STOP-SV: a training programme to prevent nightlife-related sexual violence (evaluation)

INTRODUCTION

Globally, sexual violence places large burdens on individuals' health and well-being, as well as local communities and services. Sexual violence that occurs in recreational settings, such as nightlife, is of increasing concern. Studies have started to emerge highlighting the nature and prevalence of sexual violence in nightlife, and critically have found that some forms of violence are often not recognised as such, and are thus socially accepted. This highlights the importance of developing and implementing prevention strategies. However, few prevention strategies exist that specifically aim to prevent and respond to nightlife related sexual violence.

STOP-SV PROJECT

As part of the European Union Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme, in 2016 the STOP-SV (staff training on prevention of sexual violence) project was established with partners from Czech Republic, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom. The primary aim of STOP-SV is to support the prevention of nightlife related sexual violence, through:

Mobilising local nightlife communities and developing coalitions to work together to prevent nightlife related sexual violence.

Providing local stakeholders with resources to train nightlife workers (e.g. servers, security) so that they can recognise, prevent and respond to sexual violence in nightlife.

Training nightlife workers so that they can recognise and effectively prevent and respond to sexual violence in nightlife.

TRAINING IMPLEMENTATION

In 2017/18 **28 stakeholders** from Czech Republic, Portugal and Spain were provided with resources to train nightlife workers leading to the training of **114 nightlife workers.**

- In each location, local stakeholders were provided with approximately 20 hours of training to become STOP-SV training facilitators.

- Occupational background, levels of confidence in discussing the topic, and time constraints affected some training facilitators' ability to fully engage with the STOP-SV training (including delivery to nightlife workers).

- Nightlife worker training sessions lasted approximately 2-3 hours.[1]

- The STOP-SV training was generally well received. Some of those engaged in the training suggested that it could be less academic and provide a greater focus on experience of sexual violence across genders.

Nightlife worker perceptions of the STOP-SV training, post-training survey

Bar chart showing: 85%, 85%, 93% (Training)
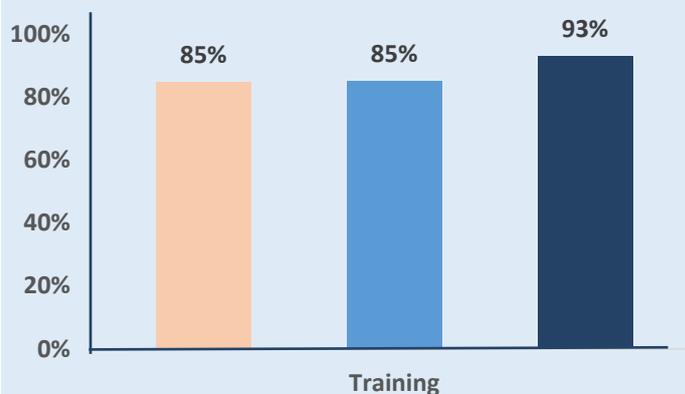
- The training is useful for me in my current job role in nightlife
- The training will help me to better deal with sexual violence in nightlife
- The trainer did a good job teaching and supporting me throughout the training session

[1] One pilot site conducted the training of nightlife workers over a 6-hour period.

ASSOCIATED IMPACT OF THE STOP-SV TRAINING ON NIGHTLIFE WORKERS

KNOWLEDGE

Post-training, most participants agreed that the training had improved their knowledge on sexual violence

Nature and extent
87%

Risk factors
86%

Prevention
92%

Response
90%

Help and support services
85%
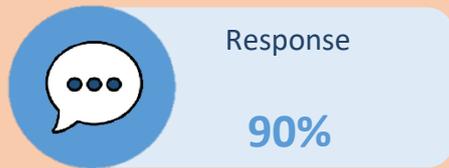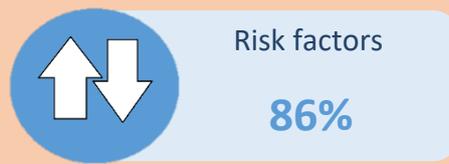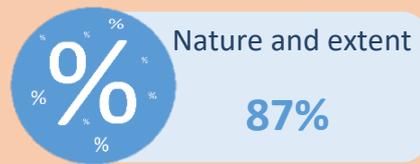
ATTITUDES/PERCEPTIONS

Post-training participants were significantly more likely to show increased agreement with the statements:

- Consent can be taken back at any time.
- Sexual violence is never the fault of the victim.
- I think I, and staff working in nightlife venues, can do something about sexual violence.
- I think sexual violence is a problem at the venue where I work.

CONFIDENCE

Post-training participants were significantly more likely to show increased confidence in:

- Asking someone they work with to help them address sexual violence.
- Expressing concern if someone said they had an unwanted sexual experience but did not call it rape.
- Doing something if they saw a woman in a venue surrounded by men and she looked uncomfortable.

NIGHTLIFE WORKERS EXPERIENCES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE/VULNERABILITY

In the last 3 months:

- **73%** had seen someone who looked drunk being escorted out of a venue by another patron.
- **66%** had seen a person who had had too much to drink passed out in a venue.
- **58%** had seen someone who seemed upset in a venue.
- **20%** had seen a woman in a venue surrounded by a group of men looking uncomfortable or upset.
- **14%** had someone tell them that they had an unwanted sexual experience but did not call it rape.
- **9%** had heard someone making excuses for forcing someone to have sex with them.

% of trainees reporting being a victim of sexual violence whilst in nightlife (lifetime)

	Male	Female
Sexual violence on a night out	12%	60%
Sexual violence whilst working in nightlife	21%	32%
Sexual violence on a night out or whilst working in nightlife	33%	79%
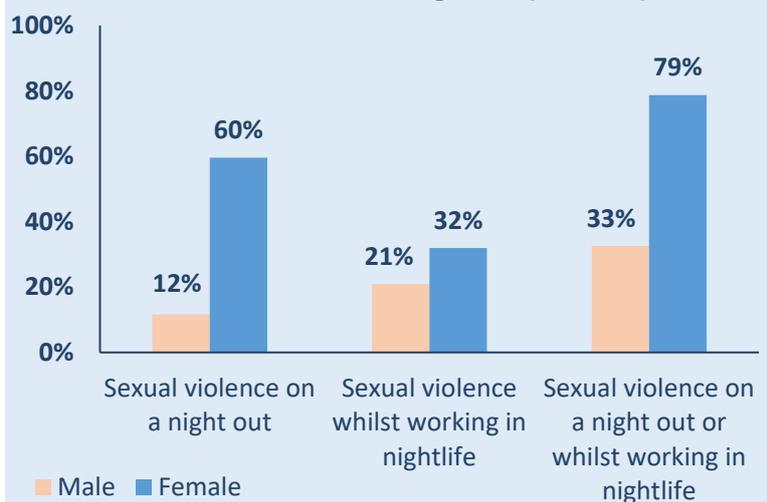
CONCLUSION

Findings suggest that the STOP-SV training programme is associated with: improvements in knowledge; improved attitudes towards sexual violence; and, greater confidence to intervene in sexual violence, amongst nightlife workers. A longer-term follow-up study will aim to assess whether participation in the STOP-SV training programme is associated with positive bystander behaviours to prevent and respond to sexual violence in nightlife, and if associated improvements in knowledge, attitudes and confidence have been sustained three months post-training.

IREFREA

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