

Extremely threatened women in women's shelters. A study on safety risks and the possibilities of safehouses (2006).

Women's shelters provide aid and safe accommodation to female victims of violence committed by their partner or family. Sometimes, the threat of violence diminishes or stops altogether, but in other cases the threat remains or grows worse. For this reason the form of the shelters varies, from quite open institutions to extremely secluded and secret accommodations. This report pursues the question of the safety risks involved in the sheltering and protection of extremely threatened women. This might involve serious forms of stalking, honour killing, and honour-related violence, coerced prostitution, or the involvement of a criminal circuit.

The researchers describe five themes crucial to the social (un)safety within women's shelters. The report provides clues for the improvement of the safety of clients, their co-occupants, and relief workers. The continual context of this is constituted by the dilemmas which are so characteristic to the sheltering of women, and which are connected to the offering of aid and care on the one hand, and the guaranteeing of safety on the other.