In the framework of our research project "Collective gendered violence from punitive and preventive perspective", we initiated a questionnaire-based survey in 2016, answered by various professionals and volunteers working in the fields connected to violent crimes. Respondents comprised for example refuge employees, police officers, conciliators, NGO- staff and representatives of prison administration. In addition to the survey, we organized multiprofessional workshops on collectivity and multiculturalization from the point of view of violence research.

The conference presentation will introduce our research approach and preliminary results of the survey. The findings demonstrated are associated with collective, in most cases continual violence connected with the concept of honour, as well as its identification within the anti-violence work and legal sphere in Finland.

Our claim is that the Finnish justice system – based on the assessment of criminal acts as separate and non-contextual actions, and emphasizing the individual criminal liability – does not offer satisfactory means to deal with the specifics of collective violence. To punish the perpetrator does not necessarily eliminate the risk violence, which may continue either as perpetrated by other community members or after the possible prison sentence has been served. For the present the identification and recognition of collective honour-related violence in Finland is inadequate, which makes prevention of it difficult and allows this type of criminality to remain mostly hidden. As a consequence, there is no real deterrence to influence crime rates.

Key concepts: Collective violence, honour pressure, intimate violence against women, prevention, criminal law.