Press Release

**The number of children experiencing domestic violence is growing, warns the awareness campaign The Vicious Circle of Violence**

***Ústí nad Labem / Ostrava, February 8, 2024 – The number of domestic violence cases has been growing annually. Only last year, the Police of the Czech Republic used the institute of eviction (restraining) order, which evicts a violent individual from a shared home, in 679 cases of households with minors – compared to 2022, the number increased by 119 cases. This data comes from*** [***the statistics of intervention centres***](http://www.domaci-nasili.cz) ***for people threatened by domestic violence. Moreover, the workers of the intervention centres warn that children subjected to domestic abuse are more at risk of becoming perpetrators of domestic violence in the future. For this reason, they decided to start an awareness campaign called*** [***The Vicious Circle of Violence***](http://www.kolotocnasili.cz) ***which offers the victims as well as witnesses or perpetrators of domestic abuse advice on how to break this vicious circle.***

“*Dad would drink and beat mum. Then it was the other way around. Mum started drinking too and started beating dad when he was knocked out by the alcohol*,” recounts Johana, a mother of four-year old Adélka, who was subjected to domestic abuse as a child herself. “*Marek is partial to drinking and then he gets angry and beats me. And I’ve started drinking too. I realize that our daughter is there when we fight. And that she hides in her room and cries just like I used to do*,” she adds sadly. If the family does not start cooperating intensely with experts to get help, Johana will be in danger of losing her daughter. Her story is one of many that the workers of intervention centres encounter daily.

**The newest** [**data**](http://www.domaci-nasili.cz/wp-content/uploads/Koment%C3%A1%C5%99-APIC-2023.pdf) **regarding people threatened by domestic violence shows that in 2022, the total number of children present during abusive incidents between their parents was 1,090, in 2023 the number increased to 1,398.** The data also shows that last year, the Police of the Czech Republic evicted 1,268 violent individuals from a shared household, out of this number 679 were households with children. This means that the number of abusers evicted increased by 181 or as relates to households with children by 119 compared to 2022. The Association of Workers of Intervention Centres of the Czech Republic has launched a campaign to spread awareness about the negative impacts of this growing trend of domestic abuse called *The Vicious Circle of Violence*. It introduces the phenomenon of trans-generational transfer of violence in families to the experts in the field as well as the wider public. **“*Within families, domestic violence often gets transferred from grandparents to parents and then on to their children*,” explains the chairwoman of the Association Martina Vojtíšková.** The expert also adds that the cause lies in undesirable adoption of role models, but also strong traditional stereotypes and environmental social pressure.

The presence of trans-generational transfer of violence within Czech families has also been confirmed by Petra Šobáňová from the SocioFactor company, who undertakes qualitative and quantitative research for the campaign. The chief researcher says that the first results of the research her team has undertaken show that ***“as many as thirty percent of the respondents who experienced domestic abuse claim that the abuse had already occurred within their family in the previous generation”*.** The results so far also suggest that people realize that the trans-generational transfer has taken place only after long-term and in-depth conversations about the issue, for example therapy. *“It is important to consider this aspect and work with it so that anyone living in an abusive relationship can break the vicious circle of violence, be it a parent or a child,”* Vojtíšková from the Association concludes and adds that part of the activities is targeted at educating the interventionists – social workers, therapists, and other experts.

The campaign called *The Vicious Circle of Violence* has been launched last year in November and takes place mainly on social media. The Association will reveal the final findings and the qualitative and quantitative parts of the research undertaken as part of the campaign at a conference for professionals in the field in Prague on February 22, 2024. *\**