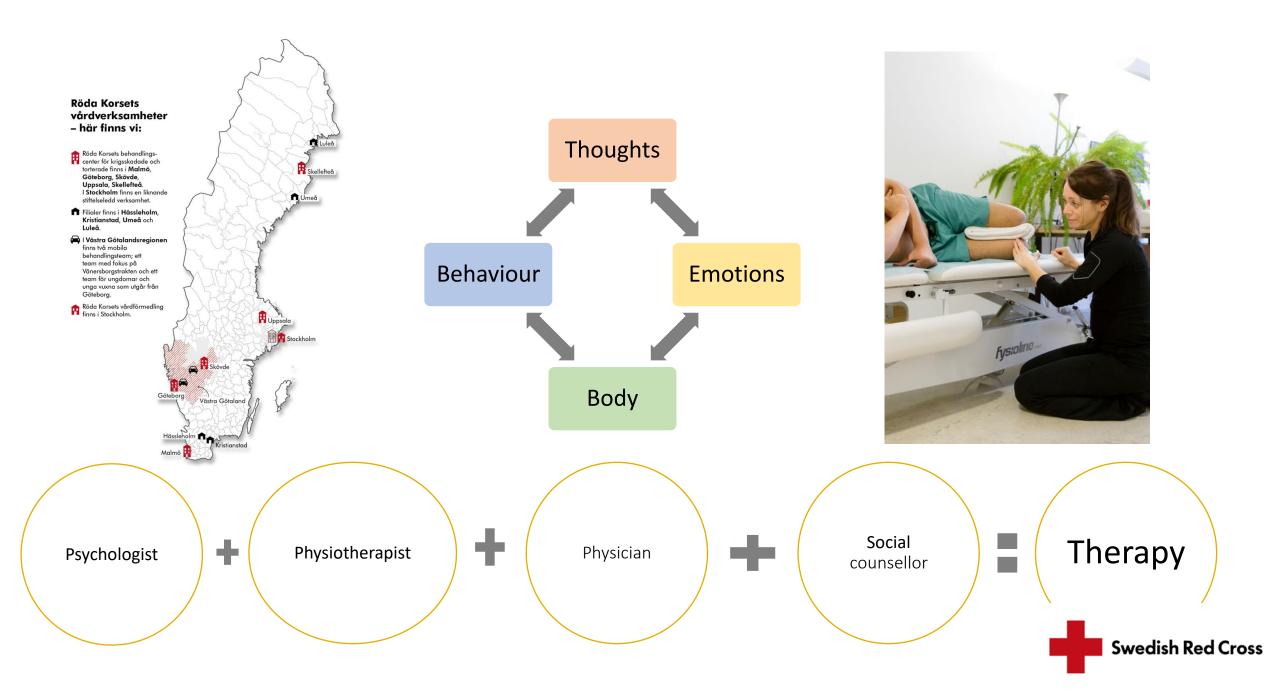
## The Body Remembers

Physiotherapy for traumatized refugees

Patricia Rocca, physiotherapist Red Cross Centre for persons affected by war and torture, Malmö, Sweden

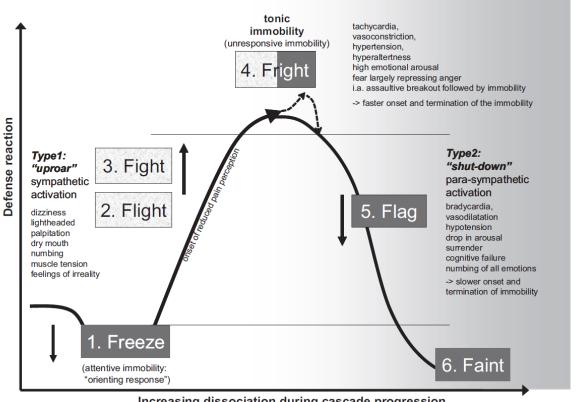






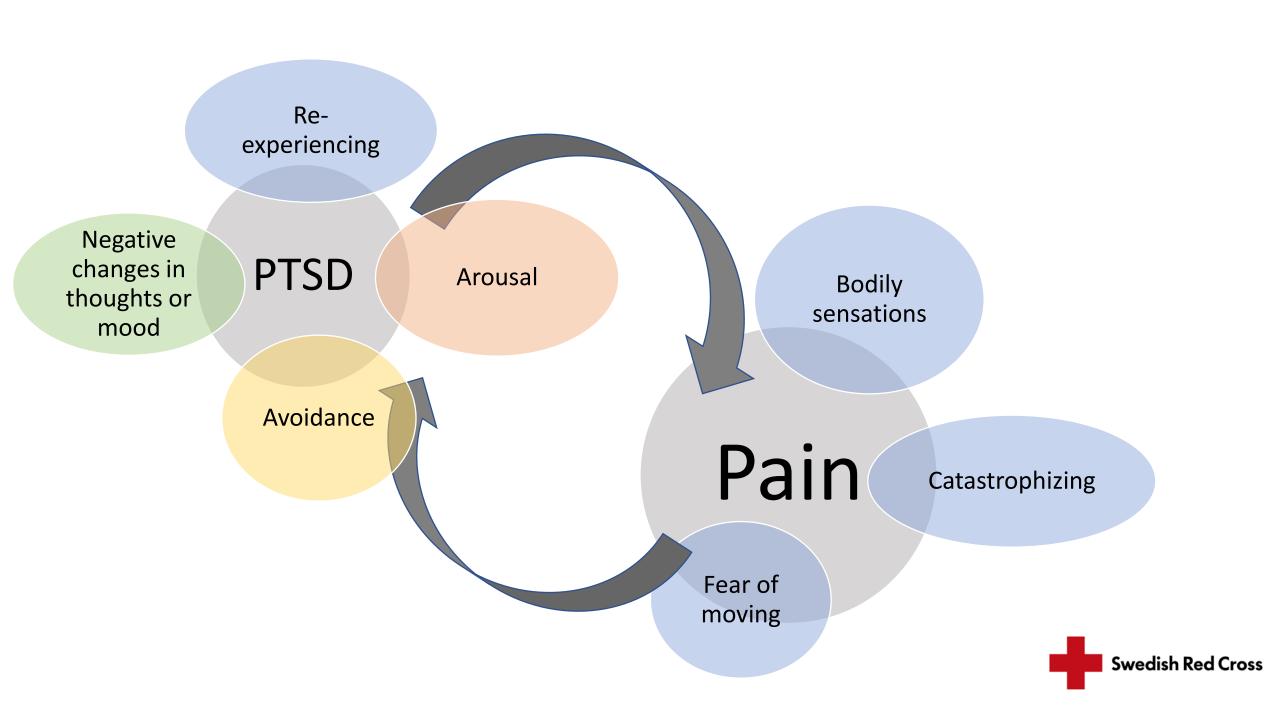
## Reactions to perceived or real stress/danger











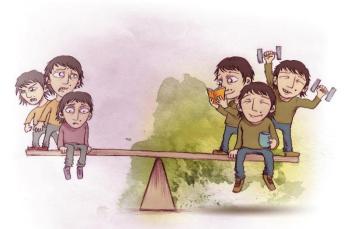
Cardiovascular diseases
Diabetes
Sensitivity for infections

Concentration and memory problems
Sleeping difficulties
Anxiety
Depression

Higher risk of suicidality
Premature mortality
Lower quality of life
Tendency to isolation

Muscle tensions
Sensitivity for pain
Headaches
Back- and neck pain
Digestion problems
Numbness, weakness
Dizziness







- Setting needs and goals
- Education
- Connect to the body by using it
- Daily routines



Integration

- Self-caring
- Understanding
- Coping
- Independence

Processing

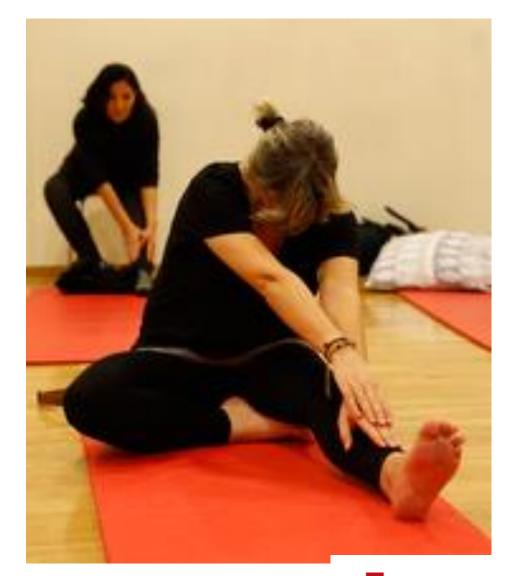
- Physical activity
- Body Awareness
- Exposure
- Education
- Express needs





"The day and night after sport activities I feel tired in a different way, in a good way. I am more relaxed; it is easier to fall asleep and I don't wake up as many times as usual."

"The day after the group training and playing football I have a lot of pain, but it's a "good pain"... ...it reminds me of playing football as a teenager ...it doesn't stop me from doing things anymore."





"...for me, the most important thing is how my kids see me when they get back from school and we talk about our days... ...instead of "nothing", or just being home, in my bed - I can now tell them I have been out playing football with some friends."

"Physical activity has changed me. I have begun to like myself again and I have begun to enjoy speaking to other people. I was isolated for 4-5 years, I didn't like to speak with other people, but now after being in the group I feel changed, I feel different. I feel reliant when speaking to people, and confident...Trust in myself and others, to be able to speak and communicate. And our sessions here opens up our eyes and mind, to be able to think in new ways and see things in a new way."





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If you have any questions: <a href="mailto:Patricia.Rocca@redcross.se">Patricia.Rocca@redcross.se</a>



