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*beyond  
digital  
violence*



Männerbüro |  
Hannover e.V. |

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Dipl. Social Scientist

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# The Men's Office Hanover

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Hannover |

Men's office



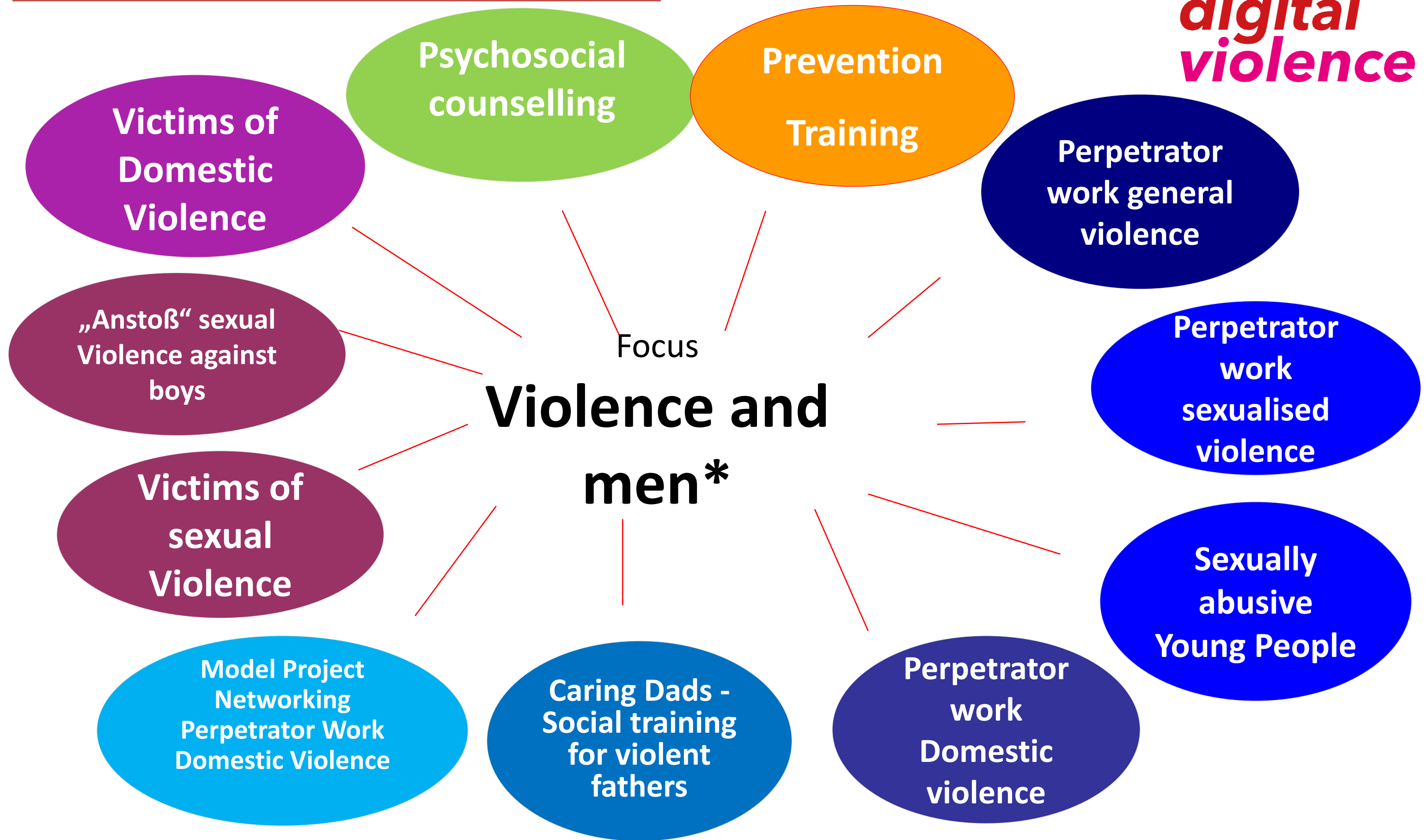
Beratungsstelle  
Anstoß |

Counselling Centre „Impetus“

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# Work areas

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## **What is sexualised violence?**

# What is sexualised violence?

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- "Offences against sexual self-determination" under the Criminal Code, thirteenth section (§174 to § 184)
  - "Sexualised violence refers to acts that violate a person's right to sexual self-determination." (Zartbitter - Counselling Centre against Sexualised Violence)
  - "Child sexual abuse refers to voluntary sexual acts with, on or in front of children." (cf. WHO, 1999, pp. 15-16)
  - For adults and older adolescents, a power imbalance between the perpetrator and his/her victim often plays a central role.
  - Sexual assaults can also be committed by children, adolescents or even siblings of the same age.
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## Definition: Sexualised violence

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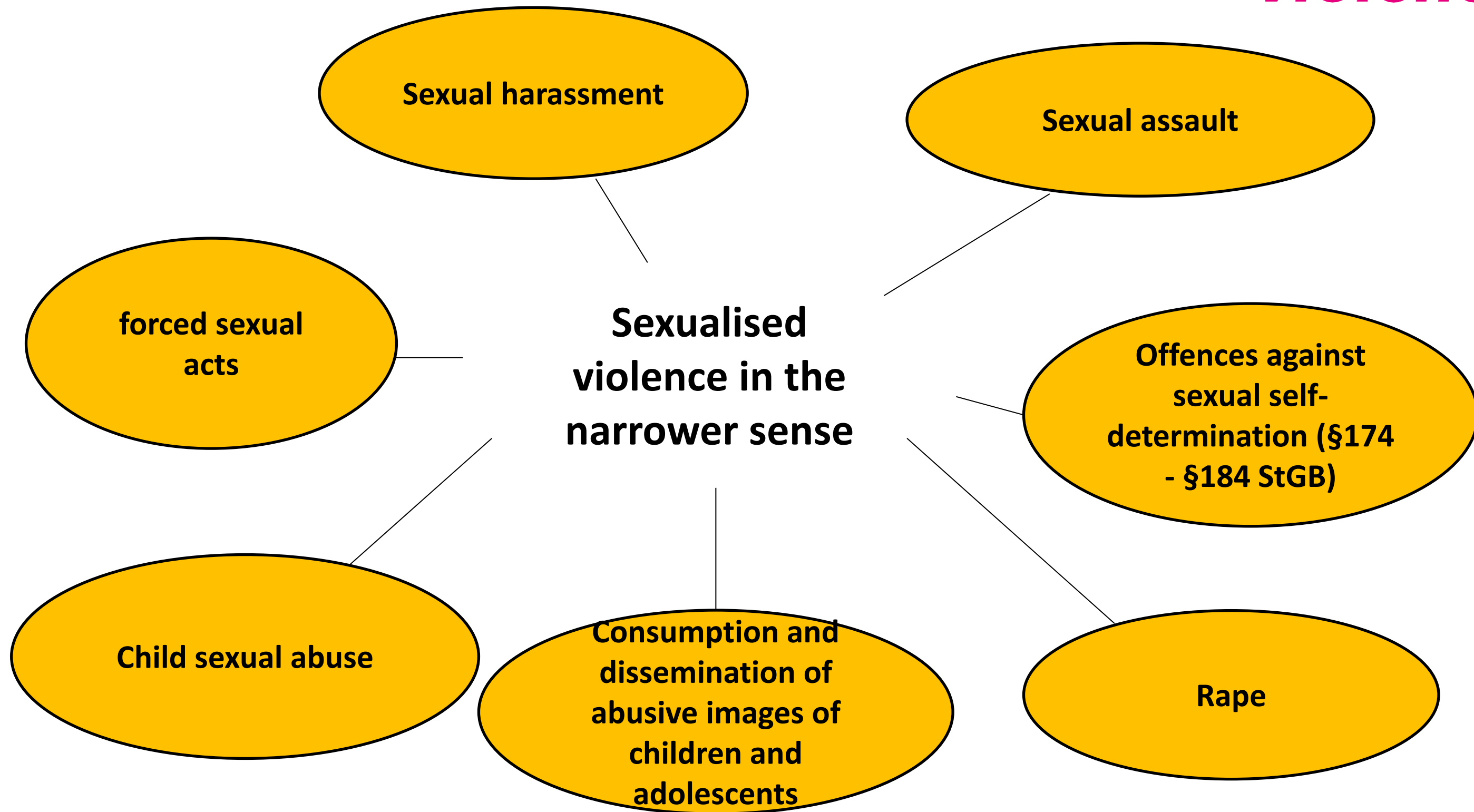
Sexual violence against children, adolescents and adults is any sexual act committed against or in front of girls\* and boys\* as well as women\* and men\* against their will or to which they cannot knowingly consent due to physical, mental or linguistic inferiority. The perpetrator uses his/her position of power and authority to satisfy his/her own needs at the expense of the person concerned. (based on the definition of the UMSKM)

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# What is sexualised violence?

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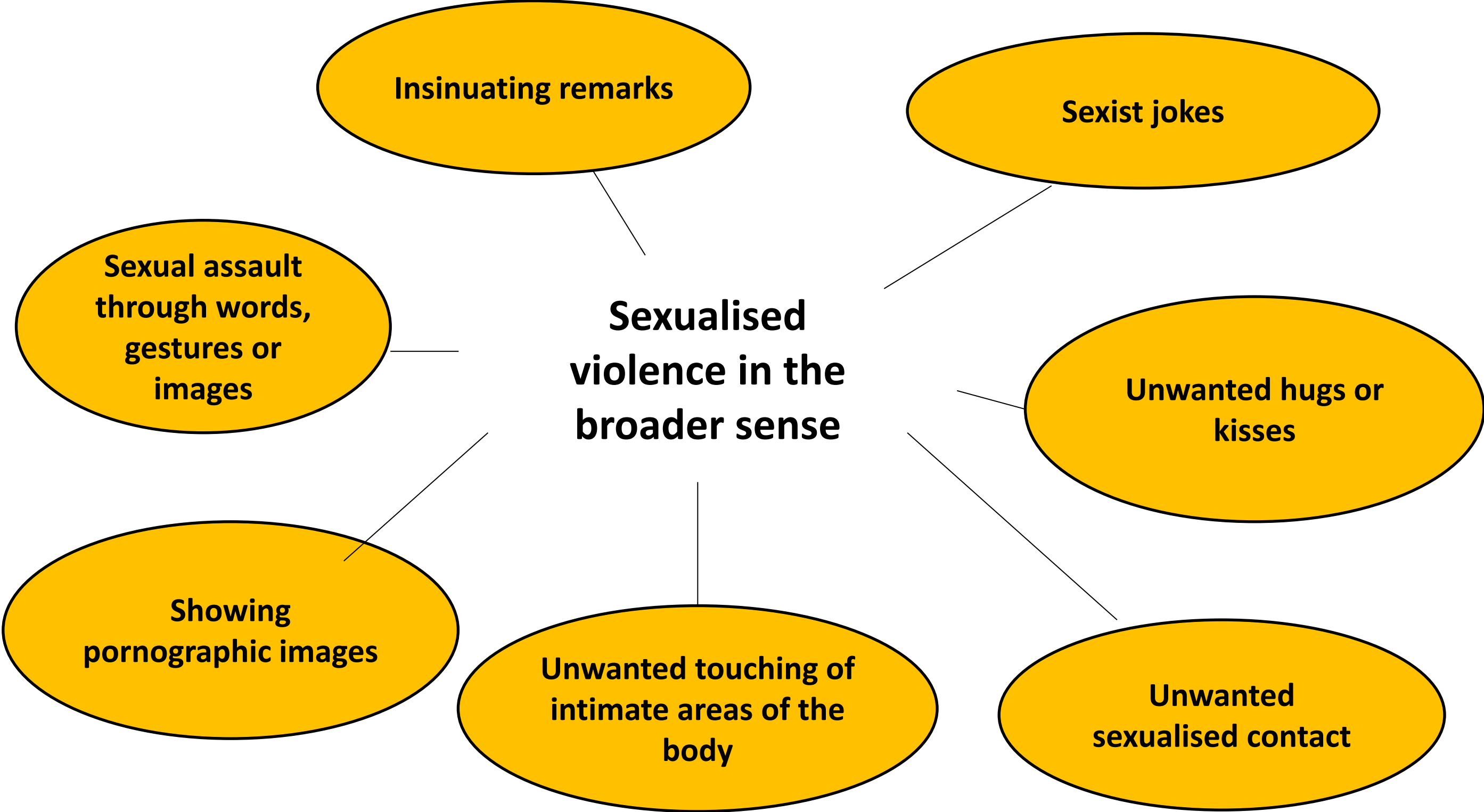
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# What is sexualised violence?

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# Forms of sexualised violence

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## Also the following subdivision

### Hands-off actions

Sexual acts without physical contact

### Hands-on actions

Sexual acts with physical contact

## **Definition: Mediatised sexualised violence**

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"We define [...] mediatised sexualised violence as a) acts of violation, with which b) persons perpetrating violence deliberately assert their own needs c) against the sexual self-determination and/or consent of children and adolescents and d) digital media are the instrument (e.g. initiation via messaging services) or context (e.g. crime scene in the case of the dissemination of nude recordings) of the act". (Vobbe/Kärgel 2022)

# Forms of mediatised sexualised violence

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Sexualised addressing of children

non-consensual sexualised approach of young people

Preparation of sexual abuse (e.g. grooming, silence bans, threats)

Digital surveillance of victims of violence to ensure confidentiality

Consumption, production and distribution of abuse images

Solicitation to make sexualised photographs or video recordings of oneself or to involve third parties in sexualised acts

Threatening to publish or distribute sexualised allegations and chat transcripts as well as photo and video recordings

Sexualised commentary on photographs and video recordings

Confronting children and young people with pornography or abusive images

Sharing pornography or abusive images with children and young people

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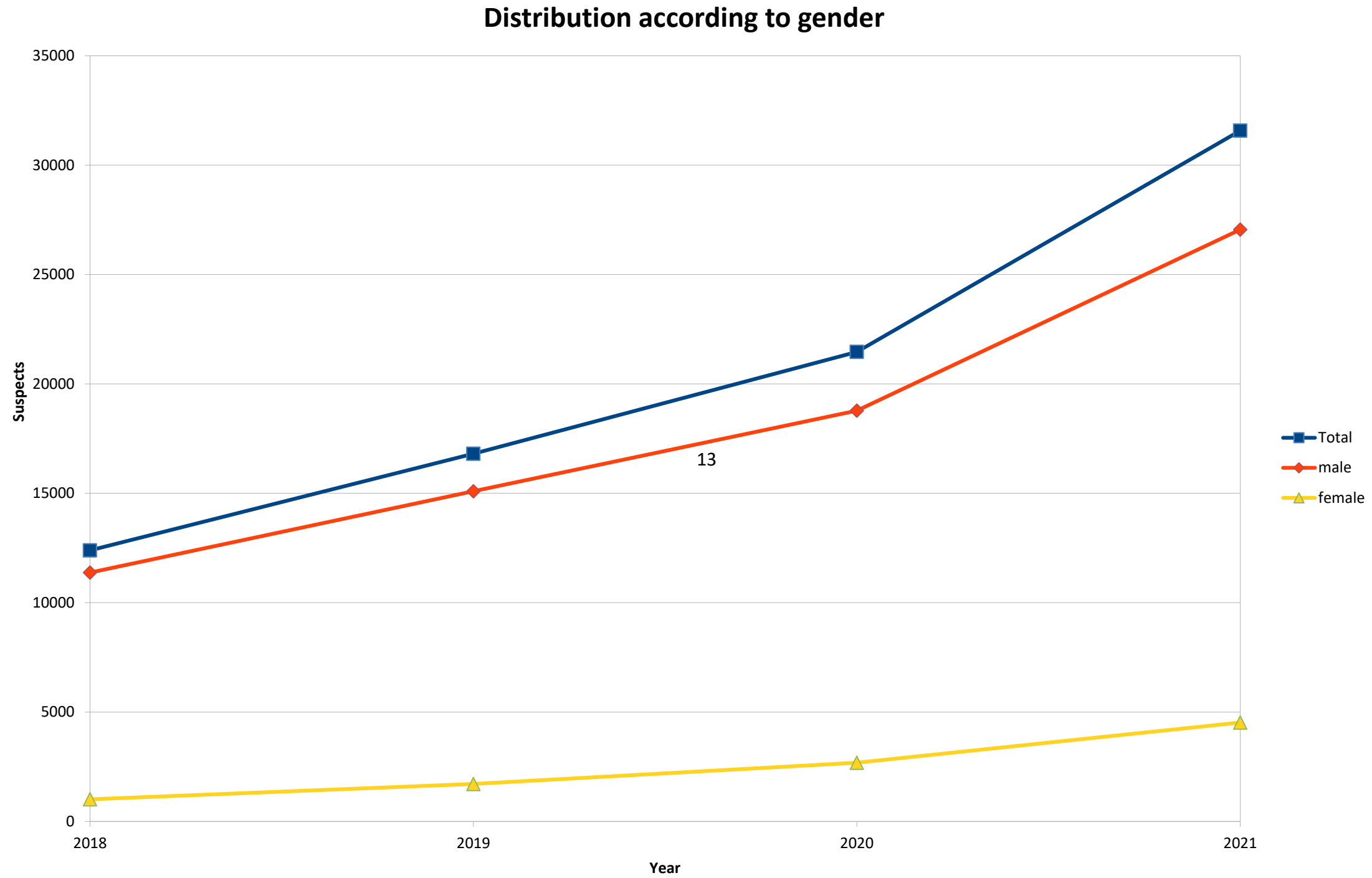
# **Prevalence of sexualised violence:**

## **Frequency, locations, perpetrators**

# Who are the perpetrators of sexualised violence?

(based on the figures of the police crime statistics)

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# Who are the perpetrators of sexualised violence?

(based on the figures of the police crime statistics)

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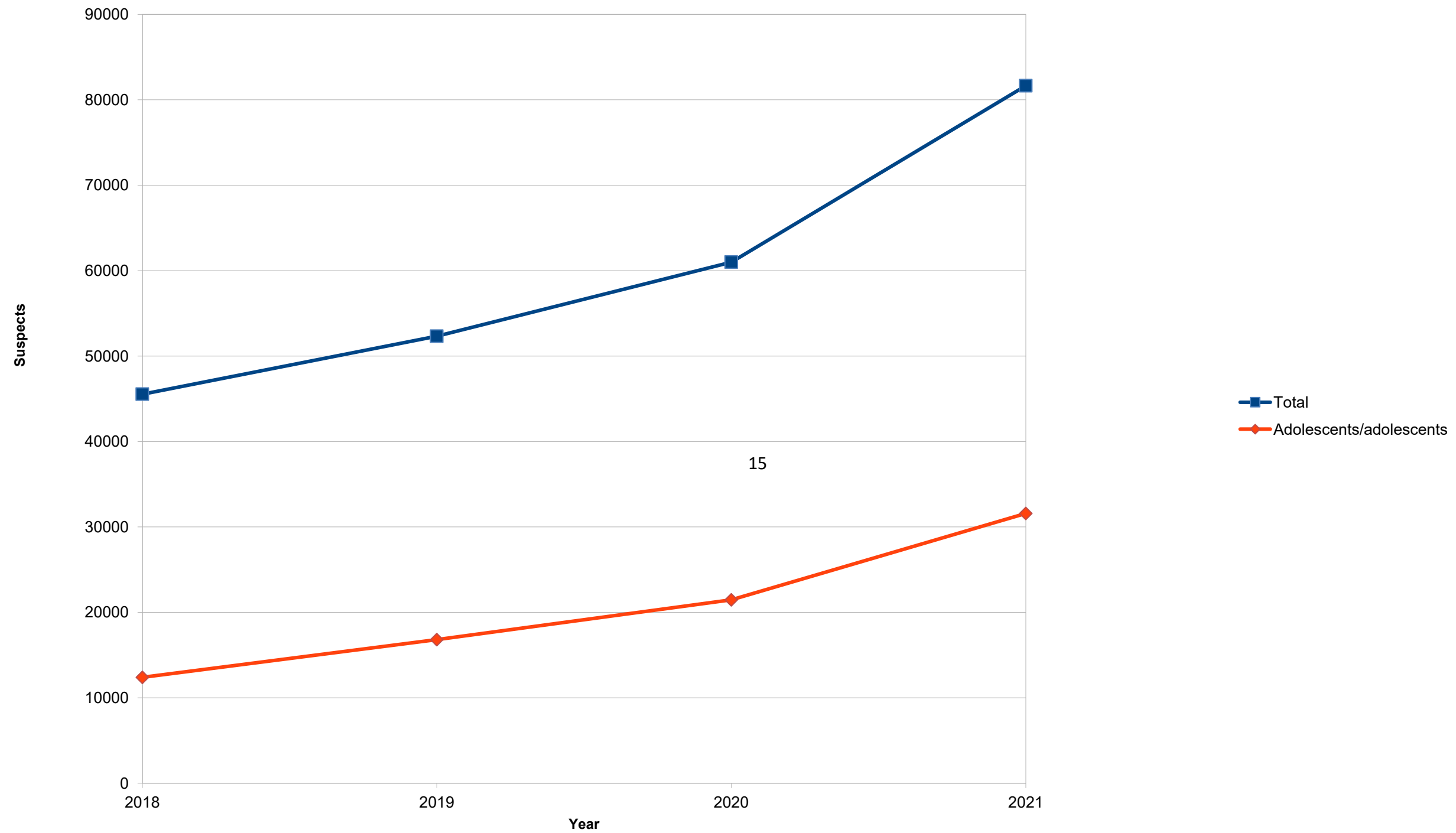
## Distribution according to gender

Year	Total	Male*	%	Female*	%
2018	12391	11378	91,82	1013	8,18
2019	16808	15095	89,81	1713	10,19
2020	21464	18779	87,49	2685	12,51
2021	31576	27055	85,68	4521	14,32

# Who are the perpetrators of sexualised violence?

(based on the figures of the police crime statistics)

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(based on the figures of the police crime statistics)

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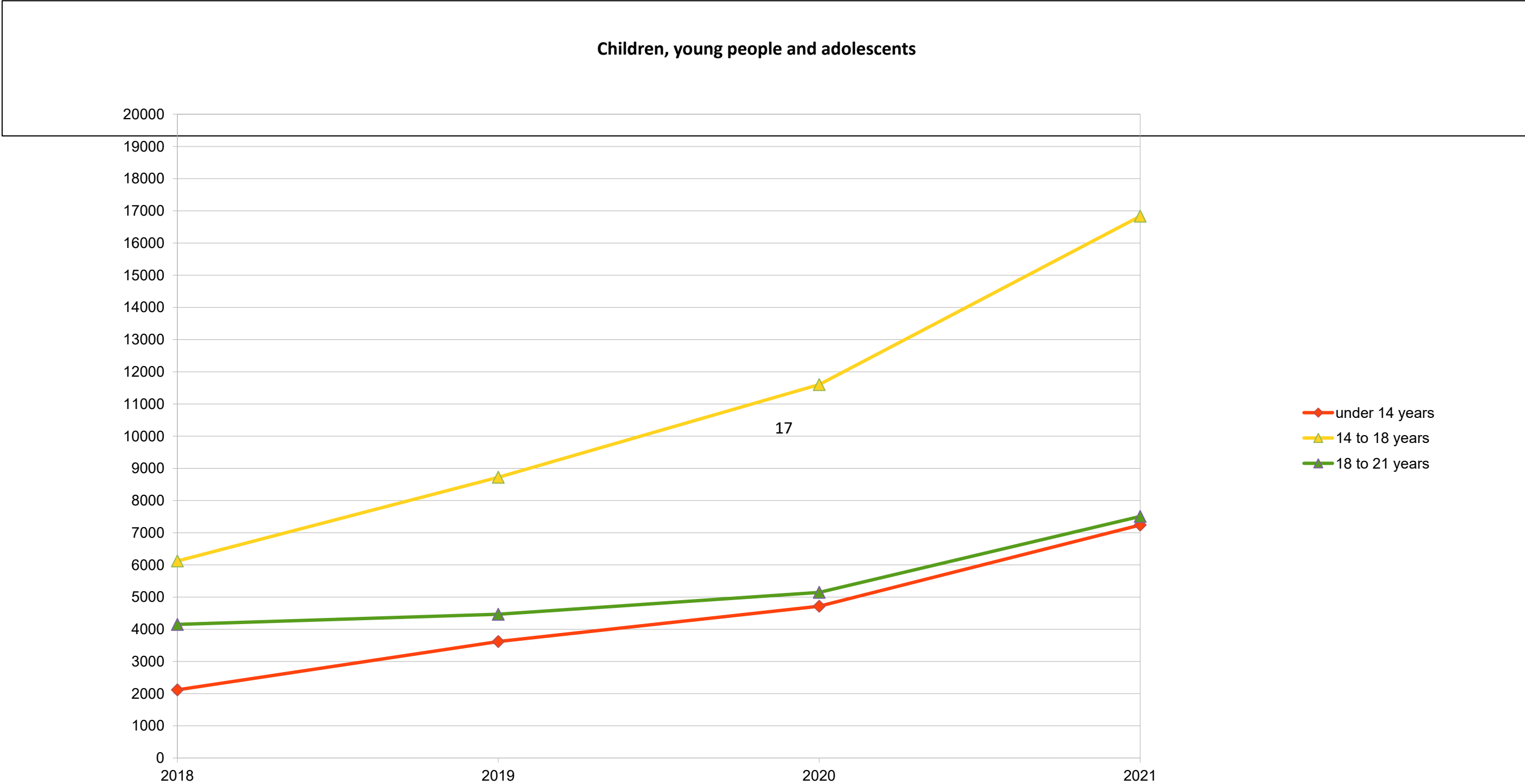
Year	Total	Children/Youth/Adolescents	%
2018	45536	12391	27,21
2019	52322	16808	32,12
2020	60992	21464	35,19
2021	81646	31576	38,67



# Who are the perpetrators of sexualised violence?

(based on the figures of the police crime statistics)

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# Who are the perpetrators of sexualised violence?

(based on the figures of the police crime statistics)

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## Children, adolescents and adolescents who have sexually violated or are suspected of having done so

Year	under 14 years	14 to 18 years	18 to 21 years
2018	2118	6122	4151
2019	3619	8722	4467
2020	4716	11602	5146
2021	7239	16832	7505

## Who are the perpetrators of sexualised violence?

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- Approximately 85-90% of perpetrators are male\* and 10-15% female\*.
  - 25 to 40 % of the "perpetrators" are still children, adolescents or adolescents themselves.
  - About 70% of the perpetrators are adults.
  - About 2/3 of the perpetrators come from the family or social environment.
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## **Work with perpetrators at the Men's Office Hanover**

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### **Therapeutic-pedagogical work with sexual (offender) offenders at the Men's Office Hanover:**

- Work with boys\*, male\* adolescents and young adults who violate sexual boundaries
  - from 10 to 26 years
- Perpetrator work sexualised violence
  - from 27 years

**"The perpetrator is a nice person".**  
(Ruud Bullens)

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## **Victim-parity work with offenders**

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# Victim-parity work with offenders

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- Intervention strategy aimed at perpetrators who have committed violence against other persons.
  - This can be sexualised violence, domestic violence or other forms of physical or psychological violence against women\* and men\*.
  - Offender work is a form of social therapy that includes both educational and therapeutic interventions.
  - Work with perpetrators is not a cure!  
→ Danger of pathologising offenders!
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# Victim-parity work with offenders

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- A prerequisite for therapeutic-pedagogical interventions in the context of offender work is a victim-participatory attitude.
  - Victim partiality means:
    - The affectedness of the aggrieved persons is not questioned.
    - Therapeutic and pedagogical interventions must always take into account the affected person.
    - The person concerned is always "imaginarily present" in the therapeutic-pedagogical process.
    - It is not about "processing" the violent acts, but about a conscious regulation of behaviour → Relapse prevention.
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# Victim-parity work with offenders

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- Prerequisites:
    - (at least partial) admission of guilt
    - (at least partial) awareness of the problem
    - Own request for change
      - also in the case of court orders!
  
  - Aims and contents:
    - Victim protection
    - Breaking chains of (power) abuse
    - Crime reconstruction and perception of crime patterns
    - Acceptance of responsibility / removal of denial patterns and cognitive distortions
    - Promotion of impulse control
    - Feel empathy with the victim
    - Develop concrete precautions against relapse (including an emergency plan).
    - Increase self-control
    - Promotion of social and communicative competence
    - Sex education and sex therapy elements
    - Basics of non-violent communication
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# Perpetrator strategies

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- Manipulation strategies or grooming:
    - Victim selection and contact
      - Attention and care
      - Building trust
      - Gifts and or benefits
    - Clouding the perception of the environment
    - Testing through minor border crossings ("test rituals")
    - Establishing a relationship of dependence
    - Insulate
    - Silence ban
    - Threat of sanctions
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# Quality criteria

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# Quality criteria

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- At the beginning and during every therapeutic-pedagogical process, the use of mediatised sexualised violence should be addressed.
  - If yes, differentiation from mediatised sexualised violence:
    - Consumption, possession and distribution of abuse images of unknown persons
    - Extortion of photo and video recordings of persons in digital networks
    - Secretly made films and photographs of known persons or during joint sexual intercourse
    - Taking photos and videos of self-inflicted sexual abuse
    - exhibitionist acts (e.g. sending so-called "dickpics")
    - sexual harassment
    - Sexist/sexualised insults
    - The dissemination of intimate photos and video recordings of persons in close proximity (e.g. intimate photos of the ex-relationship via class chats).
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# Quality criteria

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- Relationship between the perpetrator and the person affected
    - Known/unknown
    - Acquaintance (e.g. classmate, colleague, via chat rooms)
    - Friendship
    - Love affair
    - Family relationship (e.g. siblings, father/mother/daughter/son)
    - Relationship between child/adolescent and adult
    - Functional relationships (e.g. trainer, teacher, doctor)
    - Clarify respective personal definition of digital social proximity.
  
  - Current or even possible contact with the person concerned?
    - Contacts must be prevented.
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# Quality criteria

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- Manipulation strategies/grooming:
    - Secrecy
    - Strategic "persuasion
    - Blackmail/threat
  - Possible crime intentions:
    - Part of the grooming process (initiation)
    - Pleasure fulfilment in connection with the experience of power and superiority
    - Blackmail
    - Mobbing
    - Fear generation
    - Humiliation
    - Revenge
-

# Quality criteria

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- Therapeutic-pedagogical work with young people with sexualised border violating behaviour:
    - Necessity of confronting one's own (sexualised) violent behaviour → offence-oriented work
    - Need to work out and develop social and personal interests, skills and competences (e.g. access to own emotions and feelings) and a positive self-image (e.g. questioning negative beliefs) → Resource-oriented work
    - Dealing sensitively with one's own experiences of violence
    - offer space for reflection in order to be able to talk about one's own guilt- and shame-ridden sexualised acts of violence.
    - Co-regulation in the use of digital media and gradual development of self-responsible use
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Digital lifeworlds (relationship patterns, roles, etc.) mean a high ethical and moral responsibility that must be accompanied by the professionals.

Mediatized sexualised acts of violence present victim-participant offender work institutions with new and major tasks. However, these tasks can only be fulfilled if sufficient and comprehensive outpatient and inpatient therapeutic-pedagogical services are available with the corresponding specialised and financial resources.

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**Many thanks  
for your attention!**