

For Immediate Release
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A look at how European countries are responding to domestic violence is the focus of a conference this weekend at UW-Madison.

Scholars from Sweden, Austria, Germany and the United Kingdom will present their findings and lead discussions at the conference which is free and open to the public on Friday, Nov. 5, and Saturday, Nov. 6, in the Pyle Center, 702 Langdon St.

The conference, "Responding to Violence Against Women: Models from the European Union," is designed to unite European policy-makers and researchers on the prevention of violence against women with their Wisconsin counterparts, according to Aili Tripp, director of the Women Studies Research Center at UW-Madison. In the past few years, she said, a host of new studies on domestic violence and policy responses to their findings have appeared in Europe.

To encourage the cross-fertilization of ideas, the workshop will focus on public policy responses to violence against women in the European Union, and the issues of prevalence and focus that they address. These findings will be compared with the issues as they present themselves in Wisconsin and the greater Midwest.

"Our primary interest is to engage both legislators and scholars in discussion of how to conceptualize and implement effective policy on this important topic. We expect to stimulate a productive dialogue with local Wisconsin scholars, government officials and non-profit representatives," said Tripp.

Registration is free for the conference which is jointly sponsored by the European Union Center, the Center for German and European Studies and the Joint Center for Public Policy and the Status of Women and the Center. The latter is an effort of the Women Studies Center and the La Follette School of Public Affairs.

More information is available at the website:
<http://eucenter.wisc.edu/Conferences/ViolenceNov04/>