

Advocacy meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2018

Participants: Iluta Lāce, Zane Zvirgzdiņa, Lelde Vaivode – experts from MARTA Centre,

Maksims Ivanovs, the director of Social Service Department, Ministry of Welfare

Dace Kļaviņa, the director of legal department, Ministry of Welfare

Martins Moors, director of the Welfare Department of the Riga City Council

Anatolijs Aleksejenko, the director of Housing and Environment department of the Riga City Council.

## Agenda

Safe shelter for elderly women in life dangerous situations

Functioning crises intervention in cases of violence.

Ensure safe shelter for elderly women as currently some municipalities offer shelter for mothers with small children, but there is no anonymous shelter and nothing for elderly women.

MARTA Centre informs about work that is done with private sector to ensure safe place for elderly women as there is no support from either Ministry of Welfare or Riga City Council. MARTA representatives also inform about focus group results that were held with elderly women and their needs.

Riga City Council tells about limitations and difficulties to offer support for elderly women and turns to the Ministry of Welfare representatives that clarifies that they provide rehabilitation programme.

MARTA Centre clarifies the aspects and difficulties of the state programme that does not take into consideration the aspects of life dangerous situations at home, inefficiency of the police to react, women's fear to turn against their perpetrators but their need to receive qualitative support and safe place to stay.

The discussion goes on about possible crises intervention programme, that would be functional and based on the real needs of the victim taking into account individual needs of victims of violence. The idea is to create the programme that is similar to the programme that provides support for victims of trafficking that has a variable costs unit per day and the service provider ensures individualized approach and can cover issues related to health and safe shelter.

The discussion is concluded to continue the development of the ideas of possible support from Riga City Council to anonymous shelter and functioning crises intervention taking into consideration elderly women specifics.