

## **RECOMMENDATION 11**

The Committee recommends that the federal government take the lead role to ensure that secure, long-term funding is available for front-line agencies providing services to assaulted and abused women and girls. Financial support is needed to ensure that services will be accessible to all women in need and sensitive to the needs of women with disabilities, elderly women, and women who are immigrants and/or members of visible minorities.

## **G. TREATMENT FOR VIOLENT MEN**

There are a total of 114 Canadian treatment programs for men who batter their partners (Canada, *Canadian Treatment Programs for Men Who Batter*, Health and Welfare Canada, July 1988). These programs often have formal links to the criminal justice system. They may be located within correctional institutions. They may be part of a sentence or an alternative to the criminal justice system offered in the community. And, they may be voluntarily entered into by a man whose partner has threatened to end the relationship unless he seeks help.

Treatment groups do not necessarily have the same focus or produce the same results. Witnesses reported that men who go through these programs may learn how to "manage their anger" and then resort to emotional abuse as a substitute for physical abuse. The preferred program model for violent men was described as one in which an abuser is encouraged to take responsibility for his violent actions and to recognize the cues that trigger them, to heighten his understanding about the causes and consequences of violent behaviour and to work towards changing his behaviour and attitudes.

The Committee is aware that the federal government has undertaken evaluations of existing treatment programs for violent men. The Brief to the Committee prepared by the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women called upon the federal government to release the results of these evaluations to the public. The Committee endorses this proposal. It is anxious that treatment and counselling programs should not encourage violent men to substitute one form of abuse for another and that, indeed, men should come to accept responsibility for their violent behaviour.

## **RECOMMENDATION 12**

The Committee recommends that the federal government immediately release the evaluation results of its research on the effectiveness of the different program models for men who batter women.