What exactly is the Gizonduz initiative?

Gizonduz is a pioneering programme launched in November 2007 by the Basque Government and led by the Emakunde-Basque Institute for Women. It aims to promote the awareness, participation and involvement of men in supporting equality between women and men.

The objectives of Gizonduz are to increase the number of men who are sensitive, trained and committed to equality between women and men and who are against violence against women and to increase the level of co-responsibility that men have in domestic and care work.

All of this in order to make the ethics and practice of care among men and boys a more commonplace, as part of their own personal development and wellbeing and of that towards others and to prevent gender-based inequalities and violence, as well as risky behaviours which are harmful to people and the environment and linked to the hegemonic masculinity model.

Within the framework of the gender equality policies of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country and based on feminist and diversity sensitive perspective, specific work with men for equality is carried out as a necessary complement to women’s empowerment. That work is mainly focused on questioning masculine power and privileges, as a key factor for their personal growth and for a fairer, more egalitarian, sustainable, freer, and more diverse and peaceful society.

What does the Gizonduz initiative offer?

- **The training and awareness programme** comprises a wide range of face-to-face and online courses related to men, equality and masculinities, aimed at individuals, groups and public and private organisations.

- **The “Youth and equality 2.0” project** is based on an online videogame and some education units in order to prevent sexism and violence among young people. It can be used individually or in-group as a pedagogical tool at schools and in non-formal education contexts.

- **The Charter by the Basque men for equality and against violence against women** is an online document to be signed by men in order to promote their personal and collective commitment to gender equality.

- **The “From words to action” project** consists of an online application to help men carry out a series of specific actions in their everyday lives in favour of equality, in spheres such as co-responsibility, caregiving, the eradication of sexist violence, the dissemination of gender equality ideas or the reporting of sexist messages and behaviours.

- **The Gizonduz initiative website and social networks** provide a great deal of information and materials related to men, equality and masculinities and offer virtual spaces to raise people’s awareness and to communicate and disseminate information and ideas in that field.

- **Advice** is provided, both in person and by email and phone, on the Gizonduz initiative-related aspects and on other matters concerning men, equality and masculinities.