

# Gendered Violence as a Finnish Paradox

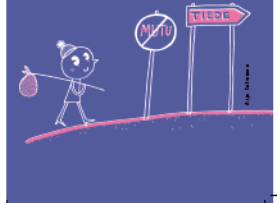
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## WeAll Consortium

- Strategic Research Council at the Academy of Finland (2015-21) funding.
- UH (Gender Studies and Ruralia Institute), Univ of Jyväskylä Business School, Hanken School of Economics.
- *To enhance equalities and sustainability in the Finnish in working life in urban and rural contexts.*
- To produce scientific knowledge on:
  - factors that support and, on the other hand, restrict the opportunities of different people and diverse groups in working life;
  - impact of age, gender, class, ethnicity, sexuality, and location;
  - how ongoing societal and organisational changes affect expectations and create new challenges.
- To develop models how the stakeholders can be involved in the defining of the problems on (in)equality and finding of **solutions**.

Creating Equal  
Opportunities  
and  
Putting Them  
into Practice



## Gendered Violence against Women

- United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993)
  - Violence against women' means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.
- Gendered violence is a serious form of discrimination caused by inequalities, power-over, vulnerabilities; it consists of multifarious, (often) institutionalised, ritualised, culturalised and pornographised abuses, and normalised and harmful practices and processes.
  - Gender is **not relevant only** in analysis of GW between different genders, but also of the within the same gender groups.
  - Intimate, domestic, organisational, state levels.

## Finnish paradox on gendered violence (1)

- Finland succeeds well in many international comparisons on gender equality vs. persistent gendered violence.

# Global Gender Gap Index ([http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GGGR\\_2017.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2017.pdf))

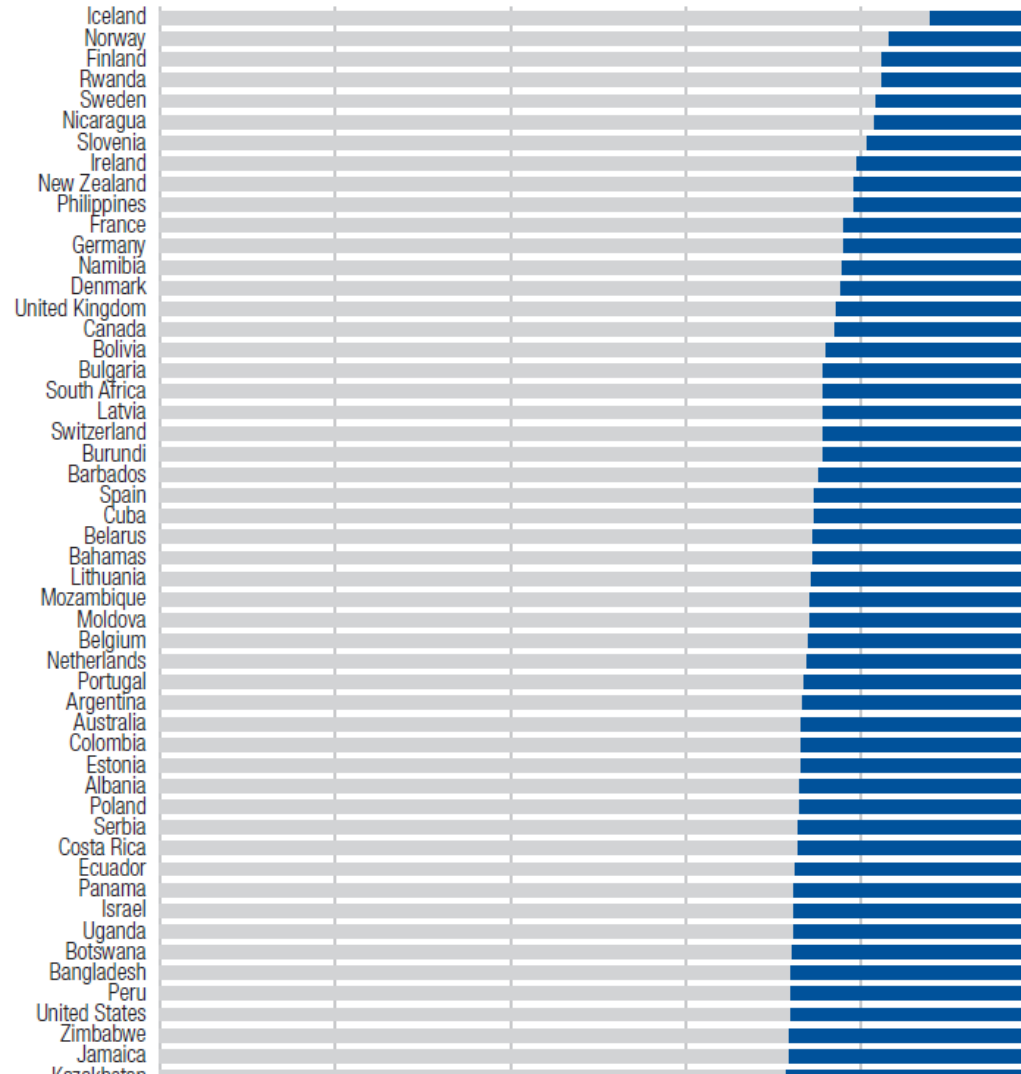
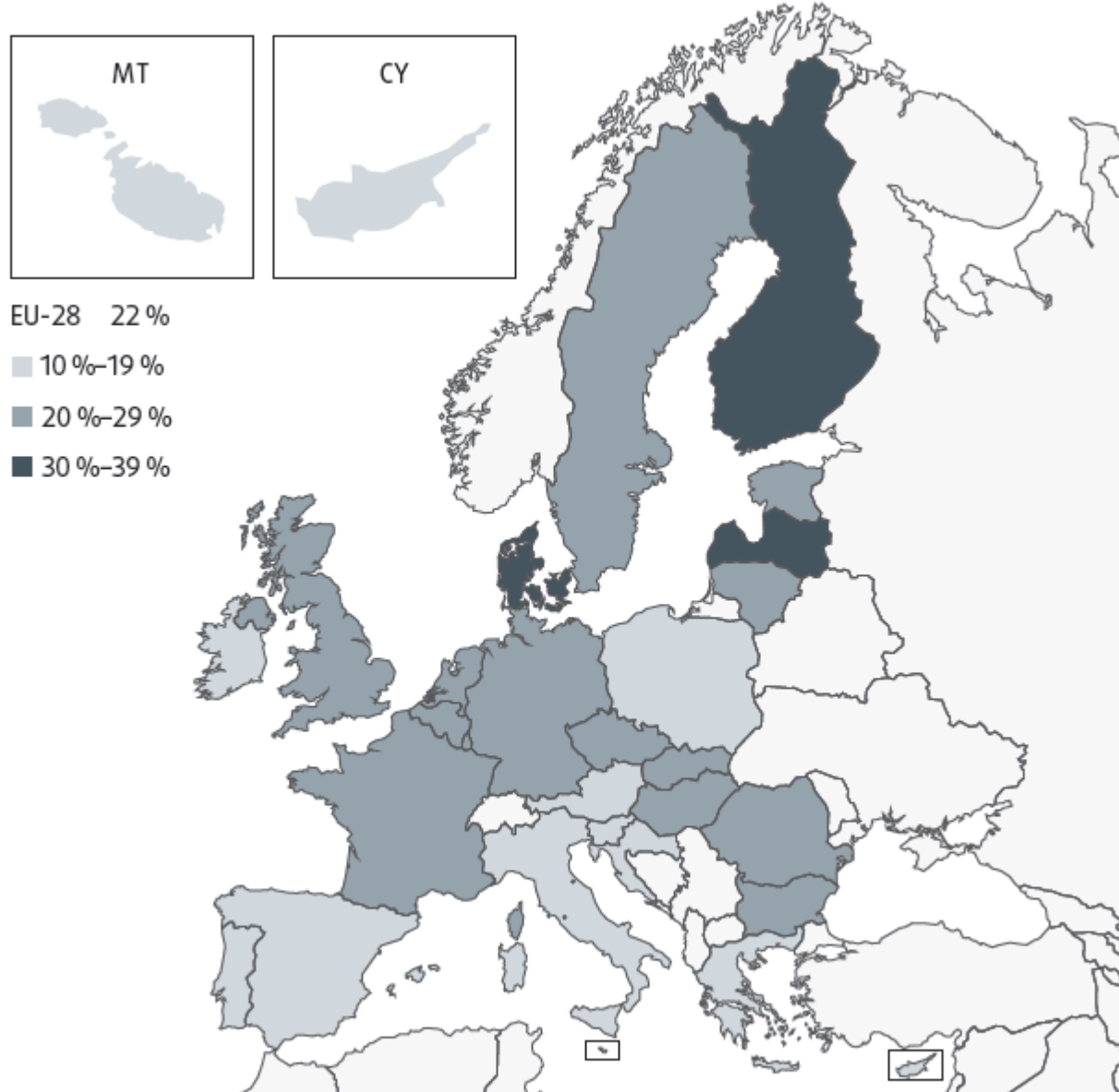


Figure 2.1: Physical and/or sexual partner violence since the age of 15, EU-28 (%)



## Paradox as regards women with different cultural and societal backgrounds (2)

- Gendered violence as a serious problem for women with Finnish origin vs. lack of understanding and of insufficient actions on gendered violence experienced by women with foreign or ethnic minority backgrounds.

## Example of migrant women

- Large social and health reform ongoing, which moves duties of municipalities (e.g. shelters) to new county level organisations.
- Difficulties to find employment for women with even high education
- Degrees not valued; stereotypical suggestions for career change; tough language skills demands even in job that would not need that; lack of Finnish networks.
- Violence met by migrant women as vulnerable groups.
  - Specific forms of violence still often non-recognised.
  - Honour-related violence, forced marriages, FGM.



## Paradox on legislation and reputation (3)

- Finland has relatively developed legislation as regards many aspect of gender equality vs. ongoing critique from international evaluators and civil society/NGOs on gendered violence.

## Implementation of Istanbul convention

- The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence includes all forms of violence against women.
- Violence against women is defined as all acts of gender-based violation that result in or are likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women.
- Implementation and challenges:
  - No NGO representation in the committee.
  - No specific funding.
  - Differences in services in different regions,

## An example: Trafficking and prostitution; othering

- Finland lacks particular legislation (Swedish model), and thereby the demand of buying of sexual services is (still/yet) not criminalised.
- Problems with access to services for victims of trafficking and prostitution in Finland.
- Issues on gendered violence are sensitive, they “come near”, and/or they are “othered”.
- Municipalities have restricted funding, and GV is not necessarily on top of that.

## Why such problems?

- Sex trafficking connects with buying of sex.
- Without men who buy sex, there would not be sex trade.
- Those who buy sex, they do not mind the age of the 'seller'
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJa7VUusz1vY>

## Example: Impacts of buying of sex

- In Southern Carelia, Finland, expansion of syphilis and HIV, highest rates.
- 
- Secrecy and male-bonging.
- Exclusiveness, also within men, and of women.
- Re-construction of traditional gender roles.
- Wrong kinds of signals for newer generations.

## Prevention of trafficking and prostitution as gendered violence

- Focus on the procurers, profiteers and customers.
- Collaboration with good NGOs and official sector in local level.
  - Vulnerable groups' specific needs, e.g. safety.
  - Trafficking victims: possibility to gain legal status in the country.
  - Exit programmes.

"You're gonna be happy," said life,  
"but first I'll make you strong."

## To summarise

- Empowerment – support and collaboration.
- Inclusion and care for the Others.
- Demands and follow-up of implementation of the Istanbul convention.
- PPP: prevention, protection, prosecution – need for local level collaboration.
- Inclusion of NGOs and researchers in all levels of implementation and reporting.

