region

In Russia domestic violence was for a long time out of the zone of public interest. However, in recent times public women’s organizations have managed to attract the attention of mass media and public authorities, having shown the acuteness and paramount importance of this problem not only for personal well-being of people, but also for the resolution of many public problems - from overcoming the demographic crisis to democratization and modernization of Russia. [82] Nowadays in Russia the most common definition of domestic violence is one of the main features of domestic violence - repeating incidents (patterns) of several forms of violence (psychological, physical, sexual, economic) (Yarskaya-Smirnova E.P. 2008). The presence of incidents (patterns) is an important indicator distinguishing domestic violence from a conflict situation in a family. [73]

The former president Dmitry Medvedev emphasized that a humane and democratic society should be free from violence in his last address to the users on the Internet under the name "Russia, forward!": "Today for the first time in our history, we have a chance to prove to ourselves and to the world that Russia can develop in a democratic way. The transition of the country to the next, higher stage of civilization is possible. And it will be implemented by non-violent methods. It is necessary to cultivate a taste to the legal culture, law-abiding, respect for the rights of others”. [60] We believe the last one to apply to the whole of society, the legal mentality of Russian citizens in general.

In Russia, domestic violence recently became a subject of research when the country started new radical socio-political and economic changes. This period is famous for Russian citizens because of the break-up of the Soviet Union and the establishment of the Russian Federation. [81] It has led to a number of non-predictable consequences and escalation of problems that were previously in a latent state. One of them was the problem of family violence. As regards this problem it is necessary to mention that Russian science distinguishes between two directions: criminology and sociology. These directions study domestic violence as a specific phenomenon of social practices of interaction between individuals: Criminology in the criminal justice system has the
earliest tradition of studying this phenomenon. The specifics of the crimes committed
against a family member (parricide, murder of spouse, infanticide, etc.) were considered
by criminal law specialists in Tsarist Russia, such as N.S. Tagantsev, Ya.M. Fojnitskii,
and L.S. Belogrits-Kotlyarevsky. One of the most famous works of sociological criminology in the first years of Soviet authority is the work of M.N. Gernet called
"Infanticide in Russian law." He created criminological "portraits" of child-killers based
on empirical research. In the later Soviet period acts of violence in the family fall into
the category of "family relations". Only in the second half of the 1960s a branch of criminology was distinguished - family criminology, studying criminogenic factors in
the family area and consequent criminal behavior. In 1986 an article by D. A. Rivman
entitled "Classification of cases of violent crime in the family" was published from the
viewpoint of family criminology. One of the well-known representatives of this
direction is D.A. Shestakov. In the Soviet period he studied the problem of spousal
violence. His famous work "Family criminology" is used in modern criminal education.
[81]
L. Berkovits and B. Kreyhi should be noted among foreign social psychologists whose
scientific studies are directly concerned with the study of ways to detect and eliminate
the consequences of domestic violence. L. Berkovits, an American psychologist, is
known worldwide as a leading expert in the psychology of aggression. His main work
"Aggression: Causes, psychology and control" was published first in Russian in 2002.
Kreyhi also carried out fundamental applied research of aggression paying a lot of
attention to the problem of domestic violence. Her work "Social psychology of
aggression" was published in a full volume in Russia in 2003. The works of these authors are the most comprehensive source of knowledge of classical and modern
concepts of the nature and study of domestic violence in social psychology.
In May 2000 the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation together with the
Ministry of Labour and Social Development and the Ministry of Education of the
Russian Federation, accepted the Concept of Protection of Reproductive Health of the
In 2011, for the first time in Russia, a survey of women's reproductive health was
organised by the RusStat together with the Ministry of Health of Russia, in partnership
with the United Nations Population Fund and the Centre for Disease Control and
Prevention (USA). A large contribution to the organization of this work was made the
Information and Publishing Centre "Statistics of Russia". The survey took place in 60 subjects of the Russian Federation, where more than ten thousand women were interviewed. [34] In the selective survey of reproductive health in Russia, a series of questions was included to evaluate the problem of domestic violence in Russia and its impact on reproductive health. The questions were primarily concerned with violence against an intimate partner by the respondents’ current or former husbands, partners with whom they had lived together.

More than a third of Russian women experienced verbal violence in their lives (38%) in 2011. These cases of physical violence were reported by every fifth woman (20%), and 4% of women said that their lives were cases where their current or former partners forced them to contact with them in sexual activity against their own will. (Fig.1).

Women who had been victims of physical violence from their partners at least once were asked if they had spoken about it to anyone, and if so, from whom they sought help. Nearly three quarters of these women said that they had told someone about the incident, while 26% said that they had not told anyone about it. Most of them (73%) had asked for help from family or friends, while some women had contacted certain professionals: the police (10%) and health care workers (6%) or a lawyer (2%). (Fig.2).
Among the 87% of women who have experienced physical violence, but did not seek medical or legal assistance, the highest proportion of women (27%) stated that the injury was not serious enough to seek help. Another 24% said that it would be useless and would not bring anything good, 16% were shy to ask for help, 8% thought it would bring the family to disrepute, 6% were afraid of divorce, ending the relationship or the loss of children, and 5% were afraid that if they talk about violence, they would undergo even more violence, or be blamed. (Fig. 3).
Unfortunately, in Russia there is no official data about prevalence of domestic violence as the term is not defined and is not mentioned in the legislation, including Family and Criminal Codes of the Russian Federation, however according to scientific research institute of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia (2013), violence in any form is observed in every fourth family. Annually from 12 to 14 thousand women perish in the hands of the partners. In 81.6 % of crimes in families they are committed made by the husbands. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, motives of these offences were showing their authority (46 %) and anger directed on their wives (65.7 %). [63] In 2013 specific gravity of offences (assault, light harm to a health) against women has increased to 13.1 %. [6]

In the Arkhangelsk region the specific weight of physical assault and minor injury to women increased to 12.6% in 2011. (Table 1). In 2011, more than 600 women who had suffered in the family registered with the Arkhangelsk Regional Bureau of Forensic-Medical Expertise. Their ages ranged from 18 to 45 years. The oldest victim is a person born in 1920. There were equal numbers of working women and housewives. More than 500 women had suffered in the hands of their married spouses, cohabitants or boyfriends. Four women had been beaten by their fathers and grandsons, 17 by brothers, and 33 by sons; 7 women had been abused by daughters. Sons-in-law, uncles and nephews had only one victim and appeared to be the most peaceful relatives. In the Arkhangelsk region the number of crimes committed against children is growing.

According to the Head of the Department for Oversight of Execution of Laws Concerning Juvenile and Youth of the Prosecutor of Arkhangelsk region, more than 1700 crimes were registered in 2011 compared to 1249 in 2008. Of those cases, 1053 were related to violent acts, 380 to sexual offences, and 9 cases of crimes against sexual inviolability. [6]

Table 1. The number of reported crimes by type (units) in Arkhangelsk Region from 2007-2011. [6]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recorded crimes – total</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>of them:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>murder and attempted murder</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intentional infliction of serious health injury</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rape and attempted rape</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>robbery</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brigandage</td>
<td>2562</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>1638</td>
<td>1544</td>
<td>1275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stealing</td>
<td>16557</td>
<td>12816</td>
<td>11549</td>
<td>11059</td>
<td>11720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crimes related to drug trafficking</td>
<td>1157</td>
<td>1207</td>
<td>1208</td>
<td>1074</td>
<td>1135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hooliganism</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rules of road violation and exploitation vehicle</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>resulting in the death of a human by carelessness</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The majority of family offenders were drunk at the moment of aggression. The crimes generally occurred in the evening and in the morning. In 2012, 479 cases of assault were registed, with 111 women receiving minor and serious bodily injury, and 10 receiving great bodily injury. Assault was inflicted most often by fists and household items. In 25 cases women had received the knife wounds, bullet wounds and stab wounds. Two victims had thermal burns. Only 265 women had personally contacted the Bureau of Forensic-Medical Expertise. It is necessary to underline that inspection is a paid service in Russia. To report an incident such as bruises or cuts, the victim has to pay 540 roubles. It is expensive because the majority of victims come from low-income groups. [6]

According to the Regional Direction of the Investigative Committee of Russian Federation, the majority of crimes against life and health are made in domestic conditions. As the Direction of the Investigatory Committee points out, the majority of offenders do not have fear of criminal liability. It is frequently caused by impunity for simple crimes committed earlier. The offender continues to abuse his victim. Neither the victim nor people (neighbours) try to stop him, resulting in a family tragedy.

In Russia an important role in solving problems of domestic violence is played by public organizations. The only one place where the victims can find protection is the crisis centre.

According to the Committee of Public Health Services and Social Issues of the Regional Assembly of Deputies, much is being done in the Arkhangelsk region, but there are no federal laws aimed at preventing violence. The solution of this problem is assigned to public organizations. Social services have a great importance in the struggle against domestic violence. Criminal legislation implements only a punitive function. It focuses mainly on punishment and not on education. But to overcome domestic violence only punitive measures are not enough. Serious work is needed in the field of prevention and education, which is called upon to be fulfilled by institutions of social assistance to families. [83]
5.2. System of legal protection in situations of domestic violence in the Russian Federation and Arkhangelsk region

In Russia there is no special law to prevent domestic violence. Based on the laws in force, it is possible to protect only partially the interests of people who have undergone domestic violence. [81]

Violence against persons in Russian legislation is mentioned in the following documents:

a) Constitution of the Russian Federation (1993). The 19th article says that “men and women have equal rights and freedom and equal possibilities for their realization”; Article 21, item 2: “Nobody should be exposed to tortures, violence, another person’s cruel or humiliating human advantage, or punishment”: Article 22, item 1: “Everyone has the right of freedom and personal immunity”. [18]

b) Housing Code of the Russian Federation (2004). The acute problem for women who are exposed to domestic violence in our country is the housing problem (it is difficult to buy and change residence; there is no place to leave for). The Housing Code regulates the right to use a habitable house and regulates questions of exchange of habitation. It is important that the Housing Code has the norms allowing to change apartment compulsorily. The 72nd article of the Code says: “…if an agreement is not reached between tenant (according to the contract of social rent) and members of his family living jointly in the same apartment, any of them has the right to demand realization of a compulsory exchange of occupied habitation in a judicial order. The arguments and legitimate interests of the persons living in exchanged habitation should be considered…” [45]

c) Civil Code of the Russian Federation, Part II (1995). It is very important when applied for legal aid to women who have undergone domestic violence. Particularly, the 59th Chapter of The Civil Code stipulates a compensation for the harm caused to life and health, property, and also indemnification of moral damage. [13]

d) Family Code of the Russian Federation (1995). Items 16-26 protect the rights of women as it regulates the termination of marriage. The 6-8th chapters regulate the rights and duties of spouses, and explain what a marriage contract is. The 12th chapter of the Family Code defines the rights and duties of parents, and is used to resolve
important questions such as forfeital of parental rights. The 13th, 14th and 15th chapters regulate alimony obligations of parents and children, spouses and ex-spouses, other members of a family. [33]

e) In Criminal Code of the Russian Federation physical violence is defined as real or potential damage to a person. By its nature it can be seen in assault and battery, beating, wounds and other influences on the external covers of human body by use of physical force, cold steel and firearms or other arms, liquids, dry substances and etc., and also in influence on digestive organs of the person without damages of external fabrics by means of poisoning or welding by drinking stupefying substances. In the Russian Criminal Code there are some articles often applied in a situation of domestic violence:
   Article 111. Intentional Infliction of great bodily injury.
   Article 112. Intentional Infliction of serious bodily injury.
   Article 115. Intentional Infliction of minor injury.
   Article 116. Assault.
   Article 119. Threat of Murder or Infliction of Grave Injury to Health.
In Criminal Code there is also the 117th article "Torture" which most fully reflects the criminal acts made in cases of domestic violence. [23]
The Russian system of justice considers violence committed in a public place in relation to a stranger as representing a more serious social danger than the same actions made in a family in relation to relatives (Fig.3). Even in the statistical data of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia published on the web site of the Ministry, there is a separate register of crimes made in public places.
From the moment of the change of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation in 2003, the system of hearing cases concerning domestic violence has changed essentially. The majority of this type of cases belong to the category of affairs of private accusal (item 115, 116. part 1, item 129 and item 130, the Criminal Code of Russian Federation). Such separation from the point of view of the legislators justifies that these crimes affect the rights and interests of concrete citizens, and it depends on their will whether they will bring criminal cases against offenders or not. It means that domestic violence is considered not as a crime against society, but as a private affair of the members of a family. Meanwhile the efforts of international legal practice for justice in cases of cruelty in family are guided, first of all, by the character of acts of violence, not by the relationship between agressor and victim. It is important to note that violence from the husband’s side presents a serious threat of life and health to a woman, because she often has to live with her husband in the same apartment (house) even after divorce or during the inquisition. While the victim can meet the criminal who has committed the crime on the street (The 116th Article "Assault ") only in the police station or in court, the woman who has suffered from domestic violence meets with the offender every day in the apartment. [23] In this case the accused person knows the social environment of the sufferer, the places of residence of her family, and the address of her workplace that creates additional conditions for persecution or rendering of rough pressure.
In the recently released version of the Criminal Code, there is a chapter where the responsibility for crimes against life, health and sexual well-being has been increased irrespective of the scene of crime and relationship between victim and criminal (ch.16, art.105 –125). Thus, article 105 (responsibility for murder) determines several classified signs, in particular murder of a person who is known by the killer to be in a helpless state, i.e. the victim is deprived of possibility to show affective resistance to the killer; the killer understands it and relies upon it. The murder of a woman who is known by the killer to be in a state of pregnancy is severally marked. Responsibility is also fixed for such forms of violence as battery (art.116), the infliction of physical or mental suffering by means of systematic beating or by any other violent actions (art.117), slander and threatening (art.129), insult, that is the denigration of the honour and dignity of another person, expressed in indecent form (art.130). [23]

f) The Law of Russian Federation basically guaranteeing a child's rights (1998) provides protection of children in any negative situation including danger, harm, and being victim of violence. [56]

g) The Code of Administrative Law of the Russian Federation (2002) has special meaning in the protection of women’s rights. It contains the norms of administrative legislation that are applied in the activity of police officers and are considered daily by the Justice of Peace. [15]

Thus, there is no special law in Russia at federal level about prevention of domestic violence. All kinds of attempts to work up something like this have been undertaken in the recent 10 years. The main idea is preventive measures and precautions. The appropriate project has been ready to be discussed at the plenary session of the State Duma several times. But the Attorney-General, some plenipotentiaries of the Supreme Court and corresponding institutes have had objections. It has turned out that the state does not have the right to meddle with family life. Both ‘philistine’ and juridical approaches of social intervention in family affairs have been found to be unacceptable.

It is too easy to qualify it as an offence against the constitutional right of inviolability in private life.

In comparison with other regions of the Russian Federation, the Arkhangelsk region has tried to organise state assistance for victims of violence. On June 3rd, 2003, an Act of the Arkhangelsk region «Socially-legal protection and rehabilitation of persons who have been exposed to violence in family» was passed in a meeting of deputies. But this Act concerns situations of violence that have already taken place. According to this Act,
the Administration of the Arkhangelsk region, public organizations can organise special establishments of socially-legal protection and rehabilitation to persons who have suffered from domestic violence, such as crisis centres for women, crisis centre for men, centres of social assistance for family and children, departments of complex social service of families and children, centres (departments) of urgent social service, consultative centres, and centres of urgent psychological assistance by telephone.[54] As we can see the Arkhangelsk region has created a documentary basis for the organization of assistance for victims of violence (in institutions, family). But in practice, the region does not have any (free of charge) crisis centres or shelters for the victims of violence.

5.3. System of assistance in situations of domestic violence

As we said earlier, there is no special law in the Russian Federation concerning prevention of domestic violence. However, violence problems have found their reflection in the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the Family, The Civil and the Criminal codes of the Russian Federation and other normative acts. The Federal law “About bases of social service of the population in the Russian Federation” (1995) stipulates types of the social services for those who have suffered from conflicts and cruel treatment in a family. Helplines, crisis centres, centres of social adaptation are included in the federal list of social services. [55]
But in spite of the absence of a federal law which could protect victims from domestic violence, specialists of the social, guardianship and pedagogical services try to work as a system. The main goal of the activity of this kind organization is to render specialized, complex assistance (psychological, socially-medical, legal, pedagogical, etc.) to women who are in a critical and dangerous physical and mental health condition, or have undergone violence.
Priority directions of the activities of such servises in the Russian Federation are considered:
- detection of women who have undergone violence and need immediate assistance and support;
- creation of a database of women who are in a socially dangerous situation;
- social patronage of the victims;
- provision of qualified advisory help;
- realization of rehabilitation for women who have undergone domestic violence and social support during the post-rehabilitation period. [89]

After seeking for help, a person becomes a client of the social service, followed by complex assistance to women as victims of domestic violence. This support differs in its multifunctionality and involves interaction between crisis service specialists of various kinds: the psychologist, the social work specialist, the psychotherapist, the lawyer. [46]

The social work specialist renders the emergency and complex social support (urgent economic help, assistance in reception of legal and medical services) to women who have undergone violence. The specialist also carries out social patronage (regular home visits) to the victim and her family. [89]

The lawyer helps to find a way out of a current situation during consultations, for example, correctly to file an application with the public prosecutor, to lodge a lawsuit against the illegal actions of the offender. [74]

The psychologist provides psychological help (consultation, diagnostics), organises and conducts psychocorrectional and rehabilitation lessons with the victims of domestic violence. [66]

The goal of the intervention by experts in a current situation consists in the rendering of the necessary information and support - the victim of domestic violence has made her own decision to plan for possible ways get out of the situation, to learn to resist an aggressor, to help to open her own potential. The specialists of the various kinds of centres working with the women – victims of violence – use different forms and methods. Consultation is carried out in terms of socio-psychological support, psychotherapeutic and legal consultations, and support groups to increase the level of self-appraisal and consciousness. During the course of a consultation the essence of the existing problem is studied, and various available alternatives are offered. The result of this work depends on the achievement of mutual understanding between the advisers and the advised. During the consultation the experts use the following methods of work: supervision, testing, suggestion, persuasion, informing, a method of art analogies, minitraining, etc. The received data are documented. [84]

Development of the social skills of victims can be provided through activity aiming at the maintenance of groups of self-help and mutual aid, associations for the protection of the social and other rights of various female groups, and assistance with self-employment and self-sufficiency of women. All these tasks, as a rule, are performed by the social work specialists, together with specialists of the social complex, law
enforcement bodies, employment services, medical and educational institutions, etc. It is necessary to notice that in concrete individual and social conditions, one or the other group of problems is on the foreground. It is necessary to notice that in concrete individual and social conditions this or that group of goals comes forward. [85]

Protection against violence can be organised both in conditions of stationary supervision, and by means of non-stationary institutions. As a rule, work of non-stationary institutions can combine the activities of law enforcement bodies and institutions of social service. The aim of the first one is to stop violence, of the second to provide rehabilitation, legal and other kinds of the assistance to its victims. It consists of moral and psychological rehabilitation, info consultation and social resources for their protection. The creation of therapeutic groups is considered to be an effective technology. For correction of their persons and protection of their social interests, members of such groups can support each other, reaching the best results under the direction of the specialists. Rehabilitation takes place at the level of correcting personal perception when the injuring circumstances do not change, but their perception by the person is changed. [80]

A higher level of work is the transition of therapeutic groups into the status of groups of self-help: consolidation of the people who have suffered from violence, allocating thus people who are capable to influence other members of the group. The assistance of social work specialists in the creation of such groups means that its words are translated from the category of objects of influence into the rank of subjects; the members of such groups are equal in their rights to participate in the resolution of their own problems. [78]

One of the forms of social work with women who have suffered from violence is the creation of a telephone hotline. The main task of the telephone hotline is to provide psychological and legal aid. Psychological assistance is achieved by the removal of emotional tension, activization of internal resources of the woman, and permission of an internal conflict. Legal aid is about protection of legal rights. [1089]

Assistance for women and children suffering from violence is rendered by the centres of state social institutions. Such categories of citizens have the right to urgent social service (in departments of urgent social aid) which includes the following kinds of social services: first aid, assistance in the reception of a temporary living space, rendering legal aid with a view of protecting their rights, rendering emergency medical-psychological help by a telephone hotline, etc. Besides, direct participation in helping
the victims of violence is accepted by the centres of the social assistance to a family and children. [11]
The centre of emergency psychological assistance tries to reduce psychological discomfort, aggression level, including self-aggression and suicide attempts, forming a psychological culture, strengthening the mental health and atmosphere of psychological security of the population including children and teenagers. [76] The centre’s main task is: to ensure the availability and timeliness of psychological assistance by phone for citizens irrespective of their social status and habitat, referral of telephone subscribers to other social organizations and institutions where their needs can be satisfied. Thus, the main task of the centre is to render psychological/social services to all needing citizens.[29]
One of the state social institutions that can also render psychological, psycho-correctional assistance to liquidate crisis situations in a family is the social shelter for children and teenagers. The shelter is oriented for children and teenagers from 4 to 18 years old, including children suffering from any form of physical or mental violence. [92] Children can receive primary psychological assistance, the personnel carry out primary medical examinations and if necessary refer clients to stationary medical institutions. It is necessary to notice that the activity of the social service institutions and crisis centres should be aimed at the solution of problems of women and children, the victims of violence. The creation and function of these institutions is a necessary condition for the existence of any civilized society.
The tasks of the social service organizations are:
- rendering social, psychological, legal and other assistance;
- social rehabilitation of members of a family;
- rendering assistance in conflict situations in a family, realization of social control over the behavior of members in the family which have committed family violence;
- granting refuge to family members who have suffered from domestic violence. [73]
The achievement of the set tasks is realized as a result of teamwork of professional psychologists, pediatricians, and social workers. As a result, there is support available to solve conflict situations, psychological support for the victims of violence.
Social work promotes dissemination of information to the population, and more effective adaptation and inclusion in normal life of the victims of violence.
The crisis centres were created at the initiative of non-governmental female organizations to provide real qualified help by experts – psychologists, physicians,
lawyers, and pedagogues. The staff of such centres uses the principle of full refusal of charging a victim of violence; the person can count on that she will be heard without estimations and interpretations of her behavior, from a position of equality and respect of her feelings. The crisis centres entered into an Association in 1999. [73] The centres render the effective help to the victims; try to change the attitudes of society to domestic violence as a social problem, to influence legislative and executive bodies in issues of application of the mechanisms of protection of citizens against violence. For this purpose, telephone hotlines are organised in the centres, and possibilities are given to have a talk with the psychologist, to have consultations with a lawyer and to take part in groups of psychotherapeutic support. In some cities there are shelters or refuges under the centres for women who have suffered violence and their children where they can hide from the tyrant, receive a shelter and specialized help.

In social work with women who have undergone domestic violence, there are three groups of goals: those related to their live-saving, maintenance of social functioning, and social development. [89] It is necessary to notice that in concrete individual and social conditions one of the groups of goals is initially in the foreground. In cases of real danger for the life and health of a woman, the shelters and the crisis centres with a complex of the social services are used. Sharp economic difficulties give a woman the right to appeal to seek social or emergency help. Maintenance of social functioning can be provided with socially psychological rehabilitation, and support for women in difficult real-life situations, by actions for retrain, ingmore necessary occupations, consultations or other legal aid for protection of their rights. [87]

Protection from domestic violence can be provided by both stationary supervision and the non-stationary agencies. As a rule, the work of non-stationary agencies combines the activity of the law machinery and social agencies. The former stops the violence, while the latter render rehabilitation, legal and other kinds of help to the victims.

In the work with problems of domestic violence, many specialists have come to the conclusion that one-way help for women, who have suffered in the hands of the husbands or partners, can be strengthened by organizing social rehabilitation programmes for the offenders. [79] These programmes allow reduction in the process of criminalization of men by replacing sentences with obligatory participation in rehabilitation programmes. It can help them to receive skills of non-violent behavior and raise the efficiency of the struggle against this problem by reducing the quantity of the relapses of domestic violence. For the rehabilitation of offenders, there are educational
or psychoeducational programms, pair therapy, and psychotherapeutic individual therapy.
Public organizations talk about the necessitity of the law to provide protection against
domestic violence and clear instructions for law enforcement bodies to force them to
protect women seeking help. It is necessary that the legislators and authorities have
started to act; society should start openly admitting that violence against an immediate
relative is a similar crime as any another crime.
It is necessary to notice that the activity of the social organizations and crisis centres
should be aimed at the resolution of problems caused by domestic violence. The
creation and functioning of these organizations is a necessary condition of existence of
any civilized society. It is important that this kind of activity of organizations does not
break the rights of women. It should be transparent for control in terms of contents and
working methods, and also informationally accessible to all needing parties.

5.4. Organization of preventive work against domestic violence

The legislation of most countries in the Russian Federation also does not have a special
law concerning the prevention of domestic violence. Recently, a basic laws on domestic
violence was adopted in Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan.
Attempts were made to develop this issue long ago. The basic meaning of most of the
provisions of the bills has appeared - prevention. They take effect only after a person
has already suffered harm, and are aimed at establishing responsibility and involvement
for all those who have already made the guilty actions. [86]
Based on the UN model law, the Committee of the State Duma of the Russian
Federation prepared a draft federal law a few years ago entitled "On the basis of social
and legal protection from violence in the family" as well as a number of accompanying
bills. Unfortunately, the concept of the bill was not supported by the male majority in
the Duma. Attempts are still continuing to introduce amendments to the existing
legislation, which, of course, is itself a palliative. [65]
It should be noted that the need for a special law "On the prevention of family violence
and the prevention of its consequences" has not lost its relevance today. It is expedient
to fix a definition of domestic violence, to establish its characteristics, identify shapes,
to determine the rights of victims and their security system, and most importantly - a
programm of assistance to the victims in order to prevent the most serious
consequences.
Great experience has been gained in the framework of international cooperation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Council. Since 2008, the program “Children and youth at risk in the Barents Region”, has been realized in the Nordic countries, including Russia. The Arkhangelsk region has become one of the pilot areas with the most active use of modern technology in assistance to minors. [83] It is aimed at strengthening the role of NGOs in providing opportunities for needed assistance to the child. Foreign experts teach Russian specialists in family methods of working with children at risk. First of all, there is the "Incredible Years" program which aims to reduce aggression in children and adolescents, as well as the mediation program between juvenile offenders. All this and other projects are implemented with the support of the Government of the Arkhangelsk region. The KolArctic ENPI CBC project Children and Youth At Risk (CYAR) and Women’s and Gender Studies at the University of Oulu (Finland) also organised e-learning courses in Russian for professionals in the Barents Region including the Arkhangelsk region for professional competence building on violence and non-violence. About 35 specialists from the Arkhangelsk regions developed their knowledge and skills in the area of violence against children. It also provided an opportunity to get acquainted with the experience of social organizations and its specialists from their own region.
Moreover, many social service agencies working with families and children implement their own programs, workshops, seminars, aimed at working with domestic violence and its prevention. For example, the specialists of the social and rehabilitation Centre "Sun" and the Arkhangelsk Regional Public Beneficent Organization "Rassvet" (ARPBO "Rassvet") create and participate in different projects aimed at the prevention of domestic violence, and the department of the protection of the rights of children from violence of the Municipal Budget Institution "the Centre of Protection of Childhood" actively organises work with the parents of their pupils about non-violent behavior in relationships, as well as many others.
6. SOCIO-CULTURAL FEATURES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN FINLAND

6.1. Situation of domestic violence in Finland

Finland is an anomaly in the Nordic welfare societies due to its high rate of interpersonal violence (LaFree & Drass, 2001). The exceptionally high rate of violence in Finland has been attributed to the high prevalence of alcoholism (Lindman, 1995; Sirén, 2002), rapid industrialization and even the psychological impact of a traumatic history of war and impoverishment (Siltala, 1999; Ylikangas, 1999).

Domestic violence in Finland is legally defined as violence between people residing in the same household and who are considered to be family. [14] In Finland ‘perheväkivalta’ in the meaning of ‘family violence’, is the most commonly used term used in public and academic discourse and implies that more than one family member is involved in the violence (Hearn & McKie, 2010). Since the beginning of the 2000s, the use of the expression parisuhdeväkivalta ‘intimate partner violence’ is common, reflecting the importance of the intimate bond as the locus of violence. (Flinck, Åstedt-Kurki, Paavilainen, 2008). [14]

The term ‘näisiin kohdistuva väkivalta’ in the meaning of ‘violence against women’ emerged in the 1990s as a means of naming and addressing the systemic relations of gender oppression that condone or collude with violent behaviors (Hearn & McKie, 2010). It reflects the view that institutionalized sexism is a consequence of the minimization of violent behaviors (e.g. harassment, rape, or interpersonal violence) or relegated to the private realm of social welfare interventions. This critique of violence emerged in Finnish society at the same time as in Russia. In Finland, the term family violence ‘perheväkivalta’ (Peltoniemi, 1984), including both psychological and physical factors, has been much used. The equivalent term to domestic violence ‘kotiväkivalta’ is not usually used in the Finnish language, although when speaking English those working in the field would often use that term. Such results were gathered by Jeff Hearn and Linda McKie in their article by using the terms in a Google search. [42] They also mentioned that Finnish policies and services have generally worked within a conceptual tradition of gender neutrality, and in the arena of domestic violence the emphasis has been on family breakdown and alcohol consumption, and their reduction. The problem representation has been degendered, offering limited scope for action. However, the
equivalent term to violence against women ‘naisiin kohdistuva väkivalta’ is increasingly in use in both research and policy contexts.

It is often thought that the problem of partner violence somehow dissipates with divorce, that divorce will put an end to it. However, research has shown that this is not the case (e.g. Piispa 2006; Ekbrand 2006). During the divorce process itself it is known that women are particularly susceptible to violence (e.g. Daly, Wilson 1988). There is also evidence that violence in the family has a tendency to accumulate. The 2008 Child Victim Survey showed that if there is violence in the family, all family members will usually be affected, including siblings, the mother and father. Children who had seen other family members suffer violence were more likely than others to experience it themselves (Ellonen et al. 2008). For this reason, it is important to intervene in violence that occurs in families and to make sure that the partners to violence have access to help so as to prevent accumulation.[53]

A major new study by the EU’s Fundamental Rights Agency has found that 47% of women in Finland have experienced physical or sexual violence at some time since the age of 15. In 2013, 42,000 women were interviewed across the European Union in the most extensive study into violence against women and girls ever conducted. In all of the six main areas covered by the survey, Finland was found to have levels of physical and sexual violence against women that were at times significantly above the European average. Almost half of Finnish women reported having experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15. Slightly higher numbers of women in Finland said they had experienced physical violence by a non-partner (30%) than those suffering physical abuse from a partner (27%). The Finnish representative of the Fundamental Rights Agency, the Finnish League for Human Rights, who carried out the research, mentioned that the prevalence of domestic abuse has been known for a long time, “these figures are shocking…” Violence against women is a serious human rights violation. [36]

This chapter aims to describe the situation of domestic violence in Finland. It is therefore necessary to pay attention to the system of data collection. This system was described by the National Institute for Health and Welfare of Finland (THL) in “Rikos-ja riita-asioiden sovittelu 2012/ Mediation in criminal and civil cases 2012” and published in 2013 in Finnish, Swedish and English.

It is mentioned that the general supervision, management and monitoring of mediation services falls within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of
Finland. The Advisory Board on Conciliation in Criminal Matters appointed by the Government for three years at a time guides, monitors, formulates and promotes national and international activities and development efforts. The regional state administrative agencies are responsible for organising mediation services in their operating areas so that services are available throughout the country. They also guide, counsel and monitor the mediation service providers. The regional state administrative agencies are also responsible for organising continuous professional training in mediation as well as for allocating the state reimbursement for mediation services. They also supervise how the reimbursement is used. Mediation services are based on commission agreements. [38]

The National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) compiles statistical information on mediation in criminal and civil cases, monitors and conducts research on mediation activities, and co-ordinates development efforts in the field. The collection of the annual statistics form a part of the monitoring of the Act on Conciliation in Criminal and Certain Civil Cases, the importance of which was highlighted by the Legal Affairs Committee of Parliament in its report on the bill (13/2005): the Committee stated that the application of the Act will be closely monitored and that this monitoring will be used to determine whether the Act needs to be amended.

The Advisory Board on Conciliation in Criminal Matters has agreed separately on the data collection for the statistics. The data collection is part of the tasks of the Advisory Board on Conciliation in Criminal Matters, which, according to section 1 of the Government Decree 267/2006, must monitor and evaluate mediation-related developments and research, draw up proposals for further development, as well as monitor and promote the uniform application of the Act on Conciliation in Criminal and Certain Civil Cases.[38]

The rise in the number of reported offences is indicative more of the willingness and ability of crime victims to report an offence than of a true increase in the number of cases. Changes in police practice may push up the number of crimes showing up in the statistics if domestic violence calls, for instance, are reported more often as offences. As far as helping victims is concerned, it is important to consider police procedures for the referral of victims to systems of victim assistance.
Table 2. Incidents of domestic violence reported to the police as crime in 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violent crime total</th>
<th>1582</th>
<th>463</th>
<th>76</th>
<th>206</th>
<th>271</th>
<th>301</th>
<th>149</th>
<th>116</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manslaughter, murder or killing</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempted manslaughter, murder or killing</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>1073</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated assault</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty assault</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual abuse of a child, Aggravated sexual abuse of a child</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other sexual offences</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other offences against life and health</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics Finland on the official site shows that in 2012, nearly two-thirds of the offences against life were committed in private dwellings. (Table 2)[64] In January to December 2013 the recorded number of sexual exploitations of a child was 1,670. Detected sexual exploitations of a child have increased considerably in recent years. The numbers of rapes and sexual exploitations of a child vary a lot yearly. Individual reports of an offence may include a series of incidents comprising several criminal acts. (Table 3) [64]

Table 3. Development of certain types of offences in Finland in January to December 2009 to 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offence</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All offences</td>
<td>440 438</td>
<td>431 959</td>
<td>457 147</td>
<td>424 835</td>
<td>424 434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual crimes</td>
<td>2 222</td>
<td>2 424</td>
<td>3 008</td>
<td>3 576</td>
<td>3 329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual exploitation of a child</td>
<td>1 078</td>
<td>1 106</td>
<td>1 459</td>
<td>1 590</td>
<td>1 673</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A total of 2070 domestic violence offences were referred to mediation in 2012. In the statistics on mediation, domestic violence offences include homicide and bodily injury (offences against life and health). Mediation was undertaken in 1338 cases of all the cases of domestic violence referred to mediation (2072) in 2012. The conditions for mediation are assessed throughout the mediation process. Out of all the 1338 domestic violence cases in which mediation was undertaken, 12% (161) were discontinued. This means that in 734 cases the conditions for mediation were not met,
according to the assessment by the professional staff at the mediation offices. An agreement was reached in 85% of domestic violence cases in mediation in 2012 (1079). [7]

Assault (including attempted assault) accounted for 71 per cent and petty assault for 28 per cent of all domestic-violence-related referrals to mediation in 2012. Ten referrals to mediation concerned aggravated assault or attempt in domestic settings, while 13 referrals concerned sex crime or attempt. [7]

Criminal cases referred to mediation are reported for the statistics in accordance with the offence category recorded by the police in the preliminary investigation material or in the investigation notification. According to the mediation offices, in the case of sex crimes, the referrals to mediation often also included other offences to be mediated. If the referral to mediation concerned a sex crime only, the mediation offices decided against mediation or commenced mediation on special grounds. For example, if the victim so desired, the mediation could be started with individual meetings and continued only later with meetings between the victim and the offender.

The number of domestic violence offences referred to mediation nearly doubled in 2011, while at the same time an amendment to the Criminal Code classified violent offences in domestic settings as offences under public prosecution. Pretrial investigation is initiated in domestic violence cases whether or not the victim submits a summary penal order. All the options for dealing with violent crimes, including mediation, are still available for domestic violence cases.

In most cases (81%), a domestic violence offence was referred to mediation by the police, while less than a quarter (19%) were referred to mediation by the public prosecutor. Domestic violence cases are recorded in the mediation client data system in accordance with the offence categories recorded by the police. [7]

A total of 1371 men and 466 women were suspected offenders in the domestic violence cases referred to mediation, while 534 men and 1313 women were complainants. Persons suspected of domestic violence accounted for 15% of all suspected offenders in criminal cases referred to mediation. Complainants in domestic violence cases accounted for 20% of all complainants. (Table 4) [7].
Table 4. Number of cases mediated, separate offences, domestic violence and civil cases, by regional state administrative agency, 2007–2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Southern Finland AVI</th>
<th>South-western Finland AVI</th>
<th>Eastern Finland AVI</th>
<th>Western and Central Finland AVI</th>
<th>Northern Finland AVI</th>
<th>Lapland</th>
<th>State Department of Åland</th>
<th>Whole country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Separate offences</td>
<td>2007: 3,326</td>
<td>963</td>
<td>1,360</td>
<td>1,627</td>
<td>867</td>
<td>583</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>8,808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2008: 4,021</td>
<td>1,035</td>
<td>1,492</td>
<td>1,978</td>
<td>902</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>9,926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2009: 4,182</td>
<td>1,131</td>
<td>1,545</td>
<td>2,268</td>
<td>913</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>10,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2010: 4,498</td>
<td>1,078</td>
<td>1,481</td>
<td>1,882</td>
<td>782</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>10,908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2011: 4,240</td>
<td>1,107</td>
<td>1,554</td>
<td>2,367</td>
<td>1,107</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10,677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012: 3,641</td>
<td>1,076</td>
<td>1,396</td>
<td>2,228</td>
<td>1,130</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012(%)</td>
<td>37,0</td>
<td>11,0</td>
<td>13,8</td>
<td>23,1</td>
<td>11,0</td>
<td>4,0</td>
<td>0,2</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Domestic violence | 2007: 419 | 94 | 50 | 111 | 51 | 48 | 2 | 775 |
|                  | 2008: 498 | 86 | 101 | 145 | 69 | 42 | 9 | 950 |
|                  | 2009: 493 | 92 | 112 | 233 | 74 | 57 | 5 | 1,033 |
|                  | 2010: 533 | 97 | 114 | 218 | 79 | 52 | 5 | 1,063 |
|                  | 2011: 624 | 190 | 172 | 446 | 257 | 58 | 3 | 2,150 |
|                  | 2012: 679 | 195 | 189 | 492 | 358 | 63 | 5 | 2,072 |
| 2012(%)         | 42,4 | 8,9 | 8,7 | 23,1 | 12,0 | 4,0 | 0,2 | 100 |

| Civil cases | 2007: 93 | 13 | 29 | 23 | 75 | 13 | 0 | 186 |
|             | 2008: 81 | 28 | 51 | 40 | 26 | 13 | 3 | 244 |
|             | 2009: 92 | 33 | 67 | 42 | 22 | 14 | 6 | 276 |
|             | 2010: 123 | 44 | 50 | 12 | 13 | 2 | 342 |
|             | 2011: 119 | 42 | 22 | 70 | 14 | 24 | 4 | 345 |
|             | 2012: 163 | 44 | 52 | 74 | 24 | 19 | 3 | 398 |
| 2012(%)      | 32,9 | 12,1 | 22,1 | 19,6 | 6,5 | 4,8 | 0,8 | 100 |

| Criminal and civil cases, total | 2007: 3,638 | 1,092 | 1,459 | 1,961 | 733 | 644 | 42 | 9,769 |
|                                | 2008: 4,600 | 1,148 | 1,644 | 2,163 | 999 | 506 | 59 | 11,120 |
|                                | 2009: 4,767 | 1,223 | 1,724 | 2,543 | 1,004 | 535 | 79 | 11,880 |
|                                | 2010: 5,524 | 1,240 | 1,752 | 2,540 | 1,031 | 524 | 75 | 12,313 |
|                                | 2011: 5,183 | 1,305 | 1,790 | 2,963 | 1,468 | 659 | 32 | 13,240 |
|                                | 2012: 4,651 | 1,311 | 1,826 | 2,838 | 1,355 | 481 | 32 | 12,306 |
| 2012(%) | 37,8 | 10,7 | 13,2 | 23,1 | 11,0 | 4,0 | 0,2 | 100 |

6.2. System of legal protection in situations of domestic violence in Finland

Domestic violence in Finland is legally defined as violence between people residing in the same household and who are considered to be family. Laws that address and make visible the complexity of prosecuting family members involved with domestic violence (intimate partner violence), such as mandatory prosecutions and restraining orders, have found their own places in Finnish legislation. Despite legal reforms, some studies have suggested that authorities in Finland often do not take violence in the home as seriously as violence in public places (Piispa & Heiskanen, 2000). This assertion finds support in the framework of a legal system that often under-estimates violence against women. [46]

Finnish laws regarding domestic violence fall under the category of violence rather than violence against women, a distinction that makes it difficult to ascertain the true extent of intimate partner violence (Eurobarometer, 2010). Assault in a private place (e.g. a
home) became a mandatory public prosecutorial case in 1995. Until the 1990s, intimate partner violence was handled under an 1889 criminal law (Kantola, 2004). A revision to the law on restraining orders, which allowed such orders between members of the same household, came into force in 2005.

In Finland corporal punishment was forbidden by law in 1984. Corporal punishment is violence by which an adult aims to punish a child or influence the child's behaviour. It is one form of domestic violence, but the attitude towards it still is not as negative as towards intimate partner violence between adults. Corporal punishment includes e.g. pulling a child's hair, slapping or smacking, pulling a child e.g. by the arm and other rough treatment of the child. All physical acts considered as corporal punishment are punishable abuse offences. Corporal punishment constitutes a serious threat to the child's growth and development. Corporal punishment has been reduced considerably over the past 20 years. According to the child victim study from 2008 about one third of children had experienced pulling by the hair by their 14th birthday. Verbal violence had been experienced by 40 per cent of children. [63]

The main document of the country, the Constitution of Finland (1999), determines in section 7 the right to life, personal liberty and integrity: “Everyone has the right to life, personal liberty, integrity and security. No one shall be sentenced to death, tortured or otherwise treated in a manner violating human dignity. The personal integrity of the individual shall not be violated, nor shall anyone be deprived of liberty arbitrarily or without a reason prescribed by an Act. A penalty involving deprivation of liberty may be imposed only by a court of law. The lawfulness of other cases of deprivation of liberty may be submitted for review by a court of law. The rights of individuals deprived of their liberty shall be guaranteed by an Act”.

Finland ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1986. CEDAW reinforces the rights listed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights agreements. Furthermore, domestic violence and violence against women is addressed in Finnish law in the following key pieces of legislation: Penal Code of Finland, Sex Offence Code, Trial Counsel, Restraining Order and the Child Welfare Act. The law allows the victims of domestic violence to report to police remotely (e.g. by email or phone) and on behalf of another person.

The Penal Code of Finland (1996) determines *sexual intercourse* as a sexual penetration, by a sex organ or directed at a sex organ, of the body of another, *a sexual
act as an act which, with consideration to the offender, the person at whom the act was
directed and the circumstances of commission, is sexually significant (Section 10). The
Penal Code of Finland includes Chapter 20 - Sex offences, with sections such as Rape
(section 1), Aggravated rape (Section 2), Coercion into sexual intercourse (Section 3),
Coercion into a sexual act (Section 4), Sexual abuse (Section 5), Sexual abuse of a child
(Section 6), Aggravated sexual abuse of a child (Section 7), Abuse of a victim of
prostitution (Section 8), Pandering (Section 9). These articles can thus be used in
situations of domestic violence. [22]

In Finland, the Act on Restraining Orders (1998) provides for the majority of protection
orders. The result is neither a purely criminal, nor a purely civil order. The order can be
obtained in a quasi-criminal procedure that is not necessarily connected to a criminal
prosecution. The victim, the police, the public prosecutor and social service workers can
all apply for an order under the Act and the police are obliged to carry out an
investigation as to the desirability of the order. In emergency situations, the police can
issue an interim protection order. The violation of such a protection order is a criminal
offence. In addition to the orders under the Act on the Restraining Order, the courts can
also impose orders in the course of a criminal procedure, but most orders are granted
under the Act. On top of that, victims can also be protected by means of a barring
order. [2]

According to the Finnish Marriage law, solutions to conflicts and legal questions within
a family must primarily be sought in negotiations between those concerned. It is
established in Chapter 5 of the Marriage Act of Finland on family mediation that
“disputes and legal matters arising in a family should primarily be settled in
negotiations between the family members and decided by agreement. There are family
mediators who render assistance and support, upon request, when disputes arise in a
family. Mediators may render assistance and support upon request also in the event that
disputes arise as to compliance with a court order or an agreement on child custody and
right of access”. According to Marriage Act a mediator shall aim for a confidential and
open discussion between the family members. He or she shall aim for a consensus as to
how to solve the disputes in the family in the best possible way for all the persons
concerned, shall pay special attention to securing the position of the minor children in
the family and shall assist the persons concerned in concluding agreements and in other
measures necessary for the settlement of disputes. [59]

Divorce often raises many legal issues (custody, visitation rights, property distribution,
financial issues, and possible restraining orders, in the case of immigrant women place of residence issues). Once they have divorced, women who have experienced intimate partner violence continue to remain in a legal relationship with their violent partner because they have shared custody of their children or because that partner has extensive visitation rights. Studies in other countries (Eriksson, 2003; Hester and Radford, 1996; Jaffe, 2008; Johnson, 2005) have shown that custody and visitation rights are a common source of problems when violence is present in the family setting and part of both the parents’ and children’s lives. Finland has a policy of favours joint custody and continued contact among the parents after divorce. However, it is not always appreciated that violence suffered by women may even increase in divorce situations and that the violence and abuse of children may also continue. One of the problems raised by earlier research is that the ideal of peaceful settlement does not work in situations that have involved violence. The negotiation process may increase the risk of violence, and violence or the threat of violence may hinder any prospect of a balanced negotiation. In these cases joint custody may not be a workable solution. Meetings with children may provide a pathway for the continuation of pressure, harassment and violence. They may present major risks to the safety of both children and to the non-violent parent.

The Marriage Act also determines that the State Provincial Offices are responsible for the general planning, monitoring and control of family mediation under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. The Municipal Board of Social Welfare shall be in charge of arranging family mediation in a municipality. Mediation may be rendered also by societies, associations and foundations, as well as individuals, authorised thereto by the State Provincial Office. The goal of mediation is to either prevent or solve violent conflict through negotiation. Finland has participated in peacekeeping operations since the 1950s. Mediation is based on volunteer work. Participation in mediation is voluntary for all sides. A written contract is normally used during the process of mediation. The contract contains the subject (the type of offence), the content of the settlement (how the offender has consented to repair the damages), place and date of the restitution as well as consequences for a breach of the contract. What happens after a successful mediation depends largely on what category the offence belongs to and how serious the offence is (see above). In complainant offences, a successful mediation automatically means that also the prosecutor drops the case. In non-complainant offences, it is under the discretion of the prosecutor whether he/she is
willing to drop the charge on the basis of mediation. This would be possible if prosecution would seem “either unreasonable or pointless” due to a reconciliation, and if non-prosecution noes not violate “an important public or private interest.” If prosecutor takes the case into court, mediation may still affect sentencing as a mitigating factor (Penal Code 6:7). In mediation cases non-prosecution is, thus, always discretionary. [53]

The process of mediation can be triggered by any of the parties involved (although participation is voluntary) at any point between the commission of the offence and the execution of a sentence. In complainant offences, successful mediation automatically means that the prosecutor drops the case. In non-complainant offences, by contrast, successful mediation is not binding for the prosecutor.

Mediation in Finland is regulated by the Act on Conciliation in Criminal and Certain Civil Cases, which entered into force on June 1st, 2006. According to the Act, the general supervision, management and monitoring of mediation services falls within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. According to the performance agreement drawn up between the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), THL is responsible for monitoring and research concerning the mediation of criminal and civil cases and also coordinates development work. THL is also the statistical authority responsible for statistics on the mediation of criminal and civil cases. Each regional state administrative agency is obliged to arrange mediation services and ensure that they are available in an appropriately implemented form in the region. The regional state administrative agencies can contract out the mediation service provision to a municipality or other public or private service provider. (Figure 4).[38]
Figure 4. Process chart for mediation in civil and criminal cases

The regional state administrative agencies guide, advise and monitor the mediation offices with regard to service provision. They are also responsible for organising continuing education for persons taking part in mediation both at regional and national levels. The regional state administrative agencies also allocate the state reimbursement for mediation services to the mediation offices and supervise the use of the funds. The reimbursement has remained at the same level since 2006 and is 6.3 million euros per year. The state reimbursement to mediation services is prescribed by law. The grounds for division of the mediation funding are the regional state administrative agency’s population figure, geographical area and crime statistics at the end of the year preceding the year that precedes the accounting year. [38]

Finland had 19 operating areas for mediation in criminal and certain civil cases at the end of 2012. The operating areas vary both in geographical size and in terms of population figures and crime statistics. In operating areas where distances are unreasonably long, the service providers also take mediation services closer to their clients.

The professional staff at the mediation offices receive referrals to mediation, assess whether the conditions for mediation are met, draw up administrative decisions, provide training for mediators, select and guide mediators and collaborate with various authorities, among other duties. Criminal cases not dealt with through mediation include aggravated offences, gang-related cases, economic crimes, drug offences, and
professional crime.
Partnership violence is not a unified phenomenon, as it varies widely in terms of how long the violence has continued, what forms of control and submission are involved, what the underlying motives of violence are, and how the victims are affected. In addition, gender roles are different in different forms of violence, i.e. in terms of whether women and men are primarily perpetrators or victims of violence. The Action Plan to Reduce Violence against Women of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (Helsinki, 2010) mentions that Johnson and Ferraro (2000) identify four clearly distinguishable forms of intimate partner violence, i.e. intimate terrorism, violent resistance, common couple violence and mutual violent control. The former two are mostly types of violence where the violence is one-sided and committed against women, with the motivation coming from the violent partner’s desire to control his spouse. These forms of violence tend to become more serious over time and the consequences are also very serious. The other two forms of violence, Johnson and Ferraro (2000) continue, are gender-neutral in the sense that both spouses may be either the offending or offended party. Common couple violence refers to situations where both spouses may occasionally use violence against each other in connection with their disagreements. This violence is not motivated by the desire to control the spouse. Mutual violent control is a form of violence committed by both men and women and essentially a form of power struggle. However, this is a relatively rare form of violence. Other studies based on surveys have also shown that women and men have different experiences of violence in partnerships and that the consequences of violence to women are more serious than to men. Furthermore, men rarely suffer from forms of violence, discrimination and dependence that would make it difficult or impossible for them to leave their violent spouse (Puchert & Jungnitz 2006; Walby & Allen 2004; Finney 2006; Haaland et al. 2005; Watson & Parsons 2005).
In the Action Plan to Reduce Violence against Women (2010), the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland stated that the Finnish Government decided to initiate a cross-sectoral National Action Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women, in connection with adopting the Action Plan for Gender Equality 2008-2011. The Government was keen to put in motion such a plan because there had been no national programmes in this area since the 1998-2002 projects for the prevention of prostitution and violence against women. This had prompted comments to the Finnish Government from the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
In the “Government report on gender equality”, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (2011) declared that as a State Party to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Finland is committed to comprehensive prevention of violence against women, which is a serious violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women. The Government has mostly aimed to take steps to prevent intimate partner violence and domestic violence, to which end various projects and programmes have been launched during the past decade. Violence against women at work and trafficking in women have also been addressed. The Government has, for instance, undertaken measures to improve services for victims of violence, to enhance expertise on violence and to promote changes in attitudes. Legislation has also been developed particularly with regard to intimate partner violence and violence at the workplace. The Government has adopted a Bill (HE 78/2010 vp) which would bring petty assault in intimate partner violence and violence against a person because of his or her job duties subject to official prosecution. Also, a review and reform of the legislation on sexual crimes is currently in progress. A comprehensive Action Plan to Reduce Violence against Women was adopted in the summer of 2010. This Action Plan focuses on preventing repeated intimate partner violence, reducing sexual violence and protecting women in a vulnerable position. [41]

In the National Action Plan 2012-2016, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland mentions that Finland rejects such forms of discrimination that lead to gender inequality (sexual and domestic violence, as well as unequal property and inheritance rights). It is also pointed out that the Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, administered by UN Women, has been supported since its establishment. From the point of view of the Trust Fund, Finland’s long-term support has formed a basis for its activities. Finland has also funded the UN programme Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict as well as the team of experts on the rule of law established to support the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. Finland has continued its activities against impunity and provided financial support to the Trust Fund for Victims of the International Criminal Court. [37]

There now exists a potential for preventing domestic violence and developing the activities in an organised fashion, as new ways of producing services are created in the on-going project to restructure local government and the provision of services. The prevention of violence and addressing the problems caused by it can now, right from the
beginning, be included in the tasks assigned to the new types of organisations, such as municipal alliances for social and health care services. Violence often already surfaces during dating but can also occur during or after a break-up or divorce. The perpetrator may be a male, female or both and the victim a spouse or a child. Children can also be violent towards one another and their parents. Adult children living away from childhood homes, for example, can be violent to their parents.

“How to guide and lead local and regional activities in social and health care services” published by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland (2008) describes the local and regional organisations responsible for municipal social and health care services who are intensifying their efforts in the prevention of and early intervention in interpersonal and domestic violence: “It is important to integrate the models and practices developed in different projects into the primary and specialised services in social and health care, and to ensure the coverage, continuity, and permanence of the functions. The recommendations issued aim at supporting and promoting local and regional work for the prevention of interpersonal and domestic violence, and reducing the problems caused by it. The recommendations stress the importance of strategic planning. Combating violence is based on action programmes. It must be coordinated and modelled. It is also important to improve the professional skills of the staff to intervene in violence as well as increase research and development in this area. Appropriate service and care models are needed for the different groups suffering from violence: forms that meet the needs of the children and adolescents experiencing violence in families, of older people and of people with physical and mental disabilities suffering from violence. The perpetrators of violence should also receive help. Interpersonal and domestic violence infringes upon human rights and jeopardizes equality, health, wellbeing and the security and safety of the public. Interpersonal and domestic violence is a serious problem that far too often leads to death. Individual administrative sectors and non-governmental organizations must not spare any efforts in preventing violence. Most of the services intended for victims and perpetrators of interpersonal violence are provided by non-governmental organisations. It is of great importance that an unambiguous agreement is reached among the municipal social and health care officials and other actors on the responsibilities for addressing the problem of violence. Otherwise it may easily become eclipsed by other concerns. Intervention calls for an inter-professional approach, the linking of services and effective communication between the actors. Mutually agreed structures for managing and
directing activities for the prevention of domestic violence are necessary in the ongoing project to restructure municipal administration and the provision of services. As a result of violence, individuals, families and society incur health hazards, social problems and financial costs. A conservative estimate puts the direct annual cost of violence at around EUR 91 million”.

6.3. System of assistance in situations of domestic violence in Finland

The Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters [Ensi-ja turvakotien liitto], a national NGO, was founded in 1945 with the social welfare aim of assisting women with out-of-wedlock children, although many of their clients were interpersonal violence victims. Unlike the shelters founded in many other Western countries which focused on a feminist empowerment approach, until recently Finnish shelters had public addresses (with one exception) and emphasized child protection through professionalized social workers. When women came to the shelter, the perpetrator was generally contacted and invited to participate in a dialogue about the welfare of the child (Kantola, 2004). Increasingly, shelters have focused on the support of female victims of interpersonal violence and since 2006, for male victims. This group has largely been seen as one of the many groups, such as A-Clinic for those with alcohol problems and the Union for Senior Services that support elders and their caregivers, which provide specialized support often in conjunction with the basic social welfare services of the state.

In summary, the social policies of the Finnish welfare state have done a great deal to enhance women's position in the labor market and in education, largely due to generous support of caregiving responsibilities. The legacy of Finnish family law is paradoxical: it is both progressive in terms of the rights of mothers and children and regressive in terms of how long laws against homosexuality have remained “on the books.” Many of these policies and practices are based on a gender-neutral ideal that does not take into account how gender and hetero-normative hierarchies actually function in the public and private spheres. The issue of violence against women as a public discourse emerged recently, because violence in the home has often been associated with the notion that alcohol and social problems are private issues best handled by families or social workers. Until the late 20th century, the practitioners of the social welfare state have thus been expected to cope with violence against women through child protection and
shelter activities, rather than through the police and legislation. [14]
The Federation has concentrated more on providing support for the family as a whole. The system of homes and shelter presented in Fig. 5. was created for this purpose. [35]

(1) Homes. The mother (father) and child homes are one form of child welfare aimed at supporting parenthood and at helping families to find their own resources and strengths. A mother may enter the home while pregnant or with her baby. Care is then planned according to the family’s needs. The home seeks to foster good child–parent bonding and to teach parents step by step how to cope with life and looking after their baby.

(2) Shelters. The shelters are service centres in which persons either suffering from or threatened with family violence can find help in overcoming a crisis. All the parties involved in the family violence situation receive attention, the primary objective being to safeguard the interests of the child at all times. The shelters are on duty round the clock. The Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters opened its first shelter in 1979.

(3) Community Care consists of services including a baby blues service for exhausted families with babies, counselling and groups for abusive men, family groups, an SOS and counselling telephone service, discussion and action groups, kiddies’ clubs, a child contact centre and housing services. [35]

Figure 5. Homes and shelters of Finland

An agreement is made with the client’s local welfare office on the charges for the
mother and child homes and shelters. The community care services are financed partly by the Slot Machine Association.

There are not enough services in Finland for victims of sexual violence. [3] The services provided are sporadic and availability varies regionally. The need for a nationwide service system for victims of sexual violence was highlighted ten years ago in connection with the revision of the Criminal Code, but this issue has still not been addressed. The Council of Europe recommends that every Member State should have one rape crisis centre per a population of 200,000. Finland currently has just one such centre (Tukinainen) that provides help and advice for victims of rape and sexual violence, but it is not in the position to offer acute care. The rape crisis centre has two units, one in Helsinki and one in Jyväskylä. The House of Girls (Tytojen talo) provides services for young victims of sexual violence in a few locations, and the Family Federation runs a dedicated project ("Nuska") in the metropolitan Helsinki region. The House of Girls services include a low threshold sexual counselling centre, group activities and one-on-one counselling for victims of sexual violence. The Family Federation project offers appointments free of charge for young people aged 12-17 and their relatives. Furthermore, the Family Federation runs a free sexual counselling website and telephone helpline. There are only a few locations in the country where victims of sexual violence have access to a seamless pathway of care, and staff often lack adequate information and guidelines. According to a survey conducted by the Finnish section of Amnesty International in 2005-2006, awareness of the Rape Victim Manual (which provides advice for health care staff on the acute care of victims of sexual violence) among local authorities is low. A questionnaire by the National Institute for Health and Welfare in the spring of 2009 showed that less than half of the hospital districts had developed care pathways between the hospital district and primary health care in order to facilitate the identification, examination and care of people who had experienced sexual violence (Nikula, 2009). Similarly, a health centre questionnaire in the autumn of 2008 found that more than half of all community health centres in the country had no common, codified procedures for situations that raise suspicions of violence among intimate partners or other family members. In cases of child sexual abuse, 60 per cent of the health centres lacked common procedures (Kosunen, 2009). [3] As included, the social policies of the Finnish welfare state have done a great deal to enhance women's position in the labor market and in education, largely due to generous support of caregiving responsibilities. The issue of violence against women as a public
discourse emerged because violence in the home has often been associated with the
notion that alcohol and social problems are private issues best handled by families or
social workers. Until the late 20th century, the practitioners of the social welfare state
have thus been expected to cope with violence against women through child protection
and shelter activities, rather than through the police and legislation. [49]

6.4. Organization of preventive work against violence

In the act “How to guide and lead local and regional activate in social and health care
services”, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland (2010) notes that the
prevention of violence is the responsibility of the entire municipality and all
administrative departments. [70] Cooperation across administrative boundaries is
indispensable in the efforts to prevent violence. It will be up to the municipalities to
determine who will coordinate the anti-violence actions as a whole and who is
responsible for what.

This Act also mentions that the board in charge of social and health care should ensure
that an inter-departmental coordination or cooperation working group is appointed for
the prevention of violence in the municipality or more extensive area to be defined in
the course of the project to restructure local government and the provision of services.
The working group will assume responsibility for planning, coordinating and
monitoring the efforts to prevent violence. Representatives will be appointed to the
group from the various administrative sectors, NGOs and parishes. The group will be
subordinated to the municipal board responsible for social services and health care. A
specific individual, responsible for the efforts to prevent violence, will be appointed for
every municipality. In areas covering several municipalities, such a person may hold a
full-time position. The individual will ensure that inter-departmental and inter-
professional cooperation works smoothly. The required qualifications for the position
are a higher university degree in social science and health care.

The prevention of domestic violence is incorporated into the municipal welfare strategy,
security planning and in the action plans of social and health care organisations with a
large population base.

The municipalities and cooperation areas created for the purpose of the provision of
services were to include the strategic policies for the prevention of domestic violence in
their welfare strategies and security plans by the end of 2009. [70] The policies may be
incorporated into the strategies either as separate action plans or programmes or as specific items. The responsibility for preparing, implementing and monitoring the action programmes as well as for reporting the results of the preventive measures will rest with the coordination or cooperation group. The municipal plans will define the inter-departmental managerial responsibilities for anti-violence action, the division of duties between administrative sectors, and the responsibility for coordinating, monitoring and evaluating measures transcending departmental boundaries. Clear points of focus will be determined for the activities and, in addition, the resources and measures required for the attainment of the objectives will be defined.

The measures proposed for the proactive prevention of violence can be divided into three categories based on their target group. The first consists of general measures aimed at certain population groups or the whole population, such as study courses in violence prevention for student groups and media campaigns for certain age groups of children. The second category consists of targeted measures aimed at specific high-risk groups, such as education for conscripts in the armed forces. Finally, the third category consists of measures aimed at people who have already been subjected to violence with a view to preventing repeated violence, or to intervening in violent behaviour. An example is the referral of perpetrators to treatment, which is discussed in terms of the vicious cycle of violence and violence rehabilitation programmes. [43]

According to the Action Plan to Reduce Violence against Women (2010) by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland, schools and educational institutions have been paying growing attention to violence and violent behaviour in the context of student welfare and the right of students to a safe learning environment, for instance. The necessary structures are in place for the prevention of violence and harassment, and those structures were reinforced in connection with new legislation adopted in 2003. The curricula for comprehensive education, upper secondary education and vocational training now allow for the inclusion of courses on safety and violence either in connection with other subjects or separately on such aspects as respect and consideration for other people, tolerance, respect for physical and mental integrity, and human rights. The vocational degree system in Finland is currently under reform, which has now reached its final stages. All basic vocational degrees pay due attention to the key skills of lifelong learning, including heath, safety and functional capacity. [3]

Both the National Board of Education and the National Institute for Health and Welfare have been working to develop learning materials for children’s sexual education and
safety skills, but the existing materials are scattered and not known widely enough. In particular, there is a need for more material that meets the needs of children and young people in different age groups and from different cultural backgrounds. Suitable materials are needed both for early education and for secondary level institutions. One of the biggest problems is the scarcity of material suitable for young people in puberty. Contents for safety education must be designed to cover the following areas: gender equality, bodily integrity, respect for sexual self-determination, sexual and gender diversity, media criticism, the identification of sexual violence and harassment and intimate partner violence, seeking help in situations of violence and the obligation of fellow humans to intervene in violence and to help the victim. It is also important to underscore the importance of helping children and young people to recognize their own feelings and to learn to deal with them. New materials shall be produced and existing materials updated to support these efforts, including a guidebook on safety skills for children as well as adapted translations of materials produced in other countries (Ingen ser oss and Bye Bye Pornostar, OkejSex.nu, Vardegrunden.se Ruotsi). One of the key goals of Government development projects dealing with violence against women and domestic violence has been to improve and develop services and the service system throughout the country. The aim has been to ensure that all parties to violence have access to services and support provided through the public sector. Public services are complemented by specific services targeting special needs, which include shelter services for victims. [57]
7. COMPARATIVE SOCIO-CULTURAL ANALYSIS OF SITUATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (FINLAND AND ARKHANGELSK REGION)

Comparisons between countries can help us to understand whether the data reflect the prevalence and stability of domestic violence as a social problem and which national features of legal and social assistance the countries have. As practice shows, comparative data helps to promote theory and suggestions for improving cultural and social responsibility for the violence and human rights violations.

1. General information about northern Russia and Finland. Russia and Finland are characterized as countries having a cold climate. This means that their society and economy consume high levels of energy. Most of their territories are northern natural zones: tundra, forest-tundra, taiga, northern bogs. The natural landscape of Finland and northern Russia is monotonous, relatively uniform, and there is no high natural contrast. The landscape is lacking in variety, there is no high natural contrast, the landscape is lacking in variety.

Figure 5. Geographical position of Finland and Arkhangelsk region
Russia and Finland have two kinds of outstanding global resources: forests and fresh water resources. Most parts of these countries are covered by forests and are well provided with water. Historically and geopolitically, Russia and Finland are young countries. A process of reclamation is still going on.

2. The term ‘domestic violence’. The Finnish and Russian societies determined violence as a social problem at the same time. The reasons are also similar. This period has been a time of changes in the sense of gender equality. In Finland the discourse on gender equality has tended to be divided into policies on children and care and policies outside the home. The term 'naisiin kohdistuva väkivälta' (in English, 'violence against women') emerged in the 1990s as a means of naming and addressing the systemic relations of gender oppression that condone or collude with violent behaviors (Hearn & McKie, 2010). Both countries recognize the meaning of human rights and understand the concept of ‘domestic violence’ in a rather wide sense. This includes different types of violence and violation of human rights on a life without violence. This interpretation seems to reflect in both countries the view that institutionalized sexism is a consequence of violent behaviors (e.g. harassment, rape or interpersonal violence) that are relegated to the private realm of social welfare interventions.

3. The situation of domestic violence. The problem of domestic violence is present in both countries. The situation indicates that the problem of offences against a person in the family is still acute. The rise in the number of reported offences is indicative more of the willingness and ability of crime victims to report an offence than of a true increase in the number of cases. Changes in police practice may increase up the number of crimes that appear in statistical reports, if domestic violence calls, for instance, are reported more often as offences. As far as helping victims is concerned, it is important to consider police procedures for the referral of victims to systems of victim assistance. A big step in the process of collecting data in the area of domestic violence by Russian authorities was taken in 2011, when a survey of women's reproductive health was organised by the RusStat together with the Ministry of Health of Russian Federation, in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund and the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (USA), which included a questions about situation of domestic violence from the point of view of women. As was mentioned in Chapter 5, most Russian women do not seek official assistance because of a fear to involve their family in discussions about problems inside family, and feelings of shame. We can see a huge difference of regard for human rights between these countries.
4. System of legal protection. Despite the differences in culture and legal systems in all countries, there are several common stages in the development of legal protection against domestic violence. At first, attention was drawn to the fact that existing laws did not take into account the specificity and complexity of this type of violence. As a result, a variety of additional measures and corrections were suggested to the criminal and civil law. Finland and Russia are not exceptions. Moreover, according to Finnish law, corporal punishment is prohibited and considered a crime. However, in Russia, moderate corporal punishment is not prohibited and is considered part of education ("carrots and sticks approach," "rewards and punishments"). The idea of the government’s responsibility for the problem of domestic violence has also broadened. Today, due to complicity and the systematic inability of the State, prevention of human rights violations has become the responsible in front of the international community.

5. Organization of assistance for victims of domestic violence. Social workers, guardianships, bailiffs – all try to do their duty without any intervention in their work from other institutions, causing an absence of a unified support system of people. Absence of a unified support system of people in a difficult life situation, including situations of domestic violence. The difference in assistance for victims of domestic violence is that Finland has a system of interaction between administrative authorities. Each specialist has clear instructions for identifying cases of abuse. Unfortunately, there is no such a system in Russia (Arkhangelsk region). Each institution (social workers, health care, body of guardianship) performs only their assigned functions without any system of interaction. The main cause is the absence of legislation about this issue. In Russia, there is still not any law of prevention and protection in a situation of domestic violence.

6. Organization of preventive work against violence. As can be seen from the data presented, the views concerning prevention of domestic violence in Finland and Russia, including the Arkhangelsk region, are quite different. But we cannot deny the fact that both the countries are considering domestic violence as a crime and realize the consequences. The system of preventing domestic violence in both countries still needs more attention first of all from the government. Preventive work against violence in Russia is a prerogative of the non-government organizations, and will continue to be until the government understands that availability of international documents concerning the prevalence of domestic violence and violence against the person as well are not enough.
The context of humanistic relations in modern society has significantly affected the re-evaluation of the social and cultural norms of interpersonal and inter-group interaction. Respect for the individual, tolerance, and focus on cooperation are top priorities among social actors. In Russia, as in other countries, thanks to the approval of the principles and ideals of humanism, there have been significant changes in some areas of social life. However, the social security of human beings continues to be a pressing social issue.

Today there are different social standards, some of which prohibit violence against any person, while others allow and justify it. On one hand, the humanist conception of human relations leads to the approval of orientations on tolerance, respect for the individual, and the need for conflict resolution through non-violent means. On the other, the rules for resolving disputes through different forms of violence remain unresolved during the initial stages of the historical development of society.

It seems that it is necessary to impart knowledge about the prevention of domestic violence, respect of individuals and equality of human beings in kindergartens, schools and other social institutions.

It is important to help people to reveal any risk factors of domestic violence in their initial stages. Specialists of all types (medical, pedagogical, social, legal) must get the necessary knowledge about every risk factor of violence against a person in the initial period. In the Master’s thesis we tried to compare and generalize knowledge of the cultural features of domestic violence.

The received recommendations will be useful for specialists of any type who render the services (medical, pedagogical, social, and legal) to people. The primary prevalence of violence should be emphasized. Before professional assistance is needed and used, it is important to develop (in Russia above all) the system of the prevention of violence.

Currently both Russia and Finland still need to pay more attention to the improvement of a system of interdepartmental cooperation (medical, pedagogical, social, and legal services) for early detection of domestic violence. Only the knowledge, skills and attention of all the specialists of the medical, pedagogical, social, psychological services can highlight the prevention of domestic violence and help to solve domestic violence as a social problem.
8. DISCUSSION

8.1. Conclusion

According to the main criteria lying in the basis of comparative analysis, the following results were achieved:

*General information. Similarities and differences.* Russia and Finland are both northern countries. These countries have an acute deficiency of heat. It means that their society and economy require increased energy consumption. Most of their territories are northern natural zones: tundra, forest-tundra, taiga, northern bogs. The natural landscape of Finland and Northern Russia is monotonous, relatively uniform, there is no high natural contrast, the landscape is lacking in variety. Russia and Finland have two kinds of outstanding global resources: forests and water resources, freshwater. Most parts of these countries are covered by forests and are with water. Historically and geopolitically, Russia and Finland are young countries. The process of reclamation is still going on.

*The term ‘domestic violence’.* Our investigation shows that the term came to both countries at the same time. In Russia it was a time of global changes, the transformation to market economy. This period is famous for Russian citizens due to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the establishment of the Russian Federation. This transformation opened the so-called ‘iron curtain’: the Soviet policy that inhibited discussion about lots of problems related to family issues. Everyone was supposed to have an ideal family without any problems. If a wife decided to leave her husband, nobody could help her, not even her parents. Such cases were considered shameful for whole family. So, as we usually say in Russia ‘it was done for the better’ - the collapse of the Soviet Union played a key role in the problem of domestic violence. Women began to discuss the problem, organise non-profit organizations, open crises centres. As a result, the post-Soviet Union began to talk about the problems in the Soviet family. The Arkhangelsk region is in the same situation in this case. In Finland, discussion about domestic violence began at the same time as in Russia, when the development of laws against domestic violence began. As noted by some scholars, discourse on gender equality tended to be divided into policies on children and care and policies outside the home, such as the percentage of elected female officials and wage equity (Borchorst and Siim,
Intimate personal violence has traditionally been subsumed into the broader categories of violence, in general, and alcohol-related violence, more specifically. A survey by the police found that most officers characterized inter-personal violence as a combination of “a man, a woman and booze.” (Törrönen, 2000, p. 14) Hence, domestic violence has often been perceived as a private matter (like alcoholism) best handled by the practitioners of the social welfare state, rather than as a public issue. [46]

**System of legal protection.** Both countries recognize domestic violence as a crime against the person. Moreover, according to the Finnish law, corporal punishment is also considered a crime and prohibited, whereas in Russia corporal punishment is not prohibited ("carrots and sticks approach", "rewards and punishments"). A fully implemented system of social partnership in which public forces are truly involved in the name of non-governmental organizations, official bodies, mass media, law enforcement bodies, expansion of the structures realizing the legislation, the legislative base of the Russian Federation is a necessity. The analysis of the norms of the Russian legislation concerning violence problems in a family testifies that its operating standards are inadequate and insufficient for the resolution of such an important social phenomenon. Many laws are only related to individual aspects of violence in the family while a complex exhaustive approach would be required. One of the important features in which the Finnish legal approach is different from the Russian in this issue is the fact that Finnish law limits communication with a victim from the abuser's side by restraining orders. The Act on Restraining Orders (1998) provides for the majority of protection orders. The result is neither a purely criminal, nor a purely civil order. The order can be obtained in a quasi-criminal procedure that is not necessarily connected to a criminal prosecution. The victim, the police, the public prosecutor and social service workers can all apply for an order under the Act and the police are obliged to carry out an investigation as to the desirability of the order. In emergency situations, the police can issue an interim protection order. The violation of such a protection order is a criminal offence. In addition to the orders under the Act on the Restraining Order, the courts can also impose orders in the course of a criminal procedure, but most orders are granted under the Act. On top of that, victims can also be protected by means of a barring order. The Russian legal system does not provide for security to the victims. Eventually, this has become one of the main reasons why victims do not go to court.

**Organization of assistance for victims of domestic violence.** The process of assistance in Finland and Russia (Arkhangelsk region) is different. The main difference is that in the
Arkhangelsk region (similarly to Russia as a whole) the assistance to the victims of violence is provided by a government system of social institution, and in Finland by NGOs. But it should be noted that both countries are involved in the cooperation of a network of non-governmental organizations. These organizations already have experience of assistance and prevention of domestic violence, practical technologies and a network of specialized organizations (shelters, crisis centres). Local authorities are involved in situations where the rights of a person have already been violated revealing situations the life and health of a child is being threatened, including situations of violence. Social workers’ knowledge and skill to detect domestic violence and work closely with domestic violence programs are critical for safe and appropriate interventions. Specialists in the social field in the Arkhangelsk region have an opportunity to develop a system of assistance for victims of domestic violence without a special federal law.

Organization of preventive work against violence. The system of prevention of domestic violence in Finland and Russia, including the Arkhangelsk region, is quite different. But we cannot deny the fact that both countries consider domestic violence as a crime and realize the consequences of its existence. The difference in assistance for the victims of domestic violence is that Finland has a system of interaction among the administrative authorities. Each specialist has clear instructions for identifying cases of abuse. Unfortunately, there is no such system in Russia (Arkhangelsk region). Each institution (social workers, health care, the body of guardianship) perform only their assigned functions without any interdepartmental system. The main cause of this is the lack of special legislation to solve problems of domestic violence. In Russia, there is still no law for prevention and protection in a situation of violence. Every single act of violence is a human tragedy that must be prevented. Stopping people from becoming victims or remaining as victims time and time again must be the central goal in any victim-related policy. Legislation, the preventive effect of punishment and the use of punishment as a sign of society's non-acceptance of violence are also some of its elements. The efficiency and economy of crime prevention must be understood, and information about proper methods and good practice must be propagated. And where it is too late and a crime has already been committed, victim support procedures and the prevention of repeat victimization are of central importance.

Our work also aims to pay the attention to creating a cooperation system for cases of domestic violence (first of all in Russia, Arkhangelsk region). Common efforts should
put the emphasis on the primary prevention of violence. Before the assistance of professionals is needed, a system of prevention of violence needs to be developed (above all in Russia). Only the received knowledge, skills and attention of all the specialists of the medical, pedagogical, social, psychological services as a system can prevent a problem of domestic violence. The received results confirm the importance and the urgent need to establish an inter-departmental system of identifying domestic violence and a systematic approach to resolve the problems in the Arkhangelsk region (for example, such as in Finland). First of all, it is necessary to accept a federal law that forbids domestic violence. Russia is still in a process of eradication of any kind of violence from the public consciousness. But the adoption of a federal law could accelerate this process thanks to the appearance of a sense of responsibility (administrative, criminal for example). As we can see, the Arkhangelsk region has created a documentary basis for the organization of assistance for the victims of violence (in institutions, family). But in practice the region does not have any (free of charge) crisis centres or shelters for the victims of violence.

Our analysis lets us make several important recommendations, which according to our conclusions should improve the system of prevention of domestic violence against the person in the Arkhangelsk region:

1. to expand the range of activities governed by the constitutional rights of the population (children, parents, citizens): life, upbringing and education without violence;
2. to improve the Russian legal system as regards the protection of the victims of domestic violence from the aggressor during the legal process;
3. to expand the system of social government institutions by creating crisis centres and shelters for the victims of domestic violence.

The acceptance of special legal government measures for violence prevention in a family can become the essential contribution to social policy by any state. It can be the most effective and important contribution to stability and safety in the families of its citizens.

### 8.2. Evaluation of the study

The main idea of the study was to portray the socio-cultural aspects of domestic violence in the Russian and Finnish societies. We reviewed the current understanding of domestic violence as a social issue. We have tried to reflect the status of domestic
violence in international, Russian and Finnish legislation. The logical basis of this work was as follows: (1) understanding and explaining domestic violence as a social phenomenon by socio-political, legal and social institutions and (2) efforts to create a common intervention system and integrated approach to solve this situation. The practical part of the study consists of an analysis of the legal documents in the Russian and Finnish law systems, the official sites of the Ministries of Justice, the Ministries of Social Affairs, reports, the publications of Russian and Finnish national organizations and associations for the last five years. Difficulties were experienced in the process of collecting statistical data because of differences in the structures of statistical data in the compared countries.

A comparative analysis was chosen to solve the goals of study. We understand comparison as a cognitive operation aimed at identifying the similarities and (or) differences between the phenomena (Fedorov, 2002). The comparison suggests the definition of comparison criteria - properties which could make a distinction between the similarities and differences of objects. We have therefore chosen the following criteria that reflect the socio-cultural features of domestic violence: (1) the situation of domestic violence (data, statistic of sex offences in the private area); (2) the system of legal protection (the legislation mechanisms of protection in situations of domestic violence); (3) the organization of assistance in situations of violence (system of social services, social assistance, the social mechanisms of protection in situations of domestic violence); (4) the organization of preventive work against domestic violence (the role of any kind of specialist who renders the service (medical, pedagogical, social, and legal) to the person).

The process of collecting statistical data about violence inside a family in relation to another partner had several challenges in both the Finnish and Arkhangelsk region. In Finland, the statistics on crimes in family are collected and analyzed. Typically (understandably) the data is presented in the native Finnish language. But some recourses usualy publish the same material in English. Nevertheless, I could find more data than on Russia and the Arkhangelsk region, the main reason being the lack of statistics on crimes committed by one partner in relation to the other inside the family.

In our study we confirmed both similar and distinctive features in the Finnish and Russian understanding of the problem of domestic violence, its prevention and solutions. In conclusion, there is still much to be done in Russia in this context to create a safe environment for the younger generation in their own families. We do not make a
distinction between violence against children or violence against women. We believe that any violent criminal acts committed in the family are acts of domestic violence. This study is one of the steps in the process of the development of a prevention system of domestic violence. The key aspect from our point of view is non-violence and non-conflict behavior of the future partners. Therefore my next step is to find an opportunity to continue research in the area of domestic violence. It seems to be important to teach young people, young families the skills to solve family problems without violence. We assume that the results of the analysis of the collected data of the legislation mechanisms of protection in situations of domestic violence, of the organization of assistance in situations of violence, and of the organization of preventive work against domestic violence in both countries are valid and can help researchers who are interested in investigations in the area of domestic violence and corporal punishment.
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