

## **Newly Discovered Abuse - Psychological Abuse between Partners**

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Psychological abuse is a complex and phenomenon that is hard to define and that has not attracted the in-depth and systematic attention of criminological and victimological science until recently. Psychological aggression between intimate partners encompasses a wide range of actions from explicit verbal aggression to most subtle manipulations which are much more often reciprocal than it is the case in physically abusive relationships, because of which it is sometimes extremely difficult to delineate between "the perpetrator" and "the victim". We may assume that the brutality of interpersonal violence decreases in the upper social classes and it is replaced by subtle forms of (psychological) abuse, which demand special research approaches that are currently relatively underdeveloped and not uniform. Even though psychological aggression is not and cannot be the subject of criminal law intervention, it is right that criminology and victimology pay attention to this phenomenon and contribute to awareness that psychological abuse is "serious victimization" and not perhaps "a self evident matter" or "inevitable".

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