

22.April 2015

## Stellungnahme zum Entwurf eines Strafrechtsänderungsgesetzes 2015 (98/ME XXV. GP)

I realize that the recent draft of an amendment to the Austrian Criminal Code contains clauses that would bring about the termination of the practice of applying the ‘Tatausgleich’ (Victim-Offender-Mediation) in cases of Domestic Violence.

Austria’s practice is highly esteemed. It is carefully designed methodically and it has been well researched. This research has shown the beneficial effects it has especially for women victims but also in the way of preventing further ‘intimate’ violence. It serves as an inspiration and a good practice model for other countries.

Victim-Offender Mediation is still in its infancy in Denmark and there is a need for developing models of safe and accountable mediation in intimate partner violence. Victim-offender mediation as practiced in Austria (‘Tatausgleich’) is one of the best documented and researched practice and is thus an inspiration in the development of a practice model in Denmark.

I would therefore strongly implore the law-makers to find appropriate legislative means and ways of keeping and continuing this practice of applying the ‘Tatausgleich’ in the field of domestic violence.

Sincerely,

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