

The Mary Foundation strengthens focus on the complexity of domestic violence

EVERYBODY HAS THE RIGHT TO BELONG – Tomorrow, Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mary will, in her capacity as chairman, offer a warm welcome to Mary Foundation's conference on domestic violence. Under the heading "Everybody has the right to a life free of violence", she – together with the foundation's management and a number of recognized keynote speakers from both Denmark and Norway – will seek to generate greater focus on family and partner violence that results in the death of 24 women and 7 children a year in Denmark alone (2007 figures).

Copenhagen, November 17th, 2008: On November 18th, the Royal Library – commonly known as The Black Diamond – will open its doors to a conference on domestic violence. The conference – developed and planned by The Mary Foundation – is one of several initiatives under the umbrella "domestic violence", launched by the foundation in June this year.

"Family violence is a complex problem that is not easy to understand. And as is often the case with issues we do not understand, we are quick to judge. But it is the violence itself that should be judged – and condemned. It is important to remember that behind the acts of violence are people who need help. And that help comes from understanding, compassion and tolerance", says H.R.H the Crown Princess of Denmark, chairman of The Mary Foundation.

"The aim of the conference is to further leverage the ongoing debate in Denmark by identifying and emphasizing the various types and degrees of family violence, and finding solutions that will help the women and children directly affected. Statistics show that violence breeds violence, and as such, the focus of the conference is on breaking that circle of violence. Because violence – in any shape or form – is never acceptable and can never be justified. Everybody has the right to belong. And everybody has the right to a life free of violence", Crown Princess Mary states.

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For additional background information on The Mary Foundation and its purpose and projects, pls. consult www.maryfonden.dk (currently available in Danish only; an English version will follow in early 2009).