



RECOGNIZING AND TREATING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
IN HEALTH CARE SETTINGS

Merete Berg Nettet, PhD-candidate in Clinical Medicine, St.Olav's University  
Hospital, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)

# ASSESSING AND MANAGING THE RISK FOR INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

# PROJECT PARTNERS IN NORWAY

- Dr. Roger Almvik
- Dr. Jim Aage Nøttestad
- Mrs Merete Berg Nessel
- Mr Stig Jarwson

# NORWEGIAN PROJECT PARTNER





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# BRØSET CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY

Research in forensic psychiatry and correctional services

Education of health care professionals in the assessment and management of violence and risk



# AGENDA

- How to assess risk for intimate partner violence using The Spousal Assault Risk Assessment Guide (SARA-V3)

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/ INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV)

- *““domestic violence” shall mean all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit or between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim”* (Council of Europe, 2011)

IPV occurs regardless of gender  
However; Women are more likely to  
be killed by an intimate partner

- >35 % of female murder victims  
are killed by their partner (Stöckl  
et al., 2013)
- The majority have a recorded  
history of intimate partner  
violence (Campbell, 2003;  
Vatnar, 2015)





(Lethal) intimate  
partner violence;  
Can it be  
prevented?



Open your eyes.  
Let's help victims of domestic violence.



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[www.prepoznajnasilje.si](http://www.prepoznajnasilje.si)



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GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR DEVELOPMENT  
AND EUROPEAN COHESION POLICY

# WHAT SHOULD YOU ASK YOURSELF?

- What is the probability of new violence?
- Under which circumstances is new violence most likely to occur?
- What harm is it likely that the violence will cause?
- When will new violence most likely occur?
- How can the probability of new violent episodes be reduced or eliminated?

# RISK

- Defining risk is to determine whether various factors (e.g., relationship problems, attitudes toward women, mental disorder) influenced people's past choices about IPV or might influence their decisions in the future

# RISK ASSESSMENT

- IPV risk assessment may be defined as *the process of gathering information about people to make decisions regarding their risk of perpetrating intimate partner violence* (Kropp, Hart & Belfrage, 2010)

- The primary decision to be made is preventive; what steps should be taken to minimize any risks posed by a person. The decision is not a simple prediction of whether or not the person will commit IPV

(Kropp & Hart, 2015)

# ASSESSMENT PRINCIPLES

- Use multiple methods and multiple sources
- Consider multiple domains of functioning
- Consider dynamic aspects of risk
- Evaluate adequacy of information
- Document information
- Update information

# THE SPOUSAL ASSAULT RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDE (SARA-V3)

- Based on a systematic review of the existing scientific research (Kropp & Hart, 2015)
- The SARA's purpose is to introduce a systematic, standardized, and practical framework for gathering and considering information when making decisions about IPV risk

# USES AND USERS

For use with perpetrators

- Adults, male or female, 18 years or older

At any stage of legal proceedings

- Pre-arrest, -trial, -sentence, pre- and post release

For use by health- and social services,  
criminal justice professionals

- With basic expertise in assessment and IPV

# ADMINISTRATION

Step 1: Case information

Step 2 & 3: Presence and  
relevance of factors

Step 4: Risk scenarios

Step 5: Management strategies

Step 6: Conclusory opinions

# STEP 1: CASE INFORMATION

- Identifying the perpetrator and the victim
  - Name
  - Evaluated by...
  - Sources of information
  - What kind of violence? Recent/Past

# CASE:

- Perpetrator: Hamid Asadi
- Primary victim: ex-wife Mitra Asadi
- Secondary victims: son Daniel Asadi, Simon, Mitra's friend
- Nature of violence: Uttering death threats to Mitra, Daniel and Simon. No physical contact with victims.

# SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Interview with perpetrator and victim
- Interview with secondary victims
- Police report
- Psychologist's report
- Probation pre-sentence report

- Step 2 and 3:
- Presence and relevance of risk factors

# SARA-V3

Rating Sheet for Version 3 of the Spousal Assault Risk Assessment Guide (SARA-V3)

Case Information			
Name: HAMID ASADI	ID: 123456	Date of Birth (YYYY-MM-DD):	
Presence and Relevance of Risk Factors			
Nature of IPV Factors: <i>History includes...</i>	Past	Recent	FUTURE Relevance
N1. Intimidation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	YES, FOR MANAGEMENT PLAN
N2. Threats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	YES
N3. Physical Harm	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	NO
N4. Sexual Harm	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	SEXUAL JEALOUSY
N5. Severe IPV	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	UNCLAR INTENTION OF RECENT THREATS
N6. Chronic IPV	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	FIFTH DOCUMENT INCIDENT IN 18 YEARS
N7. Escalating IPV	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	YES
N8. IPV-Related Supervision Violations	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	NO
Other N Factor(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	NO

Perpetrator Risk Factors: <i>Problems with...</i>	Past	Recent	FUTURE Relevance
P1. Intimate Relationships	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O
P2. Non-Intimate Relationships	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O
P3. Employment/Finances	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O
P4. Trauma/Victimization	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O
P5. General Antisocial Conduct	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O

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P6. Major Mental Disorder <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Definite <input type="checkbox"/> Provisional	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O
P7. Personality Disorder <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Definite <input type="checkbox"/> Provisional	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O
P8. Substance Use	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O
P9. Violent/Suicidal Ideation	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O
P10. Distorted Thinking About IPV	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O
Other P Factor(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O

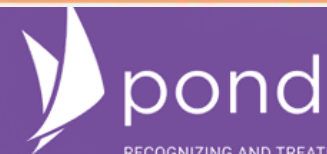
Victim Vulnerability Factors: <i>Problems with...</i>	Past	Recent	Relevance
V1. Barriers to Security	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O
V2. Barriers to Independence	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O
V3. Interpersonal Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O
V4. Community Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O
V5. Attitudes or Behavior	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O
V6. Mental Health <input type="checkbox"/> Definite <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provisional	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O
Other Victim Vulnerability Factor(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> O

### Conclusory Opinions

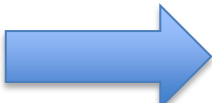
Case Prioritization	Serious Physical Harm	Imminent Violence
<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> High

Recommended Date for Case Review (YYYY-MM-DD)

Evaluated by	Signature	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)



# CASE FORMULATION HAMID

- Chronic problems with personality and attitudes, such as jealousy, possessiveness, and mild-moderate obsession with victim
- Chronic and acute problems with intimate relationships, such as recent separation, concerns about new «lover», and dispute over finances
- Anger, suicidal/homocidal ideation
-  **VIOLENCE**

# STEP 4: RISK SCENARIO HAMID

- Repeat: Consider all past IPV, not just most recent: Intimidation, harassment via phone calls, visits, emails to Mitra, Daniel or Simon.
- Motivated by control, anger, punishment
- Twist: Change in motivation, modus operandi: Sexual harassment of Mitra, jealousy

# STEP 4: RISK SCENARIO HAMID

- Escalation: Including lethal or «worst case»: Possibly life threatening in a homicide-suicide scenario.

# STEP 5: MANAGEMENT PLAN HAMID

- Monitoring: weekly contact with probation officer to assess jealousy, relationship with Mitra and Daniel. Monitor depression, hopelessness, suicidality/homicidality, anger at Mitra over any new relationship

# STEP 5: MANAGEMENT PLAN HAMID

- Treatment: treatment program to develop prosocial supports; manage vocational/financial problems, consider attitude change program
- Supervision/control: No contact with Mitra or people known to her. Will require Mitra's cooperation.

# STEP 5: MANAGEMENT PLAN HAMID

- Victim safety planning: Improve security at Mitra's home. Support/counseling for Mitra. Safety planning with Daniel to avoid release of information. Consider relocation of Mitra to shelter if acute risk of assault.
- Other considerations: Nothing new to add.

# STEP 6: CONCLUSORY OPINIONS

- Case prioritization
  - Degree of intervention required: MODERATE
- Risk for serious physical harm
  - Immediate action required: MODERATE/LOW
- Imminent violence
  - Risk that violence will occur in near future: MODERATE
- Other risks indicated
  - Urgent intervention taken or needed: YES, suicide/If IPV escalates, may require specialized assessment of risk for stalking or sexual violence.
- Case review
  - Date for review and triggers for special review

# CAN WE REDUCE THE RISK FOR INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE?

- The importance of systematic documentation via risk assessments
- Cooperation and risk communication between services
- Offer treatment to perpetrator



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# HVALA ZA POZORNOST!