



Institut für Sinnes- und Sprachneurologie  
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## Deaf – adults abused as children

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FONDS **Gesundes  
Österreich**

Many deaf women were sexual abused as a child or teenager.

## How does it effect my life?

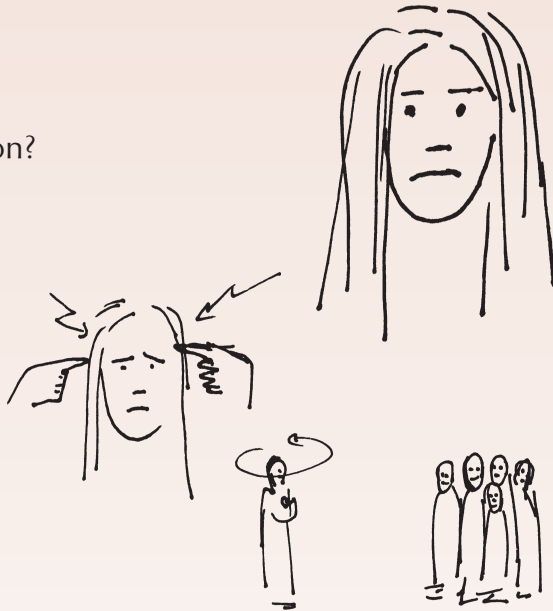


## Possible consequences of sexual abuse during childhood:

### Depression

What are the signs of Depression?

- I have a sleep disturbance.
- I have no energy and joy.
- I consider suicide.
- I have no hope.
- I have a negative feeling about myself.



### Physical pain

### Living without joy and goals

### Feeling of isolation

- I feel lonely.
- I believe that it only happened to me.

### Problems with relationships

- It is difficult for me to trust someone.
- It is difficult for me to develop a happy relationship



### Selfdestroying behavior

- I believe that I am a „bad person“ and harm myself through
- eating too much or not enough
  - alcohol- or drug abuse



## I have problems with my own children

- I cannot handle stress in educating my children.
- I cannot develop a close relationship with my child.
- I am worried that I will abuse my child.



## This need not happen.

One can do something to avoid it!

## It is important to know:

Abused children or adults are not guilty!

Sexual abuse is always wrong!

You are not alone!

## WHAT can I do?

- You are not alone! Unfortunately there are many other people with the same bad experiences.
- You can find help (e.g. with us at the Institute).

You can explain to us in sign language what happened. (Doctors and psychologists are bound by confidentiality)

This makes you now free for life.

With this you learn to say YES to yourself.

