Dutch form of the Transgression Related Interpersonal Motivation (Gerlsma & Lugtmeyer, 2011)

The ‘Transgression Related Interpersonal Motivations (TRIM; McCullough et al., 2006) measures current interpersonal motivation towards a transgressor who inflicted harm to the respondent. Three types of TRIMs are assessed, i.e. revenge, avoidance, and benevolence motivation. The TRIM was translated by the authors of this paper; their consensus version was translated back into English by a native (English) speaker; discrepancies were discussed and a consensus version constructed. It should be noted that an earlier and shorter version of the TRIM (McCullough et al., 1998) was translated in Dutch by Karremans and van Lange (2004); we translated the current 18-item version with consent of McCullough and Karremans.

Our Dutch version of the TRIM starts with a short incident registration form, asking respondents whether and how they have ever been the victim of injustice or violence. The (translated) verbatim instruction is as follows:

‘In many people’s life some kind of injustice or violence occurs, such as maltreatment, abuse, threat, intimidation, assault, rape, stalking, discrimination, ostracism, neglect, bullying, gossip, slander, theft, robbery, betrayal, (sexual) infidelity, contempt, humiliation, lack of respect, to name some examples. When you answer the questions in this questionnaire, please think of the person who inflicted some kind of injustice or violence on you. If in your life there was more than one person who inflicted you harm, then please answer the questions for the one who comes to mind first.

What form(s) of injustice or violence did he/she do to you? ……………………………………………………’

Respondents next mark a timeline to indicate at what age they experienced the incident. Should the incident involve prolonged or repeated offences, they then place a mark at the beginning and the end.

The TRIM includes five items about revenge motivation (e.g. “I’m going to get even”), seven items about avoidance motivation (e.g. “I am trying to keep as much distance
between us as possible”) and six items about benevolence motivation (e.g. “Despite what he/she did, I want us to have a positive relation again”). All items are rated on a 7-point Likert-type scale (1 = strongly disagree to 7 = strongly agree). Factor analysis of the Dutch version (Gerlsma, Lugtmeyer, van Denderen & de Keijser, in preparation) showed a clear structure with three orthogonal factors (Revenge, Avoidance, and Benevolence) with factor loadings well above .40 and good internal consistency (Cronbach’s α > .77).

Two items were added to the Dutch TRIM as single item measures of accomplished Forgiveness (‘I have forgiven him/her’, labeled Forgiven; Subkoviak, Enright, Wu, Gassin, Freedman, Olson & Sarinopoulos, 1995) and accomplished Revenge (‘I have taken my revenge on him/her’, labeled Revenged). These items had the same 7-point response format as was described above for the other TRIM-items.