

Sexualised Violence in Organised and Ritualised Structures

What is that?

„What I expect from society first of all, is to think everything is possible. So don't say: It can't be, it doesn't exist (...)"

(Quoted from an affected person) *

* anonymous and translated from: Was erschwert die Aufdeckung organisierter und ritueller Gewaltstrukturen? Eine qualitative Inhaltsanalyse der Erlebnisberichte von Betroffenen und Zeitzeug_innen, unter: <https://thieme-connect.com/products/ejournals/html/10.1055/a-1123-3064>. page 256

Sexualised violence in organised, ritualised structures is a form of sadistic, planned violence, which is enacted systematically in networks. Those affected, usually experience intense sexual, physical, and psychological violence from a **variety of perpetrators** starting in their early childhood. These acts often have a strongly ritualised character (e.g., so called sacrifices, ceremonies).

In most cases, **families** play a very destructive and supplying role. This ensures an early childhood attachment to perpetrators and groups. Usually, families – and therefore those who are affected by ritualised violence – are integrated into the network or organisation through **ideologies** (e.g., in sects, cults, fascist groups).

Forms of violence and satisfaction (of power) include sexualised torture, being threatened into, and trained to do/watch disgusting things, and **targeted conditioning**, to exact long-term **control** over

individuals. This systemic application of traumatising violence can lead to specific **dissociations, even a splitting** of the child's personality into multiple personalities (dissociative identity disorder/being a system) and is often applied in a very targeted way.

In many cases, commercial goals such as **child-/human trafficking** and the sale of child abuse material (child pornography), play a role in organised networks. During violent actions, affected persons are often forced to torture others (often children) or animals (sometimes for the production of video recordings of these acts, reaching as far as murdering children in so called snuff videos).

Over the course of time, affected persons often get assigned supporting roles in these networks. This creates an **ambivalent attachment** to the network, which makes it more difficult to distance oneself or to leave.

Expert group against sexualised violence in organised and ritualised structures

Compared to other countries, sexualised violence in organised, ritualised structures is barely ever addressed in Austria.

In the fall of 2020 the organisation Selbstlaut founded an interdisciplinary expert group against this organised form of sexualised violence. Together with organisations that specialise in child and youth protection, as well as experts in therapy and legal matters, the expert group works to build auxiliary structures for those affected and for their supporters.

The expert group orients itself by the expertise that has been developed in other countries for years, to begin a process in Austria that will raise awareness, and connect clinics and advice centres, therapist practices, the judiciary and executive, as well as medicine and science, to make these institutions capable of acting.

Goals of the expert group are:

- Creating informational material tailored to different audiences
- Building consultive services for affected persons and their supporters
- Offering further education
- Creating quality criteria for the work against sexualised violence in organised, ritualised networks in Austria
- Building a network of experts throughout Austria
- Extrapolating and processing the current status of research

The expert group has linked up internationally with other groups. Especially in German speaking countries, established aid and information centres have welcomed collaboration with Austrian consulting services and experts. The joint goal is to stand against attacks on humans and democratic structures.

The Austrian expert group provides further information as well as networking with relevant institutions, professional groups and unions.

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The work of the expert group was funded in 2021 by the Office of the Federal Chancellor/the Division for Women and Equality

 Bundeskanzleramt

It is necessary that...

- ... awareness is raised in Austria and that clinics and advice centres, therapist practices, the judiciary and executive, as well as people in the medical field are connected, to make them able to act.
- ... the public is informed about this form of violence.
- ... the knowledge about multiple personality systems and the handling of their statements is recognised as a basis for professional and helpful acting.
- ... the data situation is improved and the integration into science and education is accelerated.
- ... measures to recognise and prevent ritualised violence are taken.
- ... the existence of ritualised violence is recognised so that those affected by it can get adequate support and feel heard in psychosocial and therapy settings.
- ... further education for relevant professional groups is developed and financed by public funds
- ... policy makers and institutions provide the necessary means and structures, to make it possible to expose, or leave networks. Structures need to be built, to make it possible to provide refuge and protection and the best possible security and support for affected persons and make such things even conceivable.

Further Links:



Hilfe-Telefon Berta – Beratung bei organisierter sexueller und ritueller Gewalt
<https://nina-info.de/bertha>



Handreichung des Fachkreises Sexualisierte Gewalt in organisierten und rituellen Gewaltstrukturen (Deutschland)
<https://www.bundeskoordinierung.de/de/topic/51.rituelle-und-organisierte-gewalt.html>



Erklär-Video „Sexualisierte Gewalt in organisierten und rituellen Gewaltstrukturen“
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YX4dxoC22rE>



Infoportal Rituelle Gewalt – Gerichtsurteile, wissenschaftliche Arbeiten und aktuelle Meldungen
<https://www.infoportal-rg.de>



Viele sein – das Podcast zum Leben mit dissoziativer Identitätsstruktur
<https://vielesein.de/startseite>



Ö1 Logos: Berichterstattung eines Überlebenden organisierter ritueller Gewalt in Österreich:
<https://oe1.orf.at/programm/20200912/611779/Laurent-Ziegler-ueber-seinen-Glauben>



VIELFALT e.V. – Information zu Trauma und Dissoziation
<https://www.vielfalt-info.de>



N.I.N.A. – Nationale Infoline, Netzwerk und Anlaufstelle zu sexueller Gewalt (Deutschland)
<https://nina-info.de>



Sabine Weber, Pauline Frei: Support. Ein Leitfaden für den Ausstieg
https://nina-info.de/images/Support-Ein_Leitfaden-komprimiert.pdf

