

# No-one need live in fear

## Southern Domestic Violence Action Group

Issue 35

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Christies Beach SA 5165

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Winter 2014



### Southern Domestic Violence Action Group (SDVAG)

Meets 2nd Wednesday of every month 10am – 12:30pm  
Next Meeting at Family Relationships Centre/UC  
38 Beach Rd  
Christies Beach

Ring 8382 0066 if you would to join.

Welcome to the Winter Issue of the Southern Domestic Violence Action Group's Newsletter!

STOP  
VIOLENCE  
AGAINST  
WOMEN

#### Inside this issue:

1. Safe and Together
2. Safe and Together
3. Zarha's Murder
4. Family Killers
5. Family Killers, AGM, Purple Book
6. Book Review



## SAFE and TOGETHER

Perpetrator pattern based, child centered, survivor strengths approach to domestic violence.

The Safe & Together Model of practice by David Mandel encourages us to look at differences in gender when working with families afflicted by family violence. His methods of working recognize that men are perpetrators of family violence in the majority of cases. He puts forward the "Black Hole" metaphor where perpetrators are likened to Black Holes where they are invisible and continue to exert force, even after having left the family. This model of practice highlights that perpetrators of violence follow a pattern of undermining their partner or ex-partners well-being and what does this mean for stable housing and healing from abuse for women and children.

Major points from the Safe & Together Model emphasise:

- Workers tend to have an over-emphasis on the mother while the perpetrator stays invisible.
- Recognising it is the perpetrators choice to use abusive and violent behaviours and this is what poses the risk for child protection,
- A focus on "when will she leave" is nothing more than a geographic based assessment as perpetrator behavior can continue even after she leaves
- Perpetrators use of violence and abuse is a parenting choice
- That perpetrators are exhausting as they obsess over her,
- Recognise perpetrators have a pattern based behaviour and look at this behavior as the source of domestic violence, not the relationship,
- Look beyond the current relationship and be aware that child safety is not automatically resolved by the ending of the relationship

1

Keeping child Safe and Together™ with non-offending parent  
Safety Healing from trauma Stability and nurturance

2

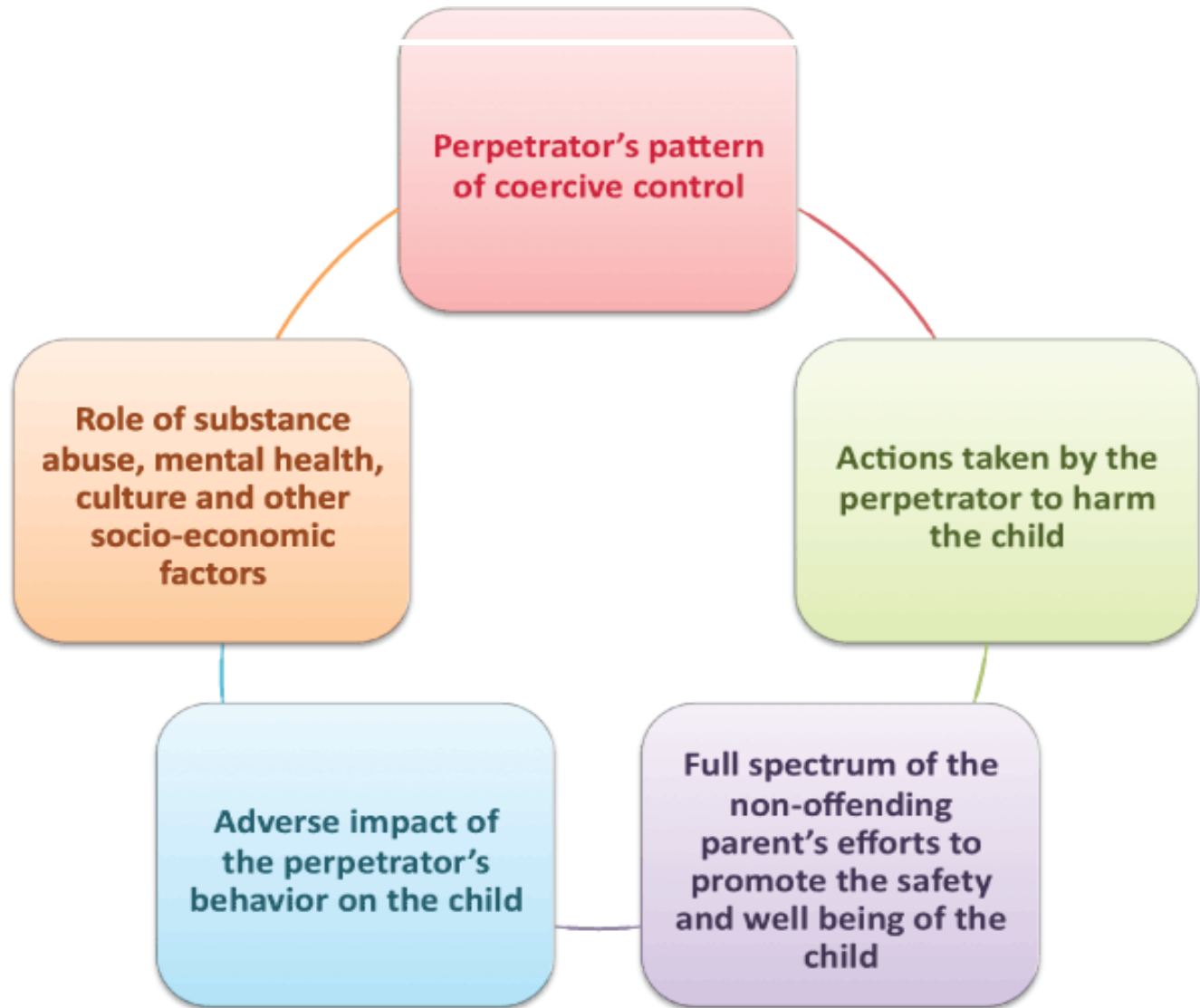
Partnering with non-offending parent as default position  
Efficient Effective Child-centered

3

Intervening with perpetrator to reduce risk and harm to child  
Engagement Accountability Courts

# Safe and Together

Implementation of these principles in case practice is supported by a focus on identifying the following **Critical Components**:



Key issues consist of:

- “Domestic violence perpetrators in the context of the child welfare system, are parents who engage in a pattern of coercive control against one or more intimate partners. This pattern of behavior may continue after the end of a relationship or when the couple no longer live together. The perpetrators actions often directly involve, target and impact any children in the family.”
- Any case plan where she is expected to manage his behavior is potentially a dangerous plan,
- Be aware that she opened the door, not because she let him in but because he chose to break the Intervention Order,
- He brought the “system” into her life and now he's making her pay for it.
- A worker has to understand the manipulative behavior of a perpetrator so as not to be manipulated themselves, such as his parenting choice is to harm her and have the children removed

In conclusion workers should be mindful that it is not “normal” relationship fighting when he says, “If you leave me I am not giving you a cent for the kids”. This is a parenting choice to harm the children and use them as a tool to get at her.

For further information you can visit the David Mandel web-site

<http://endingviolence.com/>



# News Article

## Coroner slams SA Police over Zahra's murder

The South Australian Police response to the case of a terrified domestic violence victim who was later brutally murdered by her husband was "appalling", the coroner says in a scathing report. State Coroner Mark Johns said there were multiple opportunities where intervention could have offered Zahra Abrahamzadeh the chance of preventing her death.

"Whether any of those chances would actually have prevented her death cannot be known," he said in his findings delivered on Monday.

Abrahamzadeh, 44, was repeatedly stabbed by her estranged husband in front of 300 people at a Persian function at the Adelaide Convention Centre in March 2010. Zialloh Abrahamzadeh is serving a minimum 26-year jail term. The coroner said the SA police slogan of Keeping SA Safe is a very good summary of its most important function.

"At every level it was a hollow promise in the case of Zahra Abrahamzadeh," he said. For 13 months Zialloh was not arrested, reported or even spoken to by police for the offences he committed in early February 2009. During that time he continued to make threats against Zahra through her adult children.

He taunted the children with the pointlessness of their having gone to the police in the first place, and was never arrested despite attending numerous court sessions related to a restraining order.

"Finally, when the contested hearing took place he was able, through his lawyers, to gain what to him must have appeared a significant concession, because it expressly permitted him to attend the Persian New Year function where he would finally make good his threat to kill Zahra," he said.

Deputy Commissioner Grant Stevens told the inquest the general service provided by police had been "disappointing". But the coroner said he understated, by a considerable margin, the true nature of the police performance.

"The adjective 'appalling' would have been far more suitable."

He made 10 recommendations to Premier Jay Weatherill, noting he recently said domestic violence was a key priority for the government.

His recommendations included that all aspects of domestic violence policing be characterised by a "sense of curiosity, questioning and listening".

"Risk assessment must be actually applied, not merely recited as a mantra." (Article from IN Daily, 7 July 2014)

### Coroner's Recommendations:

- 1) I recommend that all aspects of domestic violence policing be characterised by a sense of curiosity, questioning and listening. Risk assessment must be actually applied, not merely recited as a mantra;
- 2) I recommend that the SAPOL Criminal Justice Section be staffed by legal practitioners so that domestic violence restraining orders can be properly presented before magistrates;
- 3) I recommend that all domestic violence calls to the SAPOL call centre are handled by sworn police officers with particular training in domestic violence risk assessment;
- 4) I recommend that the domestic violence training that cadets receive at the Police Academy from external domestic violence agencies occupy at least one day, rather than the half day that it has been reduced to;
- 5) I recommend that all domestic violence safe houses be flagged with police communications in order to ensure consistency of approach when a response to an incident or report is made;
- 6) I recommend that prosecutors appearing in domestic violence matters must, as a matter of course, seek out all available information about the longitudinal history of the domestic violence offending, particularly from Family Court documents if those exist;
- 7) I recommend that prosecutors appearing in domestic violence matters must, as a matter of course, establish the outcome of the offence PIRs underlying the application;
- 8) I recommend that police officers do not ask domestic violence complainants whether they still wish to proceed unless there is some communication from the complainant that justifies such an enquiry;
- 9) I recommend that when a domestic violence victim makes a report at a police station, they are afforded an opportunity of privacy in an interview room;
- 10) The evidence of SC Nazar showed that the flow of taskings received by patrols meant that Priority A taskings that had been attended to but without result earlier in a shift, were unlikely to be returned to. This needs to be changed. Priority A taskings should remain higher in priority than later, lower priority taskings.

Full report available at:

<http://www.courts.sa.gov.au/CoronersFindings/Lists/Coroners%20Findings/Attachments/594/ABRAHIMZADEH%20Zahra.pdf>



# News Article

## Criminologists identify family killer characteristics

Men who kill their families can be separated into four distinct types.

British criminologists have made the assessment after studying newspaper records of "family annihilator" events over the period from 1980 to 2012.

A family break-up was the most common trigger, followed by financial difficulties and honour killings.

Writing in the **Howard Journal of Criminal Justice**, the team lists the four types as self-righteous, anomic, disappointed, and paranoid.

Each category has slightly different motivations and many cases also have a hidden history of domestic abuse. In four out of five cases the murderers went on to kill themselves or attempted to do so.

The research revealed the most frequent month for the crime was in August, when fathers were likely to be with their children more often because of school holidays.

### The four types

**Self-righteous:** Killer seeks to locate blame for his crimes upon the mother who he holds responsible for the breakdown of the family. For these men, their breadwinner status is central to their idea of the ideal family. (case study: **Brian Philcox**)

**Anomic:** The family has become firmly linked to the economy in the mind of the killer. The father sees his family as the result of his economic success, allowing him to display his achievements. However, if the father becomes an economic failure, he sees the family as no longer serving this function. (case study: **Chris Foster**)

**Disappointed:** This killer believes his family has let him down or has acted in ways to undermine or destroy his vision of ideal family life. An example may be disappointment that children are not following the traditional religious or cultural customs of the father. (case study: **Mohammed Riaz**)

**Paranoid:** Those who perceive an external threat to the family. This is often social services or the legal system, which the father fears will side against him and take away the children. Here, the murder is motivated by a twisted desire to protect the family. (case study: **Graham Anderson**)

The cases have also become more common with more than half occurring since the year 2000. Only six cases were found in the 1980s.

One of the study's authors, David Wilson of Birmingham City University, UK, said a reason for this increase could be "men feeling they need to exercise power and control" over their family.

It was often men who had invested "too heavily in a very stereotypical conception of what it means to be a husband and a father within an institution called a family", Prof Wilson told BBC News.

"Their view of the family is very black and white, and doesn't reflect the increasingly dynamic role that women can play in the economy and in the institution of the family itself."

He added: "The thing that struck me was the kind of extraordinary ways that men thought up to kill their children.

"They jumped from bridges with children in their arms; they drove into canals with children in the backseats. These were extraordinary histrionic, controlling ways of committing murder.

"This was a group of men who were not in any way previously known to the criminal justice system. This is a very different profile of male murderers than we normally find in criminological research."

(Prof David Wilson Birmingham City University, UK )

(Cont. on page 5)





# News Article

## Criminologists identify family killer characteristics Cont from page 4

### Private lives

The new study differs from previous explanations for the family killer. These have pointed to revenge or altruism as causes or that an incident leads a man to snap. But Prof Wilson's group said these explanations were not reflected in many cases they reviewed.

He explained that the private nature of some families could be a reason why fathers had seemed loving fathers and dutiful husbands.

For this reason, he added, it was important to take domestic violence seriously and encourage "more people to become aware of other people's lives".

Keith Hayward, a professor of criminology at Kent University, was not involved with the new study.

He said that it was valuable work that other researchers could further develop, but constructing "typologies" from second-hand media reports was problematic, and "not always helpful for policy development".

"There are a number of ungrounded assumptions going on about 'motivations'. This is reflected in the four categories, which overlap and thus don't seem that rigorous to me."

Prof Hayward recognised that getting access to the killers was in many cases impossible, but without detailed insight into their life histories, "it's all inference", he said.

The researchers did state that there were disadvantages of using only newspaper reports, but argued that interviews with family members "lifted a lid on the reality of life behind closed doors" which helped determine possible motives.

The study found 71 cases of the family annihilator, with a small minority of 12 women which the team will follow up with future research.

(Article from News, Science & Environment, by Melissa Hogenboom, BBC news)



### SOUTHERN DVAG

We would like to invite you to attend our Annual General Meeting.

DATE: Wednesday 10th September, 2014

TIME: 10 am to 12.30pm

WHERE:

**No-One Need Live In Fear**—The Purple Booklet, Edition 6, 2013..Domestic Violence Information & Resources.



**No-One Need Live in Fear**

The Purple Booklet – Edition 6 – 2013  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INFORMATION & RESOURCES

Southern Domestic Violence Action Group  
www.southerndvag.com





## SDVAG 25th Anniversary

The SDVAG anniversary is approaching. More details available soon. Please check our website: [www.southerndvag.com](http://www.southerndvag.com)

### BOOK REVIEW

#### Antonio's Seed A story of family terrorism By Merry Watson

This book won Best Fiction in 2007 with the NSW Writers Centre.

When I choose this novel to read, I assumed it was about a family drama, as the terrorism sub-title was in very small print.

What I found, was a novel about Domestic Violence. Although fiction, the author states it is based on true facts.

The characters are your typical family, based in the 1950s to 70s, with four children.

In this instance, the father is an immigrant, and initially the reader may assume that the volatile relationship is due to cultural differences.

What transpires is a controlling husband, then father, who resorts to extreme emotional and verbal abuse. His wife is totally restricted as to when she can go out, who she sees and is discouraged from seeing her own family. The four children are treated in the same manner, and in fact, the sons in particular are subject to violent physical abuse.

After many years of the wife having no freedom, no mind, no love (but plenty of unwanted sex), she meets a new neighbour who encourages her to take up art classes, which her husband later banned. The husband took to following her movements and making accusations of having an affair.

The art classes gave life to the wife's fragile mind, and even when banned, the spark of another life had been born.

With the support of her eldest daughter and neighbour, came the terrifying flight from home.

This is an in-depth and sensitive novel that can give the reader an insight of the effects of domestic violence on a family.

Reviewed by Jenny Ford

## Emergency Numbers

Emergency: 000

Police: 131 444

DV & Aboriginal Family Violence Gateway:  
1300 782 200 / 1800 800 098

DV Crisis Service : 1300 782 200

Crisis Care: 131 611

Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800

Child & Youth Health:

Parent Helpline: 1300 364 100

Youth Helpline: 1300 131 719

## Membership

ABN: 33 467 685 846

☐ New member

☐ Renewal

Membership is renewable annually

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Email me my newsletters ☐

### Confidentiality

I may be contacted by phone ☐

I may be contacted by mail ☐

No contact whatsoever please ☐

Community membership \$5 ☐

Organisational membership \$30 ☐

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cheques or money orders can be made payable to Southern Domestic Violence Action Group Inc. This form becomes a tax invoice when you make your payment. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Thank you to the SDVAG for contributions to this newsletter. For more information or to provide feedback please phone 8382 0066 or via our website at: [www.southerndvag.com](http://www.southerndvag.com)

