



WINNER GOLD AWARD

The City of Duluth's
Coordinated Community
Response to Domestic Violence
(The "Duluth Model"), 1981
(Minnesota, United States of
America)

The Coordinated Community Response (CCR) is a strategy to effectively implement laws and policies that protect survivors from further acts of violence and hold offenders accountable for their criminal behaviour. It was first introduced in 1981 in the city of Duluth to ensure the implementation of the State of Minnesota's Domestic Abuse Act. With regular evaluation, adaptation to changing circumstances and new information gathered as laws and policies are implemented, the approach has gained international recognition and inspired law and policymaking, as well as implementation across the U.S.A. and beyond over the past decades.

At the heart of a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) is a shared understanding by all state and non-state actors involved that violence against women is a crime and a human rights violation, and that the response to it must prioritise the safety and autonomy of the survivor. A further key element of this approach is ensuring perpetrators' accountability and providing them an opportunity for rehabilitation through court-ordered classes. Research has found that 68% of offenders who pass through Duluth's criminal justice system and are consequently sent to men's nonviolence classes have not reappeared in the criminal justice system eight years on.²

The Duluth Model requires law enforcement and interveners in the criminal and civil justice systems to follow written policies and procedures. The Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs (DAIP),

The core elements of the Duluth Model are:

1. Written policies that centralise victim safety and offender accountability
2. Practices that link intervening practitioners and agencies together
3. An entity that tracks and monitors cases and assesses data
4. An interagency process that brings practitioners together to dialogue and resolve problems
5. A central role in the process for victim advocates, shelters, and battered women
6. A shared philosophy about domestic violence
7. A system that shifts responsibility for victim safety from the victim to the system

Paymar, M. and Barnes, G., *Countering Confusion about the Duluth Model*, published by Battered Women's Justice Project.
http://www.bwjp.org/files/bwjp/articles/Countering_Confusion_Duluth_Model.pdf

² Source: Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs (DAIP).



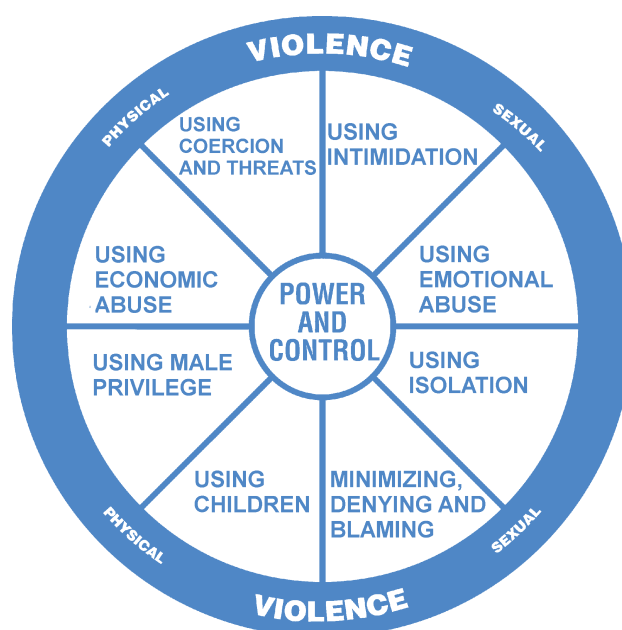
Dr. Ellen Pence (1948–2012), scholar, activist, co-founder of DAIP.

an NGO in Duluth, was and continues to be entrusted with overseeing, guiding, coordinating, monitoring and evaluating the CCR and hence ensuring that the criminal justice system is held accountable.

Actors involved in CCR include law enforcement officials, criminal and civil courts and human service providers. The Duluth Model not only introduced the practice of multi-agency partnerships in responding to intimate partner violence, it also theoretically and conceptually altered people's perception of it. The *Power and Control Wheel* was developed in Duluth and is internationally recognised as a key concept for understanding the power differential in intimate partner violence.

The principles of CCR are reflected in many laws, policies and strategies to end intimate partner

violence and other forms of violence against women around the world at national and local level. Staying true to the core principles that all interventions need to be designed to protect the survivor from further harm while also ensuring perpetrator accountability, the CCR approach provides the necessary flexibility to allow for adaptation to different community dynamics and infrastructures, rather than simply transplanting a model into a different context. It has played an outstanding part in ensuring effective implementation of laws and policies on violence against women and has thus made a major contribution to the efforts of States and communities to end violence against women.



The "Power and Control Wheel" developed by the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (DAIP) in 1984. It has been translated into 22 languages and adapted to more than 30 cultural contexts.