

## **Violence in intimate relationships: Exploring attributions of responsibility in offenders**

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Assumption of responsibility is considered a key element in effective batterers' intervention programmes. Researchers and practitioners indicate that perpetrators of violence against women generally attribute their behaviour to external causes –e.g., blaming their own partner, circumstances or external factors. Attribution of responsibility is an important factor on batterer's implication in intervention programs and reduction of drop-out. In this study we analyze batterers responses about self-attribution of responsibility, victim's culpabilization and minimization. We use a sample of 87 male batterers participating at the time of study in a court mandated rehabilitative programme. Analyses show high levels of victim's culpabilization and minimization in our sample. Also, we identify two differentiated groups of batterers in relation to the variables used in the study. important differences between self-attributions and other-attributions as well as a bias toward external self-attributions rather than internal self-attributions. We discuss the implications of these findings for court mandated batterers intervention programmes.