

Annual Report

2023



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Introduction

« The world has changed, it's shifted a few vertebrae... » sings Julien Doré

Yes, the world is changing. Everything is changing! We must constantly adapt. After 2 years of COVID where access to schools has been very difficult, now the public schools in Vaud and Valais have decided to end our collaboration. Deprived of this access to children, how can we convey our prevention message to them? That was our major challenge in 2023!

Between moaning and acting, we have chosen action. Our team boasts a wealth of personal and professional skills: experienced teachers, graduates in social work, graduate in counseling, graduate in Child Protection, former judicial police inspector, health psychologist and doctoral student (in progress) in the field of special education, psychomotor therapist, social psychologist, communication specialists, finance specialist, and more.

Together, we have redefined our goals to contain, with even greater effectiveness, the invisible scourge of violence against children. We remind here that this violence affects more than 40,000 children every year in Switzerland.

Five main axes have emerged from our reflections:

- 01 Creation of an educational game** (serious game). To educate and inform children (primarily, but also adults) without relying solely on schools. What was appropriate twenty years ago may not be as relevant today.
- 02 Parenting support.** Supporting parents by providing them with concrete solutions and assistance for child rearing.
- 03 Toolbox.** Providing everyone with the necessary elements for understanding and managing situations of violence. Usable for discussing it with children of all ages.
- 04** Maintaining and expanding our **helpline 0800 800 140**.
- 05** Strengthening our **prevention** efforts on social media platforms targeting adolescents.

Other mass prevention actions, such as Patouch Zones, the placement of carafes and table sets in restaurants, promoting responsible alcohol consumption, etc., remain in place to draw attention to this issue among the population.

You may have noticed on our website that PATOUCH is called **FINGERWÄGG** for our activities in German. The projects listed above can easily be adapted into other languages, so we have decided to translate our resources into German. Some, depending on our strengths and resources, are also being considered in English, for example, the serious game. **This will significantly expand the scope and effectiveness of our prevention efforts.**

The challenges are enormous. More than ever, we need all of you!

Thank you for your support and happy reading.

Bernard Jaquet

Prevention campaign

A new prevention campaign was launched in November 2023 in French-speaking Switzerland. It was deployed through posters as well as a video capsule, broadcasted on several television channels (M6, 6ter, C8, etc.) and on social media platforms Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X, and TikTok. The goal was to highlight the devastating effects of psychological violence. **Words create victims, speech liberates them.**

Psychological violence is increasingly victimizing people. With the advent of social media and messaging services, a seemingly harmless word can quickly lead to an escalation of violence with serious consequences.

Sometimes it's difficult to measure the impact of a word, a teasing, or a joke. This campaign physically illustrates the pain felt on a psychological level. Less visible and more subtle, psychological violence can have tragic consequences. Thus, the message 'Words create victims, speech liberates them' encourages perpetrators to reflect and urges victims of this invisible harm to no longer tolerate what they endure and to speak out against these wrongdoings.

The helpline **0800 800 140** provides support by allowing people to speak out and offers the necessary assistance to combat all forms of violence.

The video and visuals are available on our social media platforms as well as on our website:

www.patouch.ch ou



Our main actions

01

Educational game

During the early days of Patouch, over 20 years ago, delivering our training modules in schools was an excellent idea. Today, a digital world has opened up, and it seems easier and more effective to reach children through this avenue. This idea has been brewing for over 6 months.

Are you familiar with Flight Simulator? It's a flight simulator for airplanes. Pilots can practice flying correctly and also test out various malfunctions, breakdowns, and extreme flight conditions without any risk. With numerous experiences over a short period, pilots become much better, and aviation has become safer.

Let's imagine "Patouch Life Simulator," a free educational game. We could practice living correctly without consequences but also test out boundary behaviors or even more extreme ones... and see the consequences from the perspectives of the perpetrator, victims, witnesses, society, and the justice system. Of course, the game must be adapted for different age groups as well. Interesting, isn't it?

By the end of December, we signed a collaboration contract with a Swiss company specialized in video game production. Their task is to create a preliminary project, analyze our needs, and define a specification document. They must quickly propose a concept with visuals (preferably a prototype) and define a budget.

We believe in this project and will infuse it with all our energy. Our team has enlisted the services of game specialists, of course, but also of a scientist specializing in education. We are also considering having this game evaluated by a Swiss university but are awaiting the preliminary project to finalize our collaboration.

Our main actions

02

Support for parenting

Numerous studies attest to it: Violence against children can be prevented through various means. One aspect that is still underrepresented is providing concrete assistance in parenting. That's why we also want to take care of parents and help them establish quality parenting practices, in order to protect children.

Starting in January 2024, we will offer a welcoming space where parents can bring their questions, concerns, fears, and doubts related to parenting. We will provide listening, advice, and concrete assistance (educational support), including home visits if necessary. Free services may be provided.

03

Toolkit

We have initiated a project in the fall aimed at providing free 'ready-to-use' prevention activities to parents, teachers, and anyone interested.

These activities, downloadable from our website in 2024, will consist of original and engaging materials on topics related to violence prevention.

They will enable parents and adults working with children to convey targeted prevention messages developed by professionals.

For each theme, instructional videos complement the message. They are already available online, in French and German, on our website:

<https://patouch.ch/en/tips/>



Our main actions

04

Helpline 0800 800 140

We responded to 111 calls, providing concrete assistance and empathetic listening to individuals seeking solutions in specific violent situations. These individuals had often already contacted other organizations without receiving satisfactory help or answers.

Some situations justified reporting to child protection authorities or the Public Prosecutor's Office.

Several individuals wished to report violence and abuse against children anonymously. Patouch committed to ensuring anonymity, in the best interest of the child.

A few situations required direct assistance related to parenting. We visited the homes of several families or received them in our offices for practical advice.

Our mediation work brought calm to several situations that were becoming stuck and finding no satisfactory resolution.

This free service is highly appreciated and rapidly expanding.

05

Digital prevention

Teenagers are very (perhaps too?) present in the virtual world. In order to reach out to them and raise awareness, we must go there, without neglecting the real world. Regular and tailored communication will be implemented.

Our main actions

06

Patouch Zones

In September 2023, we opened our 1,000th Patouch Zone! Thank you to all those who provide a refuge in their public space. They commit to not tolerating any acts of violence, to expressing their disagreement in problematic situations, to assisting the vulnerable person, and to ensuring that they leave the zone safely.

More information : <https://patouch.ch/en/patouch-zone/>



07

Promoting responsible alcohol consumption



National and international studies have shown a strong correlation between alcohol abuse and violence. The risk of being involved, as a victim or perpetrator, in acts of violence increases with the level of alcohol consumption.

Given this finding, we continue our prevention campaign with alcohol producers to raise awareness of the link between alcohol and violence. We encourage them to include a mention on their labels drawing consumers' attention to the potential dangers of their products and calling for responsible consumption.

Acknowledgements

Do you want to take advantage of our training sessions? We are at your disposal and invite you to visit our website:

<https://patouch.ch/prevention/>



THANKS

All these actions are only possible thanks to your support, whether financial or moral. We would like to warmly thank you on behalf of the children, victims, and individuals who have been fortunate enough not to be.

We look forward to seeing you on September 7, 2024, at the Baladin theater in Savièse, VS, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of Patouch. (The first courses started in 2000. Four years later, on August 1, 2004, Patouch officially structured itself as a non-profit association)



Feel free to reserve your seats by clicking on the link below to discover or revisit the fabulous comedian Christelle CHOLLET:

[Click HERE](#)



See you soon !

Your Patouch Team