Project Viola

an initiative of the German Medical Students' Association (bvmd)

Founded in 2016 by SCORA and SCORP
The problem in society we want to tackle: Child abuse

In 2018 Police in Germany registered

- Almost **4,200 physically abused children** under the age of 14
- 40,1 in 100,000 children under 14 at risk of physical abuse
- Over **14,400 sexually abused children**, 12,584 of which under the age of 6

The **dark number** of abuse is thought to be much higher, as abuse often happens at home and in young children that cannot contact police. Besides, statistics of other forms of child abuse such as psychological abuse or neglect have not been made public by police yet. *Source: polizei-beratung.de*

Child abuse is occurring everywhere around us, no matter which part of society or which country. We have to step up as a society and fight for awareness and better education, especially in the **health care sector**, due to unique **responsibility** and opportunities to detect abuse.
That’s where Viola steps in

demanding a sound education of health care professionals and medical students about identification, prevention, consequences and treatment of child abuse, as well as legal aspects around it.
Our mission

- Raising awareness of child abuse in the broad public and especially in the health care sector
- Incidence, risk factors, consequences and possible prevention of child abuse

Raising Awareness

- Cooperation with professional partners emphasize and promote the importance of interprofessional working in case of suspicion of abuse

Promoting Inter-professionality

- Detection of possible cases of abuse and how to handle suspicion of abuse
- Basic rights and laws concerning abuse
- Discussing stereotypes and false assumptions
- Sequences of action

Educating (future) health care professionals

- Teaching skills to deal with sensitive situations, talking to parents or victims, ethically correct behaviour
- Case examples
- Correct documentation and securing evidence

Training practical and communication skills

- Incidence, risk factors, consequences and possible prevention of child abuse
How to act locally

• Workshops and trainings

• Field trips to institutions

• Discussions with professionals

• Movies concerning child abuse

• Seminars with professionals

• In-depth detailed week-end seminars

• Publicity through media, interviews
Professional partners
for input, support and exchange

• Welfare, prevention

• Child protection groups in hospitals, pediatricians, legal medicine

• Psychologists

• Lawyers, police and other people belonging to the justice system

• Medical associations on child protection and education
Our long-term goals

- A Viola-committee in each medical faculty in the next five years
- Thorough education on child protection in medical curricula in the next ten years
- Every doctor having general awareness and confident knowledge on child abuse
  → Positive impact on children’s future

Methods to help reach these goals

- Spreading practical skills and knowledge through the multiplier effect, supporting sustainable education
- Monitored material and constant evaluation ensure an improving and up to date content
- Creating a network of professionals and encouraging interdisciplinary exchange
What did we accomplish so far?

- Nine local committees
- Each committee organizing two well-planned events per year
- Top ten nomination for Rex-Crossley Award
- Several presentations and seminars on national and international events (bvmd, IFMSA and medical associations)
- Three interviews with medical newspapers/online journals
Join Viola
and help us fight child abuse
together.
for better child protection.

Do you want to receive more information on this project or the topic?
Do you have ideas to improve our project?
Do you need help establishing a similar project in your country?

Please contact us via e-mail: viola@bvmd.de.
We are looking forward to talk to you!