

## **When violence happens in families with children: generating open dialogue and reflecting processes towards change among involved**

Anna Margrete Flåm

**Introduction:** Consequences of family violence for children's wellbeing and growth is well documented, as are barriers towards change. Exploring ways towards change is a key issue of political and professional concern.

**Aims:** This workshop will show how children at traumatic experience of family violence search for answers from their important others, how live arenas for exploring children's concerns can be arranged, and needed answers found in joint explorations with significant family members and network.

**Methods:** Illustrated by a single case study, it is explored how children's silenced questions can be expressed in front of their significant others, and how dialogical space, time, and means are arranged for finding new answers, for mutual change and growth.

**Results:** Informed by a dialogical understanding of human meaning making, a dialogical oriented work is shown, inviting live reflecting processes among all involved, including harvesting from multiple resources in the knowledge field of family therapy and network work, such as a dialogically exploration of genogram, joint lifeline storytelling, creative artwork.

Contemporary ideas inspiring reflecting processes and dialogical approaches are highlighted as well as how to welcome feedback processes of the work. Main dialogue-generating processes are exemplified, such as exploring who are important for whom to be invited into a meeting, when, how, where, and who are searching for answers from whom, and how can possible answers be given.

**Conclusion:** Informed by existing knowledge of family therapy, network work, as well as research on children's needs at violence inside the family, the workshop shows and reflects upon how change can be mutually explored, defined, and alternatives generated in live, open contexts of people involved by inviting dialogically informed reflecting processes.

The presenter presents the work and invites reflections.