

RECOMMENDATION 13

The Committee recommends that the federal government require federal prosecutors in the territories to take education courses on violence against women and that the prosecutors be directed to recommend mandatory counselling and treatment, in addition to other criminal penalties that apply, in cases where a man has been convicted of assaulting his wife or partner. The content of the education courses should be developed in consultation with front-line agencies that work with female victims of violence. The federal government should also encourage provincial governments to direct their Crown prosecutors to take these courses and to recommend, in addition to other sentencing options, mandatory counselling and treatment programs in wife assault cases.

Of course, if treatment programs are to become one of the options a judge considers at sentencing, there must be resources in the community to deliver the service. Witnesses who run programs through community agencies told the Committee that the demand for their programs has created long waiting lists. This is the case even for those programs that have given wife assault cases priority and put wife abusers at the top of their treatment waiting list. As well, judges and lawyers must also be educated about existing resources, in order that they will use them in appropriate cases.

RECOMMENDATION 14

While the Committee recognizes assistance to victims to be a funding priority, it recommends that the federal government take the lead role to ensure that stable, adequate funding is available for treatment programs for violent men. Funding should go to program models that have been identified as the most effective in the federal government's evaluation research on treatment and counselling programs for men who batter.

H. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Committee heard from many witnesses that access to housing is inextricably linked to wife assault. The lack of safe, accessible, affordable housing forces women and children to remain in or return to violent living environments. As noted earlier in the Report, a woman's stay in a transition house is of short duration. Many women who leave the transition house go back to the abusive situation because they have neither the