



Support of the project:



**The Project is led by:**

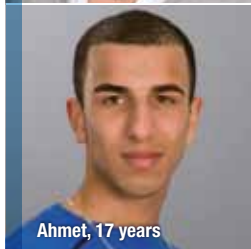
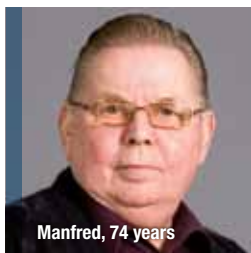
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Mutbürger



Talking about  
**civil courage and  
domestic violence**

A project from Lower Saxony, Germany

Support of the project:





## Duration of project

The project was organized for two years, 2011–2012. The procedure „Teaching Unit“ progressed until the beginning of 2013 at the Highschool „Christian-Hülsmeier-Schule Barnstorf“.

The procedure „Kitchen table discussion“ is still ongoing – lead by two female citizens – independent from the official end of the project.

## Financial details

80% were funded by the state prevention council of Lower Saxony (niedersächsischer Landespräventionsrat) by granting a contribution for the topic „Criminal prevention and promotion of civil courage“ for the time 2011–2012. 20% were funded by the Association for the protection of abused women and children in the county Diepholz and the town of Diepholz.

## Aims of prevention

- Victims of domestic violence get help and safety by experiencing solidarity in their social environment (neighborhood)
- The individual and collective mens rea concerning domestic violence is being raised and sharpened

## Project aims

- Gaining people as multipliers
- Changing the publics mind
- Removal of taboos concerning domestic violence
- Illustration of possible actions in the broad community and also especially for children and young adults
- Building up a mobile counseling team
- Speaking with and interviewing clubs, associations, Kindergartens, schools, shop owners
- Speaking with people at information desks at public events
- Going from door to door
- Offering trainings for the general public and pupils
- Public relations

## Execution

Focussing on talking to and surveying the population of the town Barnstorf at information desks at public events like fairs, exhibitions and markets, the mobile team also went from door to door in the surrounding communities. Trainings for civilian population and Kindergartens, as well as exciting teaching units for all pupils in 8th grade of the Christian-Hülsmeier-Schule in Barnstorf were conducted by team members of different profession (violence prevention and police).

Installing the kitchen table discussion „Talking about it helps!“ in familiar and cozy places, helped sustaining the momentum and gave room for neighbors, friends and relatives to have a place to talk about civil courage and domestic violence. The meetings started out supervised by team members and where later released to the group that formed.

## Recipe for success

The integration of well-known persons (on big posters in towns), the „Civil Courage“ Volkswagen truck, frequent appearance in daily and weekly press (e.g. 12 part column, frequent articles and pictures), being part of a documentary on state TV and the use of a informed and up-to-date website helped to guarantee the success of the project. The project has been (and still is) discussed and presented on expert conferences and congresses well beyond the borders of the state of Lower Saxony. Many other surrounding communities are currently dealing with the same topic and attest the „Barnstorfmodell“ a role model function.



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