

Foreign sex offenders and some special features when working with them

ROAD – Towards life without crime

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Photo: Amanda Sandlin, Unsplash

ROAD – Towards life without crime

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1. The aim is to develop methods for preventing recidivism among persons with a foreign background who have committed sexual offences and are suspected of sexual offences.

- Substance abuse and mental health counselling
- Sex education
- Sexual therapy

→ Around 200 clients during the 2021-2024 project period.

2. The second objective is to develop the competence of the staff of both the criminal sanctions sector and the related organisations and municipalities to encounter and work with people with a foreign background who have committed sexual offences.

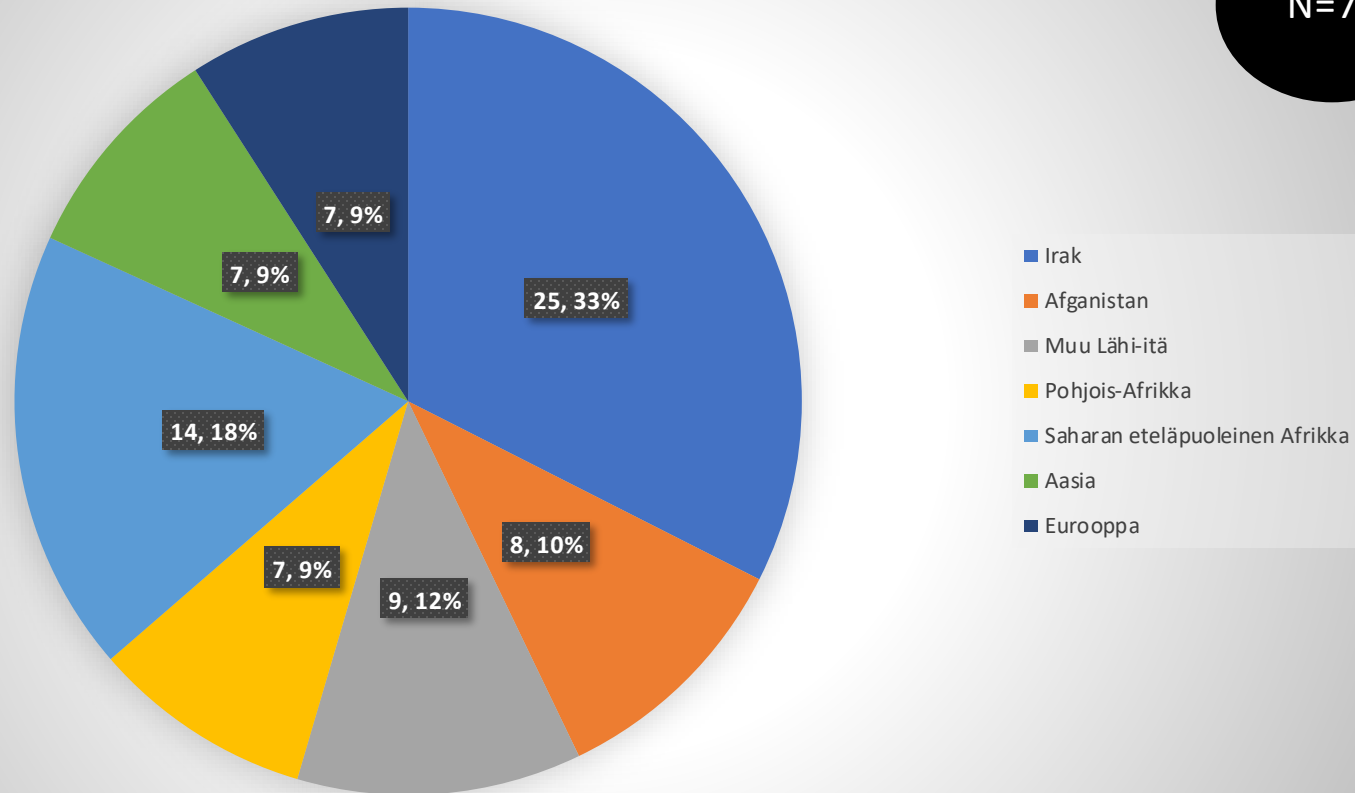
"Persons with foreign background are those whose both parents or the only known parent were born abroad. Persons born abroad whose neither parent has information in the Population Information System are also of foreign background." -Statistics Finland

Methods how to prevent sex offences



Countries of origin

N=77



Rest of the Middle East: Iran, Turkey, Syria

North Africa: Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria

Sub-Saharan Africa: Ghana, Congo, Nigeria, Gambia, Eritrea, Somalia

Asia: Vietnam, Thailand, India, Pakistan

Europe: Russia, Hungary, Portugal, Estonia, United Kingdom, Kosovo, Bulgaria

- **Antisocial behaviour / emotional coldness 26%**
- Young people who have come to Finland alone
- Have been less than 10 years in Finland
- Iraq is emphasized
- Not integrated
- General crime, negligence, self-interest
- Already started in home country, thrown out?
- Many have intoxicants involved in the crime
- Victims are minors, Finns, young people in institutions
- For some, getting to know the victim on social media
- Alone and in a group of friends

Compassion
Group process
Masculinity
Moral dilemmas
Alone & in a group

- **Lack of sex educational information 38%**
- Unaccompanied immigrants to Finland
- Some have been in Finland for a long time
- Wide age range
- No educational background, no literacy
- Not integrated, some speak Finnish somehow
- Some have intoxicants involved in the crime
- Victim: underage Finnish date
- For some, getting to know the victim on social media
- The act was done alone

Sexuality education alone & in groups, New direction + information

Interpreter-mediated work

Capability, belonging, peace of mind

- **Lack of sexuality education skills 27%**
- About half have Finnish citizenship
- Are integrated
- Finnish language skills / strong English
- More than half have children of their own, had/have had a family of their own
- Wide age range
- About half of the cases have intoxicants involved in the crime
- The victim is a Finnish adult spouse/bar acquaintance, some are minors
- The act alone, some with friends

Masculinity, identity, honor, self-esteem
Multicultural relationships, value conflicts
Communication and disputes
Emotional regulation
Group process
Capability (identity, masculinity)
Sexuality education alone & in a group / therapy, New direction

- **Crimes against children 9%**
- Are integrated
- Wide age range
- No intoxicants
- Incest, pedophilia, hebephilia, grooming
- For some, getting to know the victim on social media
- Acting alone

Capability, belonging

Sexual therapy, New direction

Integrated = speaks Finnish, work/study, understands how society works, can independently take care of things/seek help, understands one's own identity, has Finnish friends

N=77



Special characteristics of the target group

Sexuality education

Sexual rights are the basis

- Several declarations on sexual rights, e.g. World Association of Sexual Health 2014
- Sexual rights are additions and clarifications to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: interprets human rights through the lens of sexuality and relationships
- If sexual rights are not realized, human rights cannot be realized!
- The client gets:
 - information about the different dimensions of sexuality, the functioning of the sexual body and the importance of respecting sexual rights,
 - the skills to process and communicate about one's own sexuality and to respect one's own and others' sexuality, and
 - the opportunity to reflect on one's own attitudes to questions related to sexuality.
- Based on their skills, people make the best possible choices for themselves.
- When I was heard and met, I dared to speak and I succeeded, I want to take care of myself and others, I will discuss the topic again!

Gaps and differences in sexuality education and culture

INDIVIDUALS/FAMILIES

Working from a young age
Lack of education
Violence at home
Very strict rules and norms
Discussion culture

SOCIETY

Differences in the characteristics of sex offences
Corruption
Rich families vs. poor families
Honorable clan vs. not-so-honorable clan
Norms vs. values

There are a lot of people who come from very different sexual cultures and poverty and they don't have the information. Still, they do not commit a sexual crime.

Clients' boundaries have been broken?

"How do you think that the fact that you have not received sex education/discussion culture has not been/XX behavior has been expected in your family and community is reflected in who you are today, what situation you are in, how you behave, what you value, etc.? What information would you need more of/what thoughts/doctrines would be good to examine so that you would not commit a sexual crime again?"

Masculinity and the male model

Afghanistan

- Low-income country, multilingual and multicultural, mostly Sunni Muslims
- Agrarian society, mountains, heavy physical work > no hanging out
- Man is the provider = food, economy, housing, health, education, security = indicator of a good man
 - You must be able to meet the family's expectations at all costs
 - Often it doesn't change even if you're educated, live in Finland, etc.
- A man must be able to be a provider in order to get a good marriage
- Boys' parents get a spouse > focus only on supporting the family
- Finland does not have the community or communal support for those coming from Afghanistan -> many unaccompanied migrants have been left alone

Harmfully unrealistic and over-romanticized attitudes towards women!

At home, the woman served, no arguments, the woman didn't resist -> we want these "decent" women, not those who grew up in the West

Masculinity and the male model

Iraq

- Upper middle-income country, Shiites and Sunnis + others
- 75-80% Arabs, 15-20% Kurds + minorities
- Approximately 150 tribes, comprising a total of approximately 2000 clans
- Collective responsibility
- Tribe and clan the only social security, financial support, take care of problem situations and damages (often in money)
- 80's war between Iraq and Iran, Saddam's death in 2006 -> a state torn apart by contradictions and power-hunger -> armies, ISIS -> war, death, terrorism, violence + you have to be better than others so that you don't come second, you have to defend yourself to the last -> Military masculinity
- "For some reason, men are doing really badly here, and it is also reflected in the fact that they are increasingly oppressing women."
- In the ROAD target group:
 - 2015-2016 alone in Finland, rest of the family left in Iraq
 - Hanging out with your own + other Arabs
 - Violence, aggression, impulsivity
 - Gangsta rap, fashion, cars, dressing up

"How does the model of the man you got show in you? How is it reflected in your actions/values/boundaries? What kind of man are you alone/in a relationship/in a group of friends? What do you think about gender roles? How do you think all this has affected the fact that you have been convicted of a sexual crime? What would be important to look at in your male model in order to prevent problems in the future? What lessons and practices do you need to replace it? What kind of man would you like to be in the future as a father/son/spouse/friend?"

Victims are Finns – why?

- It's possible: on the streets, in bars, let's get involved, vs "women from their own country at home"
- Youth in foster care institutions
- In the end, they want a "woman from their own country" – common values, gender roles so you can be the "head of the family".
- If a woman eventually becomes independent -> identity crisis, gender roles, honor?
- Relationships between two cultures: jealousy, control, value conflicts vs. norms
- A lesser evil if the victim is a Finnish woman?
- The knowledge about the crime to the home country if the victim is a Finn?


"How would your situation be different if the victim was from the same country as you? How would you feel if the victim was from the same country as you?"

What are the good sides of intercultural relations and what can be the challenges? How do you solve value conflicts/problems? What should be learned more strongly in order to be able to be respectfully in a relationship in the future? How do you regulate your emotions and maintain/promote peace of mind?"

Interpreter-mediated work

- Use of an interpreter, especially at the beginning of the work - > topics and roles become clearer + you save resources
- The gender of the interpreter can sometimes matter to the client.
- Sometimes the client may be afraid that their information will be spread through an interpreter.
- If possible, inform the interpreter about the themes of interpreting when ordering.
- The challenges faced by interpreters are able to withstand the theme being interpreted.
- Note that not all languages may contain all words.
- Note that in some language groups, dialects have a big impact.
- If you have any questions, such as whether the interpreter and the person being interpreted understood a certain term or whether the interpreter interpreted everything, you can check these things with the interpreter. You can also ask the client to tell you what was just discussed, and this way you can make sure that the client has understood.

"According to the Language Act, a person has the right to receive interpreting services if they do not speak Finnish or Swedish or if they cannot be understood due to their disability or illness. The authority that commissioned the interpreter pays the costs of interpreting, because the law obliges the authority to arrange interpretation if necessary." Language Act 423/2003 (Finlex)

A photograph of a long, straight asphalt road with a double yellow line in the center, receding into the distance. The road is flanked by dry, scrubby vegetation. In the background, a range of mountains with patches of snow is visible under a heavy, overcast sky. The overall mood is quiet and contemplative.

Thank you!