

The Mary Foundation holds a conference on dating violence

In natural extension of its initiatives to prevent and reduce domestic violence, The Mary Foundation has decided to also focus on dating violence by holding a conference on the issue. In her capacity as Chairman of the Board, Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mary will open the upcoming conference, which – as in the previous year – will be held on November 18th at the Royal Library in Copenhagen.

Copenhagen, May 25th, 2009: Emphasizing that everyone has the right to a life without violence, The Mary Foundation – H.R.H. Crown Princess Mary's Foundation – would like to broaden the debate by focusing on dating violence.

"Young people and dating violence in Denmark" – a report published by The National Institute of Public Health in late May 2008 – found that ten percent of young women and four percent of young men between the age of 16 and 24, who are or have been in a relationship, are reported to have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence from a present or previous partner.

The report also paints a dark picture of the effects of dating violence on young men and women: Compared to other young people, a higher rate of psychological illnesses and suicide attempts is noted among both genders.

By announcing the theme of the conference at this early stage, The Mary Foundation seeks to support the ongoing and upcoming initiatives against dating violence, as well as to help eliminate the taboo that prevents a lot of vulnerable young people from speaking out about the unacceptable violence.

Together with the many other parties in Denmark who work to reduce domestic violence, it is The Mary Foundation's aim to help break the circle of violence.

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For additional background information on The Mary Foundation, its purpose and projects, pls. consult www.maryfonden.dk.