



WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE

COUNTRY REPORT 2009

REALITY CHECK ON EUROPEAN SERVICES FOR
WOMEN AND CHILDREN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

A Right for Protection and Support?





IMPRINT

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WAVE (VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN EUROPE)

WAVE is a network of European women's non-governmental organizations and works in the field of ending violence against women and children. The network is coordinated by the AÖF (Austrian Women's Shelter Network), an umbrella organization of the Austrian autonomous refuge workers. The WAVE network consists of more than 90 Focal Points located in the 27 countries of the European Community, the applicant countries Croatia and Turkey as well as in 18 other European countries, including the Balkan countries.

WAVE aims at reducing violence against women and children by improving the protection of and services for women and children victims of violence. WAVE has a long term experience in developing and carrying out training for different professionals and in developing standards for the protection and support of victims and the improvement of multi-agency co-operation.

The WAVE database contains more than 4.000 addresses of women's organizations and is highly frequented. WAVE further focuses on the dissemination of good practice models and on lobbying for gender equality and the prevention of violence against women in the European, the national, the regional and local level.

“But there is one universal truth, applicable to all countries, cultures and communities: violence against women is never acceptable, never excusable, never tolerable.”¹ Ban Ki- Moon, UN Secretary- General

Endnotes

¹ UNIFEM: http://www.unifem.org/news_events/story_detail.php?StoryID=656 (25.02.2010)

1. INTRODUCTION

WAVE (Women against Violence in Europe) the European network -of women’s shelters, counseling centers and services working in the field of prevention of violence against women and children- were founded 15 years ago. In 2009, the European Network - WAVE (Women against Violence in Europe) celebrated its 15th anniversary. In the course of the 4th United Nations World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, progress was made in the formation of the European network. In the course of the World Conference on Women, the WAVE founding group held its constituent session.

In 1995, the Beijing Platform for Action has stated the necessity of efforts on all levels to tackle violence against women and to work on eliminating structures of inequality in society, there are still many things to be done for women in order to enable them to enjoy their basic human rights. 15 years later, the topic of violence against women has still been a burning issue and most European countries still made efforts to meet the objectives stated in Beijing. In fact, the prevalence rates of violence against women and the estimated numbers of unreported cases are still very high.

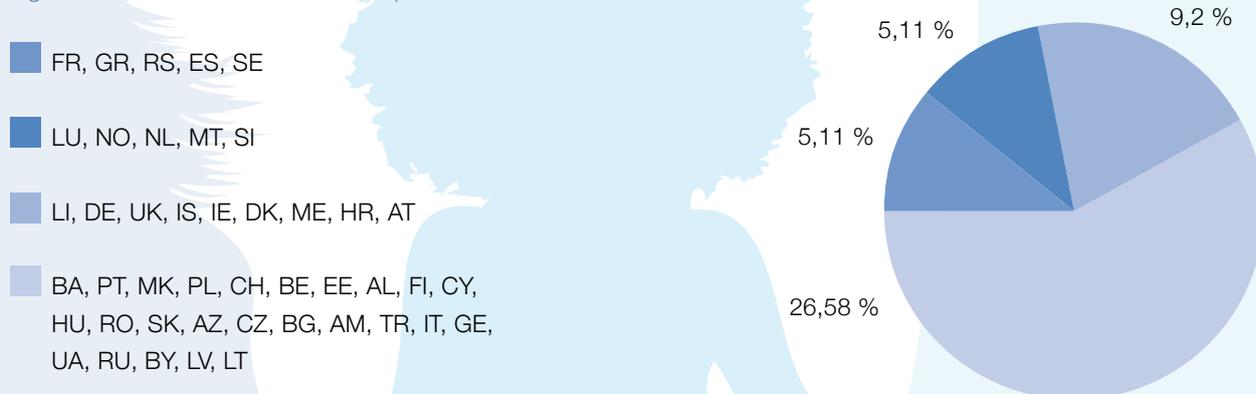
In its Country Report², released in 2008, WAVE strived to provide a reality check on help services for women and their children affected by violence in Europe, as well as relevant statistics and data concerning the prevalence of violence against women. The data was mainly provided by WAVE’s 91 Focal Points located in 44 European countries³, thus reflecting an NGO perspective.

1.1. WOMEN’S SHELTERS IN EUROPE

As investigated in the WAVE Country Report 2008, there exist 2.060 women’s shelters in 42 out of 44 European countries. In Latvia and in Lithuania there are no women shelters available. In 39 European countries - that provided data concerning the overall number of places available in their shelters - there are nearly **20.200 shelter places** offered to a total population of 560 Million people⁴ who are living in these 39 countries.

According to the recommendation by the European Parliament 1986⁵ 1 family place in a women’s shelter should be provided per 10.000 inhabitants in every country. In applying this recommendation to the total population; it is revealed that a total number of 56.000 shelter places for women victims of violence and their children are needed in order to fulfil this recommendation. However, there exist only 20.200 shelter places for 560 Million inhabitants of 39 European countries there are still **35.800 family shelter places missing** to fulfil the recommendation of European parliament.

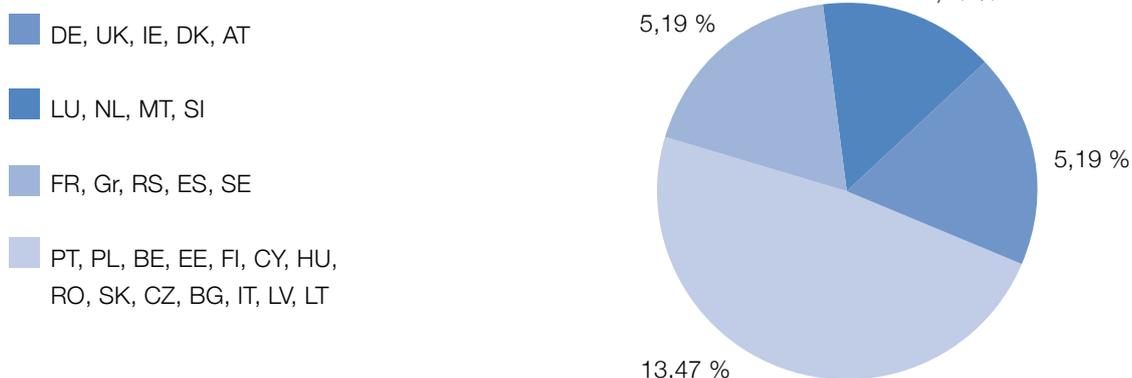
Figure 1.1 Women’s Shelters in Europe⁶



According to the above Figure 1.1 out of 39 countries; 5 European countries (11%) provide at least 1 family place per 10.000 inhabitants, 9 European countries (20%) provide 1 family shelter place per 10-20.000 inhabitants, 26 countries (58%) provide less than 1 shelter place per 20.000 inhabitants and for 5 countries (11%) NGO data is not available.

1.2. WOMEN SHELTERS IN EU MEMBER STATES

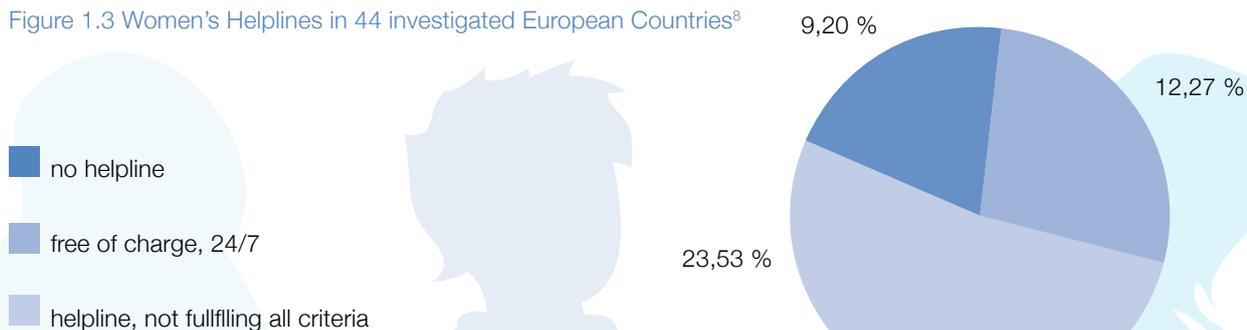
Figure 1.2 Women's Shelters in EU Member States



According to the Figure 1.2 out of 27 countries; 4 EU countries (15%) provide at least 1 family place per 10.000 inhabitants, 5 European countries (19%) provide 1 family shelter place per 10-20.000 inhabitants, 13 countries (47%) provide less than 1 shelter place per 20.000 inhabitants and for 5 countries (11%) the NGO data is not available. So for Europe in total there are 17.800 shelter places for a population of 335 million inhabitants in 22 EU-countries (the population was only considered for 22 countries that provided sufficient data). These figures indicate that still there are **15.700 shelter places missing** in the EU member states.

1.3. WOMEN'S HELPLINES IN 44 INVESTIGATED EUROPEAN COUNTRIES⁷

Figure 1.3 Women's Helplines in 44 investigated European Countries⁸

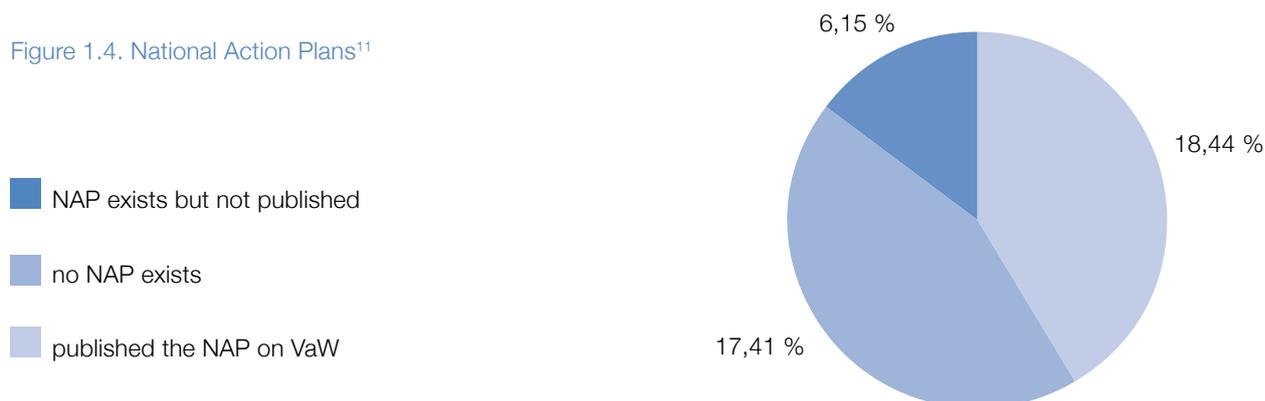


In 23 out of 44 investigated European countries (53%) there is at least 1 national women's helpline which provides 24 hour service to women survivors of violence. Only in 12 out of 44 investigated European countries (27%) a national women's helpline is available which fulfils all three quality standards of a women's helpline: (a) 24 hour service, (b) free of charge, (c) multilingual. In 9 out of 44 investigated European countries (20%) there is no national women's helpline at all.

1.4. NATIONAL ACTION PLANS

The Beijing Declaration states: *“Formulate and implement, at all appropriate levels, plans of action to eliminate violence against women.”*⁹ Whereas, according to the Recommendation issued by the Council of Europe in 2002¹⁰, National Action Plans should address concrete actions in order to combat with the issue of VAW and these plans should be monitored by relevant authorities.

Figure 1.4. National Action Plans¹¹



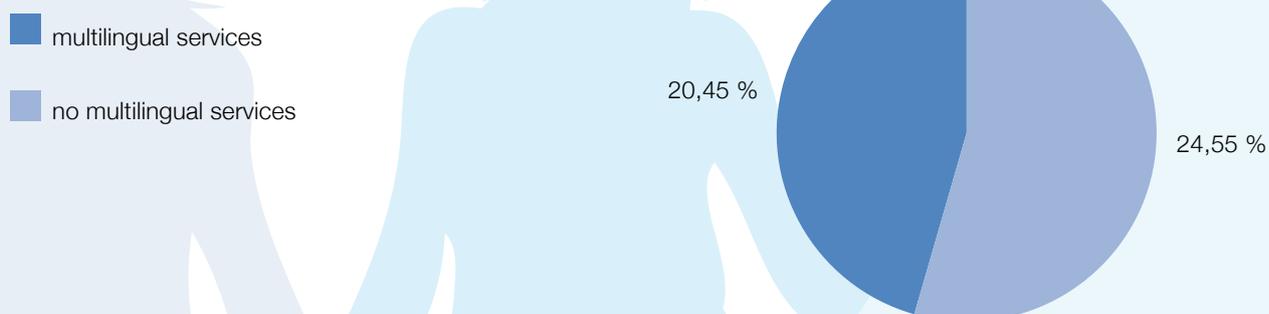
According to the Figure above, only about 60% of European Countries have lately adopted a National Action Plan on VAW and even less has published it.¹²

As revealed in the Council of Europe’s Study called *“Protecting women against violence: Analytical study of the results of the second round of monitoring the implementation of Recommendation (2002)5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member states”*¹³ out of 40 investigated European countries there are only 2 countries (Germany, the Netherlands) which have established a national action plan for combating VAW that considers all 9 forms of violence against women.¹⁴

1.5. SERVICES FOR MIGRANT WOMEN IN EUROPE

The Beijing Declaration states: *“Women migrants [...] are particularly vulnerable to violence.”*¹⁵ and it is a fact that migrant women who are victims of violence need special support. A shelter or helpline offering multilingual counseling services means that the service is provided in at least one other language different from the national language of that country. The WAVE Country Report comprises data on the multilingual services of women’s shelters and helplines.

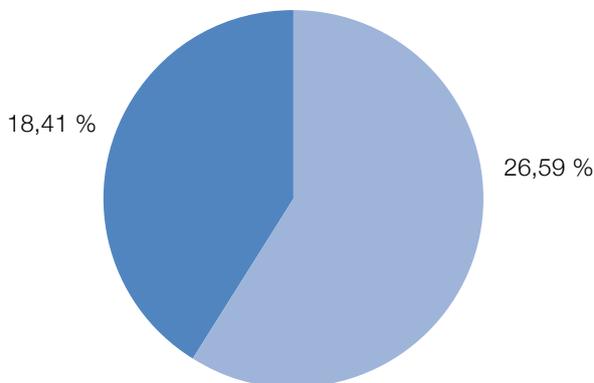
1.5.a. Services For Migrant Women: multilingual shelters



Due to lack of recourse more than half of the women’s services are not able to provide any multi-lingual services to migrant women victims of violence.

1.5.b. Services For Migrant Women: multilingual helplines¹⁶

- multilingual helplines
- no multilingual helplines



It can be clearly seen that, despite visible efforts to meet the objectives stated by the Beijing Declaration and the European Parliament, there is still a long way to go for most of the European countries, in order to provide sufficient services for women victims of violence, especially migrant women.

Therefore, WAVE has decided to carry out a research on what measures are taken for the migrants and minorities with regard to the services provided in the area of domestic violence and to identify the existing barriers to the delivery of these services and present its results in the WAVE Country Report 2009.

Endnotes

- ² WAVE-Country report 2008: <http://www.wave-network.org/start.asp?b=15> (25.02.2010)
- ³ Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine
- ⁴ Based on the United Nations Demography Yearbook 2007 the figures of the population of all 39 European countries which provided data on the number of shelter places were added United Nations Demography Yearbook 2007: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dybsets/2007%20DYB.pdf> (25.02.2010)
- ⁵ European Parliament (1986): Resolution on Violence against Women, Doc. A2-44/86, OJ C 176, 14.7.1986, article 26, <http://www.legislationline.org/documents/action/popup/id/8716> (25.02.2010)
- ⁶ WAVE-Country report 2008: <http://www.wave-network.org/start.asp?b=15> (25.02.2010)
- ⁷ WAVE-Country report 2008: <http://www.wave-network.org/start.asp?b=15> (25.02.2010)
- ⁸ WAVE-Country report 2008: <http://www.wave-network.org/start.asp?b=15> (25.02.2010)
- ⁹ United Nations: Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing Declaration, paragraph D.1.j: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/declar.htm> (31.12.2009)
- ¹⁰ Council of Europe, Committee of Ministers: Recommendation (2002)5 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the protection of women against violence <https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=280915&BackColorInternet=9999CC&BackColorIntranet=FFBB55&BackColorLogged=FFAC75> (31.12.2009)
- ¹¹ Hagemann-White, Carol: Combating violence against women: stocktaking study on the measures and actions taken in Council of Europe member states (Council of Europe), Equality Division, Directorate General of Human Rights, Strasbourg, 2006 http://www.coe.int/T/E/Human_Rights/Equality/PDF_CDEG%282006%293_E.pdf (31.12.2009)
- ¹² Hagemann-White, Carol: Combating violence against women: stocktaking study on the measures and actions taken in Council of Europe member states (Council of Europe), Equality Division, Directorate General of Human Rights, Strasbourg, 2006 http://www.coe.int/T/E/Human_Rights/Equality/PDF_CDEG%282006%293_E.pdf (31.12.2009)
- ¹³ Hagemann-White, Carol: Protecting women against violence: Analytical study of the results of the second round of monitoring the implementation of Recommendation (2002) 5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member states, (Council of Europe), Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs, Strasbourg 2008, p 27: http://www.coe.int/t/e/human_rights/equality/PDF_CDEG_2008_2_rev_en.pdf (31.12.2009)
- ¹⁴ 9 forms of violence: rape and sexual violence, violence within the family, sexual harassment, genital mutilation, violence in conflict and post conflict situations, violence in institutional environments, failure to respect freedom of choice with regard to reproduction, killing in the name of honour. Hagemann-White, Carol: Protecting women against violence: Analytical study of the results of the second round of monitoring the implementation of Recommendation (2002) 5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member states, (Council of Europe), Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs, Strasbourg 2008, p 27: http://www.coe.int/t/e/human_rights/equality/PDF_CDEG_2008_2_rev_en.pdf (31.12.2009)
- ¹⁵ United Nations: Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing Declaration, paragraph D.116: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/declar.htm> (31.12.2009)
- ¹⁶ WAVE-Country report 2008: <http://www.wave-network.org/start.asp?b=15> (31.12.2009)

2. THE WAVE COUNTRY REPORT 2009

The WAVE's Country Report 2008 has focused on services for women "A Right for Protection and Support" which has given a compact overview of all the services and protection measures available for women affected by violence. Whereas the WAVE Country Report 2009 focuses on "Violence Against Migrant Women", an issue which has not received enough attention so far despite high migration levels in the past few years. Therefore, WAVE has attempted to carry out a research on the extent of violence against migrant women throughout the countries within its network and this report presents the findings of this study conducted on violence against migrant women.

WAVE has highlighted the importance of the issue of violence against women and has included the measures taken by the countries for combating violence against women in all its publications, for instance, in its monthly newsletter and bi-annual Fempower magazine. However, WAVE has also pointed out the gaps and shortcomings in the area of combating with violence against women which still cause problems in some European countries.

WAVE has realized the urgent nature of the complex issue of violence against migrant women and the need to include it in its work and lobbying activities intensively. For this reason, WAVE has decided to focus on this topic through the experience of its Focal Point delegates who gather once a year in a member country and has chosen to concentrate on violence against women in this year's WAVE conference which took place in Vienna on 24-26th of September 2009.

WAVE has both invited a wide range of experts on VAW from the field and academics from different countries like Norway, Netherlands, Turkey, Russia, Germany etc. The conference had special lectures and workshops with particular focus on violence against migrant women.

During the WAVE Conference 2009 special workshops and lectures were organized on violence against migrant women and prominent experts from this area like Elisabeth van Bommel from Netherlands, Lydia Okroj from Scotland and Ravi Thiara from Britain have attended to these workshops.

WAVE has given particular attention to violence against migrant women in 3 different workshops at the conference namely:

1. Standards For Quality Services For Women Survivors Of Violence
2. Rights Of Migrant And Refugee Women- Victims Of Violence
3. Secure Social Economic Rights Of Women Survivors Of Violence.

These workshops and discussions came to the resolution that still there is a need for a lot of work to be done. They stressed the need to recognise the diversity of migrant women and also our own diversity in order to understand the social relations. Furthermore, it is utterly important to see migrant women not only as victims who come to women's shelters, which would be insufficient, but also focus on the racist structures within the system. In the past years there have been some legal improvements; nevertheless, the general situation for migrant women has not progressed. Therefore, this report is timely relevant in order to take into account and address the concerns of migrant and ethnic minority women both in policy-making and programming.

Moreover, WAVE has dedicated the Country Report 2009 to document the current situation of migrant women with regard to the extent of the issue, the services provided for migrant women as victims of violence and to identify the existing barriers to their access to these services.

However, the activities of WAVE for raising awareness to this issue are not limited with these attempts. Rosa Logar, the Chairwoman of WAVE, has already produced an article¹⁷ in German on violence against migrant women in order to attract attention towards this problem, which will be published later.

The results from the WAVE Report 2008 and 2009 has also served as a basis for the 54th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2010 in New York to undertake a fifteen-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly.

Member States, representatives of non-governmental organizations and of UN entities has participated in the 54th session. WAVE has also represented by a group of experts and the situation of migrant women affected by violence was one of the issues of WAVE's side event.

2.1. METHODOLOGY OF THE REPORT

For data collection purposes, WAVE has prepared a questionnaire¹⁸ on violence against women and sent out the questionnaire not only to all the Focal Points but also to other organisations dealing with the issue of violence against women. Further, phone interviews were carried out to clarify data.

The data presented in this report was above all provided by the 92 WAVE Focal Points¹⁹ located in 44 different European countries and thus mainly reflecting an NGO perspective. However, as it is very hard to access information concerning migrant women and because of the fact that the migration flow varies enormously from country to country, it was extremely difficult to collect relevant data. Some countries could not participate to the research as they do not have a considerable amount of migrant population; others could not participate because many women NGOs do not have sufficient resources for coordinated data collection like the numbers of migrant women accessed to women's shelters, or the number of shelters which provide counselling in several languages etc. We have received information about the situation of migrant women through our focal points from about 20 countries out 44 countries.

The questionnaire has divided into several parts. The first part of the questionnaire asks questions on "data and figures on migrant women" and "migrant and minority women and their access to women's shelter" and tries to get an overview about the size of the migrant population in that specific country and their access to shelters. The second part of the questionnaire deals with "specialized services for migrant and minority women" and "residency regulations and legal measures" in general. In the last part of the questionnaire the questions revolve about policies, statistics and upcoming action plans.

The language used in the present report aims to be politically correct in order to ensure that people are treated equally and with respect in spite of their ethnic background, religion etc. since language equals power and thus can be used to oppress and exclude. Therefore, this report consciously avoids terms such as "illegal migrant" throughout the report.

2.2. THE DEFINITION OF MIGRANT WOMEN

The definition of migrants and minorities is very complex and varies from country to country. While, for instance in the UK the term "Black and Minority Ethnic Women" (BME)- is used frequently, in Austria experts like Rosa Logar use the term "Migrant, Asian, Black and Asylum Seeking Women" (MEMAS) in their work. For the WAVE Country Report 2009 it has been agreed to use a broader term "migrant and minority women", (MM) which is clearly defined to prevent any misinterpretations.

The term migrant woman varies depending on the laws of each country. Migrants are usually distinguished according to their motives (economic, family reunion, refugees) or legal status (irregular migration, controlled emigration/immigration). The variety of definitions among countries indicates that there is not one single definition of migration, which makes it hard to use the appropriate term. Therefore, we simply distinguish the categories of migrant women on the basis of a legal status.

1. migrant women without documents
2. migrant women without residence permit
3. migrant women with insecure or temporary residence permit
4. asylum seekers/refugees
5. ethnic minorities (black, Asian, Roma etc.)

This report is a first attempt to depict the situation of migrant women affected by violence and their access to services for women in Europe from an NGO perspective. However, the lack of adequate gender-disaggregated data and statistics in many European countries made data collection extremely difficult.

The lack of adequate data in this area indicates that there is a need for continuous effort to improve services for migrant women who are victims of violence. However, this first attempt for collection and analysis of on violence against migrant women created a platform to exchange of information among several NGOs and increased their motivation to collect more data on this issue and above all raised awareness to the topic of VAW against migrant women which has been ignored for too long.

2.3. THE STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

The Country Report 2009 is divided into five parts namely: Introduction, WAVE Country Report 2009, Violence Against Women, The Situation of Migrant Women in Europe and Country Information.

In 2009, there has not been a significant change concerning the facts and figures therefore, in Introduction, we summarize the most important outcomes of the WAVE Report 2008 by graphics. The second chapter is focusing on the WAVE Report 2009 and about, why WAVE is specifically dealing with the issue of violence against migrant women.

The third chapter gives an overview of the existing measures, legislations and best practices aiming at combating with violence against women in the different European countries. On the other hand, the fourth chapter is concerned with the main issue of migration and violence. In fifth chapter we summarize the international documents regarding migrant women. These chapters are followed by the Chapter six on Country Information presenting data on the situation of combating violence against women in 44 Countries with a focus of migrant women.

The Country Information part consists of information on 44 countries. In each country section; there is a box on “General Country Information” which consists of data concerning the population, number of female inhabitants, ratification of CEDAW, ratification of Optional Protocol of CEDAW, membership to EU, and membership to Council of Europe. There is also a box on “Facts and Figures” which consists of the latest number of femicides yearly; the latest number of domestic violence (DV) cases reported by police yearly, latest number of DV cases reported by women’s shelters yearly; prevalence of DV rate in each country. This data is provided to give the extent of violence against women in these countries and the overview of services provided in each country in order to combat with domestic violence.

In each country (which provided information) section, there is a part dedicated to the data on violence against migrant women, their access to women's shelters, other social services and availability of free multilingual helplines in general. This will document the current situation of the services provided for migrant women with regard to domestic violence and furthermore, this will identify the existing barriers to the delivery of these services.

It will then deal with rather general problems of migrant women in their access to services and then focus on the upcoming national action plans, the current residency regulations of each country and the access to specialised services in women's shelters.

In the questionnaire, there were questions on policy measures and statistics on the extent of police intervention for instance the possibility of police to issue a restraining order or like. However, most of the countries could not provide the data and statistics on this section since these kind of statistics is either difficult to collect for women NGOs or they are not available at all.

The report will end with a list of recommendations for States and other relevant agencies regarding the services provided for migrant women. These recommendations are collected from the answers of the responded questionnaires and conducted telephone interviews. As WAVE we have also researched through the relevant studies, international documents and expert meetings in order to propose these recommendations.

These measures that have to be taken in order to respect the human rights of migrant women who are the most marginalized in society are utterly important in order to support and empower them. They should be seen as an encouragement to change current laws that make it impossible for migrant women to escape violent relationships and should further address the concerns of migrant women in all policy-making and programming.

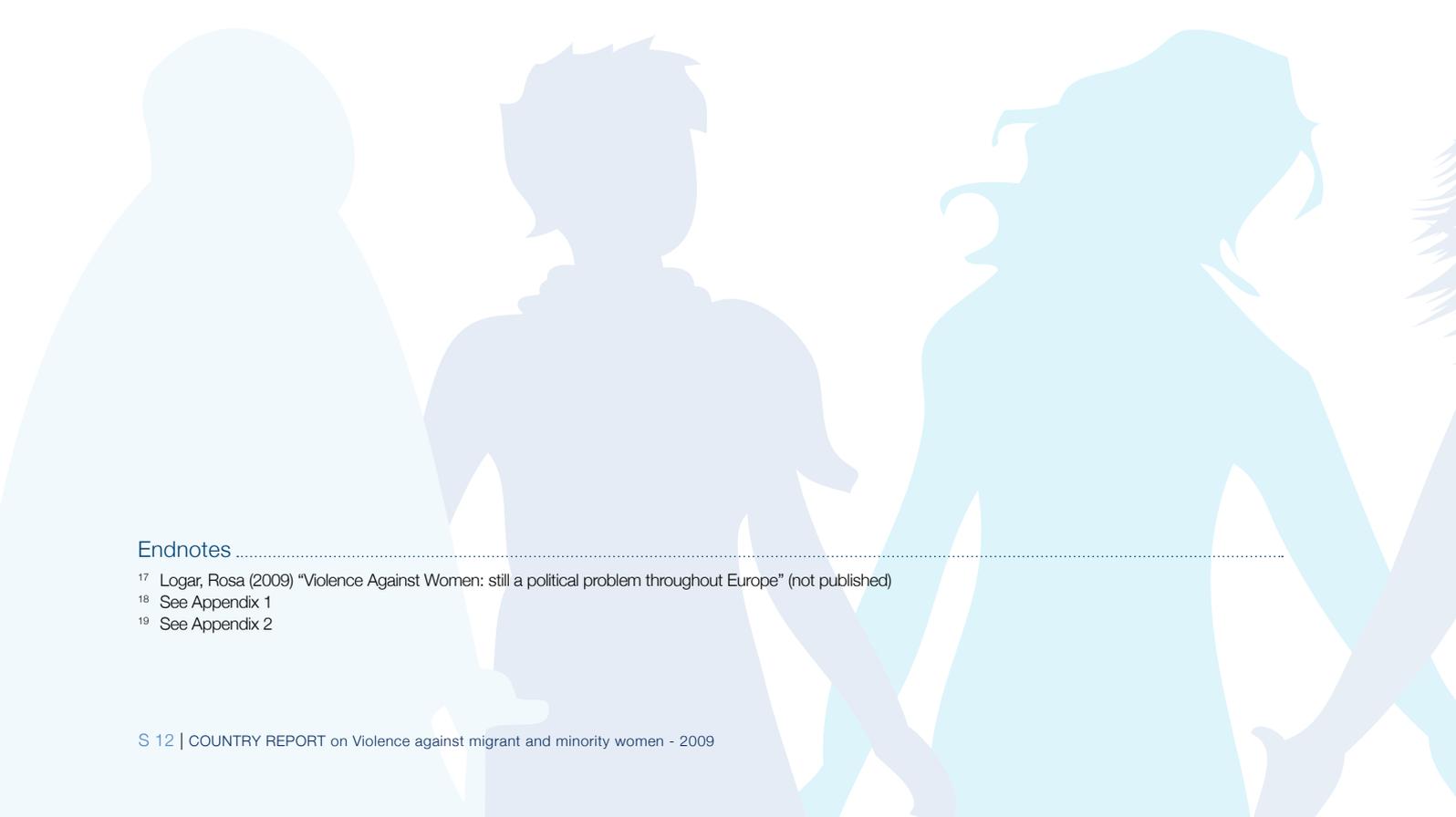
WAVE would like to thank to everyone who has supported us in writing the WAVE Country Report 2009: especially all WAVE Focal Points and different experts working in the field of violence against women.

Endnotes

¹⁷ Logar, Rosa (2009) "Violence Against Women: still a political problem throughout Europe" (not published)

¹⁸ See Appendix 1

¹⁹ See Appendix 2



3. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (VAW)

Domestic violence occurs across all boundaries such as race, ethnicity, class and nationality. It affects all women regardless of their gender, sex, age, race, ethnicity and class. Women are subjected to violence by their partners and this constitutes the basic human rights violation. It exists in all countries and in all social classes; it is a universal problem for everyone: rich and poor, educated and uneducated, socially respected and marginalised.²⁰

In the early 70s, the women's movement has for the first time put the issue of violence against women into the spotlight. Before the women's movement, for a very long period of time violence against women was a taboo and considered as a private problem of individuals or families with no intervention by the agencies. However, it is a social problem which originates from the unequal power relations and structures of our society and not only affects not only women but also the whole society. Thanks to continuous efforts of feminists, nowadays the prevention of violence against women has become a public and political concern in at least most European countries.

In order to understand this matter and implement effective interventions it is necessary to make a comprehensive definition of VAW with its different forms. The Beijing Platform for Action defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. The Platform also claims violence against women as "one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men."²¹

Violence against women does not consist of individual acts of violence rather it can be seen in many forms such as physical, psychological sexual and social/economic violence. *Physical Violence* includes any form of physical abuse such as striking, pushing, pinching, punching, kicking, hair pulling, burning, hitting with an object, injuring or threatening with a weapon. Whereas, *Psychological Violence* is described as any form of psychological abuse such as isolation, humiliation, denying, blaming, threats, bullying, intimidation, control, harassment, psychological terror, insults, coercion, etc. *Sexual Violence* is any form of sexual act such as rape, enforced sex, sado-masochistic practices, enforced prostitution or forcing woman to sleep with her partner's friends. On the other hand, *Economic Violence* means unequal access to and control of the family's financial resources and exploitation of a stronger economic position, providing too little money for domestic expenses, keeping sources of income, preventing her from getting or keeping a job. Many women suffer different forms of violence at the same time.

Violence has severe affects on women in several ways such as isolation from family and friends, emotional and psychological effects like depression, anxiety, fear, insecurity and low esteem. Children are also affected by the domestic violence directly or indirectly in the family. They should also be treated as victims of violence and provided help and support to deal with the trauma.²²

VAW is a multifaceted problem and the survivors of violence need both crisis support and long term services in order to overcome their traumatic experiences. They need to access safe accommodation, protection, healthcare facilities, legal and psychological counselling, social support and financial aid. So, all the agencies should develop a common knowledge and understanding of the problem in order to provide the quality of services for women and children who become victims of domestic violence.

Another important point is to provide these services in a coordinated manner in order not to re-victimize the survivor while providing support. Years of experience in the field has proved that 'single agency' support is less effective in

preventing violence than coordinated community response. VAW cuts across the services of many agencies and there is a need for cooperation among the relevant agencies. Multi-agency cooperation has been developed since the 1990s as a holistic approach and joint effort for of the agencies like police, justice system, health care system, and social services for combating violence against women.

The overall responsibility belongs to the State authorities in organizing these coordinated intervention efforts and these authorities are accountable for protecting the victims from violence in public and private life and providing the qualitative and quantitative standards of services for the survivors. It is also relevant to remind that it has been women NGOs that lobbied for the accountability of State authorities and agencies to prevent violence against women and children, to protect the victims and to punish the perpetrators.

Although there have been serious achievements, unfortunately, VAW is still a widespread problem in many European countries; women are murdered by their husbands, partners and spouses. The prevalence of violence against women is very high: in the EU countries one woman in three to five is faced with violence from their partners. It is known that the figures do not reflect the whole picture and the estimated number of unreported cases is also very high. In one survey carried out by Psytel²⁴ under a Daphne Project in 2007, the intimate partner violence (IPV) related femicides has been estimated for the year 2006 in Europe. The estimated number of IPV related femicides was 70 in Spain per year, 90 in France and 137 in France and the total number was 1139 in Europe.

Despite of these prevalence rates in many European countries states have taken serious measures, issued laws, established strong mechanisms to provide services for the victims, cooperated with women NGOs; many international organizations issued recommendations and resolutions adopted new policies on VAW; NGOs implemented projects, proposed improvements in legislation, conducted small-scale research for gathering data on prevalence of VAW, organized awareness raising campaigns, designed training programmes for professionals working in this field and many academicians carried out qualitative and quantitative researches on VAW for the sake of combating with VAW.

3.1. SHORT OVERVIEW OF THE EFFORTS IN COMBATING WITH VAW IN EU

Many European countries have taken various measures and developed further strategies in order to combat domestic violence. For instance, efficient laws to prevent domestic violence have been issued in many countries and efforts have been carried out to improve implementation of these laws. For example, Spain has issued a law called *Integrated Protection Measures against Gender Violence* in 2007. In March 2008 the Ministry of Equality was established including the Government Commission on gender based violence which develops policies specifically on violence against women for the Government.

In recent years, Turkey has also taken a long distance in terms of adopting legislation for combating with violence against women. In 2004, Turkey has revised the Turkish Penal Code and the new law has been improved in terms of taking relevant measures for combating with violence against women. In 2005, Turkey has also adopted a new Municipality Law (5393) which requires all municipalities with a population over 50.000 inhabitants to open a women's shelter. Moreover, Prime Ministry has issued a Circular (2006/17) regarding the prevention of violence against children and women in order to define the responsibilities of relevant governmental institutions in combating with this issue.

UK has kept its leading position with a long tradition of service provision for victims of violence and developed the 'multi-agency model' which aims a coordinated response of different agencies. A number of domestic violence forums bringing the representatives of different agencies together around a table with the objective of improving the services and coordinating the efforts of different agencies have emerged in UK. In last few years, UK also has developed of special multi-agency service which is considered as a best practice. These services are called multi-agency risk assessment conferences (MARACs) which are supposed to protect high-risk victims. The police identify victims with high risk of repeated violence and then these victims are provided special support from different agencies. MARACs are established in almost every big city in UK.

In German speaking countries (German, Switzerland and Austria) the multi-agency initiatives have developed in the last 10 to 15 years countries and called *intervention centers* which have similar goals as of the one in UK. *Intervention centres* became one of the well-known best practices of multiagency services. They had an objective to build an intervention system that provides more coordinated support to survivors of violence by overcoming the former approach of offering different responses by different agencies. In Austria, a close cooperation has been established among the police, courts and intervention centers run by women's NGOs. The Domestic Abuse Intervention Centers in Austria in nine the counties as a best practice of "pro-active approach" the staff automatically communicates with the women who have applied to the police and provides support through social and legal counselling, assistance in enforcing judicial protection orders and court proceedings have been provided for the victims. There are also examples of similar coordinated interventions in Luxembourg.

Another best practice of multi agency support is *domestic violence one stop shops* in which the system is organized in a way that the victims are provided all relevant services in one location rather than contacting agencies in different locations. For example, in a hospital which is organised as a domestic violence one stop shop; following the medical treatment of the victim of violence she could depose to the police in another part of the hospital and following that could she could have counselling from a social worker in the same hospital. That way all the needs of victim of violence are provided at the same location. UK has examples of this kind of support.

As explained in the Introduction part, some European countries already have established *national women's help lines*. Others like Germany with a population over 82 million people is about to open a nation-wide helpline for female victims of violence. On the other hand, the government of Spain in cooperation with the European Commission is currently working on establishment of a European-wide helpline for female victims of violence.

Furthermore, regional counselling centres and crisis centres with have also been established a special focus on sexual violence. Rape Crisis Centres are also examples of best practices providing support to the victims and survivors of sexual abuse. These centers provide support ranging from hospital accompaniment, individual counselling, prevention education and legal counselling. The rape crisis centers have been established in UK and US.

Countries have constantly extended and improved the services available to women affected by violence. Not only experts practically working in this field but also researchers, though a very small group, deal with the socio-political phenomenon of violence against women and carry out national or international researches in order to provide data about the situation in Europe.

Some examples of these researches can be summarized as follows:

Sylvia Walby's research²⁵ on "The Costs of Domestic Violence" has estimated the cost of domestic violence for the state, employers and the men and women. The estimated costs have provided an economical perspective to the devastating consequences of for society as well as victims.

Professor Carol Hagemann-White from University of Osnabrück in Germany has carried out the "Combating Violence Against Women: Stocktaking study on the measures and actions taken in Council of Europe member states" for Council of Europe in 2006. The report has provided an overview about the different measures taken by different countries and organisations to eradicate this problem.

Professor Marianne Hester from Bristol University has completed her recent research²⁶ on "Domestic Violence Perpetrator Services Evaluation" in 2009. This study aimed to "develop and set up a voluntary domestic abuse perpetrator programme based in South Tyneside; provide services to domestic violence perpetrators; provide support services to the partners and ex-partners of the men on the programme and reduce domestic violence by improving the safety of women and children".

Birgitt Haller from Austrian Institution for Conflict Research has carried out a research²⁷ on "The Austrian Protection Against Domestic Violence Act 1996" together with Christa Pelikan and Petra Smutny in 2004.
Daniela Gloor and Hannah Meier, Switzerland

There are also international **NGOs** and **international organisations** that has pointed out the complex problem of violence against women and asked the member states for more efficient laws and measures in order to combat gender-based violence. These organisations have organized several awareness raising campaigns in order to keep the issues of violence against women on the agenda.

According to *Amnesty International*, violence against women is one of the most severe and frequent violations of human rights. It launched its global Stop Violence Against Women Campaign to help break the silence around this violation. The campaign is intended as a contribution to the efforts of the women's rights movements around the world. Amnesty International uses a human rights framework to oppose violence against women, in order to change the perception of violence against women from a private matter to a public concern. They utilize international human rights measures to hold States accountable to take relevant actions for combating with violence against women.

On the other hand, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe has issued the Recommendation (1300) on the protection of the rights of minorities in 1996 in order to underline the importance of protection of the rights of migrants.

The Council of Europe has set up Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence (EG-TFV), during the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe in 2005. Therefore, 6 members from different countries who are experts in the field of violence against women have been selected by the Secretary General of CoE. The main objective of the Task Force is to evaluate progress in measures of combating with violence against women at national level, establish instruments at pan-European level and suggest proposals for action. Thus, in 2007 the *Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women* has organised the "Campaign to Combat Violence Against Women Including Domestic Violence" in co-operation with other European and national actors, including NGOs. The Campaign had an objective of raising awareness that violence against women is a human rights violation. It requires member states to express political will by developing legislation and national action plans on VAW and providing adequate resources to deliver concrete results in the field. CoE has also established an "Ad-Hoc Committee on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (CAHVIO)" in order to prepare one or more legally binding instrument(s).

European Parliament 1986²⁸ has also issued a Recommendation for the European countries regarding the shelter places. According to that recommendation 1 family place in a women's shelter should be provided per 10.000 inhabitants in every country. In applying this recommendation to the total population; it is revealed that a total number of 56.000 shelter places for women victims of violence and their children are needed in order to fulfil this recommendation. However, there exist only 20.200 shelter places for 560 Million inhabitants of 39 European countries and that means there are still **35.800 family shelter places missing** to fulfil the recommendation of European Parliament.

Committee on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), points out violence against women as the top priority issue of in the field of women's rights. The resolutions and recommendations of CEDAW, indicate a need for each member state to adopt new laws or to reformulate certain policies and programmes in a more gender sensitive way. As an integral part of CEDAW, Optional Protocol is also a very important instrument to advocate for women's rights.

European Commission's Daphne Programme has been providing funds for various projects promoting gender equality and combating with violence against women since 1997. The programme's objective is to contribute to the prevention of and the fight against all forms of violence occurring in the public or the private domain against children, young people and women. Since 1997 Daphne Programme has supported many projects implemented by the NGOs in the field of combating violence against women. WAVE has applied for Daphne Programme since 1997 and it has awarded funds nearly every year and since 2007 WAVE has received funds within the framework of Operating Grant under the Daphne Programme for its operational expenses.

As listed above, in Europe serious measures have been taken in order to combat with violence against women, international organizations have issued recommendations, financed NGOs to implement projects and awareness raising campaigns whereas academicians have carried out research studies developing models to combat with VAW or presenting statistical data about the situation of VAW throughout Europe. However, there is still a long way to go in order make these efforts even more effective and there is one special area which is still waiting more attention: violence against migrant women.

Endnotes

- ²⁰ Antić Gaber, Milica; Dobnikar, Mojca; Selišnik, Irena (2009) "Gendering Violence against Women, Children and Youth: From NGOs via Internationalization to National States" in Antić Gaber, Milica (eds.) Violence in the EU Examined (2009)
- ²¹ Beijing Platform for Action
- ²² WAVE (2006) "Bridging Gaps- From good intentions to good cooperation"
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- ²⁴ Psytel, Ingénierie de l'information, Daphne Project 2007 „IPV EU Mortality“ Estimation of intimate partner violence homicides in Europe
- ²⁵ Sylvia Walby (2004) "The Costs of Domestic Violence"
- ²⁶ Marianne Hester (2009) "Domestic Violence Perpetrator Services Evaluation" <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/sps/research/projects/completed/2009/r16866/finalreport.pdf>
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- ²⁸ European Parliament (1986): Resolution on Violence against Women, Doc. A2-44/86, OJ C 176, 14.7.1986, article 26, <http://www.legislationline.org/documents/action/popup/id/8716> (25.02.2010)

4. THE SITUATION OF MIGRANT WOMEN IN EUROPE

The situation of migrant women who are victims of violence is worse than the woman citizens of a country, especially for the migrant women whose residence status is linked to their violent husbands and whose access to the labour market is limited in destination countries. Migrant women are at higher risk than the rest of the female population to become victims of violence. Migrant women are discriminated against their gender, ethnic origin, migrant status, increased isolation and social norms that are defined by patriarchal values. They may face with violence either in their host countries, in transition countries or in destination countries. Some minority ethnic women come from countries where traditional harmful practices are carried out, such as female genital mutilation and forced marriage. Those women seeking asylum may have experienced conflict-based rape and/or during the journey. Other women arrive in a destination country as the victims or survivors of trafficking for sexual exploitation. Their situation as a migrant women create additional barriers for receiving support.

Additionally, the economic and social circumstances in the destination countries as well as the residence and migration laws of these countries restrain their ability to access services.²⁹ For example in a prevalence study carried out; Monika Schröttle and Ursula Müller³⁰ found out that in Germany, especially Turkish and East European women became victims of violence more often than average female population. Additionally, the restrictive access to the labour market puts these women in a more difficult situation than female nationals affected by violence. Moreover, the restrictive immigration laws ignore the human rights of migrants and do not protect them sufficiently.

According to Hageman-White countries have developed national action plans in the recent years; however, they have been mainly focusing on domestic violence and sexual violence ignoring other factors such as race³¹. So the topic of violence against migrant women has been either not brought into the spotlight or brought without the necessary intersectional perspective.

An intersectional perspective on domestic violence against women states that gender in combination with class and/or ethnic background plays an important role since the dimension of violence can also be class-specific.

Therefore, this year WAVE's Country Report 2009 aims to document the current situation of migrant and minority women with regard to the services provided in the area of domestic violence and to identify the existing barriers to the delivery of these services.

4.1. MIGRATION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST FEMALE MIGRANT WORKERS

Men and women migrate in search of better opportunities and hoping to benefit themselves and their immediate families. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 2009 Human Development Report (HDP)³² explores that human mobility can foster human development by implementing better policies. There are factors which have increased the demand for migration recently such as demographic trends -aging population in developed countries versus young population in developing countries-, growing employment opportunities, cheaper communications and transportation. However, migrants are constrained both by the policies that impose barriers to entry and by the resources to enable them to move³³. The situation is even worse for the low skilled workers who are perceived as temporary and irregular workers. They face systematic disadvantages, pay same taxes as local residents, whereas they lack access to basic services on equal terms with local people and face the risk of being deported.

Although both men and women migrate, migration is not a gender-neutral phenomenon. The position of female migrants is different from that of male migrants in terms of legal migration channels, the sectors into which they migrate and the forms of abuse they suffer. Therefore, the migration of women should be analysed from the perspective of gender inequality, traditional female roles, gendered labour market, prevalence of gender-based violence, feminization of poverty and labour migration.³⁴

While migration offers new opportunities for women and fosters economic empowerment and human development through wide participation it may place women's human rights and security at greater risk than men.

The 2009 HDR proposes that it is possible to gain from migration by removing the barriers to migration and improve the treatment of migrants. It suggests a package of reforms with six pillars which will foster the positive impacts of migration on human development. The most important of these six pillars for our concerns is the one: "ensuring basic rights for migrants". This pillar requires countries to protect migrant workers and ensure that migrant workers enjoy full rights in workplace such as equal pay for equal work, decent working conditions and collective organization.

The recent CEDAW's General Recommendation (No. 26) on Migrant Women Workers (2009) admits that women migrant workers have specific kind of vulnerability to risk and abuse and have a greater probability to face sex and gender based discrimination and violence. This Recommendation identifies three specific categories in which women are more vulnerable to discrimination and gender-based violence as they are in low-paid jobs and less likely to acquire eligibility for permanent stay or citizenship. These categories are:

- a) Women migrant workers who migrate independently
- b) Women migrants who join their spouses or other family members
- c) Undocumented women migrant who may fall into any of these two categories

These women may not also enjoy the protection of the law of the countries of destination which makes their situation even more vulnerable to human rights violations. There are clear human rights violations of women migrant workers in countries of origin, countries of transit and countries of destination. However, the WAVE Country Report 2009 will mainly focus on the human rights violations which occur mainly in the countries of destination.

Women face multiple forms of discrimination in the countries of destination. In some countries governments may restrict women's employment in particular sectors or gendered division of labour leads women to find jobs in specific sectors such as informal sector, or service sector. In service sector, these are generally care giving, domestic or entertainment work. These jobs which are perceived as appropriate for women and this in turn increase the vulnerability of women against abuse and violence. These occupations may also be excluded from legal definitions of work or do not provide any binding contracts which deprives women of legal protections. Permission to stay in the country may be severely restricted especially for women in domestic work when their contracts end or terminated by the employer.

Endnotes

²⁹ c.f. The Women's Health Council : A Study of Gender-based Violence and Minority Ethnic Women in Ireland. 2009. p 5.

³⁰ Schröttle, Monika; Müller, Ursula: (2006) Gewalt gegen Frauen in Deutschland - Ausmaß, Ursachen, Folgen In: Schröttle, Monika/Heitmeyer, Wilhelm (Hrsg.) (2006): Band: Gewalt. Schriftenreihe der Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung

³¹ Hagemann-White, Carol: Combating violence against women: stocktaking study on the measures and actions taken in Council of Europe member states (Council of Europe), Equality Division, Directorate General of Human Rights, Strasbourg, 2006

³² http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR_2009_EN_Complete.pdf

³³ 2009 United Nations Development Programme Human Development Report

³⁴ CEDAW/C/2009/WP.1/R

Women migrant workers are also argued to be more vulnerable to sexual abuse, sexual harassment and physical violence in the sectors dominated by women. When they lose their immigration status then they become even more vulnerable to violence.

Women migrants also experience xenophobia, racism, sex and gender-based discrimination which leads to lower wages or delayed payments for women in compared to men. Moreover, gender insensitive environment prevents women's mobility and women migrant workers who have less job mobility may not be able to leave their abusive situations. Even in some countries women can be undocumented the moment they leave their job and these women become dependent on their partners' residence permit in order to stay in that country; this situation makes it even more difficult for them to leave their abusive partner.

Women migrant workers also may not have access to health services as they are not covered by a proper insurance or national health scheme or unaffordable for them. In some cases accommodation is provided for women migrant workers however, when accommodation is provided the offered living conditions are generally very poor.

CEDAW's Recommendation also underlines that pregnancy may also be a serious problem for women migrant workers; women may face irregular immigration status or deportation or they are entitled to inadequate, maternity leave and benefits.

Women migrant workers have limited access to justice. They might not be eligible for legal aid or they can face with additional barriers like not speaking that country's language and not knowing their rights in that specific country.

Moreover, current restrictive immigration laws and the residency regulations in many countries provide residence permits to women dependent on their husbands; this make things even worse for migrant women affected by violence and limit their ability to escape situations of violence. For example, in Scotland migrant women who do not have an independent residence permit but are dependent on their husband/partner regarding their residence status have to stay in a relationship/marriage for at least two years before getting a residence permit of their own. However, there is a "Domestic Violence Concession" in immigration law which means that if the relationship breaks down within a two year probationary period and if there is sufficient evidence of violence then the woman can get indefinite leave to remain in the UK. The problem is about the level of evidence required to make an application. It can also be difficult to access a suitably qualified lawyer.

4.2. MIGRANT WOMEN AS VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Migrant women are also prone to domestic violence by their spouses of male migrants.

Such violence takes many different forms, including physical, sexual, psychological and emotional violence, as well as economic abuse and exploitation. However, migrant women are prone to face with violence in particular ways which are specific to their migrant status.

Firstly, their husbands or partners may threaten them by using their children; such as threatening them by separating her from her children in the destination country; taking the money she was supposed to send for her children in her home country; telling her that he will have her deported and he will keep the children with him; convincing her that if she seeks help from the police or the legal system, courts will give him custody of children. Migrant women can be abused by threatens about their citizenship and residency permits by their husbands and partners. They may threaten them

by getting them deported, not filling papers to legalize their immigration status; withdrawing or threatening to withdraw immigration papers filed for their residency; using their undocumented immigration status to keep them from reporting abuse or violence; telling them that the police will arrest them for being undocumented if they call the police for help because of the abuse or violence.

4.3. GENERAL NEEDS OF MIGRANT WOMEN

Migrant and ethnic minority women who suffer from violence have special needs as they face with barriers to full equality and advancement because of their race/ethnicity, language, age, culture and religion. Countries should also think about the special needs of migrant and ethnic minority women. They have to deal with prejudice and discrimination from the cultures of the destination countries. Additionally, migrant women not only suffer from the double discrimination of their gender and ethnicity but also from the economic and social circumstances in the destination country. This report argues that the immigration laws and residence permit regulations restrain the ability of migrant women to access special services and even most countries even lack inter-culturally competent services to address the specific needs of these women. The general needs of migrant women could be summarized as follows:

4.3.1. LEGAL SITUATION

Every migrant woman should have an independent legal status which is not related to her husband. When a woman's residence status is dependent on her husband this makes her status unsecure and makes her totally dependent on their husband. If she gets a divorce she will lose her legal status which in turn makes it more difficult for her to leave her husband even it is a violent relationship. In a relationship woman should also have a right to decide by herself whether to stay in that relation or not.

Immigrant women who are victims of violence should also be granted residence permits in the destination countries instead of being deported following the expiry of their visas.

In most countries, the access to labour market and social benefits depends on the legal status of people in that country. A person will not have full access to labour market, to the social benefits and other services without a legal status. The fact that migrant woman cannot get a work permit in the destination country limits her independence and prevents her to set up a new life by herself. Their limited access to the labour market and their unsecure legal status in that country make it very difficult to leave a violent husband/partner.

For instance, some countries are not allowed to accommodate women without documents since they are referred to as "illegal" a term which prevents them to have an access to services such as health care, legal assistance, shelters, labour market, and social benefits as they are not eligible for state financial support from the public funds. Of course this contributes women's economical dependence on their husband/partner. Another important point is the fact that these services should be provided with a rights based perspective.

Migrant women should be provided access to social services, like health, housing, education and training services regardless of their legal status.

4.3.2. ACCESS TO HEALTH-CARE SERVICES

Women and children who are victims of violence have high health risks and violence is a major reason creating a need for accessing health-care services. In many European countries however, migrants have little or no access to the healthcare-system. For example, in Austria people who do not have health insurance and who are not entitled to welfare assistance are also excluded from health-care services. The regulations regarding eligibility for welfare assistance differ among the provinces. In Vienna welfare assistance is granted to immigrants who have lived in Austria for at least five years and have a permanent title of residence³⁵. Therefore, access to health insurance is a great problem for the immigrant women as victims of violence without any health insurance. The ideal is to provide unrestricted health-care service for immigrant women who are abused by domestic violence. Therefore, countries should provide free medical care for ALL female migrants without health insurance. Free or affordable psycho-therapy treatment should be provided for migrant women who are victims of violence and special care facilities and assistance for women and girls at risk of being forced into marriage.

Insufficient knowledge of language and low levels of education are also barriers for an immigrant woman to get to know the health care system in that country. It is also very difficult to understand the explanations and instructions of health-care staff. Even if there is someone who translates for her; this person might be even her violent partner or child; this makes the situation even more difficult for everyone. Therefore, there should be sufficient number of specialized and trained translators (especially for the most needed languages) in public hospitals and children should not translate for their mothers especially on the cases of domestic violence for the sake of their psychological health.

Immigrants may also be unwilling to turn to the local health care institutions as they are afraid of being reported to the immigration authorities for example if they do not have a legal title of residence or as they are not dealt with a culturally sensitive way. Therefore, the health-care personnel should be trained and sensitized on the issue of domestic violence and cultural sensibilities and differences of migrants.

The information material about the health-care system and the services provided for the victims of violence should be accessible in every health-care institution no matter public or private.

4.3.3. ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND TRAINING FACILITIES

It is very difficult for immigrant women experiencing violence to raise their levels of education and acquire qualified job. These women are struggling different kinds of stress including the structural violence. Many migrant women are not allowed to train a profession or they leave their education or training incomplete as in order to get married. They might also be prevented to attend to language or other vocational training courses by their partners in order to keep them dependent to their husbands and away from their family and friends. They either can not afford to continue to a language course by themselves or their husbands may refuse to pay for it. Therefore, language should not exclude women from participation in qualification measures. There should also be cost-free language courses for immigrant women.

On the other hand, the graduation degrees of migrant women in their home countries are not recognized and this prevents them to find a qualified job and most of the time they end up in working in low skilled and paid sectors. Their immigrant status also affects their admission to better education institutions. Even their graduation degrees are recognized or they acquire a good education or training often they can not find qualified jobs and have to work in low skilled and paid jobs; if they find any. The recognition process for of university degrees should be possible and affordable access to training programmes for all women.

4.3.4. ACCESS TO LABOUR MARKET

The access of women to labour market is quite limited because they face with double discrimination as women and as migrants. The situation is even worse if these women are in a violent relation as they also suffer from the negative effects of violence. In most cases migrant women especially asylum seekers have no work permit³⁶. This makes them completely dependent on their husbands or partners. If they can get a work permit they either work in low wage jobs in bad working conditions without secure contracts. Therefore, immigrant women need full access to labour market; they should have a right to work in the destination country if they have a right to live. Their special skills should also be counted for employment and language barriers should not totally exclude them from employment.

4.3.5. ACCESS TO SOCIAL SERVICES

The migrant women should be provided special support when they face with violence like counselling in their own language or acceptance in shelters.

Although there are helplines and women's shelters in every country of our focal points, they are not always free of charge and accessible to migrant women since some of them lack multilingual service. For instance women's shelters do not naturally provide interpreters and are not culturally sensitive enough to help migrant women affected by violence. Even if these services are available, almost in every case they are very limited. Moreover, one of the main problems is the lack of funding by states when it comes to accommodate migrant women who are victims of violence.

There needs to be an establishment of specific services for Black women, migrant and ethnic minority women experiencing gender based violence.³⁷ Countries should ensure that there are shelters which accept victims of women including migrant women, migrants without legal status and asylum seekers. These women should be provided services in important languages of that country.

It is already very difficult for women to tell that they are faced with violence the language barrier makes women even more reluctant to talk about the violence. So it is very crucial to provide multilingual services for victims of violence. Therefore, States should establish multilingual, free, around the clock national women help-lines.

It is also very difficult to understand the legal regulations and their legal rights for migrant women in a foreign country. Therefore, the help-lines should also provide legal counseling for migrant women besides psychological counseling.

4.3.6. ACCESS TO HOUSING FACILITIES

The migrant people are also discriminated in receiving flats; house owners are not willing to rent their flats to immigrants in general. However, as a best practice, in Vienna migrant women have access to housings of the municipality. The municipality of Vienna provides special rights for women victims of violence to rent houses for a cheaper price. In some European countries migrants do not have access to state housings. Therefore, States should increase the number of social houses available for immigrants and provide affordable housing for immigrants. They should also provide an immigrant woman who is a victim of violence, a special residence permit and access to state housing facilities.

Endnotes

³⁵ WAVE (2009) ,The Poverty Risks of Women Affected By Violence and Their Children

³⁶ Immigration Council of Ireland: Addressing the Needs of Black and Minority Ethnic Women Experiencing Male Violence Seminar Report. 2006. p.10.

4.3.7. ACCESS TO SOCIAL BENEFITS

Immigrant women do not receive the same amount of social benefits such as child benefit, childcare allowance, welfare assistance, social housing etc. as the nationals of that country although they are entitled to pay the same amount of the taxes. For instance, in Austria the welfare assistance depends on unlimited residence; an immigrant is entitled to social benefits if she has lived for several years in Austria³⁸. In order to get a residence permit an immigrant woman should earn a minimum amount of monthly salary which also requires secure employment of that woman.

4.3.8. TRAINING OF PROFESSIONALS

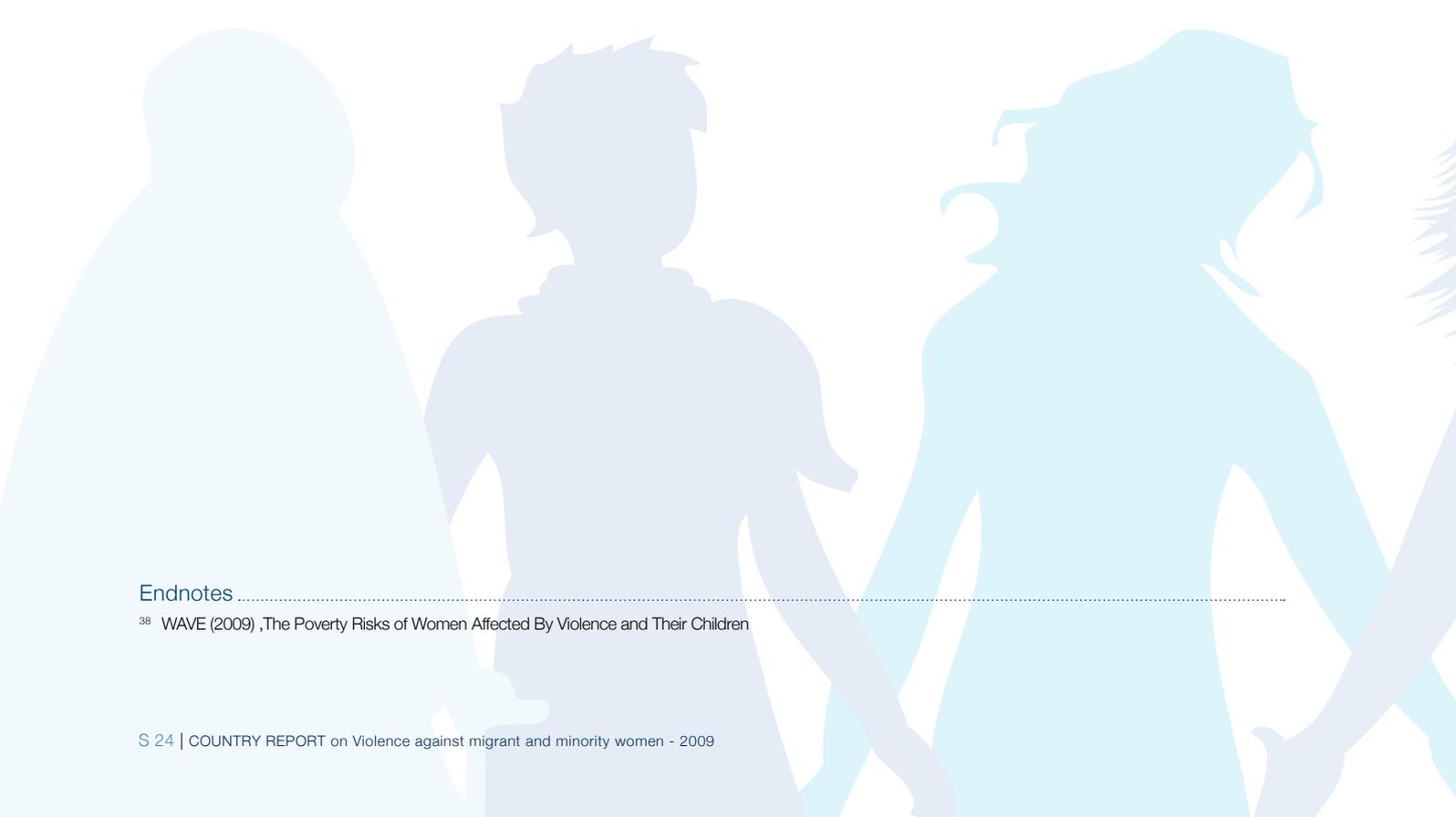
The training of professionals who provide services to victims of violence on issues of domestic violence is also very important. Specialized training programmes should be offered to police, judiciary personnel, healthcare professionals and social workers.

Both police men and police women should be trained on domestic violence. This should be a fixed part of their training. They should also be trained on the situation of migrant women. Police should know more about the special situation of migrant women and traditions of these migrant communities. They should understand the difficult situation of women to stay in that country and to leave their husbands if they do not have equal legal rights as women. It is not easy for women to report their violent husband/partner to the police as they have a fear of deportation.

The delivery of information on these relevant services should also be available in every organization like police stations, courts, health care institutions etc. These organizations should also provide translators.

Endnotes

³⁸ WAVE (2009), The Poverty Risks of Women Affected By Violence and Their Children





ALBANIA

General country information

Population: 3.152.625

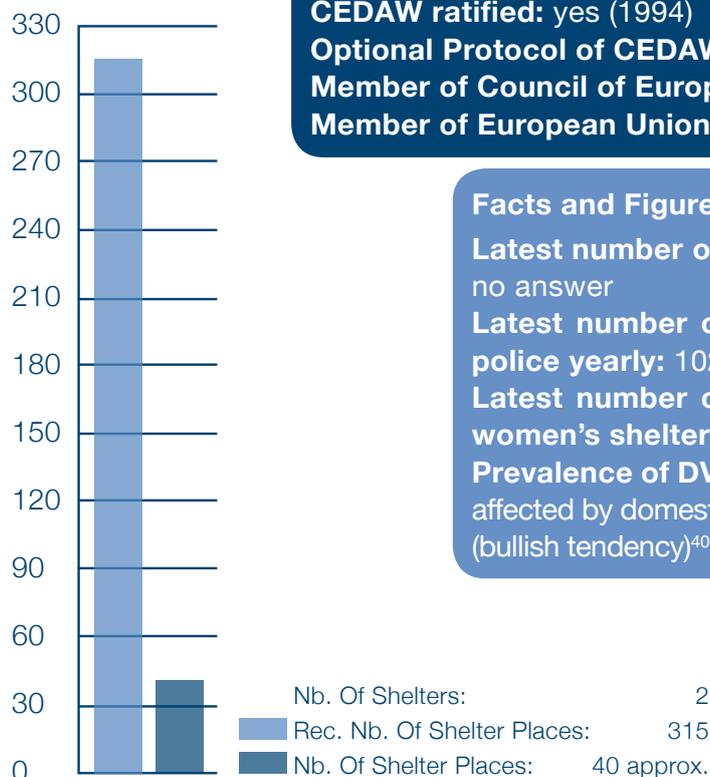
Female inhabitants: 1.570.306 = 49% of total population

CEDAW ratified: yes (1994)

Optional Protocol of CEDAW ratified: yes (2003)

Member of Council of Europe: yes (1995)

Member of European Union: no



Facts and Figures

Latest number of femicides yearly:
no answer

Latest number of DV cases reported by police yearly: 102 cases in 2005³⁹

Latest number of DV cases reported by women's shelters yearly: no answer

Prevalence of DV: 1/3 of Albanian women are affected by domestic violence (bullish tendency)⁴⁰

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SERVICES FOR WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Women's Helplines:

The first Albanian women's helpline was established in October 1998. According to WAVE Focal Point "Women's Forum Elbasan", at present, no national women's helpline is available for women affected by domestic violence and only 1 is available for trafficking victims. However there are helplines in 9 regions that are working directly with victims of domestic violence. "The Counselling Line for Women and Girls" was created in Tirana in 1996 and to date, more than 37.500 women and girls victims of violence have been assisted. Other women's helplines are run in Shkodra, Pogradec, Elbasan, Durres, Berat, Vlora, Gjirokater, and Kukes since many years now. The regional helplines are often operated by counselling centres offering support for women victims of violence. The phone calls are not free of charge and the counselling service is not provided multilingually, 24 hours a day. The 9 regional helplines are not funded by state but solely financed through foreign donors.

Table Women's HELPLINES:



	Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/hour service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
National	0	/	/	0%	/
Regional	9	0	0	0%	0

Women's Shelters:

The first Albanian shelter was founded in Tirana, the capital city of Albania November 1996. It was established to meet the needs of women asking for support in crisis situations at home. Within ten years this shelter has treated more than 300 women and around 400 children. It is supported only by foreign donors such as USAID, UNICEF, WORLD BANK, SOROS Foundation, and ICCO only mentioning the main sponsors. For the last six years the shelter was supported only by ICCO. Although the shelter is a service licensed by the government it has never received state funding. Together with the women's shelter in Tirana there are 5 shelters with an approximate capacity to accommodate about 100 women victims of violence. 2 of them – the shelter in Tiran and the women's shelters in Elbasan are specified for women survivors of domestic violence. The 3 remaining refuges offer service to trafficking victims. According to the recommendation of the European Parliament, 315 more shelter places are needed in Albania. Taking into account that the total shelter capacity also includes refuges for victims of trafficking, there are still more than 215 shelter places missing.

Table Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/hour service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State Funding per %
2	40 approx.	315	215	2	0	0%

Further Services for Women Victims of Violence:

In January 2008 police set up the section against domestic violence and some organisations working in the field of violence against women are cooperating very closely with them in several regions. No guidelines have been worked out for health care professionals, social workers in handling these cases. There are no special units or responsible persons in law enforcement agencies dealing with cases of violence against women and also no intervention centres have been established thus far to undertake the coordination work between the different groups of professionals and the women survivors. Most Albanian women's helplines are operated by counselling centres with a total number of 6 organisations.

National Action Plan

In cooperation with the WAVE-Focal Point "Women's Forum Elbasan" and other NGOs the Albanian government is currently working on the implementation of the "National Strategy on Gender Equality and Domestic Violence 2007 - 2010."⁴¹

Upcoming Issues

Currently, the government is working in cooperation with experts of domestic violence against women and children to amend the existing legislation in order to turn it into a protection law which declares domestic violence and all its forms as a crime. However, there are no funds allocated at national, regional or local level of government for activities against violence against women. This does not only limit the capacities of organisations in supporting women victims of violence but also hinders them in carrying out important prevention measures and awareness-raising projects to prevent domestic violence against women and children and tabooing and stating that violence against women is not a private matter but a crime which is neither accepted by the government nor in Albanian society.

Endnotes

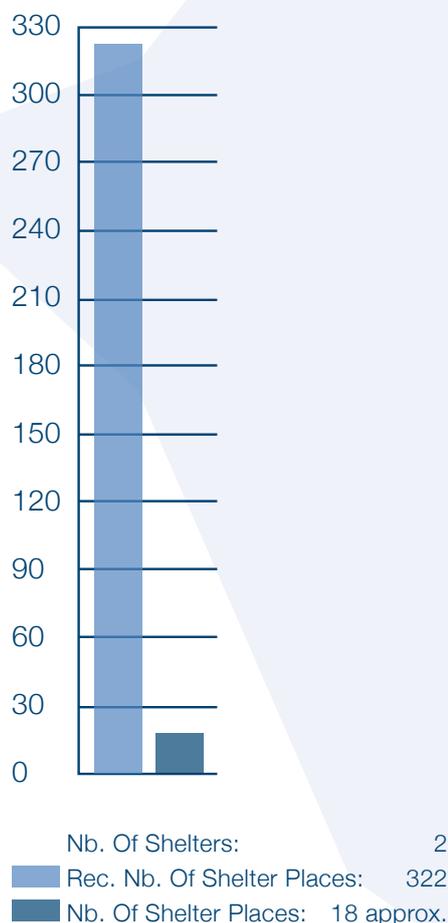
³⁹ Gender Alliance for Development Center and Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities: www.gadc-al.org (10.12.2008)

⁴⁰ Amnesty International Report 2008: <http://thereport.amnesty.org/eng/regions/europe-and-central-asia/albania> (10.12.2008)

⁴¹ Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, National Strategy on Gender Equality and Domestic Violence 2007 - 2010: http://www.mpcs.gov.al/dshb/images/stories/strategjite/national_strategy_for_gender_equality_and_domestic_violence.pdf (10.12.2008)

ARMENIA

ARMENIA



General country information

Population: 3.225.953

Female inhabitants: 1.668.554 = 51% of total population

CEDAW ratified: yes (1993); 3rd Periodic Report was due on 13 October 2002 and is overdue since 2006.

Optional Protocol of CEDAW ratified: yes (2006)

Member of Council of Europe: yes (1994)

Member of European Union: no

Facts and Figures

Latest number of femicides yearly: no data

Latest number of DV cases reported by police yearly: 497 out of 8.875 cases registered in 2005 were related to domestic violence. In 444 out of these 497 criminal cases, criminal proceedings were demanded. In the first two months of 2006, 70 out of 1342 cases were registered as domestic violence cases. 39 of them are categorised as “crimes against life and health”. In 14 of these 70 criminal cases criminal proceedings were convened.⁴²

Latest number of DV cases reported by women’s shelters yearly: from 1st of May - 31st of August 2006, 22 people (11 women and 11 children) were accommodated in a shelter.

Prevalence of DV: there are no common indicators developed by the state to evaluate the scale of domestic violence. In the framework of the National Action Plan a working group was established within police to collect data on violence against women, including domestic violence. The data collected is gender-sensitive. It refers to the relationship between victim and perpetrator and considers previous criminal acts committed by the offender. Medical personnel do not collect such data. See also: ⁴³⁴⁴

SERVICES FOR WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Women’s Helplines:

Armenia has a free-of-charge national women’s helpline for women survivors of domestic violence operated by WAVE Focal Point - “The Women’s Rights Centre”⁴⁵. The helpline is available for clients 24 hours a day. It is solely financed by donations and fundraising activities and not financially supported by the state.

Also the only regional women’s helpline does not receive any financial subsidies from the state. Supported by grants from international donors, it provides a 24 hour service to survivors of domestic violence free of charge.

Table Women's HELPLINES:



	Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/hour service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
National	1	1	1	no answer	0
Regional	1	1	1	no answer	0

Women's Shelters:

As reported by WAVE Focal Point "The Women's Rights Center", no shelter was available to serve women victims of rape or domestic violence until 2006. Currently, there are 2 shelters for survivors of family violence, but without overnight service, and with a capacity of 18 shelter places: 7 for women and 11 for children. In order to fulfil the recommendation of the European Parliament, 304 family shelter places have to be established for survivors of violence in Armenia. Further, there are 2 shelters for victims of trafficking in Armenia offering 7 shelter places. All shelters are operated by local NGOs or international organizations and financed through various international donors. No shelter for women victims of domestic violence in the Republic of Armenia receives state funding. They are 100% financed through fund raising, donations etc.

Table Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/hour service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State Funding per %
2	18 approx.	322	304	0	no answer	0%

Further Services for Women Victims of Violence:

In Armenia there are no intervention centres offering a holistic and coordinated service to women affected by domestic violence. There are no guidelines for the police or health care professionals on how to deal with cases of domestic violence against women and children. There are no special units or responsible persons in law enforcement agencies providing help survivors of violence.

2 crisis centres for women victims of DV provide help to women victims of violence: "The Women's Rights Center's Women's Support and Drop-in Center" provides free psychological, legal and social assistance. The crisis centre of the NGO "Ajakits" mainly operates for the population of Shirak Marz (the region of Shirak). These 2 organizations also offer perpetrator programs on a project basis in the last few years.

National Action Plan

The National Action Plan of Republic of Armenia for 2004–2010 on "Improving the Status of Women and Enhancing Their Role in Society" was adopted by the government in 2004. It contains eight sections: two of them address activities combating violence against women and trafficking, respectively. The first one prescribes concrete measures for implementation such as the regulation to conduct research on violence against women and the use of particular types of indicators, the harmonization of the legal system with international legal norms, and training programs for different professions dealing with survivors of domestic violence etc. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Culture and Youth Affairs, and the Ministry of Health are responsible for realising these actions. However, no coordination institutions or governmental

ARMENIA

bodies are charged with implementation of measures to combat domestic violence, sexual harassment or sexual assault. In 2004, the government approved a National Action Plan for “Prevention of Trafficking in Persons for 2004–2006”, which includes concrete actions with responsible actors and deadlines.

General information about migrant and minority women and their access to services

The questionnaire was answered by: **Women’s Rights Center**

The people of Armenia are almost all ethnic Armenians, 93%, with small numbers of Russians and other nationalities. Armenia has a literacy rate of 99%.⁴⁶

There are National Help lines for women survivors of violence. Additionally, there is psychological and legal counselling available for free. Further services available also include free accommodation with provision and food.

Free legal aid is provided to women subjected to violence who applied to the Services. The above mentioned services are also available in Russian but Armenian is the main language of communication and naturally most used in Armenia.

There are two women’s shelters in Armenia: One shelter is specialized on victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The second shelter is for the victims of domestic violence. Both shelters are operating irrespective the race, age of the woman applying for help.

The percentage of migrant and minority women accommodated by women’s shelters is rather low; it might be one or two cases per year. Due to the low number of migrant and minority women accommodated in the shelters in Armenia there is no shelter specialised on migrant and minority women.

Generally every women in Armenia has free access to any shelter there exists and to all the services available. So there are no limitations or restrictions for a woman of any status, particularly not for migrant and minority women.

All women applying for help to the Shelters receive psychological, legal counseling and assistance. Nationwide Armenia developed a new methodology that is adequate for the diversity of the women in the shelters. It is a strength-based methodology.

The National Action Plan 2004-2010 on Improving the Status of Women and Enhancing Their Role in Society emphasizes the need for effective institutions to address women’s issues. The Plan also highlights the unequal participation of women in the country’s political and social spheres and calls for women’s increased involvement in democratization and the development of civil society. To improve the social and economic conditions of women, the Plan recommends expanding business opportunities for women, especially in rural areas, and developing national arts and crafts production.⁴⁷

The funding for MM women in the country is similar irrespective to the status of a woman applying for help and children of women who applied for help of the shelters have the right to stay with their mother as long as they need to. There are 10 restrictions or limitation registered for them.

Endnotes

⁴² Data from Women’s Rights Centre: <http://www.wrcorg.am>

⁴³ Open Society Institute: Armenia Monitoring Report 2007, Violence Against Women - Does the Government Care in Armenia?, Stop violence against women: http://www.stopvaw.org/sites/3f6d15f4-c12d-4515-8544-26b7a3a5a41e/uploads/Armenia_2.pdf

⁴⁴ Open Society Institute, Armenia Fact Sheet 2006, Violence Against Women - Does the Government Care in Armenia?, Stop violence against women: http://www.stopvaw.org/sites/3f6d15f4-c12d-4515-8544-26b7a3a5a41e/uploads/ARMENIA_VAW_FACT_SHEET_2006_3.pdf

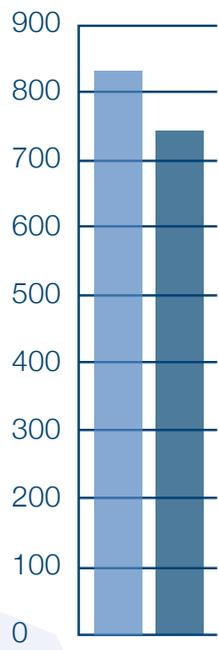
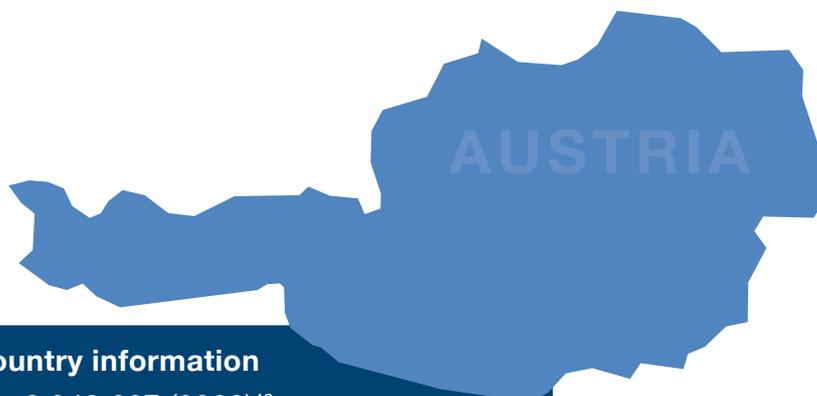
⁴⁵ The Women’s Rights Centre: <http://www.wrc.org.am> (01.09.2008)

⁴⁶ C.f. <http://www.historycentral.com/NationbyNation/Armenia/Population.html> (January 2010)

⁴⁷ C.f. <http://www.ifad.org/english/gender/cen/profiles/arm.htm> (January 2010)



AUSTRIA



General country information

Population: 8.340.667 (2008)⁴⁸
Female inhabitants: 4.277.716 women⁴⁹ = 51,34% of total population
CEDAW ratified: yes (1982)
Optional Protocol of CEDAW ratified: yes (2000)
Member of Council of Europe: yes (1956)
Member of European Union: yes (1995)

Facts and Figures

Latest number of femicides yearly: 107 murders and murder attempts; 75 of them in near social environment; victims were predominantly women and children (2007). In 2006, 61% of murders and murder attempts took place in circle of family and acquaintances.⁵⁰
Latest number of DV cases reported by police yearly: 6.347 cases (2007)⁵¹
Latest number of DV cases reported by women's shelters yearly: 3.190 cases (2007) 1.641 women + 1.549 children⁵²
Prevalence of DV: no prevalence study in Austria; approx. every 5th woman is likely to experience domestic violence.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Women's Helplines:

Austria has a national women's helpline against male violence - 0800 222 555 - which was founded in 1998 and run by the "Austrians Women's Shelter Network (AÖF)" since 1999. The women's helpline is the first and central contact for all women and their children affected by male and family violence. Fast and friendly low threshold telephone counselling, is provided in different languages such as English, Turkish, Arabic, Slovakian, Slovenian, and Hungarian by employees specially trained in domestic violence against women. The Austrian women's helpline is free of charge and available 24 hours per day 365 days per year. It is 100% state financed.

Regional Women's Helplines/Counselling Centres:

Currently 6 regional helplines for sexual violence provide their service on the regional level. These helplines are run by counselling centres. They have different opening times; just 1 of them - the "24-Stunden Frauennotruf der Stadt Wien" - is free of charge and offers 24 hour service to clients. Depending on the qualifications of the employees, they partially provide counselling in different languages. All of them are state funded on regional level but not fully - except for the Viennese women's helpline which is 100% financed by the City of Vienna.

Table Women's HELPLINES:



	Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/hour service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
National	1	1	1	1	100%
Regional	6	1	1	partial	5=90%, 1=100%

Women's Shelters:

The first Austrian women's shelter was established in 1978 in Vienna. Since then the number of women's shelters has steadily increased in Austria. While in 2002, 23 refuges provided 432 shelter places for women and children survivors of violence⁵³, currently, there are 30 women's shelters for women victims of violence in Austria offering a total number of 748 shelter places; 4 of them are located in Vienna. Besides that the City of Vienna fully funds the operation of 41 safe transition apartments for women victims of violence and their children including special counselling service, thus fulfils the recommendation of the European Parliament. By the end of 2010 the number of safe transition apartments will be increased up to 50 providing and a total number of 72 places. With a total amount of 166 women's shelter places and 72 places in transition apartments the City of Vienna will then also fulfil the suggestion by the Council of Europe (1997) which recommends 1 safe family place per 7.500 inhabitants.

In 1988, the "Austrian Women's Shelter Network - AÖF" - was founded, consisting of 10 shelters. Recently 26 women's shelters joined the Austrian Women's Shelter Network providing a 694 shelter places for women and their children affected by violence. These women's shelters are run by independent NGOs and funded by regional governments. In some regions such as Upper Austria, Burgenland, and Carinthia the state funding for women's shelters is established by law (Sozialhilfegesetz, Mindestsicherungsgesetz). The women's shelters in Vienna are fully funded by the City of Vienna which is long-term guaranteed through a permanent contract. In other Austrian regions women refuges are by approximately 90% subsidized through state funding (local and national level). Remaining operating costs are mainly covered through donations. They are still waiting for secured funding cooperation

Table Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/hour service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State Funding per %
30	748	834	86	30	30	26=90%, 4=100%

Further Services for Women Victims of Violence:

In Austria there are 9 intervention centres, 1 in each region. In 1998 the first intervention centre was established. They are implemented as an accompanying measure to the protection law in Vienna. The Austrian intervention centres are established by the protection law and legally bound by a renewable contract guaranteeing state funding for 5 years. Intervention centres in Austria apply a proactive approach in helping women affected by violence: police are legally obliged to inform the intervention centre each time a barring order is implemented. The intervention centre then contacts the woman and works out a safety plan, offers free counselling, and free court accompaniment.

Further, there are 6 counselling centres focusing on violence against women and girls as well as 50 girls and women counselling centres, including special counselling centres for migrant women.

AUSTRIA

In Austria, several Ministries such as Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs, Federal Ministry of Health, the Family and the Young, and the Federal Ministry of Justice have assigned special funds to combat violence against women.

Since 2000, a men's counselling centre in Vienna offers anti-violence-training for men with violent behaviour in cooperation with the Vienna Intervention Centre against Domestic Violence

All Viennese women's and migrants' organisations - e.g. "Information Centre against Violence" and the "WAVE office" - are funded partly by the City of Vienna which is long-term guaranteed through a three year contract. Besides regular participation in the "16 days of activism against gender violence" the City of Vienna highly estimates the NGO experience and actively supports a good cooperation with NGOs working in the field of violence against women. Regular four fixed meetings are organised by the City of Vienna with representatives of NGOs, intervention centres, police, and other organisations focussed on victim protection. Together further aims and new strategies are developed to increase the support for women survivors of violence and their children. Besides that the City of Vienna has started initiatives combating forced marriage, genital mutilation and stalking and also initiated the development of legal measures against stalking.

National Action Plan

In Austria, there is no National Action Plan on domestic violence against women. In 2006 an Action Plan on combating trafficking - the "Nationaler Aktionsplan gegen Menschenhandel" was ratified. Further, Austria has developed a National Action Plan for child safety: "Nationaler Aktionsplan für die Rechte von Kindern und Jugendliche - 2004 - 2007".

Upcoming Issues

In Austria, the residence status of a married migrant woman still depends on her husband. Professionals currently working in the field of violence against women would like to see this changed.

"The Vienna Intervention Centre against Domestic Violence" and the "Association for Women's Access to Justice" brought to cases to the CEDAW committee in the name of two women murdered by their husbands. Both cases were finally defeated by the Austrian Supreme Court although the CEDAW committee clearly accused Austria for infringing on the women's rights. Due to the CEDAW report, several improvements were implemented into the Austrian service system for women survivors of domestic violence.

In some Austrian regions such as Lower Austria, Styria and Vienna violence against women training programs are offered to health professionals. The education is provided by NGO experts working in the field of domestic violence against women and the costs are covered by state funding.⁵⁴ Additionally a survey on violence against women in hospitals and doctor's surgeries was commissioned by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Health, Family and Youth in 2008.

General information about migrant and minority women and their access to services

The average percentage of migrant women accommodated on 2008 was 54% and in 2009 was 56%. Most women come from Turkey, the former Yugoslavia and Eastern European countries. The average percentage of asylum seeking women ranges from 1-2%.

The statistic of the Austrian women's shelters state that in more than half of the cases the perpetrator has been Austrian born (85%). This statistic is contradictory with the prejudice saying that men with a background of migration are more likely to become violent. Additionally, approximately 9% of the women accessing the help-services were Turkish born and about 9% were Serbian.⁵⁵

Most women's shelters provide multi-lingual service in Turkish, Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian. If necessary there are interpreters available especially when legal advice is needed.

In Austria there are 30 women's shelter and women's organizations but the financial situation has worsened a lot in recent years. Women's shelters are hugely affected by economic shortcuts and currently the closing of a women's shelter in the state of Salzburg could barely be prevented. Thereby the number of places has naturally reduced itself and not so many women can be accommodated.

There are no specialized services for migrant and minority women in Austria, however, there is one institution providing asylum seeking women accommodation and special treatment in case they have become victims of sexual/ domestic violence and/ or conflict based rape while or during the journey. This women's shelter is set in Hollabrunn in Lower Austria.

In Austria's 30 women's shelters women of all age, ethnic origin or religion can find a shelter. Also asylum seeking women can access women's shelters and will be accommodated, although it gets more and more difficult for women's shelters to accommodate asylum seeking women. For instance there are new contracts by the funding bodies that prohibit the accommodation of asylum seeking women or allow them a maximum stay of 2-3 weeks only as is the case in Lower Austria.

The funding of the women's shelters is almost exclusively done by the federal state government. The federal government and the ministers only make up a small amount of the subvention. So the financing of the women's shelters varies from state to state. There are only a few states such as Upper Austria and Burgenland that have lawfully prescribed the sufficient financing of women's shelters. In Vienna the 4 existing women's shelter and the affiliated counselling centre has an indefinite contract with the city. So some have these kind of contracts but still they have no secure existence and have to continue fighting for their existence as the case in Lower Austria shows.

The services provided in the women's shelters for women and their children are basically free of charge. If possible, the women are asked to pay a certain amount for their accommodation but this is just in case they can afford it. This amount varies from shelter to shelter. Women without income are supported in order to apply for social benefits. Moreover, women's shelters care about women to get legal aid. Some women's shelters even pay off social benefits directly in the women's shelter. Women without resources are financially and materially helped especially in the case of migrant women who most often can't afford an apartment and/or don't have a proper job.

Main problems and barriers for migrant and minority women

The percentage of migrant women accommodated in Austrian women's shelters has increased a lot. This is not because violence in families with a background of migration has risen but because for many migrant women women's shelters are the only option. Migrant women are less likely to contact the police and thus don't get a restraining order. The reasons for not contacting the police are various such as more violence, the fear of being murdered and also the fear of being deported.

According to the statistic of the Austrian women' shelter 2008 there are several problems and several measures that need to be taken.

Firstly, migrant women need residency permit independent from their husband. For instance when the husband dies the woman is at risk for at least five years of being deported.

The income level of € 772,40 needs to be reduced since singlemothers are more likely to be at high risk of poverty and labor conditions are more likely to be bad. They also tend to have more part time jobs than men, which worsenes their financial situation. Moreover, the labor market needs to be accessible to all women. This is extremely important since currently the employer has to give the work permit, which naturally causes a situation of dependence. Family members following are not allowed to work for one year.

AUSTRIA

The access to social benefits needs to be made easier such as family allowance, child care subsidy and also the access to council flats in every state.

To sum up, there are structural changes which need to be done in order to ensure a life without violence. The structural violence which is dominant right now is a barrier for migrant women seeking help. They lack information about their rights, are socially isolated and don't know about help services. In case a migrant woman manages to escape her violent relationship she is in danger of being deported. These things need to be considered in upcoming policy making in order to help migrant women sufficiently.⁵⁶

With regard to residency permit and right of settlement laws it can be said that these laws have been tightened and have become more and more restrictive in recent years. Migrant and asylum seeking women have to face barriers and obstacles in order to be granted permanent residence which is not dependent on their husband. Moreover, the situation concerning the access to the labor market has worsened; there are several barriers to the entry due to the success of the right wing parties in Austria, the economic crisis and a xenophobic approach towards immigrants.

Migrant women are at high risk to become victims of violence and it is highly difficult for them to escape these situations especially when it is about domestic violence perpetrated by the partner. Migrant women have to face double discrimination, on one hand they are discriminated against of being female, a mother and on the other hand they are discriminated against because of their origin and restrictive laws.

Migrant women who come to Austria for family reunification don't have residency permit. Their residency permit is dependent on their husband, which makes it enormously hard to emancipate themselves from their husbands although they might be victims of violence. Additionally, these women most often don't have their own income which makes the dependency worse.

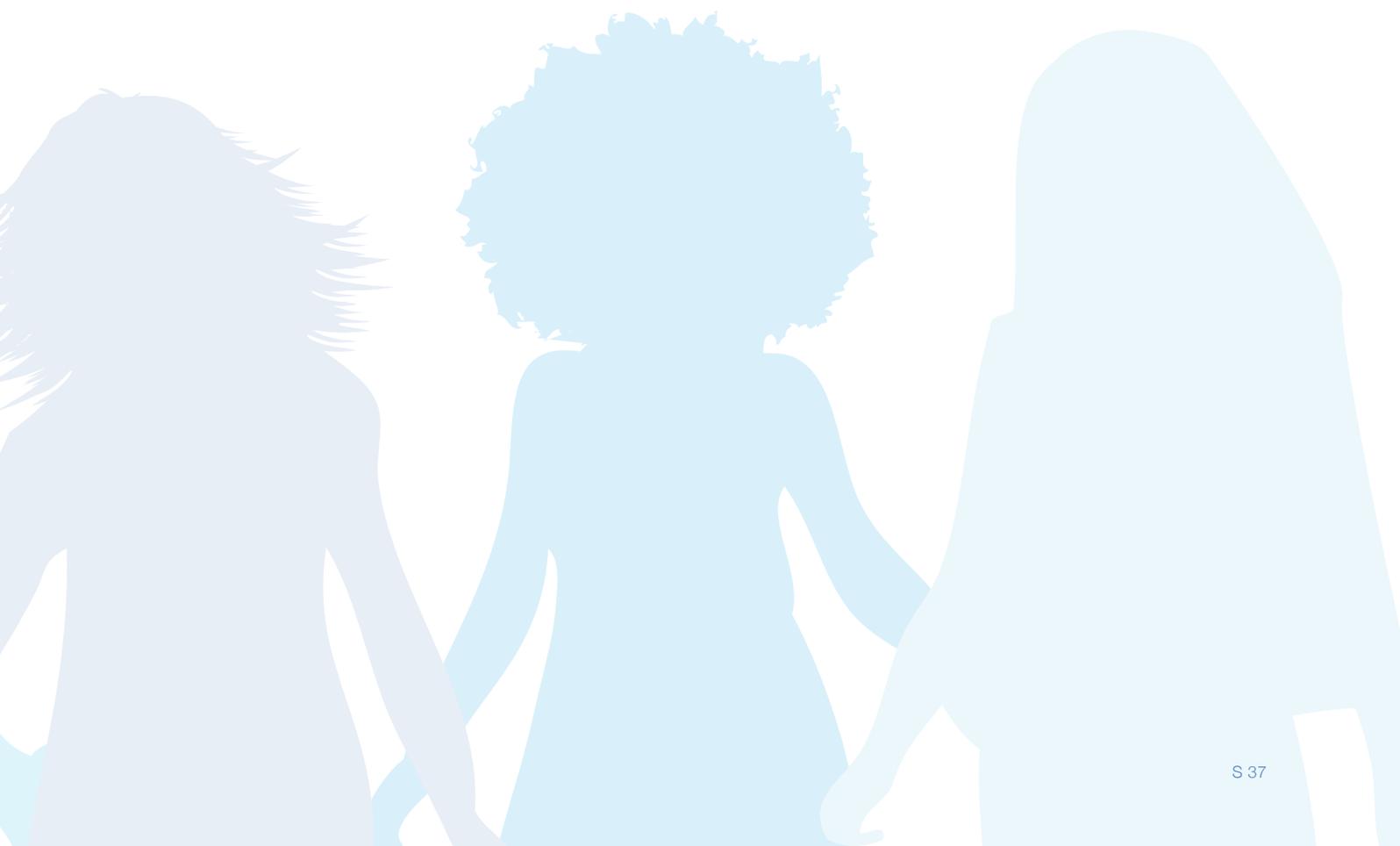
According to the right of settlement/permanent residence (c.f. § 2 right of settlement and permanent residence) in case a migrant woman doesn't have her own income of sufficient level, she is dependent on her husband for 5 years. However, there is an exemption clause for victims of violence but the requirements are very strict and it's hard to qualify for this clause. In this way women have to prove that the police have issued a restraining order because of domestic violence. Rosa Logar states that the chance of getting an interim injunction is likely when a restraining order has already been issued by the police. However, most women don't go to the police in first place and rather escape to relatives or access women's shelters. Naturally this is what decreases the chance of getting interim injunction. Logar also claims that in order to get an independent residence permit women have to face other barriers as well. They shouldn't be a burden to the state and thus not access social benefits. In addition, they have to demonstrate that they have proper accommodation and a minimum income of € 770. Since most migrant women don't have a job or work in the low-pay sector it's very difficult to attest that certain income statement. Here the necessity to look after the children is ignored and migrant women are asked to attest the income of at least €770 no matter what age the children are.⁵⁷

Asylum seeking women don't have access to the labor market and thus no access to social benefits. Since laws have been tightened in Austria in order to prevent marriage just for the purpose of gaining residency permit, asylum seeking women can't apply for permanent residence although they are married to an Austrian man. They have to go to their country of origin and apply for a residence title. This is almost impossible for women since they have no secure existence which means they are not economically independent.

Generally women's shelters don't accommodate boys over the age of 14. This can be a huge problem for migrant women since they might not have somewhere else to go and lack family support.

Endnotes

- ⁴⁸ Statistik Austria: Bevölkerung am 31.03.2008 nach Politischen Bezirken, Alter und Geschlecht: http://www.statistik.at/web_de/suchergebnisse/index.html (10.12.2008)
- ⁴⁹ Statistik Austria: Bevölkerung am 1.1.2008 nach Politischen Bezirken, Alter und Geschlecht: http://www.statistik.at/web_de/suchergebnisse/index.html (10.12.2008)
- ⁵⁰ Bundeskriminalamt: <http://www.bmi.gv.at/kriminalpolizei/> (10.12.2008)
- ⁵¹ Ibid
- ⁵² AÖF – Verein Autonome Österreichische Frauenhäuser: Statistik der Autonomen Österreichischen Frauenhäuser 2007, Wien, 2007
- ⁵³ European Information Centre Against violence Against Women / WAVE Co-ordination Office: More than a roof over your head, Vienna. 2002
- ⁵⁴ Curriculum against violence in hospitals and medical offices can be ordered or downloaded for free at: www.frauen.wien.at (10.12.2008)
- ⁵⁵ C.f. <http://www.aoef.at/aktuell/AOFStatistik2008.pdf>
- ⁵⁶ C.f. <http://www.aoef.at/aktuell/AOFStatistik2008.pdf>
- ⁵⁷ C.f. Logar, Rosa: Violence against Women: still a political problem throughout Europe, unveröffentlichter Artikel, 2009



AZERBAIJAN



General country information

Population: 8.265.000

Female inhabitants:

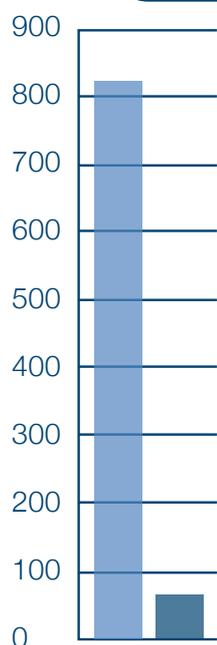
4.207.000 = 51% of total population

CEDAW ratified: yes (1995)

Optional Protocol of CEDAW ratified: yes (2001)

Member of Council of Europe: yes (2001)

Member of European Union: no



Nb. Of Shelters: 1

Rec. Nb. Of Shelter Places: 826

Nb. Of Shelter Places: 67

Facts and Figures⁵⁸

Latest number of femicides yearly: as a result of monitoring held in mass media by organization, 97 people were murdered because of family violence in Azerbaijan in 2007. 147 women were murdered in 2007. These numbers do not include the cases of all regions (e.g. incidents from Nakhchvan are not considered).

Latest number of DV cases reported by police yearly: no data available; this information is kept confidential. The only information published by the Ministry of Internal Affairs was a seeming increase of violence toward husbands by their wives within the last years.

Latest number of DV cases reported by women's shelters yearly: 346 victims of domestic violence applied for shelter place in 2006 while 2007 the number of applications increased up to 628. Many women's Organizations in Azerbaijan do not pay attention to problems such as domestic violence, human trafficking, etc.

Prevalence of DV: no data available

SERVICES FOR WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Women's Helplines:

In the Azerbaijan Republic there is 1 national helpline for women victims of family violence and human trafficking, which was established in 2005. The helpline is operated by WAVE Focal Point "Clean World - Social Union Aid to Women" and is neither funded by state nor does it receive money from any organisation. Service is provided 24 hours a day, all the year. Phone calls are free of charge for clients contacting the helpline and multilingual counselling is provided in Azerbaijan, Turkish, and Russian. The "Clean World - Social Union Aid to Women" also runs a second telephone line for women working in the sex business side who are exposed to violence.

Regional helplines for women survivors of domestic violence are not established so far. Besides a helpline supporting women sickened with AIDS, there is another one helping regarding human rights issues, and 2 helplines for victims of human trafficking. One of them is a helplines created by the department on combating human trafficking within the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Table Women's HELPLINES:



	Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/hour service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
National	1	1	1	1	0%
Regional	0	/	/	/	/

Women's Shelters:

The first Azerbaijan shelter was established in 2003. Currently there is still just 1 shelter available for women who are exposed to different forms of violence in Azerbaijan. This is the shelter operated by WAVE Focal Point "Clean World" called the "Clean World's Especial Shelter". It offers 17 shelter places to women and children without any age discrimination. The shelter offers 24 hour service all the year and provides multilingual counselling in Azerbaijan, English, Turkish, and Russian. "Clean World - Social Union Aid to Women" does not receive any state funding and is solely financed through international donors such as Mama Cash and recently SOROS. Besides this, there is a state shelter funded by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It started its activity in October 2006. 50 women can be accommodated in the shelter. 759 shelter places must be established in order to meet the recommendation of the European Parliament.

Besides the shelter for victims of domestic violence there are 2 shelters providing a total of 64 places for victims of trafficking.

Table Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/hour service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State Funding per %
1	67	826	759	1	1	0%

National Action Plan

The Republic of Azerbaijan has not worked on a National Action Plan in tackling domestic violence against women and children.

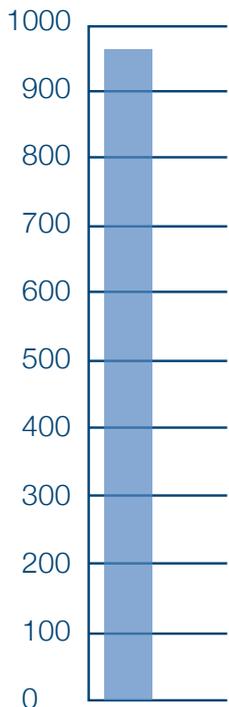
Upcoming Issues

In Azerbaijan many women wish that current politicians would pay more serious attention to problems such as violence against human trafficking of women.

Endnotes

⁵⁸ Data provided by WAVE Focal Point: „Clean World - Social Union Aid to Women”

BELARUS



General country information
Population: 9.689.800
Female inhabitants: 5.168.400 = 53% of total population
CEDAW ratified: yes (1981)
Optional Protocol of CEDAW ratified: yes (2004)
Member of Council of Europe: no
Member of European Union: no

Facts and Figures
Latest number of femicides yearly: 272 murders in family conflicts were committed according to statistics of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. These data are not gender-sensitive and regarding unofficial statistics, the number of murders is a few times higher.
Latest number of DV cases reported by police yearly: 2.115 women (2007). These are official data. In fact, there is still no exact number of such cases but according to some surveys the number of domestic violence victims is 30 times higher (6.345 women) since violence against women is still tabooed and survivors do not apply for help.
Latest number of DV cases reported by women's shelters yearly: no answer
Prevalence of DV: every 3rd woman in Belarus suffers from physical abuse in a family. In consideration of other forms of violence such as psychological, economic, sexual, etc. the number is even higher.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Women's Helplines:

According to WAVE Focal Point "Law Initiative - Commission on Women's Rights", in Belarus there is no specific national helpline for women and children survivors of domestic violence but there are 2 national helplines providing specified services for victims of trafficking. These 2 national helplines are available for all citizens and do not just focus on women clients. Thus, women affected by domestic violence can also make use of this service which is offered also in Russian 24 hours a day. The phone call is not free of charge but has the price of a standard phone call.

Regional emergency hotlines operated by regional counselling centres, which also provide ambulatory treatment to all citizens can be also contacted by women survivors of violence. These telephone services are not available 24 hours a day but only during working hours. Counselling is obtainable also in Russian but not necessarily specialized for women affected by domestic violence. The clients have to pay the call-charge which is identical with the price of a standard phone call.

Regional Women's Helplines/Counselling Centres:

Regional helplines for women survivors of domestic violence are not established so far. Besides a helpline supporting women sickened with AIDS, there is another one helping regarding human rights issues, and 2 helplines for victims of human trafficking. One of them is a helplines created by the department on combating human trafficking within the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Table Women's HELPLINES:



	Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/hour service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
National	2	0	2	2	no answer
Regional	no answer	/	/	/	0%

Women's Shelters:

Since 2006 there has been an attempt to set up a women's shelter in Mogilev supported by international organisations such as "SOS Children's Village" and "Volkshilfe Österreich". WAVE representatives were invited to share their expertise in establishing a women's shelter that meets international quality standards. The project is still in the implementation phase. In Belarus NGOs are strictly controlled by government and still most institutions are governmentally organised. Belarus is far from meeting the recommended number of shelter places, which is 968.

Table Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/hour service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State Funding per %
0	0	968	968	/	/	0%

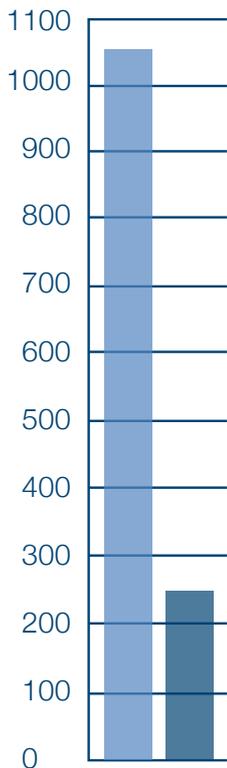
Further Services for Women Victims of Violence:

There are no intervention centres and multiagency cooperation between professionals dealing with cases of domestic violence as established in Belarus so far. However, recently a special control system was implemented by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which registers and takes preventive measures against family abusers. In September 2007 a special regulation was accepted that provides separate departments for social adaptation and rehabilitation in so called "Crisis Rooms" in the structure of Centres of Social Service to the whole population but not specifically to women and children. In Belarus there are 156 centres of this kind and 14 "Crisis Rooms" at the moment. All of them are still under construction.

National Action Plan

The latest Action Plan on domestic violence in Belarus dates back to the period of 2001-2005. Currently the National Action Plan is in the ratification process in the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus. NGOs such as WAVE Focal Point "Law Initiative - Commission on Women's Rights" were involved in developing the document in providing suggestions and recommendations for the National Action Plan 2006-2010.

BELGIUM



Nb. Of Shelters: 26
 Rec. Nb. Of Shelter Places: 1,058
 Nb. Of Shelter Places: 350

General country information

Population: 10.584.534
Female inhabitants:
 5.403.126 = 51,04% of total population
CEDAW ratified: yes (1985)
Optional Protocol of CEDAW ratified: yes (2004)
Member of Council of Europe: yes (1949)
Member of European Union: yes (1957)

Facts and Figures

Latest number of femicides yearly: no answer
Latest number of DV cases reported by police yearly:
 no answer
Latest number of DV cases reported by women's shelters yearly: no answer
Prevalence of DV: These data are available now. Lately registration and data collection has changed in Belgium. The old numbers do not cover reality. A new dark number research on domestic violence also on violence against men/women will be finished by December 2009.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Women's Helplines:

As informed by WAVE Focal Point "Stichting Welzijnszorg Provincie Antwerpen", Belgium has established 3 national helplines - 106 (Dutch), 107 (French), 108 (German) available for everyone in trouble. The staff is trained but not specialized in domestic violence against women. The telephone service is available free of charge, 24 hours a day in Flemish, French, German, and partly in English. They are financed through state funding and donation. A national website for survivors of domestic violence starts in 2009.

Since 2007 in every region of the Flemish part there is a "Centrum for Social Care – CAW" which has a specialised team supporting survivors of domestic violence also offering telephone counselling in different languages such as Flemish, French, and English. If needed, there are translators available. The phone call is free of charge for clients and the service is financed by state funding on the governmental, provincial, and municipal level.

Regional Women's Helplines/Counselling Centres:

Regional helplines for women survivors of domestic violence are not established so far. Besides a helpline supporting women sickened with AIDS, there is another one helping regarding human rights issues, and 2 helplines for victims of human trafficking. One of them is a helplines created by the department on combating human trafficking within the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Table Women's HELPLINES:



	Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/hour service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
National	3	3	3	3	no answer
Regional	5	5	no answer	5	no answer

Women's Shelters:

The 4 first Belgian women's shelters were set up in 1977; in 1980 a total number of 10 women's shelters were then established. Currently 26 women's shelters provide a safe place and counselling service in Dutch and French for women victims of violence in Belgium: 4 of them are located in Wallonia, 22 in Flanders. The latter have a capacity of 350 beds for women and children survivors of violence. All shelters are mainly funded by the state but also through projects. According to the survey "More than a Roof over your Head" carried out by WAVE co-ordination office, in 2002 approximately 700 places for women and children were provided in 38 refuges in Belgium. Within the last 6 years the number of shelter places was severely reduced, which clearly shows the posture of Belgian politics in ignoring the recommendation of the European Parliament which claims 1.058 shelter places in Belgium.

Table Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/hour service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State Funding per %
26	350 in Flanders	1.058	708	some	26	no answer

Further Services for Women Victims of Violence:

In Flanders every region has 1 big organization - "Centrum Algemeen Welzijnswerk (CAWs)" providing different but specialized services to survivors of domestic violence such as victim lines, shelters, and counselling. Every region has a multiagency network which enables the cooperation between police, justice, social care, shelters, victim aid, child care, mental health, in case of domestic violence. In Wallonia there are 2 regional pools of intervention functioning as regional multiagency networks, coordinating the cooperation between shelters and other professionals involved in domestic violence cases. They also offer perpetrator programs. Every region (every CAW) has a victims' service, a team working on domestic violence against women.

National Action Plan

In Belgium, a National Action Plan on domestic violence has been ratified. The Action Plan 2004-2007 has been evaluated and through meetings on governmental level the next "NAP on Partner Abuse for 2008-2009" was prepared.

Upcoming Issues

A multidisciplinary approach in tackling domestic violence is currently being discussed in Belgium, which aims to improve the cooperation between police, justice, women's aid, social care, mental health, child care, and the medical sector. Attention is thereby turned to specific target groups such as children witnessing and experiencing family violence, and

BELGIUM

abuse of elderly women. Further it is planned to include perpetrators' programmes into the multidisciplinary context as reported by WAVE Focal Point "Stichting Welzijnszorg Provincie Antwerpen".

General information about migrant and minority women and their access to services

The questionnaire was answered by: **Province of Antwerp Department (W) Capital W.**

There are three shelters specialized on victims of trafficking. These shelters for women victims of trafficking were created in 1995 and funded by the Federal Government and the federated entities (Communities and Regions). This refers to Pag-Asa (Brussels); Surya (Walloon Region); and Payoke (Flemish Region). These centers have a lodging structure (from 10 to 15 beds), maintained at a secret address, as well as a social center from which all the contacts with external partners are organized.

Moreover, these centers and the multidisciplinary teams which make them up (educators, social workers, criminologists,...) have as their mission to provide various types of care to victims of trafficking in human beings:

- psychosocial care: to aid the victims in overcoming the situation that they have lived through and the trauma that they have endured, to help them to take charge of their life in the best possible manner and to work out with them a plan for a realistic future;
- administrative care: help for the victim in her efforts to obtain various residence permits; if the victim decides to return to her country of origin, the specialized center will contact the OIM (International Organization for Immigration) and will organize the voluntary repatriation of the victim;
- medical care;
- juridical care: the objective of these centers is to guarantee the defense of the rights and interests of the victim during the judicial proceeding on the facts of the trafficking of which she has been a victim, keeping her informed and providing her with a lawyer. The care centers may also constitute a civil litigant, in their own name or the name of the victim. This option is of considerable importance in these cases, where victims are often reticent in filing civil suits, especially due to fear of reprisals.
- lodging: the centers also have a reception house where victims requiring it can be lodged during a limited period. Then care becomes ambulatory.

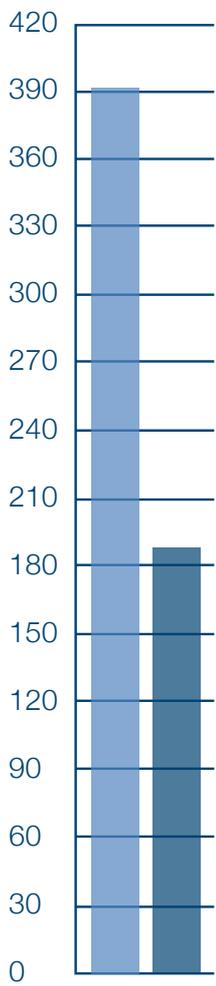
In 2001 Belgium worked out its first national action plan in order to eliminate intimate partner violence with a special focus on gender-based violence. In 2005 the institute of gender equality worked out a national action plan focusing also on the elimination of intimate partner violence. These action plans and whether they proved to be effective had then been tested in 2007 and further Belgium looked at what could be done as a next step.

On the 15th November in 2008 there was a huge conference called "Integration der Gesellschaft". At this conference further measures were decided and a special focus on migrant women was set. For this reason information material has to be provided in several languages.

In December 2008 there was a new action plan focusing on FGM, racism, forced marriage and intimate partner violence. Furthermore, there is a national action plan from July 2008 that aims to stop women trafficking. These plan should draw attention to the complex topic of gender based violence and especially violence against migrant women. In the next ten years further projects are going to be worked out and put into practice. All these measures and action plans should then be the shining example at an international level with regard to the elimination of gender based violence.



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



General country information
Population: 3.981.239
Female inhabitants: no data available
CEDAW ratified: yes (1983)
Optional Protocol of CEDAW ratified: yes (2002)
Member of Council of Europe: yes (2002)
Member of European Union: no

Facts and Figures
Latest number of femicides yearly: no data available
Latest number of DV cases reported by police yearly: no data available
Latest number of DV cases reported by women's shelters yearly: no data available; regarding to statistical records, the WAVE Focal Point "Medica Zenica" (shelter) accommodated 13 women and 8 female children survivors of domestic violence in the first 6 months of 2008.
Prevalence of DV: no answer

Nb. Of Shelters: 9
 Rec. Nb. Of Shelter Places: 398
 Nb. Of Shelter Places: 185

SERVICES FOR WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Women's Helplines:

There is not national helpline for women victims of domestic violence in Bosnia Herzegovina but there are several regional emergency lines and social services such as police, courts, Centres for Social Work and Welfare, hospitals and other medical institutions such as Centres for Mental Health available for survivors of domestic violence. Most of them are financed through state funding and offer 24 hour service (e.g. police, emergency room, duties in some medical institutions). However, these helplines do not necessarily offer specialized services for women victims affected by violence but are general services for all citizens. For this reason a unified national SOS line aimed at women and children victims of violence for the territory of the entire BIH should be established.

Table Women's HELPLINES:



	Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/hour service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
National	0	/	/	/	0%
Regional	no data	no data	no answer	no data	no answer

Women's Shelters:

In the territory of the federation there are 6 safe houses for victims of domestic violence and other types of trauma and 1 safe house for victims of human trafficking ("La Strada", Mostar). In the Republic of Srpska 3 safe houses provide service to survivors of domestic violence and other types of trauma and 1 safe house specifically cares for victims of human trafficking ("Lara", Bijeljina). All in all, 185 shelter places are available for survivors of domestic violence - 213 too few to meet the recommendation given by the European Parliament.

All safe houses in the entire BiH are operated by NGOs. In these houses⁵⁹ apart from accommodation, food and hygienic supplies, victims of violence also receive direct physical protection, psycho-social support, counselling and therapy treatment, legal assistance and advice, economic empowerment and making victims competent for economic independence. The services are provided in different languages and 24 hours a day.

All these safe house run by NGOs are 95% financially supported by foreign donors. Only Sarajevo Canton has provided funds from its budget for the aforementioned services to victims of violence accommodated in the safe house of the Local Democracy Foundation. Safe houses in other Cantons have not just adopted protection methods for victims of violence as developed and applied in Sarajevo Canton but also financing models, such as occasional subsidies from municipal and cantonal budgets, support in providing rent free premises for work and accommodation of beneficiaries etc.

Currently a draft of minimal requirements for shelters is in the process of approval, as is the assessment on the number of necessary shelters in the FBiH or on the whole territory of BiH.

In Bosnia-Herzegovina (population approximately 4 million) there are seven women's shelters for victims of domestic violence and trafficking, which are primarily financed by local non-governmental and international donors.

Table Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/hour service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State Funding per %
9	185	398	213	9	9	no answer

Further Services for Women Victims of Violence:

No intervention centres or multiagencies on domestic violence are established thus far. However, WAVE Focal Point "Medica Zenica" advocates for the multidisciplinary – mixed model of combating violence in the family. For

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

those purposes “Medica Zenica” has signed protocols with the following organizations and institutions: the Ministry of Security BiH, “Zenica Municipality”, “Centre for Social Work and Welfare Zenica”, “Cantonal hospital Zenica”, and “Society of Social Workers of Zenica – Dobož Canton”. The protocols were signed aiming at a more rational and effective use of the existing resources within “Medica Zenica” and other institutions and organizations of this community. Since 2007, “Medica Zenica” has been advocating the integration of its services, aimed at women and children victims of domestic violence, into the existing psycho-social and health system in the community.

National Action Plan

In 2008 the Strategy for Prevention of Domestic Violence was created with an Action Plan for the Federation BiH⁶⁰. Holder of responsibility is the Gender Centre of FBIH in cooperation with governmental institutions and NGOs. The following NGOs representing women’s associations are included in the implementation of activities: WAVE Focal Point “Medica Zenica” (Zenica), “Local Democracy Foundation” (Sarajevo) and “Vive žene” (Tuzla).

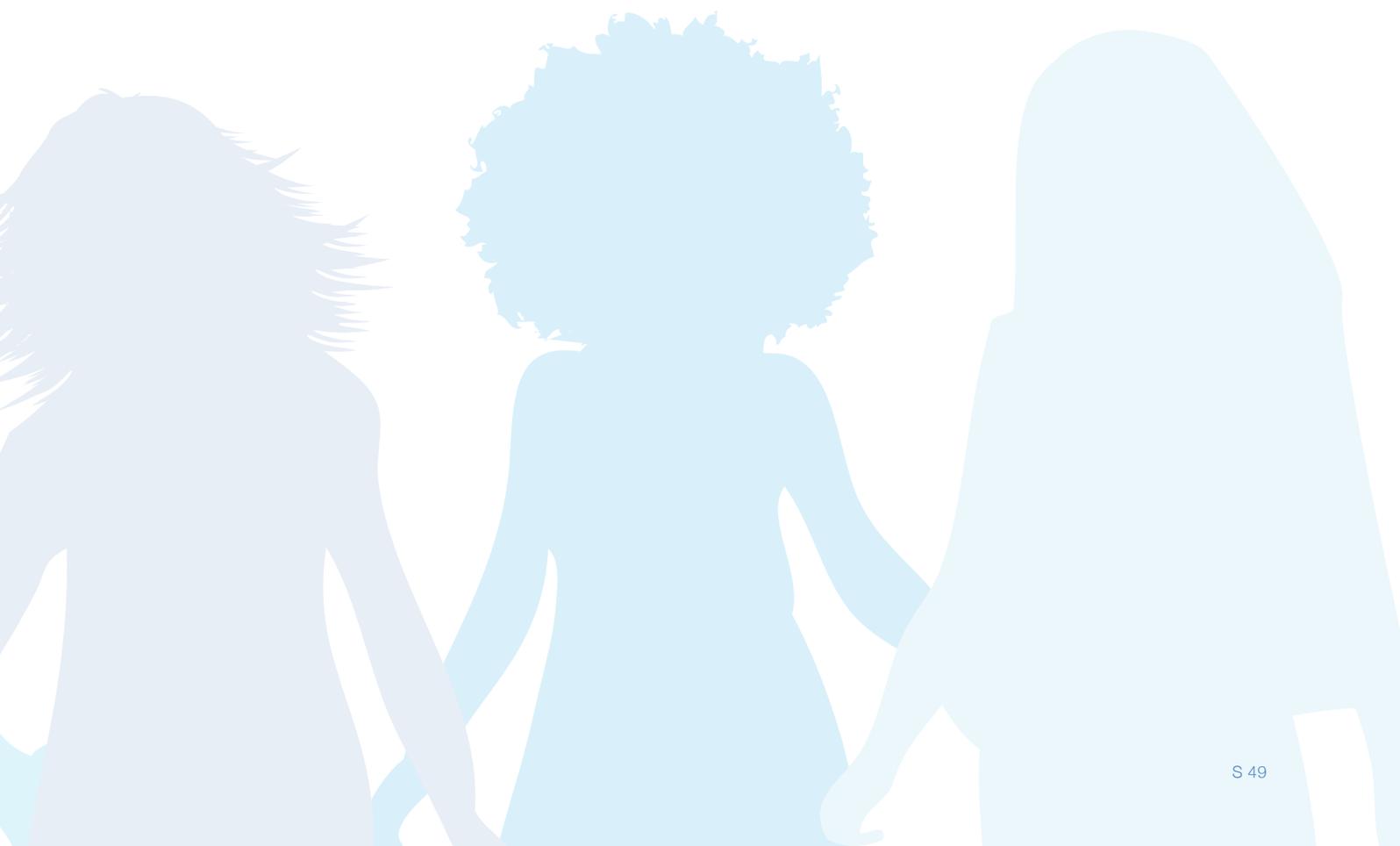
Upcoming Issues

On November 5th 2007, a roundtable was held on the topic implementation of “Law on Protection Against Domestic Violence” attended by politicians, representatives of social services from Zenica-Dobož Canton, representatives of NGOs from the territory of Federation BiH and RS and representatives from “Gender Centre FBIH”. All participants agreed to create a proposal on model of work, on activities, on financing of safe houses in close collaboration between NGOs and governmental institutions and based on a multidisciplinary approach in combating violence against women in FBIH region. This model should be adopted for the whole of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The following conclusions were thereby made: empowering of the “Centres for Social Work” in regards to staff, space, and finance, for implementation of laws, legal acts, and sub laws; continue training of all professionals playing a role in the implementation of legislative that treats domestic violence against women; establishing a unified SOS line aimed at women and children victims of violence for region of FBIH with possibility of developing a national unified SOS line for territory of the entire BiH; establishment of adequate accommodation for women survivors victims of violence and their children; increasing public awareness raising on importance of legislation that treats violence; setting up a unified statistic database on the issues and cases of violence in intimate relationships and about perpetrators.

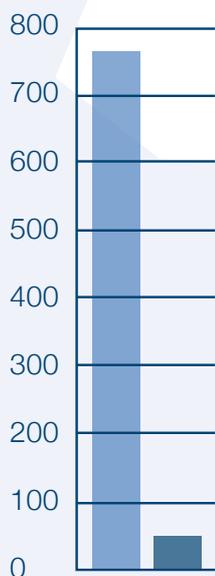
All actors who participated in this round table should, by December 1st 2008, submit initiatives for amendments to existing legislation to “FBIH Gender Centre” such as: defining the number of safe houses needed and deciding on the model of financing; clarifying means for financing “Medica Zenica safe house”; distribution of conclusions to all municipal councils chairpersons to be implemented in regards to the needs and models of work of the safe houses and to inform their citizen on legislation and issues of domestic violence against women. The implementation shall be monitored by authorised task bodies of “Cantonal Assembly”, “Gender Centre”, and “Medica Zenica” along with authorised federal and cantonal ministries.

Endnotes

- ⁵⁹ Association „Women BiH“ Mostar (Udruženje „Žena BiH“ Mostar), Women’s Association „Mirjam“ Mostar (Udruženje žena „Mirjam“ Mostar), Association „Women from Una“ BIHać (Udruženje „Žene sa Une“ BIHać), Local Democracy Foundation – Sarajevo (Fundacija lokalne demokratije – Sarajevo), Citizen Association Medica Zenica (Udruženje građana Medica Zenica), Women’s Association „Vive Women“ Tuzla (Udruženje žena „Vive žena“ Tuzla).
- ⁶⁰ Gender Centre of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina: www.fgenderc.com.ba (10.12.2008)



BULGARIA



Nb. Of Shelters: 5

Rec. Nb. Of Shelter Places: 767

Nb. Of Shelter Places: 50 approx.

General country information

Population: 7.679.290

Female inhabitants:

3.958.358 = 51,54% of total population

CEDAW ratified: yes (1982)

Optional Protocol of CEDAW ratified: yes (2006)

Member of Council of Europe: yes (1992)

Member of European Union: yes (2007)

Facts and Figures

Latest number of femicides yearly: no data available

Latest number of DV cases reported by police yearly: 2.077 court cases (2006)

Latest number of DV cases reported by women's shelters yearly: no data available

Prevalence of DV: every 4th Bulgarian women is affected by domestic violence.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Women's Helplines:

In Bulgaria there are 3 national helplines - one for women and children, one for women and one for girls. They are not specified for gender violence though. Counselling service is available 24 hours a day only in Bulgarian. The phone call is free of charge for the clients. The helplines themselves are financed by state funding.

Besides the national helplines, 3 regional helplines offer support for women victims of violence but not free of charge.

Table Women's HELPLINES:



	Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/hour service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
National	3	3	3	0	no answer
Regional	3	0	no answer	0	no answer

Women's Shelters:

As reported by the Bulgarian WAVE-Focal Points "Bulgaria Gender Research Foundation"⁶¹ and "Nadja Centre"⁶² Currently 5 shelters are available for women victims of violence in Bulgaria with a capacity of 50 family places. In the consideration of the recommendation of the European Parliament, 717 family places are still missing. All 5 shelters are financed by state funding (municipality, government) through the "Program against Domestic Violence" adopted in 2005. Not all of them focus on gender based violence. Officially, shelters provide 8 hours' service during the day, but women victims of violence are accepted at night as well. They can only stay in a shelter for a few weeks. This is by far too short-termed for overcoming the traumatising experiences of violence and for starting a new life.

Table Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/hour service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State Funding per %
5	50 approx.	767	717	0	no answer	no answer

National Action Plan

In Bulgaria a specific governmental program against domestic violence was implemented in 2005. Further, a National Action Plan on Domestic Violence was prepared for 2007 - 2009. NGOs such as WAVE focal point "Bulgaria Gender Research Foundation" were partly involved in conception work, as well as in providing data and recommendations. In July 2008 the government adopted a gender equality statement for women and men referring to domestic violence against women.

Endnotes

⁶¹ Bulgaria Gender Research Foundation: <http://www.bgrf.org/en/>

⁶² Nadja Centre: <http://www.wav.hit.bg>

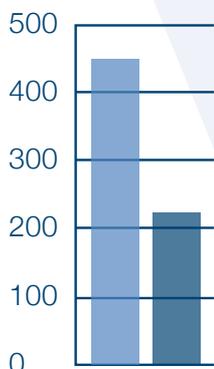
CROATIA

General country information

Population: 4.441.238
Female inhabitants:
 2.301.308 = 51,81% of total population
CEDAW ratified: yes (1992)
Optional Protocol of CEDAW ratified: yes (2001)
Member of Council of Europe: yes (1996)
Member of European Union: no

Facts and Figures

Latest number of femicides yearly: no answer
Latest number of DV cases reported by police yearly: no answer
Latest number of DV cases reported by women's shelters yearly: no answer
Prevalence of DV: in Croatia, the survey on the prevalence of partner violence was carried out in 2003 by WAVE Focal Point - "The Zagreb Autonomous Women's House"⁶³ - on a representative sample of 976 women. It showed that 21% of the women experienced physical violence committed by their current or former male partner. Threats of physical violence while they were with their former partners were reported by 61% of divorced or separated women, and 27% said that they were threatened by their current partners. Forced sex was reported by 34% of the respondents.



Nb. Of Shelters:	15
Rec. Nb. Of Shelter Places:	444
Nb. Of Shelter Places:	220

SERVICES FOR WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Women's Helplines:

In Croatia, the first women's helpline was established at the end of the 1980's. Although there is no national women's helpline available for women affected by violence so far, approximately 24 regional women's helplines provide service for by female survivors of violence and victims of trafficking. According to WAVE Focal Point "B.A.B.E"⁶⁴, these helplines are solely financed through international projects and receive international funding e.g. by the European Commission. No subsidies are awarded by the state.

Table Women's HELPLINES:



	Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/hour service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
National	0	/	/	/	0%
Regional	24 approx.	no answer	no answer	no answer	0%

Women's Shelters:

In 1992 the first autonomous women's shelter in ex-Yugoslavia opened in Zagreb. Since then 14 more women refuges have been established but only 7 to 9 shelters out of 15 are focused on gender based violence. Each shelter provides 9 - 19 beds for women victims of violence which means just about 220 shelter places are available for survivors of domestic violence, which is far away from the 444 family places recommended by European Parliament. As with helplines, the women's shelters are also not financially supported by the state. Help is provided to women victims of violence in Croatia sponsored by international foundations such as Caritas Austria and due to the realisation of international projects.

Table Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/hour service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State Funding per %
15	220 approx.	444	224	no answer	no answer	0%

National Action Plan

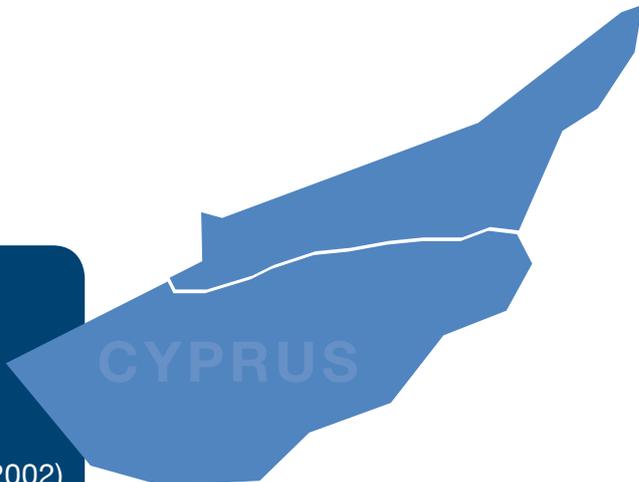
Croatia recently implemented the "National Strategy for Protection Against Domestic Violence for 2005 – 2007" and passed the "Protocol of Procedures in Cases of Family Violence". This document directly refers to the obligation of the state to respond to and take measures to eliminate domestic violence, punish perpetrators and protect victims. The document stresses the obligation of all competent bodies (police, centres for social care, judicial bodies, medical and educational institutions) in the identification and elimination of violence and in providing help and protection to persons exposed to family violence.

Endnotes

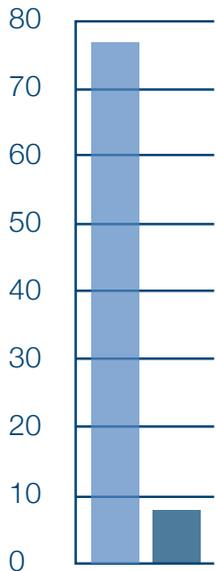
⁶³ The Zagreb Autonomous Women's House: <http://www.zinfo.hr>

⁶⁴ B.A.B.E: <http://www.babe.hr> and <http://www.ekviva.net>

CYPRUS



General country information
Population: 778.684
Female inhabitants:
 395.324 = 50, 76% of total population
CEDAW ratified: yes (1985)
Optional Protocol of CEDAW ratified: yes (2002)
Member of Council of Europe: yes (1961)
Member of European Union: yes (2004)



Facts and Figures
Latest number of femicides yearly: 5-10 women
Latest number of DV cases reported by police yearly:
 1.000 cases (2006)
Latest number of DV cases reported by women's shelters yearly: 2.500 cases (2007), 3.800 cases in 2006; 8.000 cases in 2005
Prevalence of DV: 80.000 Greek Cypriot women and every 4th Turkish Cypriot women (2007) are likely to experience violence.⁶⁵

Nb. Of Shelters: 1
 Rec. Nb. Of Shelter Places: 77
 Nb. Of Shelter Places: 8

SERVICES FOR WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Women's Helplines:

The first women's helpline in Cyprus was set up informally as a response to the 1974 Turkish invasion in order to provide support for women victims of rape and was officially registered in 1990. However, the helpline was officially established in 1990. Currently there is 1 national helpline for women victims of violence operated by an NGO shelter. Service is provided 24 hours a day free of charge for clients. 100% of the operating costs are covered through state funding except for some small amount of private donations.

Table Women's HELPLINES:



	Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/hour service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
National	1	1	1	1	100%
Regional	0	/	/	/	/

Women's Shelters:

In 1990 the first Cypriot women's shelter was also established. In 2008 it offers 8 family places for women victims of violence. 65 family places are still needed in order to fulfil the recommendation of the European Parliament regarding shelter capacity available for victims of domestic violence. The shelter is financed by state funding.

Table Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/hour service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State Funding per %
1	8	77	69	1	1	100%

Further Services for Women Victims of Violence:

Besides the NGO offering counselling, operating a shelter and a 24 hour helpline, there are no other counselling centres specifically established for this purpose. Although an attempt for a multidisciplinary approach in combating violence against women is cognisable there are no such organisations like intervention centres that coordinate the cooperation between different services for women affected by violence. A new manual published in 2002 offers solutions to harmonize the coordination of different services such as police, counselling, lawyers, etc. which will probably be established as a unified system. A first step was taken in 2002 when police opened a specific office for prevention of domestic violence against women and their children. 3 counselling centres operated by the local NGO and WAVE Focal Point "Apanemi" from 2004-2007 could not sustain their operation due to facing immense hostility by the state.

National Action Plan

In September 2008 an Action Plan on "Violence in the Family" was approved that includes violence against children. NGOs were involved into the conception but not the WAVE Focal Point "MIGS-Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies"⁶⁶ which critically states that this Action Plan does not define violence against women and criticises a complete absence of the gender perspective. Also WAVE Focal Point "Apanemi" has criticised the process of drafting the Action Plan with the exception of civil society stakeholders as well as the absence of a gender approach.

Upcoming Issues

Currently the Ministry of Pair Opportunity has invited all NGO's working in the field of domestic violence to define violence against women in order to no longer ignore the gender aspect in tackling this problem. Further, the "National Action Plan on Gender Mainstreaming" was recently written, which contains a chapter on violence against women. Regarding WAVE Focal Point "MIGS-Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies", this article has a very different approach and incorporates a gender perspective.

Further, WAVE Focal Point "Apanemi" is registered to CEDAW committee and has complained on behalf of a nine years old girl claiming the default of the state Cyprus failed to protect her.

Endnotes

⁶⁵ Eastern Mediterranean University Research, 8.3.2007

⁶⁶ MIGS-Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies: <http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org> (10.12.2008)

CYPRUS

General information about migrant and minority women and their access to services

The questionnaire was answered by: **Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family**

Currently Cyprus has one shelter for women victims of violence and their children. This shelter was set up and is run by the “Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family” in 1998. In this shelter there is one psychologist and one woman employed for house-keeping and shelter needs. The approximate percentage of women accommodated by women’s shelters in Cyprus ranges from 50- 75%.

There is a national helpline free of charge that offers services to women victims of violence. The help line is run by the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family. This is a toll free service which is operated almost 24h a day every week including national and religious holidays. The toll-free number can be accessed from within Cyprus on 1440.

There is also a therapeutic program for perpetrators and naturally victims of violence. All these services are provided in Greek and English except the therapeutic program which is offered in Greek only.

Although there is no shelter specialised on migrant and minority women, every women has access to the existing shelter, will be offered accommodation and sufficient protection from violence. However, in special cases sometimes accommodation is refused because of additional issues such as drug addiction (alcohol and other drugs) and/or psychopathology with or without suicide tendencies as the shelter doesn’t have enough resources to provide safe 24h care and moreover, has a high responsibility to pre- existing shelter residents who supposedly have entered into a commitment of safety with. Moreover, asylum seeking women will not be accommodated due to existing laws. However, migrant women in danger due to domestic violence (psychologically, physically or sexually) will be given shelter if they have entered Cyprus “legally”. In case a woman is in Cyprus without documents, doesn’t have a child with a Cypriot man or is not married to a Cypriot man she can’t be given accommodation. This is because the shelter is forced to tell this the immigration office and therefore, if such a woman enters the shelter she is told about this beforehand.

The funding of the shelter is not given on the basis of minority. The Cypriot government affords the same criteria to funding of the shelter as it does to other programs within the NGO sector. So the percentage of migrant and minority women accommodated by a shelter is not a criterion for more or less funding.

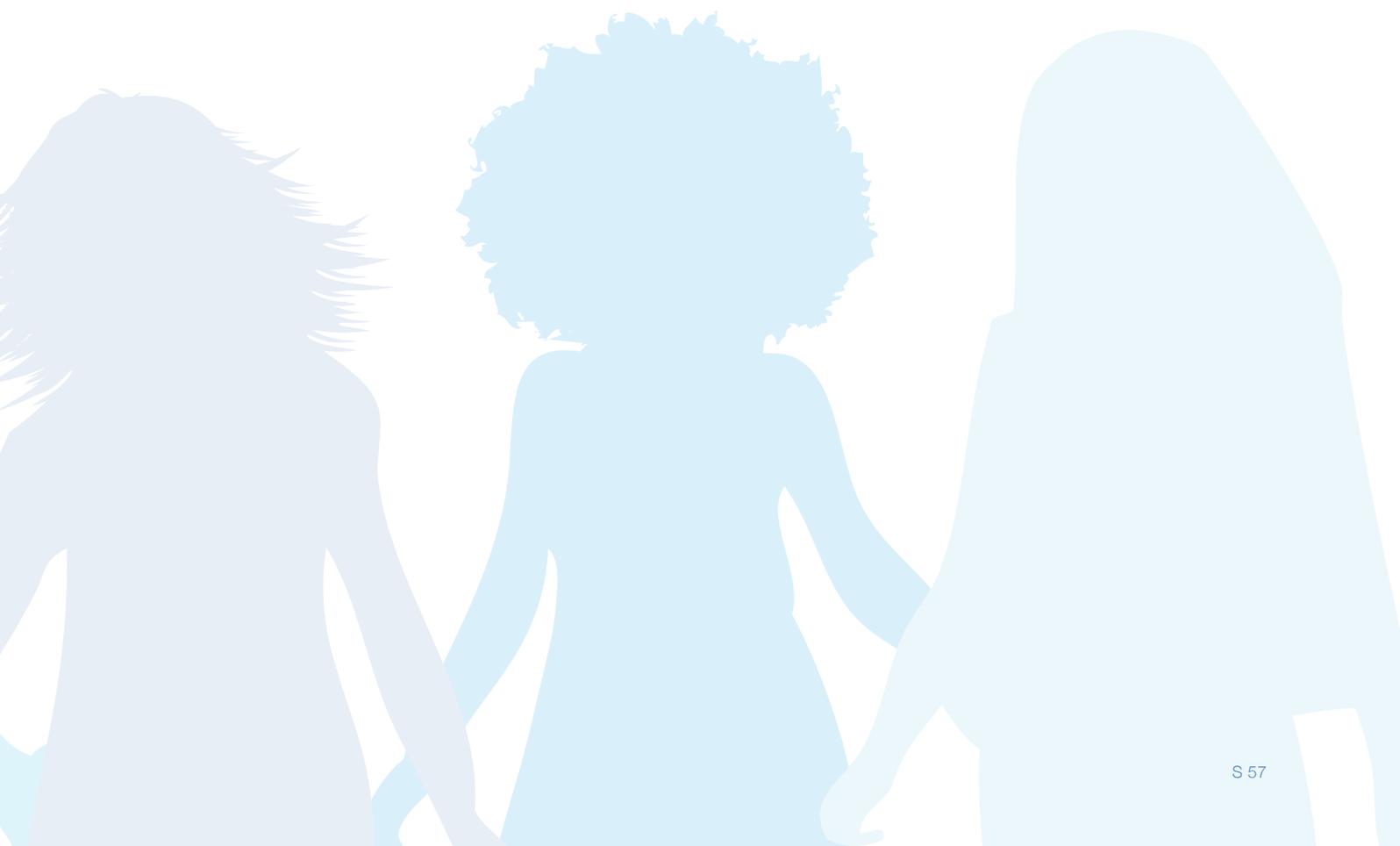
With regard to residency regulations it can be said that marriage doesn’t give them any privileges or rights. They must apply as aliens and they must also apply for temporary residence and work permit although they have free access to the labour market.

Everyone can apply for free aid provision and migrant and minority women have the right to have a translator in court with them.

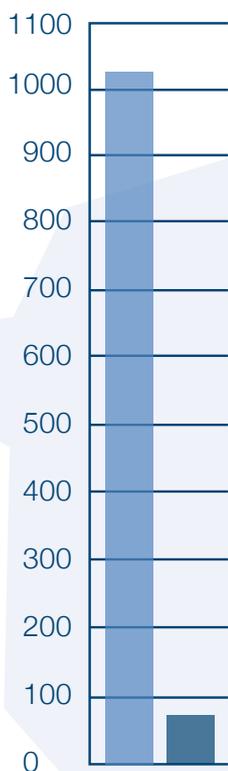
Main problems and barriers for migrant and minority women

Firstly, the unemployment and the fact that most services such as health care or the labour market are not accessible to migrant women, make up the main problems. Secondly, migrant and minority women without documents or residency permits will most probably have difficulties to obtain social benefits and support for themselves and their children. Thirdly, asylum seeking women are not accommodated in women’s shelter and help lines are only available in either Greek or English.

Additionally, there are no campaigns that reach out to migrant and minority women. So there is no official campaign to ensure that all migrant and minority women entering Cyprus receive information regarding their rights. Specific NGO’s and occasionally government run bodies may only target migrant and minority women accidentally.



THE CZECH REPUBLIC



General country information

Population: 10.287.189

Female inhabitants:

5.261.005 = 51,14% of total population

CEDAW ratified: yes (1993)

Optional Protocol of CEDAW ratified: yes (2001)

Member of Council of Europe: yes (1993)

Member of European Union: yes (2004)

Facts and Figures

Latest number of femicides yearly: no data available

Latest number of DV cases reported by police yearly:

295 cases of domestic violence were investigated under §215a of the Criminal Code by police from 1.1.2008 till 30.6.2008. While from 1.1.2007 till 30.6.2007 483 perpetrators had been evicted under Act No. 135/2006 in the Czech Republic, the number of evictions has clearly decreased to 343 within the same period in 2008. For example in Prague counting 1,2 mil citizens only 32 cases of expulsion/eviction (under Act No. 135/2006) were executed. This clearly depicts not just a problem in reporting cases of domestic violence, but also suggests the assumption of wrong case classification.

Latest number of DV cases reported by women's shelters yearly: no answer

Prevalence of DV: "Roughly 38% of Czech women have experienced physical or sexual violence from their partner (current or former husband or boyfriend) and almost the same proportion (37%) from a man other than their partner" - (2003).⁶⁷

SERVICES FOR WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Women's Helplines:

In 1998 – the ROSA helpline was established as the first national helpline available for women in the entire the Czech Republic. It is solely available for women affected by violence and operated by WAVE Focal Point "ROSA Foundation - Nadace ROSA"⁶⁸ a pure women's shelter. The helpline can be contacted from Monday - Friday, 8 hours a day. Operating costs are financed by state funding, however they do not cover the charge of phone calls, which means they are not free of charge for clients. Counselling is only provided in Czech and English.

In 2001 "DONA link"⁶⁹ a second national helpline serving the women survivors of domestic violence, their relatives, their friends and neighbours was launched by "Bily kruh bezpeci (BKB - White circle of Safety)" financially support

by an international donor and by state funding. Although 94% of the clients contacting the service are women, counselling is also available for men and for professionals working with survivors of domestic violence. Calls are also related to other crimes or serious personal problems or crises; however 62% of phone calls are directly related to domestic violence. The “DONA helpline” is available 24 hours a day but not free of charge.

There are 6 regional helplines which can be contacted by women survivors of violence: “Acorus” (Prague), “Magdalenium”, “Persefona” (Brno), and “Elpis” (Ostrava) provide specified support for victims of domestic violence while “Spondea” (Brno) and “Arkáda” (Písek) are crisis lines and available for everyone asking for help. “Elips” is the only helpline which solely serves women victims of violence. Most helplines in the Czech Republic are run by NGOs which have local scope in sense of consultancy etc. but they offer service to women from the whole country. Depending on the financial capacity they can or cannot offer 24 hour service. Currently 2 helplines (“Acorus”, “Magdalenium”) operate 24 hours a day. There is no helpline supplying counselling multilingually. Although some services are financially supported by state funding there are no specific funds allocated at national, regional or local governmental level for activities in tackling violence against women. For example the national women’s helpline “ROSA” was 100% funded by the state in 2008. In December 2008 it is still uncertain if and to what extent state money is awarded to “ROSA” in 2009. This insecure financial condition makes long-term activities almost impossible and puts organisations and their employees in dicey situations. Further, only associations which are registered at the Ministry of Social Affairs have the opportunity to apply for state funding.

Table Women’s HELPLINES:



	Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/hour service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
National	2	0	1	0	no answer
Regional	6	0	2	0	no answer

Women’s Shelters:

The first Czech women’s shelter was founded in 1998. According to the official reading of Ministry of Work and Social Affairs there are 57 shelters providing 902 beds for mothers and children in the Czech Republic - not specific for women survivors of domestic violence but for women with all kinds of problems. Only 1 of them meets the international quality standards in supporting women victims of violence and can therefore be defined as a women’s shelter. This shelter is the “ROSA” shelter with a capacity of 21 shelter places and 9 beds in flats with confidential address. Other shelters such as “Acorus” and “Magdalenium” with a total capacity of 44 shelter places are open for victims of domestic violence. However they neither explicitly follow feminist principles nor do they apply the gender based violence approach. In contrast to the official statement of Ministry of Work and Social Affairs, not 902 beds but 74 places for women and children survivors of domestic violence are available in the Czech Republic. In order to fulfil the recommendation of the European Parliament 954 family places for women victims of violence are needed. The shelters of “ROSA”, “Acorus” and “Magdalenium” operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Multilingual counselling is not accessible in any of them. All shelters receive state funding from Ministry of Work and Social Affairs. A few shelters are additional financed local municipalities (Prague, Brno). Due to the lack of shelter places, many women victims of violence are forced to be accommodated in asylum houses (90 houses with 3.165 beds). There they do not receive appropriate counselling and services since asylum houses are not specified on survivors of domestic violence but are open to women and men with all kinds of problems. No specific funds are allocated at the national, regional or local level of government for activities in tackling violence

THE CZECH REPUBLIC

against women. The same circumstances can be described in terms of financing of women's helplines applies for women's shelters in the Czech Republic.

Table Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/hour service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State Funding per %
57	74	1.028	954	57	0	no answer

Further Services for Women Victims of Violence:

There are 15 intervention centres - 1 in each region of the Czech Republic, however multiagency cooperation is not yet established in all regions. Additionally 9 counselling centres serve women survivors of domestic violence such as "Rosa", "Acorus", "Magdala", "Magdalenium", "proFem" (only legal counselling), Persefona, and Elpis (3 centres). Victims of crime, including women affected by violence find help in one of the 7 centres of "Kruh Bezpečí".

National Action Plan

In January 2008, the Committee for Prevention of Domestic Violence was established as a part of the Government Council for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men. A working group consisting of representatives of particular ministries, police and NGOs - such as the both WAVE Focal Points "ROSA Foundation - Nadace ROSA" and "proFem-Central European Consulting Centre"⁷⁰ - was set up to prepare a "National Action Plan of Prevention of Domestic Violence for 2009 - 2013". The paper will be proposed to the government by the end of 2008.

Before January 2008, no National Action Plan against domestic violence had been worked out. Only the Government Resolution no.794 from 2004 contains a proceeding for implementation of multiagency teams, linking health, social and police help in cases of domestic violence. This document has been updated and monitored each year. The objectives mentioned in this paper stayed at the surface and were phrased woolly: e.g. for several years the necessity of supporting women's shelters was stated, but no budget was allocated to realise this aim.

Upcoming Issues

Besides the preparation of a National Action Plan and a proposal about a new anti-stalking law the position of children as witnesses and victims of domestic violence is still being discussed: huge pressure is put on women survivors of domestic violence from Social Welfare and courts on fathers' rights and contact/visiting rights of violent fathers, even though the children were witnesses of violence and they are with their mothers in shelters with confidential addresses.

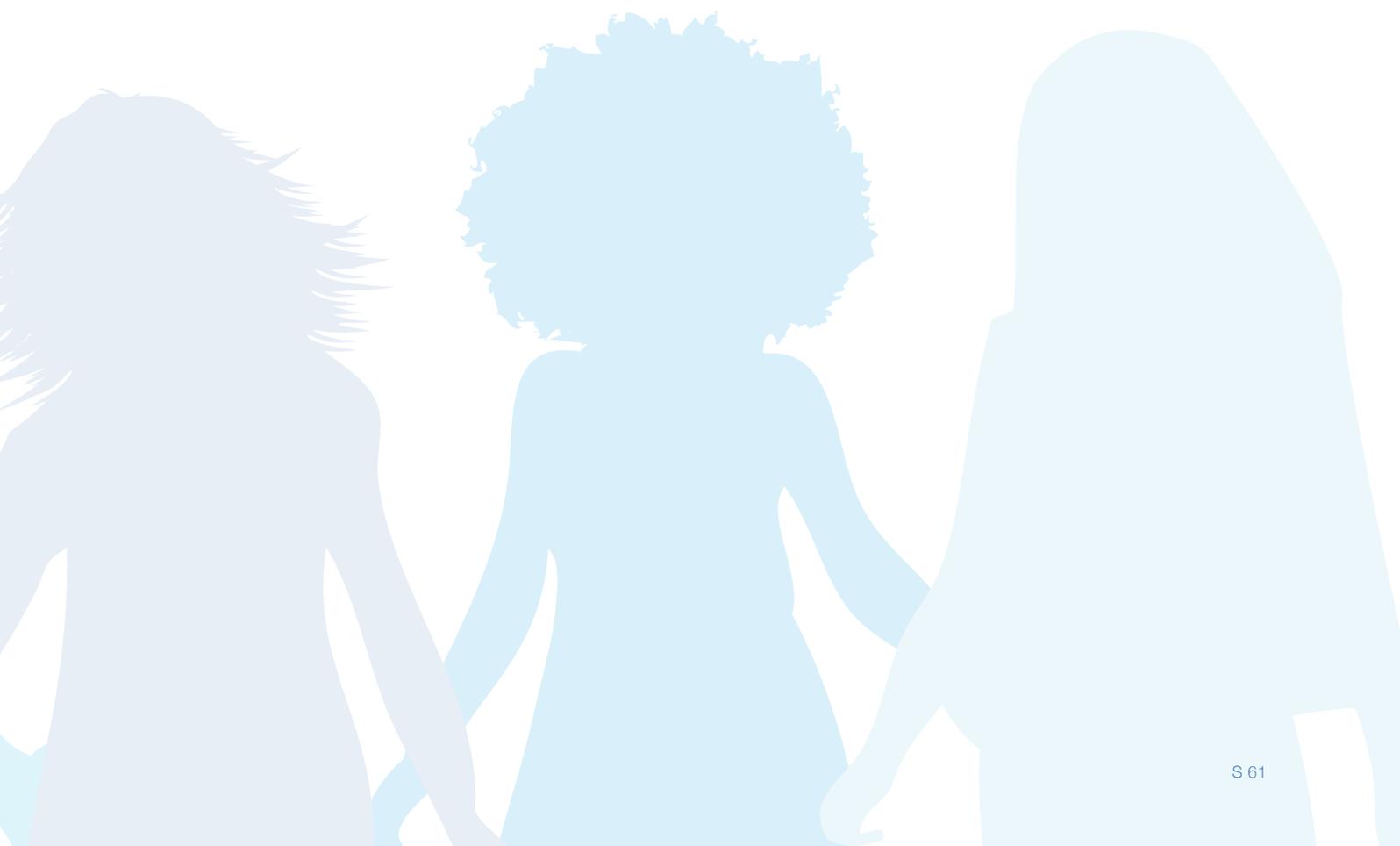
Endnotes

⁶⁷ Simona Pláková: 2 International Violence Against Women Survey - The Czech Republic/2003, 2004, Sociological Research on Domestic Violence: <http://studie.soc.cas.cz/index.php3?lang=eng&shw=246>

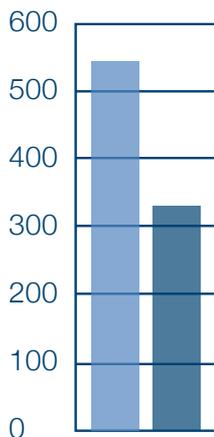
⁶⁸ ROSA Foundation - Nadace ROSA: <http://www.rosa-os.cz/>

⁶⁹ DONA link: <http://www.donalinka.cz/index.php>

⁷⁰ proFem - Central European Consulting Centre: <http://www.profem.cz>



DENMARK



Nb. Of Shelters:	40
Rec. Nb. Of Shelter Places:	544
Nb. Of Shelter Places:	331

General country information

Population: 5.447.084

Female inhabitants:
2.750.422 = 50,49% of total population

CEDAW ratified: yes (1983)

Optional Protocol of CEDAW ratified: yes (2000)

Member of Council of Europe: yes (1949)

Member of European Union: yes (1973)

Facts and Figures

Latest number of femicides yearly: 8 - 10 women; 25 women yearly, as average for the period 1990 - 2001.

Latest number of DV cases reported by police yearly:
3.300 cases

Latest number of DV cases reported by women's shelters yearly: 1.957 cases (2007)

Prevalence of DV: 44.000 Danish women are affected by domestic violence every year

SERVICES FOR WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Women's Helplines:

In Denmark there is 1 national helpline providing specific help for survivors of domestic violence and their relatives. Multilingual counselling is available 24 hours a day and phone calls are free of charge for all clients. The current national helpline campaign focus on two target groups: on ethnic minorities and men. Further, specific counselling service for children victims of domestic violence are going to be established. All costs incurred for operating the national helpline (36.000 EUR) are fully covered by state funding - exactly by the Ministry of Social Welfare.

The same applies to the 3 regional helplines which are 100% financed by the Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs. An amount of 335.000 EUR is supplied annually for operating these helplines, each specified on different target groups such as: professionals, young people involved in forced marriages or other generational conflicts, and parents of the target group. Counselling is generally provided in Danish and English. Interpreters are available for victims who do not have a command of one of these two languages.

Further, all 40 shelters also operate helplines reachable 24 hours a day and many women survivors of violence call shelters directly.

Table Women's HELPLINES:



	Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/hour service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
National	1	1	1	1	100%
Regional	43	no answer	40	3	3 = 100%

Women's Shelters:

According to WAVE Focal Point L.O.K.K. - Landsorganisation af Kvinderkrisecentre - National Organisation of Shelters and Refuges for Battered Women and their Children⁷¹, approximately 40 shelters with a capacity of 331 shelter places are currently available for women victims of violence free of charge, 24 hours a day. In order to reach the number of shelter places recommended by the European Parliament, 213 more family places for women victims of violence are needed in Denmark. A slight increase of shelter places is recognisable: according to the survey "More than a Roof over your Head", in 2002 approximately 250 places for women (and 270 places for children) were provided by 35 refuges.

The 40 shelters in Denmark are very different in size and organisation. Due to the lack of implementing unified quality standards on how to operate women's shelters and depending on financial and political possibilities, shelters put their focus on different aspects and services are offered in different ways. Shelters usually provide more than a safe place to stay for women affected by violence. Physiological counselling and special care for women and their children to overcome their experiences with violence is offered multilingual. Support is provided in contacting other institutions such as health care service, police, and local authorities. Social-legal advice is given to women if needed regarding their legal procedure, child custody, and residence permit. Women are further under care after leaving a shelter through network meetings or visits in the women's home. Follow-ups are organised in cooperation with local authorities, police etc.

Most shelters run a helpline and offer open counselling for women victims not accommodated in the shelter. The "L.O.K.K. shelters", for example, are additionally specified in providing legal assistance and counselling to migrant women, and ethnic minorities involved in serious conflicts with their families.

In Denmark shelters are funded by the state with a total amount of 15.000.000 EUR yearly. The money is primarily allocated by municipal government with 50% state refunding. This does not cover all costs incurred to run women's shelters, offering appropriate services to women victims of violence, so other financing sources and inflows are necessary such as financing by private foundation.

Table Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/hour service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State Funding per %
40 approx.	331	544	213	40	43	50%

DENMARK

Further Services for Women Victims of Violence:

There are no intervention centres in Denmark but some shelters offer multiagency cooperation with other institutions as described above. Special police forces are established to strengthening enforcement and promoting co-work between police, social and health service.

WAVE Focal Point "L.O.K.K. - Landsorganisation af Kvinderkrisecentre - National Organisation of Shelters and Refuges for Battered Women and their Children" also carries out research projects and publishes annually statistical reports on violence against women and children. Further, a focus is also set on prevention work, spreading information about violence against women on a local level.

National Action Plan

While the first Danish National Action Plan to combat violence against women (2002 -2004) focuses on domestic violence, the second "Action Plan to Stop Men's Domestic Violence against Women and Children (2005-2008)" includes women and children victims of men's violence. Currently a new Action Plan is developed for 2009 in cooperation with NGOs such as WAVE Focal Point "L.O.K.K. - Landsorganisation af Kvinderkrisecentre - National Organisation of Shelters and Refuges for Battered Women and their Children". Important inputs from the "Danish National Observatory on Violence against Women" should be included. Further it is aimed to strengthen primary prevention strategies, to establish easily accessible services for victims of physical violence in the national health system, to carry out continuously data collection and research and to set up regular trainings for relevant professions working with women victims of violence.

Upcoming Issues

In order to combat domestic violence against women, ongoing and efficient experts focus on help to the family as a whole: besides supporting women affected by violence also after finding help in a shelter, it is necessary to offer special help programs for children not only inside the shelters, but also outside. New structures are needed that enable children to talk about their experience with violence when the violence occurs – which means before staying in a shelter - and also after leaving the shelter. The question is raised: what can be done to keep children outside the circle of violence? In 2007 a book was published which describes methods applied when working with children in Danish shelters.

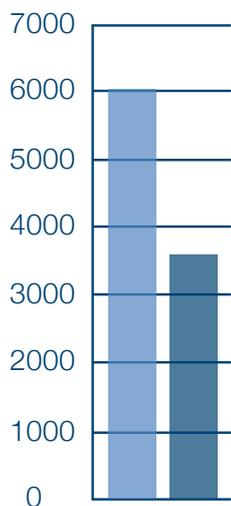
Further, therapy programs for perpetrators are considered as important and shall be established. Mediation is discussed as a successful and effective method regarding honour related violence and forced marriages which should be applied more often.

Endnotes

⁷¹ L.O.K.K. - Landsorganisation af Kvinderkrisecentre - National Organisation of Shelters and Refuges for Battered Women and their Children: <http://www.lokk.dk> (10.12.2008)



ENGLAND



Nb. Of Shelters: 680 approx.
Rec. Nb. Of Shelter Places: 6,077
Nb. Of Shelter Places: 3,653

General country information

Population: 50.431.700 (July 2007 est.)

Female inhabitants:

25,216,687⁷² = 50,63 of total population (approx.)

CEDAW ratified: yes (1986)

Optional Protocol of CEDAW ratified: yes (2004)

Member of Council of Europe: yes (1949)

Member of European Union: yes (1973)

Facts and Figures

Latest number of femicides yearly:

208 female victims including under 18s in Scotland, England and Wales in 2006/7.⁷³

Latest number of DV cases reported by police yearly:

overall 24% of people aged 16 to 59 were victims of partner abuse since the age of 16. 5% experienced this abuse in 2007.⁷⁴ The police in England receive one call every minute asking for assistance because of domestic violence. This equates to an estimated 1.300 calls per day, and over 570.000 calls each year (Stanko, 2000).

Latest number of DV cases reported by women's shelters yearly:

an estimated 17.545 women and 25.452 children were given temporary accommodation by refuge organisations across England in 2006-7. A further 96.500 women and 23.200 children received non-refuge based support from domestic violence organisations in England during the year 2006-7. As reported by WAVE Focal Point - Women's Aid Federation England⁷⁵ - one day (November 2nd 2007), approx. 3.156 women and 3.648 children were resident in refuge accommodation across England.⁷⁶

Prevalence of DV: according to British Crime Survey data from 2004-7⁷⁷, 28% of people aged 16-59 in England and Wales have experienced domestic violence since the age of 16. In 2007-8, in 85% of incidents of domestic violence the victim was female, and in 15% of incidents the victim was male.⁷⁸

SERVICES FOR WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Women's Helplines:

In England there is 1 national women's helpline providing help for women's survivors of violence and their children 24 hours a day. Service is offered multilingually.

Table Women's HELPLINES:



	Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/hour service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
National	1	no answer	1	1	no answer
Regional	20 approx.	no answer	most	20	no answer

Women's Shelters:

In 1972, the first women's shelter was founded in London. Two years later, women formed the autonomous and feminist women's organisation and WAVE Focal Point "Women's Aid", and within a few years, over a 100 women's shelters were established in England, Scotland and Wales. In England, with a population of about 61 million, 4 Women's Aid umbrella organizations in Northern Ireland, Wales, Scotland and England support a network of more than 600 services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. As reported by Women's Aid England, in 2008 an approximate number of 680 women's shelters protect women and their children. A total capacity of 3.653 shelter places is available, which is not enough to fulfil the recommendation of the European Parliament, suggesting 6.077 family places in England. 375 (55%) of them are reachable around the clock, 365 days a year and almost all of them offer multilingual services to their clients. In England women's refuges are usually state funded on national and local government level.

Table Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/hour service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State Funding per %
680 approx.	3.653	6.077	2.424	374	680 approx.	no answer

National Action Plan

England has a National Action Plan on domestic violence.⁷⁹ The plan was originally written in 2005, and is reviewed each year. The 2008 review should be published very shortly. NGOs such as WAVE Focal Point "Women's Aid Federation England"⁸⁰ are involved in developing the plan.

Upcoming Issues

Currently the Government's priority is to expand the network of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs). Both of these initiatives are aimed at the most high-risk victims (top 10%) and focus on improving victim engagement with the criminal justice system.

Funding for specialist, independent domestic violence support services (both refuge- and community-based) continues to be short-term and decided at a local level. Without a dedicated funding stream from central government, there are real concerns about the future funding of specialist services.

This year sees the launch of "National Service Standards for Domestic and Sexual Violence". "Women's Aid" has led the development of the Standards with steering groups of national domestic and sexual violence organisations. Implementation of the Standards will take place in the coming year.

ENGLAND

General information about migrant and minority women and their access to services

The questionnaire was answered by: **WAST**

Only one in ten of the 408 Local Authorities (LA) in UK have a specialised service for MM women. Fawcett Society in 2007 found out that a woman victim of domestic abuse on average has eleven contacts with agencies before getting the help she needs. This rises to seventeen if she is black.

Main problems and barriers for migrant and minority women

According to our focal point one of the main problems is the lack of access to the Criminal Justice System. Minority and migrant women have constantly left behind in the recent domestic violence policies, resources and the advancements in services for domestic violence survivors.

In England domestic violence activists and some service providers fought for domestic abuse to be recognised as a crime and for the need of specialized services. Thirty years on some significant developments have been made but in the last ten years the concentration was mainly on the Criminal Justice System. However, improvements in the Criminal Justice Service and pouring resources into the Criminal Justice System (the police, special courts, multi-agency forums involving police and other related services etc.) in order to make systems more effective and responsive to domestic violence (under the crime and disorder agenda) have resulted in migrant and minority women being marginalised and facing further barriers to accessing such services.

This is because at very first stages of even thinking of leaving partners means migrant and minority women face often insurmountable barriers in accessing these Criminal Justice Services at all. For example, there is the fear of the police and statutory agencies. Migrant and minority women are frightened to approach police and take up criminal services due to fears of detention and deportation because of their insecure immigration status and due to language difficulties. Racism, community and family dynamics are also increasingly isolating women from services which could help protect them, due to the "War on terror Agenda" which stigmatises migrant and minority communities and leads to further mistrust of police and from police. This fear of coming forward to seek help is often exploited and used to deter women from leaving by the abusive partner insisting that if the woman leaves and approaches the police or other agencies they will be reported to the home office and will be deported or that she will put him at risk of arrest. Other fears are that women will have their children taken off them by social services or that if they approach hospitals for treatment they will contact the home office.

Women who have insecure immigration status particularly and minority women are unlikely to use the Criminal Justice System without, support, information and understanding. Migrant and minority women see the Criminal Justice System as an extension of the home office and believe that the Criminal Justice System agencies will look at their immigration status first or if not their own experience of racism mistrust in their dealings with the police and Criminal Justice System means that they are unlikely to turn to them and many public agencies as well as those within the Criminal Justice System do in reality look at a woman's immigration status before her safety.

Therefore, any advances in Criminal Justice System in relation to support and protection are limited for migrant and minority women unless they have support to access them and that these women are guaranteed safety regardless of immigration status and equal treatment regardless of their racial or ethnic background.

WAST advocates the use of human rights approach to take into account vulnerable women's experiences, which are often not picked up, in domestic criminal and civil protection law.

Research in London from 2005-2006 has revealed that there is very low level reporting to police (34%) by all women in London and with greater barriers outlined for migrant and minority women this is even lower, which means that migrant and minority women endure domestic violence for longer.

Women at WAST have been asked their immigration status when giving birth by midwives, when ringing up helplines, when approaching the police and social services for help. Women who WAST have been able to support generally use the domestic violence services that are available once they have had clear explanations of their rights and understand the role of the different

domestic violence support agencies and often only if they are accompanied to these agencies and through court procedures courts by advocates, who understand implications of questions on migration.

There is a huge lack of specialist and diverse domestic violence services. The “Community cohesion” agenda resulting in single issue and specialist services losing their funding and the introduction of the “Supporting People Strategy” – aimed at coordinating and simplifying services, has resulted in the more dynamic, creative and diverse services (which reach out to small isolated minority groups offering different ways and points of access to domestic violence services) being cut. The consequence for migrant and minority women is that the barriers they face in accessing the police and Criminal Justice System are not tackled and they never get to the point of being able to use the Criminal Justice System and take advantage of these increased resources introduced by the government.

Specialised services which target issues specific to migrant and minority women’s groups have been cut and more are under threat from funders pulling out. For many migrant and minority women their immigration status and/or their status of belonging to a minority group leaves them uniquely disempowered and vulnerable. Often small community based outreach services in places which are not seen as a threat for the abusive man to let his partner go to and/ or which have workers speaking different languages or which are user led and perceived as safe and unapproachable maybe able to reach women who otherwise can’t access information vital to them leaving. It is these services which are in short supply which are being cut and leaving women isolated and without information and moreover, help to leave.

In addition to the above mentioned problems, advocacy services in these specialist migrant and minority women projects are being cut, are vital to the women’s safety route. These are able to meet the needs of migrant and minority women in terms of cultural understanding, understanding of immigration issues and their effects on the women, language support, safe meeting places, free phones, access to the internet in safe places and essentially workers who can communicate the women’s choices for to her in a way she understands and trusts. These cuts reduce the chances of migrant and minority women to be helped and empowered to contact the police and to support the CPS to pursue a prosecution.

When it comes to mainstream services for migrant and minority women it can be said that the main issues for poor services received by migrant and minority women are for instance racist stereotyping when identifying needs. Migrant and minority women have particular needs that arise from their situation, which can therefore affect the choices, be it asylum issued, cultural issues, issues around racism, language etc. These are not always recognised or seen as important or understood and addressed in many large generic services yet are vital to the women. Furthermore, there is the women’s own lack of knowledge and information on their rights and domestic violence activists also lack specific training and recourses. However, once a woman has accessed domestic abuse mainstream centres they often find that without specialist support they struggle and are further disempowered by services who may not have the specialised experience and training. The workers/ the staff of these centres also has to deal with fears, there is a lack of confidence to deal with immigration issues.

Endnotes

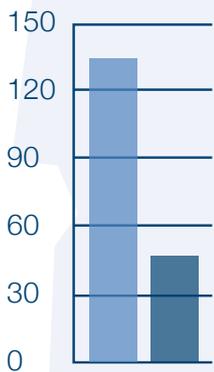
- ⁷² The female population at the time of the 2001 census.
- ⁷³ 189 female victims - including under 18s in England and Wales - Povey, D. (Ed.), Coleman, K., Kaiza, P., Hoare J., Jansson, K.: Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2006/07 - Home Office Statistical Bulletin: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0308.pdf>
19 female victims – including under 18s Scotland: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/12/14114316/>
- ⁷⁴ Povey, D. (Ed.), Coleman, K., Kaiza, P., Hoare J., Jansson, K.: Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2006/07 - Home Office Statistical Bulletin: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0308.pdf>
- ⁷⁵ Women’s Aid Federation England: <http://www.womensaid.org.uk>
- ⁷⁶ 131.245 women – total number supported in all services 2006; 16.815 women and 19.450 children were given temporary accommodation by refuge organisation across England in 2006
- ⁷⁷ Povey, D. (Ed.), Coleman, K., Kaiza, P., Hoare J., Jansson, K.: Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2006/07 - Home Office Statistical Bulletin: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0308.pdf>
- ⁷⁸ Kershaw, Ch. (Ed.), Nicholas, S., Walker, A.: Crime in England and Wales 2007/08, July 2008 - Home Office Statistical Bulletin: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0708.pdf>
- ⁷⁹ National Plan for Domestic Violence, March 2005 - CrimeReduction: <http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/domesticviolence/domesticviolence51.htm>
For further information see - CrimeReduction: and <http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/domesticviolence/domesticviolence19.htm>
- ⁸⁰ Women’s Aid Federation England: <http://www.womensaid.org.uk>

ESTONIA



General country information

Population: 1.342.409
Female inhabitants:
 724.164 = 53,94% of total population
CEDAW ratified: yes (1991)
Optional Protocol of CEDAW ratified: no
Member of Council of Europe: yes (1993)
Member of European Union: yes (2004)



Nb. Of Shelters: 7
 Rec. Nb. Of Shelter Places: 134
 Nb. Of Shelter Places: 40-50

Facts and Figures

Latest number of femicides yearly:
 30-40 women (approx.)
Latest number of DV cases reported by police yearly:
 no data available - police refused to provide this data to NGOs
Latest number of DV cases reported by women's shelters yearly: no answer
Prevalence of DV: 41.000 Estonian women were likely to experience domestic violence in 2006.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Women's Helplines:

In 2008 the first national helpline offering specified service for women survivors of all kinds of violence (trafficking, domestic violence, etc.) was established in Estonia. Counselling is not just provided in Estonian but also in Russian and English and the service is available 8 hours a day. Clients have to pay the cost of a standard phone call when accessing this service. The national helpline for victims of domestic violence is by 90% financed by state funding from special taxes.

As reported by WAVE Focal Point "Tartu Child Support Centre"⁸¹, there are no regional helplines for women victims of violence; however several shelters and NGOs operate helplines such as NGOs WAVE Focal Point "Women's Shelter in Tartu"⁸² and the "Tallinn Crisis Centre for Women"⁸³.

Table Women's HELPLINES:



	Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/hour service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
National	1	0	0	1	90% approx.
Regional	0	/	/	/	0%

Women's Shelters:

The first Estonian women shelter was established in 2002. Since then, another 6 shelters were set up offering approximately 40 - 50 places for women victims of violence. The latest one was opened on December 19th, 2008. In order to fulfil the recommendation of the European Parliament 100 more family places are needed in Estonia. At least 4 out of 7 women's shelters offer 24 hours service and all of them provide psychological and juridical counselling in Estonian, Russian and English. Many Russian women seek help in Estonian women's shelters. Women's shelters are a safe place for living according to the woman's needs and our resources support women in starting a new life without violence. Estonian shelters are financed by state funding. Thereby 70% are covered by governmental subsidies and 30% are allocated by the municipality.

Table Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/hour service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State Funding per %
7	40-50	134	89	4	7	80%

Further Services for Women Victims of Violence:

In Estonia there are no intervention centres for women victims of violence; however, police, social workers, psychologists and therapists receive appropriate specific training on violence against women, prevent and intervention.

National Action Plan

The Estonian government has not drawn up a National Action Plan to combat Violence against Women. No specific funds are allocated at the national, regional or local level of government for activities in tackling violence against women.

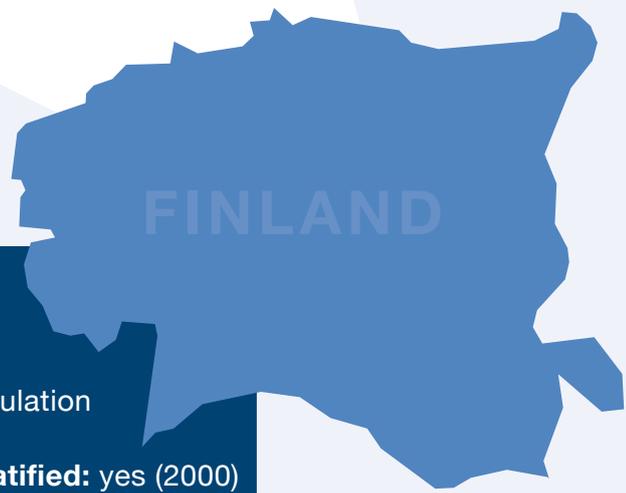
Endnotes

⁸¹ Tartu Child Support Centre: <http://www.tugikeskus.org.ee/>

⁸² Women's Shelter in Tartu: <http://www.naistetugi.ee/>

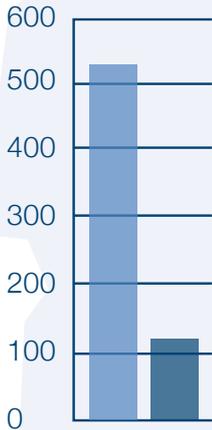
⁸³ Tallinn Crisis Centre for Women: <http://www.naisteabi.ee/index.php>

FINLAND



General country information

Population: 5.276.955
Female inhabitants:
 2.693.213 = 51,03% of total population
CEDAW ratified: yes (1986)
Optional Protocol of CEDAW ratified: yes (2000)
Member of Council of Europe: yes (1989)
Member of European Union: yes (1995)



Nb. Of Shelters: 25 approx.

Rec. Nb. Of Shelter Places: 527

Nb. Of Shelter Places: 120

Facts and Figures⁸⁴

Latest number of femicides yearly: 38 murders (in partnership), 23 murders (in domestic violence) - (2000-2004)

Latest number of DV cases reported by police yearly: 3.195 cases domestic violence against women, 2.153 cases of violence in partnership (2005)

Latest number of DV cases reported by women's shelters yearly: no data available

Prevalence of DV: violence in a current partnership 19.6 % (2005)

SERVICES FOR WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Women's Helplines:

In Finland there are presently 2 national helplines for women victims of violence: WAVE Focal Point "Women's Line"⁸⁵ and the "Rape Crisis Centre Tukinainen"⁸⁶. Both offer specified service for survivors of domestic violence. Only one of them offers multilingual counselling. Both helplines are free of charge for clients using the service but they do not operate 24 hours a day. The costs for running these services are covered by state funding.

Further, 25 regional helplines operated by local shelters provide counselling for women victims of violence - only 1 of them multilingually. Clients have to pay telephone costs of a standard phone call. Some of them are available 24 hours a day. All regional helplines receive state funding mostly allocated by municipalities.

Table Women's HELPLINES:



	Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/hour service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
National	2	1	0	1	No answer
Regional	25	0	some	1	No answer

Women's Shelters:

Currently there are approximately 25 women's shelters available for women victims of violence in Finland. This number is difficult to define since there are no unified quality standards for shelters. Most of them provide 24 hour service but only 1 offers multilingual counselling. All shelters receive state funding usually from municipalities. According to the recommendation of the European Parliament, Finland still needs 407 more family shelter places. Since Finland is a huge country with a small population, it also has to be considered that shelters also should be established in the less inhabited southern and northern areas.

Table Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/hour service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State Funding per %
25 approx.	120	527	407	most	1	no answer

National Action Plan

Finland has an Action Program called "Prevention of intimate partner and domestic violence 2004 - 2007". NGOs such as WAVE Focal Point "Women's Line" were involved in the drawing up of the document. It is aimed to improve a country-wide network of primer and specialized services for women survivors of domestic violence and perpetrators, to increase prevention work and support children and young people witnessing and experience domestic violence, and to offer training for professionals of different fields dealing with violence against women.

Upcoming Issues

Besides implementing the National Action Program it is planned to improve the co-ordination between different services for women victims of violence through intervention centres which are not established yet and to set up more shelter places for women survivors of domestic violence.

Endnotes

⁸⁴ Data provided by Women's Line: <http://www.naistenlinja.com/>

⁸⁵ Women's Line: <http://www.naistenlinja.com/>

⁸⁶ Rape Crisis Centre Tukinainen: <http://www.tukinainen.fi/>

FRANCE

General country information

Population: 63.392.140

Female inhabitants:

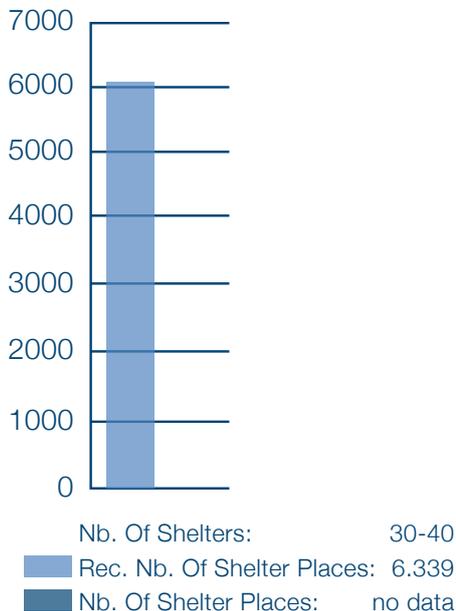
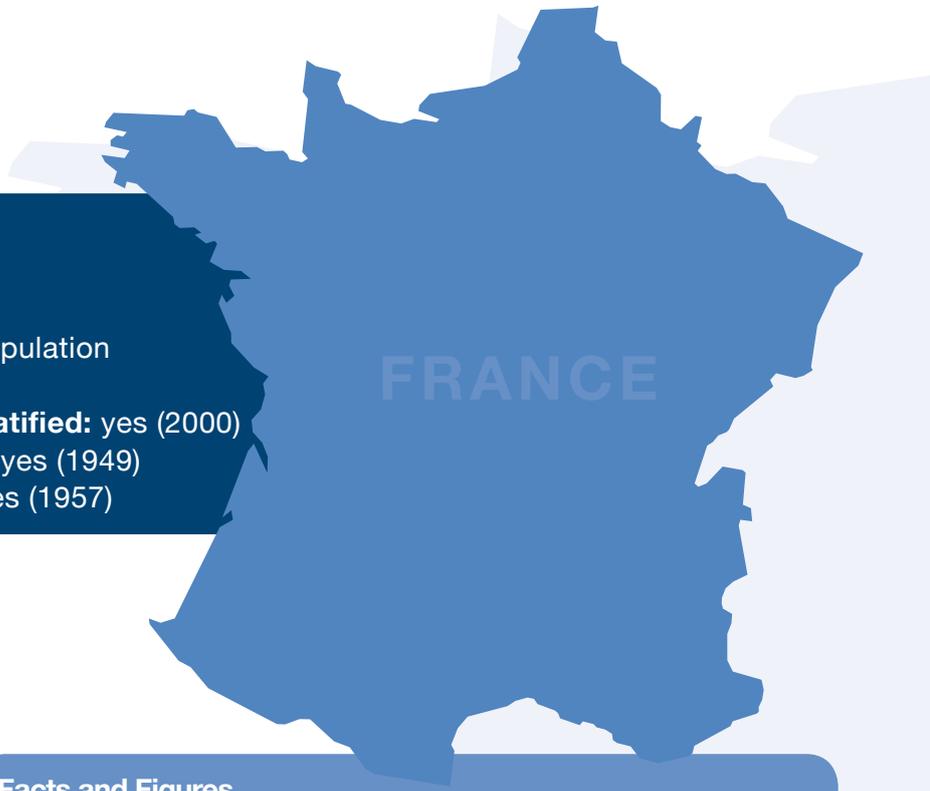
32.587.979 = 51,40% of total population

CEDAW ratified: yes (1983)

Optional Protocol of CEDAW ratified: yes (2000)

Member of Council of Europe: yes (1949)

Member of European Union: yes (1957)



Facts and Figures

Latest number of femicides yearly:

142,4 women (1 woman is killed / 2 - 3 days)

Latest number of DV cases reported by police yearly:

no answer

Latest number of DV cases reported by women's shelters yearly: 30.000⁸⁷

Prevalence of DV: study from 2006 - carried out by Ernestine Ronai - focused on violence against young women age 11 – 25 shows that young women have the highest danger of experiencing violence within the family: 30% of young women have experienced physical violence, 5% sexual aggression during the last 12 months, a 23% life prevalence for physical violence was shown and a 30% life prevalence for sexual violence.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Women's Helplines:

In France there is 1 national helpline specified to provide service to female and male victims of domestic violence as well as to professionals working with women affected by violence. The first French national helpline for women survivors of violence was established in 1992. In 2007 the number has changed from a 10 digit to a 4 digit code: 3919. Simultaneously, also the name of the organization has changed to 3919. The organization 3919 is run by WAVE Focal Point "FNSF - Fédération National Solidarité Femmes"⁸⁸. Counselling is offered in French, Spanish, English, Arabic and African languages, but not 24 hours a day. In one year about 15.000 incoming calls are answered. Clients pay the costs of standard phone calls when accessing this service. The costs for operating the helplines are covered by state funding.

Further, about 66 regional helplines are available for women victims of violence in France. These telephone services are provided by different associations.

Table Women's HELPLINES:



	Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/hour service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
National	1	0	0	1	100%
Regional	66 approx.	no answer	no answer	no answer	no answer

Women's Shelters:

There is a need for resources and structures to enable coherent data collection concerning services for women victims of violence. The "FNSEF-Network" consists of 60 feminist organizations. 30 – 40 of them are women's shelters providing specified services for women victims of violence. Further, there are several more non-specialized shelters offering help to women survivors of violence. Most of them are state shelters. Some of these shelters have adopted similar standards and working strategies as applied by shelters of the "FNSF-Network". Since there is no nationwide network of women's organization / women's shelters in France, no data are available about the exact number of shelters providing standardized services for women and children affected by domestic violence.

Table Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/hour service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State Funding per %
30-40	no data	6.339	no data	no data	no data	no data

National Action Plan

In cooperation with NGOs such as WAVE Focal Point - "FNSF - Fédération National Solidarité Femmes" the 2nd National Action Plan "triennal pour combattre les violences faites aux femmes"⁸⁹ for 2008 - 2010 was developed and put into force in 2007.

Upcoming Issues

Experts combating domestic violence against women claim a specific law for domestic violence cases which meets the needs of female victims and allows fighting this complex phenomenon in all its different forms. The French government still refuses to establish such a law, denying the argument of NGOs that domestic violence against women is rooted in structures of society and is based on deeply embedded patriarchal values which cause an inequality between women and men. The government does not consider domestic violence against women as a specific form of violence. Moreover domestic violence is reduced as a crime caused by psychological problems of perpetrator and victim. For this reason a medical proof (physical and psychological) is claimed in most domestic violence cases which are often degrading for women victims. French society is not aware of the dimension of problems caused by violence against women. This further proves a lack of awareness raising activities to sensitise French society towards this issue.

NGOs further address the situation of children experiencing violence directed towards their mothers. They are perceived as victims of domestic violence who need specific protection by a new domestic violence law - e.g.: according to the current French legislation, fathers violating their wives can stay with their children. NGOs claim a change in this issue.

FRANCE

General information about migrant and minority women and their access to women's shelter

The questionnaire was answered by: **Federation Nationale Solidarité Femmes**

The approximate percentage of migrant and ethnic minority women accommodated by women's shelter in France is up to 25 %.

The national help-line provides multilingual services in English, Spanish and Arabic.

Some employees of shelters also speak several languages. However, there are no culturally sensitive services such as native language counselling. In order to improve the services France is planning to translate the public information about women's shelter into several languages.

Basically migrant and ethnic minority women have access to every shelter in France though there is no shelter specialized on the needs and concerns of MM women. Still it might be difficult for women without documents to be accommodated by women's shelter since these women don't have working permit and access to social benefits and thus naturally stay longer in women's shelter, which in return makes it more expensive for women's shelter to accommodate women without documents.

Generally also the children of MM women are accommodated by women's shelter but there might be some shelters that will not accept boys over the age of 14. The alternative for these boys are regular shelters that will accommodate them. However, currently France is working on this issue in cooperation with "La Cimade", a counselling centre for MM and "l'ADFEM", a group of NGOs.

Legal aid for MM women is not provided by the state but by lawyers from NGOs, it's free of charge and provided in different languages.

Concerning residency regulations there is a difference whether the woman is married to a French born man or an immigrant himself. If the woman is married to a French man she gets temporary residence permit after 6 months, this permit can be renewed 4 times a year and become a regular residence permit. If the husband is an immigrant as well the woman would have to wait up to 5 years. Neither cohabitation nor a same sex partnership gives women the right of a residence permit of their own.

In case of violence women can obtain an independent residence permit. This, however, depends on the chief of the French department. Usually, they have to prove the violence at court. The one who got divorced has to be sentenced because of the violence, which is the main problem for MM women. Psychological and economic violence can not be proved, which makes it an enormous difficult situation for MM women.

"La Cimade" is planning information campaigns in 2010 focussing on MM women only.

With regard to legal measures taken by the police it can be said that the perpetrator can be taken to the police office up to 24 hours in order to protect the victim. After the 24 hours it's up to the judge to decide if the perpetrator is allowed to go back into the house or not. This service is accessed by MM women more often than by French born women.

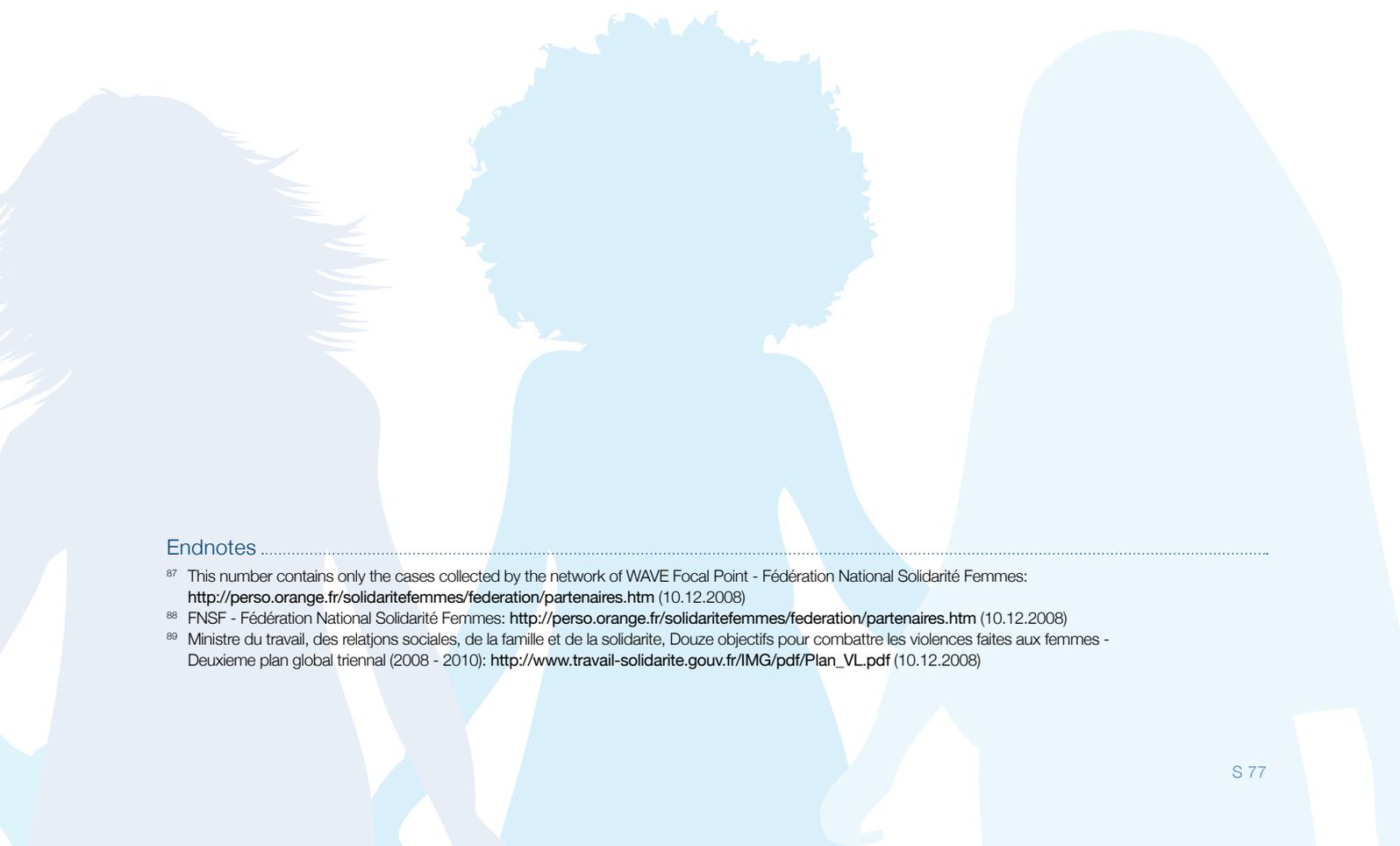
The current action plan

The second action plan from 2008- 2010 includes the following 12 aims:

- Complete the statistics
- Improve the comprehension of this issue
- Respect the women's representation in the media
- Improve the sensitivity of people in this issue
- Create programmes and prevention courses for perpetrators
- Coordinate the services to give a global answer

Main problems and barriers for migrant and minority women

One of the biggest barriers MM women have to face is about residency regulations. Migrant women do not automatically have residence permit, which makes them dependent on their husband. The fact that migrant and minority women don't know about their rights is also a main obstacle when it comes to accessing services. Language barriers also play an essential role when it comes to accessing services. The miscommunication and the inability to make yourself and your needs comprehensible make it almost impossible to access these services and thus get help.



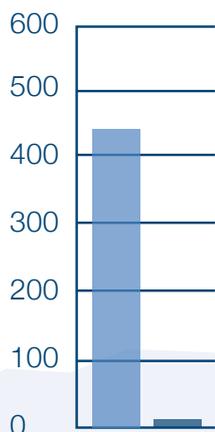
Endnotes

⁸⁷ This number contains only the cases collected by the network of WAVE Focal Point - Fédération National Solidarité Femmes: <http://perso.orange.fr/solidaritefemmes/federation/partenaires.htm> (10.12.2008)

⁸⁸ FNSF - Fédération National Solidarité Femmes: <http://perso.orange.fr/solidaritefemmes/federation/partenaires.htm> (10.12.2008)

⁸⁹ Ministre du travail, des relations sociales, de la famille et de la solidarité, Douze objectifs pour combattre les violences faites aux femmes - Deuxieme plan global triennal (2008 - 2010): http://www.travail-solidarite.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/Plan_VL.pdf (10.12.2008)

GEORGIA



Nb. Of Shelters:	1
Rec. Nb. Of Shelter Places:	439
Nb. Of Shelter Places:	10

General country information

Population: 4.394.702

Female inhabitants:

2.315.157 = 52,68% of total population

CEDAW ratified: yes (1994)

Optional Protocol of CEDAW ratified: yes (2002)

Member of Council of Europe: yes (1999)

Member of European Union: no

Facts and Figures

Latest number of femicides yearly:

no answer

Latest number of DV cases reported by police yearly:

271 restrictive (emergency) orders were requested in Tbilisi and other regions from September 2006 to June 2007, as reported by the police, prosecutors and city courts. 244 of these were granted by the courts. Most of the violence was psychological, followed by physical. 224 of the victims were women and 34 were men.⁹⁰

Latest number of DV cases reported by women's shelters yearly: no answer

Prevalence of DV: no answer

SERVICES FOR WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Women's Helplines:

Although numerous hotlines exist in Georgia to provide social and legal services for victims of violence, there are no special hotlines focusing on women victims.

Table Women's HELPLINES:



	Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/hour service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
National	1	0	0	0	0
Regional	1	0	0	0	0

Women's Shelters:

In Georgia, there is 1 shelter for victims of domestic violence and 1 shelter for victims of trafficking. Both of these shelters are funded by international organizations. There are by far not enough shelters for women escaping domestic violence, and some measures to protect women from violence were delayed. The authorities failed to implement some important steps of the May 2006 “Law on Domestic Violence”, for example issuing protection and restraining orders, but some key provisions were not implemented swiftly or fully. The number of shelters was insufficient and the government did not provide financial support for shelters run by NGOs. The Action Plan on “Measures to Prevent and Combat Domestic Violence (2007-2008)” appeared to further delay the setting up of shelters. In order to fulfil the recommendation of European Parliament, 429 more family shelter places need to be established in Georgia.

Table Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/hour service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State Funding per %
1	10	439	429	no answer	no answer	0%

National Action Plan

In February 2008 the President of Georgia signed the “Action Plan on Combating Violence against Women 2000 - 2002”⁹⁰. The three-year plan failed to provide a clear assignment of authority and competence for its implementation. Funds were not earmarked for the concrete tasks of the plan and no reports have been prepared regarding the plan's implementation. An “Action Plan on Measures to Prevent and Combat Domestic Violence (2007-2008)” was approved lately.

Endnotes

⁹⁰ Georgian Young Lawyers Association Issues Monitoring Report on Domestic Violence Law, Stop violence against women - a project by The Advocacies of Human Rights: <http://www.stopvaw.org/Georgia.html> (10.12.2008)

⁹¹ Action Plan on Combating Violence Against Women 2000-2002 - Georgia, Women's Aid: <http://www.womenaid.org/caucasus/antitrafficking/order64eng.htm> (10.12.2008)

GERMANY

GERMANY

General country information

Population: 82.314.906

Female inhabitants:

42.013.740 = 51,04% of total population

CEDAW ratified: yes (1985)

Optional Protocol of CEDAW ratified: yes (2002)

Member of Council of Europe: yes (1995)

Member of European Union: yes (1957)

Facts and Figures

Latest number of femicides yearly:

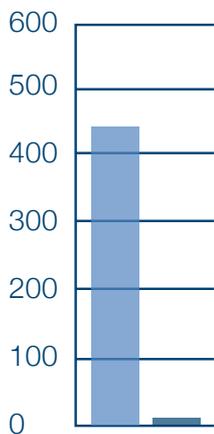
no data available; there is no national data collection caused besides others due to the lack of an uniform definition of domestic violence in Germany.

Latest number of DV cases reported by police yearly:

no data available; the Bundeskriminalamt is responsible for data collection in Germany. The analysis is based on the criminal acts as they are defined in the criminal law. Domestic violence is not specifically classified as a criminal offence. Since there are different criminal acts which emerge in domestic violence cases there is no number of domestic violence cases available.⁹²

Latest number of DV cases reported by women's shelters yearly:

no data available
Prevalence of DV: 25% of German women are likely to experience domestic violence.



Nb. Of Shelters: 1

Rec. Nb. Of Shelter Places: 439

Nb. Of Shelter Places: 10

SERVICES FOR WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Women's Helplines:

In Germany there is no national helpline for women survivors of violence, however it is formulated as a wish in the National Action Plan to implement one. On the federal state level there are 3 helplines for women and their children affected by domestic violence: 1 in Berlin, 1 in Hamburg, and 1 in Schleswig Holstein. They are financed through state funding (federal state), and donations. Not all 3 of them offer 24 hour service. If necessary an interpreter enables communication with women who do not speak German properly.

Further, women's shelters and women's counselling centres operate about 74 regional helplines for women victims of violence including the so called "Frauennotrufe" (specialized counselling centres for sexualized violence). The services provided by them to women survivors of violence vary a lot, mostly depending on the financial situation of the organisations. For this reason it is difficult to give precise information about the quality standards. Fostering a uniformed statistical data collection is highly recommended.

Table Women's HELPLINES:



	Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/hour service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
National	0	/	/	/	0%
Regional	74 approx.	no answer	no answer	no answer	no answer

Women's Shelters:

In 1976 the first German women's shelters were established in West-Berlin and in Cologne. According to the latest survey carried out by the "Frauenhaus Koordinierung e.V." in 2008 there are 358 women's shelters offering 6.968 places for women and children affected by domestic violence in Germany.⁹³ The survey "More than a Roof over your Head"⁹⁴ carried out by WAVE co-ordination office clearly shows the reduction of women shelter places within the last years cause by financial bottlenecks. In 2002 approximately 8.789 shelter places were available for women and children in 440 refuges in Germany. In order to fulfil the recommendation of the European Parliament, Germany has to increase the number of shelter places to 8.231 which means 1.263 more shelter places are needed. Most of German women's shelters are organised in 2 different umbrella organisations: the autonomous women's shelters are part of German WAVE Focal Point "Zentrale Informationsstelle - ZIF"⁹⁵ and also join so called "Landesgemeinschaften - LAGs" on the federal state level, while most of the remaining shelters are assembled in the German WAVE Focal Point "Frauenhauskoordinierung e.V.".⁹⁶

The models of service offered by German women's shelters differ in terms of maintenance of the telephone service regarding opening hours (e.g.: professional counselling during daytime; during night just telephone counselling), counselling and also in terms of funding strategies. However, all shelters can be contacted by phone 24 hours. 75% of German women's shelters provide multilingual counselling at least in 1 foreign language offered in 16 different languages⁹⁷ depending on fluctuation of language qualification of employers. Many shelters also work with an interpreter if translation is needed.

There are also huge differences among models of financing: most shelters receive state funding from different political levels but additionally do fundraising activities such as participating in international projects, donations, etc. German women's organisations working in the field of violence against women claim a nationwide binding agreement on women's shelter funding by the German Government. The latter shifts responsibility from a national to a federal state level. Only three German federal states have allocated specific funds for women refuges. In the 13 remaining federal states the financing of women's shelters is covered by different shares of subvention from federal states, municipalities and day's rate (Tagesfinanzierung). These financial backings are often insufficient and for this reason many German women's organisation supporting women survivors of domestic violence are strongly depended on donations and other fundraising activities. Another problem is caused by the so called "day's rate financing" (Tagessatzfinanzierung): it is based on individual legal rights of women according to different social contribution laws through which the federal states cover the daily costs of a woman accommodated in a women's shelter. However, there are several groups of women who are not entitled to apply for these social security benefits. If these women are hosted in a women's shelter a funding gap occurs for women's shelters.

Further, several federal states and municipalities do not perceive women's protection as their obligation but as ex-gratia payment. Nonbinding regulations put women's organizations in a financially awkward state. Cost coverage is often not achieved. Financing is usually accompanied by massive bureaucratic efforts. Planning security is ungraded. As the decreased number of women's shelters is depicted in Germany, many women's support services reasonably fear for their continued existence. For 32 years the German women's shelter movement has been

GERMANY

fighting for a unified, unbureaucratic financing which enables all women the access to women's shelters without any restrictions. The current discussion on shelter financing can be found at the website "Frauenhauskoordinierung e.V."⁹⁸.

Women's helplines as well as women's counselling centres in Germany face the same financial problem as briefly described here for women's shelters.

Table Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/hour service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State Funding per %
358	6.968	8.231	1.353	358	75	no answer

Further Services for Women Victims of Violence:

11 out of the 16 federal states of Germany run intervention projects which coordinate services of all different expert groups dealing with women victims of domestic violence and offer active counselling. In contrast, Austrian Intervention Centres combine coordination of professionals with proactive counselling work. The total number of intervention centres in Germany is 83.

National Action Plan

In cooperation with NGOs such as WAVE Focal Point - "BIG e.V. - Berliner Interventionsprojekt gegen häusliche Gewalt"⁹⁹ - Germany has developed the 2nd National Action Plan "Aktionsplan II der Bundesregierung zur Bekämpfung von Gewalt gegen Frauen"¹⁰⁰ in 2007.

Upcoming Issues

Although a positive development is recognisable on the national level (legislation, Action Plan) stagnation or regression is visible in certain federal states of Germany regarding allocation of budget or implementation of concrete measures. It is planned to allocate budget on a national level to realise important activities for victims of domestic violence. As in other European countries, there is an ongoing discussion about special services for specific target groups of survivors of domestic violence such as migrant women and women with disabilities also in Germany.

The German CEDAW shadow report "Alternativbericht der Allianz von Frauenorganisationen Deutschlands"¹⁰¹ was released on December 15th 2008.

General information about migrant and minority women and their access to services

The questionnaire was answered by: **Frauenhauskoordinierung e.V.**

About 9% of the female population in Germany are migrants. 45% of these women have only temporary residence permit. Migrant women come most often from Eastern Europe and the following; Turkey, Africa, Asia. The approximate percentage of non-EU citizens is about 6%.

There are about 360 women's shelter in Germany. Two women's shelters have a special focus on migrant women and ethnic minority women. The first one is the International women's shelter set in Düsseldorf and the second one is set in Berlin. Concerning special services for migrant women there are almost always interpreters available in every women's shelter.

Usually the average percentage of migrant women in women's shelter is about 50% depending whether it's a small town or a city like Berlin. Most likely all women's shelter will provide an interpreter and there are regular further education programmes to keep the staff professional. There is information material about FGM and forced marriage in at least 10 languages available and being spreaded in public houses.

The approximate percentage of state funding remains unknown. Generally, the funding varies from state to state since there are different ways of financing; States usually receive money from "Kommunen" and institutional funding. However, this kind of funding is not enough for Berlin and Hamburg, here "Kommunen" also support the women's shelter. According to the Code of Social law 2.

Main problems and barriers for migrant and minority women

A problem is that to a large extent the staff of the women's shelter gets paid on a daily rate. However, logically there is not always the same amount of women in a women's shelter so if there are at one point less women in the women's shelter, the money will not be paid. Therefore, the money lacks.

Basically there are no distinctions as to which women can come to a women's shelter. Yet women without documents don't apply for the "Code of Social Law" since they have no working permit. Moreover, migrant women have to stick to geographic restrictions as to where they can reside- they are not allowed to leave the state.

When it comes to the children of migrant women, boys will be accepted up to the age of 12 and sometimes even until 15.

The regulation concerning an independent right of residence for foreign spouses was amended in the Alien's act. In the past the conjugal community had to have existed 4 years, except in the case of special hardship violence. Now it has to exist 2 years. In case of violence in the relationship the woman can be granted residence permit on a humanitarian basis but she has to prove the fact that she has been physically abused. Generally, most women do not get back to the hardship provision.

A partnership/cohabitation doesn't give migrant and ethnic minority women the right to a residence permit of her own. The same applies to same-sex relationships.

Persecuted persons generally have right to asylum. Sex- specific persecution is only entitled the right of asylum if under political repression or so called ethnic cleansing or of the human rights are violated and a threat exists.

There need to be more education programmes for police staff, cultural sensitivity is lacking and therefore understanding of the difficult and complex situation of MM women. Furthermore, the laws need to be changed since they humiliate the rights of MM women.

Current action plans

The new coalition will work out a new action plan on domestic violence within the next two years.

Endnotes

⁹² Bundeskriminalamt: <http://www.bka.de/>

⁹³ Frauenhauskoordinierung e.V.: <http://www.frauenhauskoordinierung.de/> Study available: [http://www.infothek.paritaet.org/fhk/dokumente.nsf/f20d9b99c51b11c2c1256eb70034f23e/514a1304242ec278c12574d3004db8de/\\$FILE/FHKAntwortFragebogen.pdf](http://www.infothek.paritaet.org/fhk/dokumente.nsf/f20d9b99c51b11c2c1256eb70034f23e/514a1304242ec278c12574d3004db8de/$FILE/FHKAntwortFragebogen.pdf)

⁹⁴ WAVE co-ordination, More than a Roof over your Head: <http://www.wave-network.org/start.asp?ID=19>

⁹⁵ Zentrale Informationsstelle - ZIF: <http://www.autonome-frauenhaeuser-zif.de/zif.htm>

⁹⁶ Frauenhauskoordinierung e.V.: <http://www.frauenhauskoordinierung.de/>

⁹⁷ Data from Frauenhauskoordinierung e.V.: 64,7 % of German women's shelter offer counselling in English, 24,2 % in French, 17,2 % in Russian, 11,1 % in Polish, 9,4 % Turkey, 8,3 % Spanish, 5 % Italian, 2,5 % Persian, 2 % Arabic, 1,4 % Kurdish, 1,4 % Croatian, 1,1 % Greek, 1,1 % Portuguese, and 1 % Czech, Swedish und Dutch.

⁹⁸ Frauenhauskoordinierung e.V.: <http://www.frauenhauskoordinierung.de/> See menu item „Aktuelles“

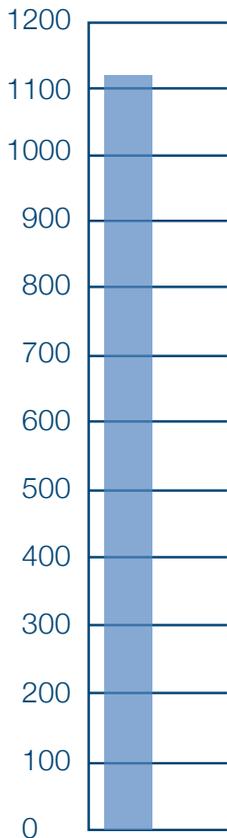
⁹⁹ BIG e.V. - Berliner Interventionsprojekt gegen häusliche Gewalt: <http://www.big-interventionszentrale.de>

¹⁰⁰ Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend: Aktionsplan II der Bundesregierung zur Bekämpfung von Gewalt gegen Frauen: <http://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/generator/Kategorien/Publikationen/Publikationen.did=100962.html>

¹⁰¹ Alternativbericht der Allianz von Frauenorganisationen Deutschlands, United Nations Human Rights: http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/docs/ngos/AGWO_ger.pdf

GREECE

GREECE



General country information

Population: 11.171.740¹⁰²

Female inhabitants:

5.639.693¹⁰³ = 50,48% of total population

CEDAW ratified: yes (1983)

Optional Protocol of CEDAW ratified: yes (2002)

Member of Council of Europe: yes (1949)

Member of European Union: yes (1981)

Facts and Figures

Latest number of femicides yearly: no data available¹⁰⁴

Latest number of DV cases reported by police yearly: no data available¹⁰⁵

Latest number of DV cases reported by women's shelters yearly: no data available

Prevalence of DV: reliable data are not available. The 1st and only epidemiological survey conducted in Greece¹⁰⁶ resulted in such small numbers (e.g. 3.6% and 3.5% for physical and sexual abuse, respectively) as to suggest the assumption that either the measurement was unreliable or domestic violence is still a taboo issue for Greek society. Further, there is no routine screening for IPV (or other type of screening) in any of the hospitals or other health care setting in Greece.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Women's Helplines:

In Greece there are 4 national helplines available for women victims of violence: there are 2 national helplines providing specified service to women victims of violence. One of them is funded by the church and offers counselling in Greek language free of charge for clients applying the service. The second national helpline for women victims of violence is operated by an NGO offering multilingual counselling. It is funded by various sources and depending on the financial situation service is provided 6 hours a day. The phone call is free of charge but only if clients do not call from a mobile phone.

Further, there are 2 other national helplines which can also be contacted by women victims of violence. One of them is available for all citizens with all kinds of problems including women victims of violence. It is free of charge for clients calling the helpline and counselling is provided 24 hours a day but not multilingually. It is 100% financed by the Ministry of Health. The second helpline is also free of charge and available 24 hours a day, offering specified counselling for children victims of abuse and women victims of violence if accompanied by children. This helpline is operated by an NGO and financed through a combination of various sources. Further, 4 regional helplines provide help to women victims of violence free of charge. One of them (the helpline in Ioannina) is specialized in women victims of abuse. Except for the helpline in Arta-Syros, which is funded by the "Women's Department of PASOKs"¹⁰⁷ Prefecture's Committee, all other regional helplines are operated by NGOs and financed through various sources. They are not available for their clients 24 hours a day and counselling is only provided in Greek.

Endnotes

¹⁰² Official projection for 2007, official Census of 2001: 10.964.020

¹⁰³ Official projection for 2007, official Census of 2001: 5.536.338

¹⁰⁴ There are some data available concerning prisoners convicted for homicide but the gender of the victim or the relationship they had with the victim is not known.

Table Women's HELPLINES:



	Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/hour service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
National	4	4	2	1	1 = 100%
Regional	4	4	0	0	1 = 100%

Women's Shelters:

In Greece there are 13 refuges, whereby 9 of them are state funded: 8 by the Ministry of Health and 1 by the Ministry of Interior (General Secretariat for Gender Equality) and by the municipality of Athens. The rest are run by NGO's and the Church. But their regime of functioning is still very unstable, mainly due to funding reasons. Exact data regarding shelter places for women victims of violence are only obtainable for the shelter funded by the Ministry of the Interior, which provides a total of 10 places for women with children. Considering the recommendation given by the European Parliament, 1.117 shelter places are needed in Greece. Out of the 14 Greek women's shelters existing, currently 1-2 of them are not exactly shelters for women survivors of domestic violence. They are rather for homeless people but they also accept abused women with children. There is no Greek women's shelter offering multilingual counselling. Due to the high rate of immigration, (Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, former Soviet Union, Pakistan, India) this is a huge default.

Table Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/hour service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State Funding per %
14	no data	1.117	no data	no data	0	9 = 100%

Further Services for Women Victims of Violence:

In Greece there are no intervention centres supporting women victims with proactive - multiagency service, but there are 32 counselling centres which also officially support women victims of violence. Many of them are part of the social services of some Greek municipalities. The majority of services at this level lack solid financial resources. It is neither assured if they provide specialized and appropriate services to women survivors of domestic victims nor if they fulfil the quality standards necessary for doing so.

When Law 3500 was put into force, many discussions were made regarding the mediation procedure included in the Articles 11-14: if agreed by both, the victim and the perpetrator, the perpetrator has the opportunity to attend a counselling/treatment program for perpetrators instead of trial. In Greece no institution is specialized in barterers' treatment. So, the domestic violence district attorneys are constantly looking for settings that will accept this "task". Only a few settings accept the court's orders, which are also totally unspecialized. It is important to stress the fact that the government makes an agreement with the DAs that in order to undertake the court's order, both the victim and the perpetrator should attend therapy; here they use couple counselling, with all the negative consequences this could have for the victim. There has also been a lot of discussion regarding training of health care professionals in order to be able to conduct screening, assessment and documentation of domestic violence cases in the course of their everyday practice. Unfortunately, the discussion begins and ends as an initiative of some Greek NGO's.

National Action Plan

Even though there are reports for the European Commission mentioning that Greece has an Action Plan against Domestic Violence¹⁰⁸, except for one announcement made by the Minister of Interior, neither an Action Plan has been worked out, nor priorities or targets to be fulfilled. With Law 3500 (in 2006) the announcement of its establishment is once again repeated; however, a National Action Plan has never been put into effect.

Endnotes

¹⁰⁵ Police supposedly records cases but they do not publish data.

¹⁰⁶ Research Centre for Gender Equality, 2003

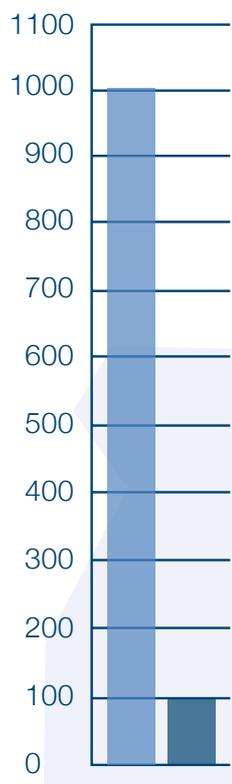
¹⁰⁷ PASOK: Greek Socialists Political Party.

¹⁰⁸ E.g. Hagemann-White, Carol: Combating violence against women: Stocktaking study on the measures and actions taken in Council of Europe member States, 2006

HUNGARY



General country information
Population: 10.066.158
Female inhabitants: 5.287.080
CEDAW ratified: yes (1980)
Optional Protocol of CEDAW ratified: yes (2000)
Member of Council of Europe: yes (1990)
Member of European Union: yes (2004)



Facts and Figures
Latest number of femicides yearly: in 2006, men committed 75 homicides and 1.879 physical assaults against women.¹⁰⁹
Latest number of DV cases reported by police yearly: no data available
Latest number of DV cases reported by women's shelters yearly: no data available
Prevalence of DV: every 5th Hungarian woman experiences physical violence in her lifetime. There are no data available for other forms of domestic violence.

Nb. Of Shelters: 10 approx.
 Rec. Nb. Of Shelter Places: 1.006
 Nb. Of Shelter Places: 100 approx.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Women's Helplines:

In Hungary there are 2 national helplines providing help to women victims of violence: 1 is operated by an NGO offering professional multilingual service in Czech, German, English free of charge to women survivors of any form of violence - mostly domestic violence. It is available 16 hours a day and financed by the state, by international donations, and 1% of the total costs is covered by the telecommunication company T-COM.

The second national helpline is state operated and 100% financed through state funding. It offers specialized services to women victims of violence 24hours a day in several languages (German, English) and free of charge.

Table Women's HELPLINES:



	Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/hour service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
National	2	2	1	2	1 = 100%
Regional	0	/	/	/	0%

Women's Shelters:

According to WAVE Focal Point "NaNE - Women's Rights Association"¹¹⁰ there are actually no women's shelters in Hungary, since clients accommodated in shelters are typically couples. Currently shelters are not only accessible to women but also to men. These 10 women's shelters - 9 crisis shelters and 1 super confidential shelter - mentioned in the table below follow to some extent the international quality standards applying to services for women survivors of domestic violence but they do not fulfil all important ones. For example, approximately 75% of all social workers employed in shelters have not attended gender-based violence training and do not apply a gender-based approach. However, in contrast to the 108 so called "family shelters" these 10 women's shelters also accommodate abused women who do not have children or keep the shelter address secret from the perpetrator even if women and their children are hosted. Women can only stay there for 30 days. Later they either have to find a place by themselves or they get a place in a "family shelter". In 2007, 1.367 women and 8 men were accommodated in these 10 shelters. By the end of 2008, 2 more crisis shelters will be available for victims of domestic violence.

60% of the clients hosted in the 108 "family shelters/homes" are victims of domestic violence. The family shelters are 100% state funded by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

Table Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/hour service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State Funding per %
10 approx.	100 approx.	1.006	906	no answer	no answer	no answer

National Action Plan

Hungary does not have a National Action Plan combating domestic violence against women, however in cooperation with WAVE Focal Point "NaNE-Women's Rights Association" it is planned to prepare one.

Endnotes

¹⁰⁹ According to police statistics 2006

¹¹⁰ NaNE – Women's Rights Association: <http://www.nane.hu>

ICELAND

General country information

Population: 307.672

Female inhabitants:

151.096 = 49,11% of total population

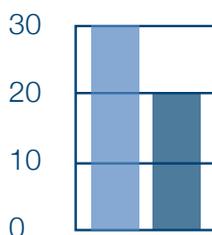
CEDAW ratified: yes (1985)

Optional Protocol of CEDAW ratified: yes (2001)

Member of Council of Europe: yes (1950)

Member of European Union: no

ICELAND



Nb. Of Shelters: 1

Rec. Nb. Of Shelter Places: 30

Nb. Of Shelter Places: 20

Facts and Figures

Latest number of femicides yearly: 1 in 2004, none since

Latest number of DV cases reported by police yearly: 15% of women visiting the Wio.

Latest number of DV cases reported by women's shelters yearly: every year around 0,25% of the female population visits the women's shelter.

Prevalence of DV: no answer

SERVICES FOR WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Women's Helplines:

The first women's helpline was established in 1982. In Iceland there are 2 national helplines providing service free of charge to women survivors of violence. Only 1 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for clients searching for help. Counselling is not provided multilingually. This is only offered by the "Multicultural Centre" which is not specifically for victims of domestic violence. The second one offers its services 10 hours a day. Both helplines are 75% state funded. Further, there are no regional helplines specified to serve women victims of violence.

Table Women's HELPLINES:



	Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/hour service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
National	2	2	1	0	75%
Regional	0	/	/	/	0%

Women's Shelters:

The first and only women's shelter in Iceland was opened in 1982. It provides 20 places for women victims of violence, and multilingual service is available 24 hours a day 356 days a year. As reported by WAVE Focal Point "Kvennaathvarfið"¹¹¹ also the women's shelter is funded by the state covering 75% of total costs. According to the recommendation of European Parliament there are still 10 more shelter places needed in Iceland.

Table Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/hour service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State Funding per %
1	20	30	10	1	1	75%

Further Services for Women Victims of Violence:

Besides shelters and helplines there are several counselling centres for women survivors of violence such as WAVE Focal Point "Stígamót"¹¹², a counselling and information centre for victims of sexual violence, the "Women's Counselling", providing free legal and social work advice for women, and the "Intercultural Centre", offering free legal and general advice for immigrants in their own language.

National Action Plan

The latest and 1st "National Plan of Action to Deal with Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence"¹¹³ was issued in 2006. NGOs such as representatives of the two women's shelters and WAVE Focal Point "Stígamót" and "Kvennaathvarfið" took part in the development of the Action Plan and many NGOs' suggestions were adopted. The downside is that there is really no funding allotted to most of the actions that shall be taken.

General information about migrant and minority women and their access to women's shelter

The questionnaire was answered by: **Stigamot**

The overall percentage of immigrants in Iceland is a little over 8%. The percentage of women among immigrants is about 60%, a few hundred of those are migrant and minority women.

The approximate percentage of migrant and minority women accommodated in women's shelter ranges from 25%-50%. Yet there are no migrant or minority women employed in the women's shelter but there are immigrant women in the board of the women's shelter.

There is one women's shelter in Iceland. Culturally sensitive service is provided in this women's shelter. Moreover, women receive legal counselling through interpreters.

Migrant and minority women have access to women's shelters without restrictions. However, asylum seeking women are given special housing in "Reykjanesbaer" community along with other asylum seeking women.

Most probably boys will also be accepted in women's shelters since migrant and minority women are less likely to have a social network which could support them. In this way there is no alternative. However, boys over the age of 18 might not always be accommodated but this varies from shelter to shelter.

The Intercultural Centre offers general and legal counselling and advice. Interpretation is provided free of charge if necessary. The women's counselling service offers legal and social work counselling and advice. There is a mentor program for immigrant and migrant women run by the Red Cross, instigated "All the Women of the World".

The multicultural Centre in "Isafjörður" offers general telephone counselling in several languages.

There is the yearly 16 days campaign against violence against women where immigrant women have now been put into focus. The Intercultural Centre has on many occasions drawn attention to the status of migrant women victims of violence in Iceland.

There is some information material available in several languages.

WOMEN (Women of multiple ethnicity network) reaches out to migrant women, the Red Cross and "All the Women

ICELAND

of the World” (organisation of women working on immigrant issues) as well. The Intercultural Centre is open to them and offers counselling and advice.

There is a governmental action plan. According to the plan, information material on domestic violence and sexual violence must be issued in several languages; research must be done on the scope of violence against MM women. However, the action plan applies to all women in Iceland.

Moreover, the government has approved to an action plan against trafficking. There is also a stipulation in the Act on Immigrants stating that when applying for a residence permit the applicant and her spouse must be questioned and the application considered very carefully proving the age of the applicant to make sure the woman is not younger than 24 years.

Main problems and barriers for migrant and minority women

Women have to stay at least 4 years in the relationship before they can apply for a residence permit on their own. In the case of cohabitation the partners must have been registered as co-habiting for two years or to be able to verify the co-habitation by other means. If it is a same sex partnership it works the same way, however, if both are foreigners they must have been living in Iceland for 2 years prior to the registered partnership.

Most migrant and minority women have only family reunification permit. So if they leave their husband they are no longer eligible for any type of permit

Domestic violence is considered in the residency regulations of Iceland. There is an exception clause, allowing for a renewal of permits if the divorce was caused by violence and other special circumstances apply, such as having established close ties to the country or the individual's situation in Iceland. However, the woman has to be able to offer some evidence of the violence, which is naturally very difficult considering the different forms of violence that exist such as psychological violence.

There is no information material on protection laws and women's services, which migrant and minority women would receive directly when they arrive in Iceland. There is a pamphlet on the first steps in Iceland available to all immigrants/migrants with information on services for victims of violence.

There are certain measures such as the restraining order to protect victims of violence but they are very hard to come by. When women make a complaint, the case is looked at but many feel that these measures are ineffective in these matters. Generally, the police show understanding but they don't seem to have many effective measures to offer victims of violence.

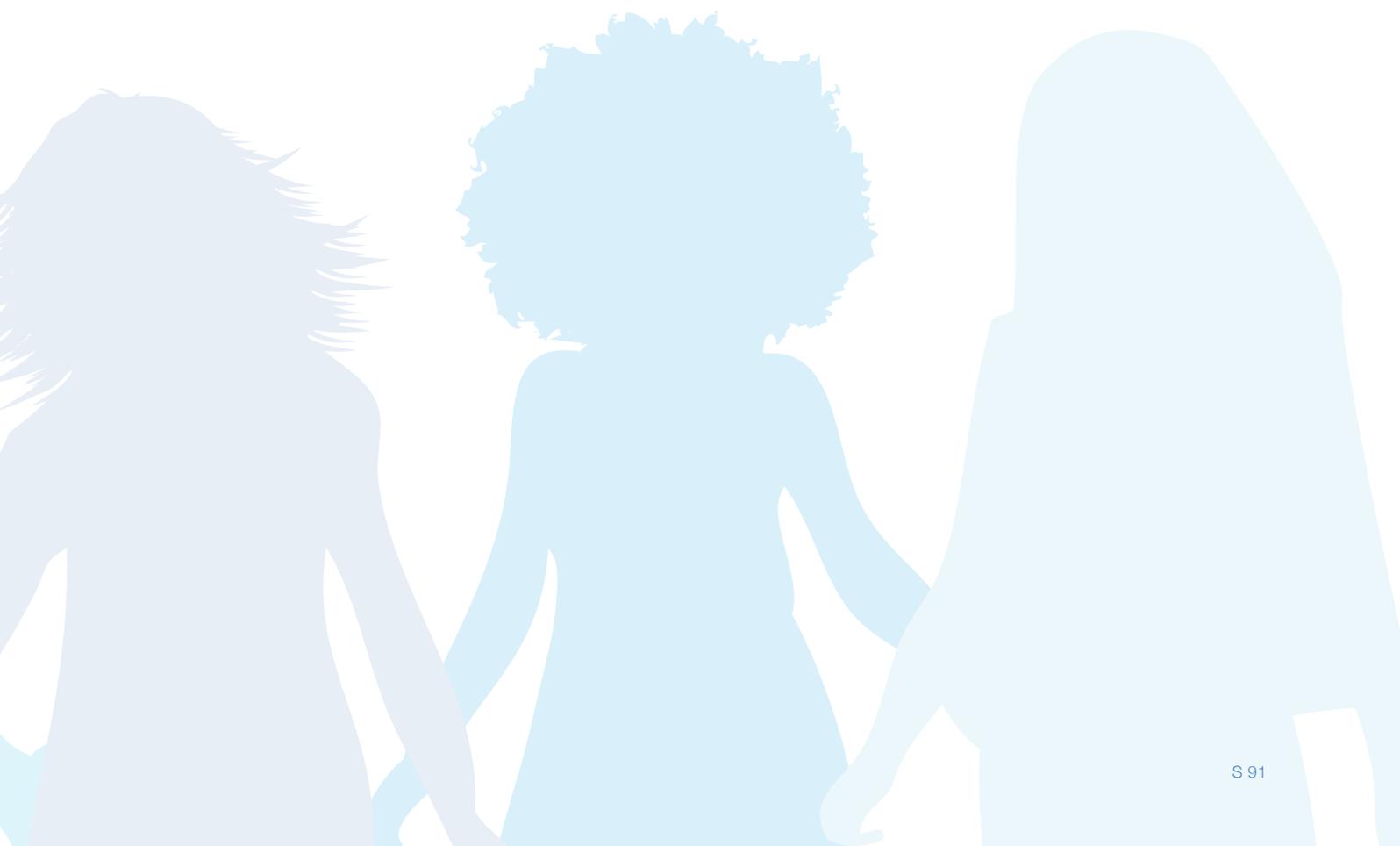
There is no civil law protection order available to women victims of violence. Yet they can of course sue the perpetrator in private. However, very few cases are brought to court, just a handful each year.

Endnotes

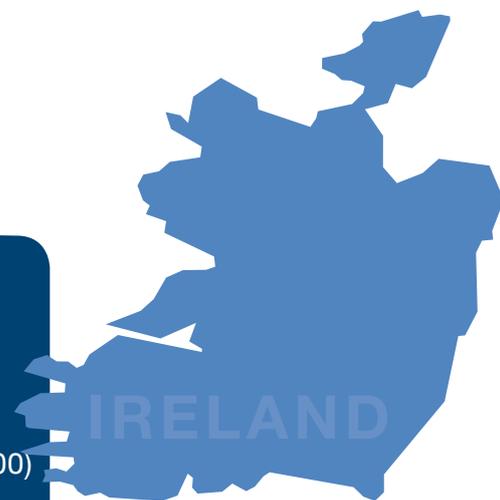
¹¹¹ Kvænnaathvarið: <http://www.kvennaathvarf.is>

¹¹² Stigamót: <http://www.stigamot.is>

¹¹³ Plan of Action to deal with domestic violence and sexual violence, Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Security: http://www.felagsmalaraduneyti.is/media/acrobat-enskar_sidur/Plan_of_Action_to_deal_with_Domestic_and_Sexual_Violence.pdf



IRELAND



General country information

Population: 4.314.634

Female inhabitants:
2.157.669 = 50% of total population

CEDAW ratified: yes (1985)

Optional Protocol of CEDAW ratified: yes (2000)

Member of Council of Europe: yes (1949)

Member of European Union: yes (1973)

Facts and Figures

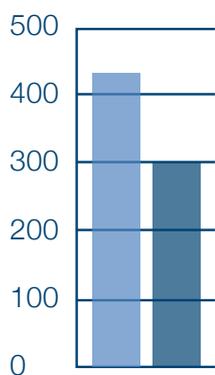
Latest number of femicides yearly: 12 women

Latest number of DV cases reported by police yearly:

no data available; regarding stats on breaches of orders there were 1.180 cases recorded in 2006

Latest number of DV cases reported by women's shelters yearly: 1.952 women admitted to refuges, 2.985 children admitted to refuges, 34.385 helpline calls nationally, and more than 5000 women accessed domestic violence services in 2006

Prevalence of DV: regarding a research carried out by the National Crime Council, 1 in 7 women have experienced severely abusive behaviour of a physical, sexual or emotional nature from a partner at some time in their lives; 1 woman in 11 has experienced severe physical abuse in a relationship. The survey estimates that 213.000 women in Ireland have been severely abused by a partner. Women's Aid own research in 1995 found that 18% of women who had ever been in an intimate relationship had experience domestic violence by a current or former partner.



Nb. Of Shelters: 21 approx.

Rec. Nb. Of Shelter Places: 431

Nb. Of Shelter Places: 300 approx.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Women's Helplines:

In 1994 the first Irish women's helpline was established in Dublin. In Ireland 2 national helplines provide help for women survivors of violence. 1 of them is located in Northern Ireland which can be contacted 24 hours a day while the second one is located in Dublin and run by WAVE Focal Point "Women's Aid Federation Ireland"¹¹⁴. The latter is currently available 12 hours a day every day except Christmas Day. Both are free of charge for women using this service and 85% financed by state funding.

Further, there are approximately 38 regional helplines for women victims of violence operated by other domestic violence support services such as counselling centres.

Table Women's HELPLINES:



	Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/hour service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
National	2	2	1	no answer	85%
Regional	38 approx.	no answer	no answer	no answer	no answer

Women's Shelters:

In 1986 the "Rathmines Refuge" was opened as the first custom built women's refuge in Ireland.¹¹⁵ According to the Website of the "National Network of Women's Refuges and Support Service"¹¹⁶, as of October 2008 there are about 21 shelters available for women survivors of domestic violence and their children, offering an approximate capacity of 300 shelter places. In order to meet the recommendation of the European Parliament, 131 family shelter places are still needed. Most shelters provide their services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Table Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/hour service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State Funding per %
21 approx.	300 approx.	431	131	most	no answer	no answer

Further Services for Women Victims of Violence:

About 15 domestic violence support services provide help for women and children affected by violence.¹¹⁷

National Action Plan

Currently in Ireland, a Strategic Plan is being developed by COSC, the National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence.

Endnotes

¹¹⁴ Women's Aid Federation Ireland: <http://www.womensaid.ie/>

¹¹⁵ Women's Aid Federation Ireland: <http://www.womensaid.ie/pages/home/TWENTY/milestones.HTM>

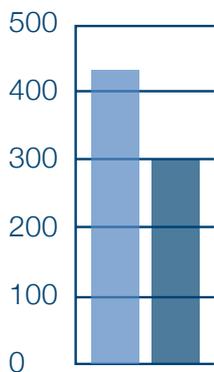
¹¹⁶ Website of National Network of Women's Refuges and Support Service: http://www.nnrss.ie/current_members.htm

¹¹⁷ A general overview of all these services can be found at the website of The National Network of Women's Refuges and Support Service http://www.nnrss.ie/current_members.htm

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General country information

Population: 59.131.287
Female inhabitants:
30.412.846 = 51,43% of total population
CEDAW ratified: yes (1985)
Optional Protocol of CEDAW ratified: yes (2000)
Member of Council of Europe: yes (1949)
Member of European Union: yes (1957)



Nb. Of Shelters: 21 approx.

Rec. Nb. Of Shelter Places: 431

Nb. Of Shelter Places: 300 approx.

Facts and Figures

Latest number of femicides yearly: 126 (2007)¹¹⁸

Latest number of DV cases reported by police yearly: 2.373 cases (2006)

Latest number of DV cases reported by women's shelters yearly: no data available; in Emilia Romagna - region of Bologna - 2.454 women sought for help in 11 antiviolence centres in 2007. Only one study exists on violence against women carried out on the national level by the National Institute of Statistics - ISTAT¹¹⁹. The sample of this study contains just 3% of female victims of domestic violence who were served by NGOs.

Prevalence of DV: 14,3% Italian women are likely to experience domestic violence. 31,9% Italian women suffer all kind of gender-based violence during their lifetime. 93% of domestic violence cases are not reported.¹²⁰

SERVICES FOR WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Women's Helplines:

In 2006 the first and only national helpline – “Arianna - 1522”¹²¹ - providing specified service for women victims of domestic violence free of charge was established by the Italian government but operated by the women's NGO “Le Onde di Palermo”¹²². Due to a lack of funding the helpline is hardly advertised. Multilingual counselling is offered around the clock. It is 100% financed through state funding.

Further, there are about 104 local helplines available for women affected by male violence. Most of them are run by women counselling centres. Due to a lack of resources no regional helplines usually can be contacted free of call charge and provide 24 hours a day. Most of them are available on an average of 8 hours. Regional helplines are to 70% funded by local governments. According to WAVE Focal Point “Casa delle Donne per non subire violenza”¹²³ only the green line in Alto Adige (Südtirol) is fully financed by the province. It is the only regional women's helpline in Italy which offers 24 hours' service and multilingual counselling in Italian and German.

Table Women's HELPLINES:



	Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/hour service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
National	1	1	1	1	100%
Regional	104 approx.	1	1	1	70%

Women's Shelters:

In Italy, the first women's shelter was founded in 1989. Since then about 39 refuges have been set up offering an approximate number of 270 shelter places. The large majority of Italian women's shelters is based on a feminist political background and is run by autonomous women's non-profit organisations.¹²⁴ In consideration of the recommendation of the European Parliament claiming 5.913 family places for women victims of violence and their children, this number depicts the situation of women's services in Italy quite well. Despite all the efforts of feminists, services cannot be expanded due to the lack of financial support by the state. The absence of national institutional funds further decreases the quality of services for women victims of violence: there is no shelter in Italy that fulfils all European quality standards on combating domestic violence against women - such as: service available 24 hours, high security measures. Only 3 shelters in Italy – the shelters in Meran, Bolzano, and Roma - offer 24 hour service. The continued existence of services mostly depends on the goodwill of local politicians and on the assistance of donors.

Table Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/hour service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State Funding per %
39 approx.	270 approx.	5.913	5.643	3	no data	80 %

Further Services for Women Victims of Violence:

More than 100 feminist women's associations have been set up in Italy since the 1990s, running so-called antiviolence centres, women's shelters and helplines. The antiviolence centres work with all types of gender-based violence, not only domestic violence – even though this is the most important issue, including rape and sexual abuse, forced prostitution, and violence against children. There are no intervention centres in Italy. Since 1990 the NGO's are organized in the national network "*Rete dei centri antiviolenza e delle case delle donne*"¹²⁵ and in territory networks and to offer training for public officers working with women and children survivors of domestic violence. The local institutions are often not willing to cooperate.

National Action Plan

Italy has no Action Plan in combating domestic violence against women on a national but only on a regional level. As recently as in 2007, the Ministry of Equality became aware of Action Plans and in 2008 some funds were allocated for implementing actions to combat domestic violence on a local level. Results of this initiative were 17 projects¹²⁶ carried out by institutional and private organizations. Most of these projects aim to create a network on local level, between public institutions and NGOs, organising trainings etc. In 2007 all Italian NGOs and institutions working in the field of

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domestic violence - such as WAVE Focal Point “Casa delle Donne per non subire violenza” were invited by the Ministry of Equality to develop an effective law against gender violence: “Misure di sensibilizzazione e prevenzione, nonché repressione dei delitti contro la persona e nell’ambito della famiglia, per l’orientamento sessuale, l’identità di genere ed ogni altra causa di discriminazione”¹²⁷. Due to the change of government in April 2008, this law was presented but never put into force - except for some parts of the anti-stalking law: it was included in a controversial law called “On security”¹²⁸ highly criticized by NGOs. Since the Italian Ministry of Equality is meagrely funded, they are unable to finance projects.

Upcoming Issues

In September 2008, “Dire no contro la violenza alle donne”¹²⁹, the first umbrella organisation of Italian women’s shelters was formally established. The federation of 45 local NGO’s is working now as national organisation transforming the Network “Rete dei Centri antiviolenza e della Casa delle donne”.

General information about migrant and minority women and their access to women’s shelter

The questionnaire was answered by: **Marcella Pirrone**

Italy has a national help-line providing service in Italian, English, French, Spanish and Arab. Since 2000 there is also a national helpline for women victims of trafficking.

There are still 39 women’s shelters in Italy, according to our focal point it might have increased but there is no official data available since most of them are NGO’s. However, there are more than 100 advising/counselling centres for women victims of violence and their children but not all of them have the possibility to actually accommodate women.

Women without documents and women without permit residence can’t be accommodated in women’s shelter due to the legislation. Those accommodated are so free of charge and are provided with food as well. The funding of the shelters also varies according to regional/local laws, some are guaranteed 100%, while others receive no state funding at all.

There is no data available on how many migrant and minority women actually accessed women’ shelter but all shelters have seen an increase of migrant and minority women seeking for help to an approximate percentage of up between 70 and 80%. A reason to explain this is the fact that migrant and minority women possibly don’t have very much family support when leaving their husband. For this reason women’s shelters are currently paying a strong attention to the issues of migrant and minority women.

Generally, women’s shelter in Italy are aware of specific needs of migrant and minority women and have interpreter or even better a so called “cultural woman mediator” available. A “cultural woman mediator” is not only responsible for translation but also for acting as a bridge between the Italian culture and the “foreign” culture of the woman.

The children of migrant and minority women are usually accommodated by women’s shelters, but this depends on the single rules of each shelter. Up to an age limit of 16 years they are normally allowed to stay. Boys over the age of 18 will be transferred to a shelter especially for them and will be included in ordinary “social programs”.

The definition of migrants and minority women in Italy is different from the terms we used in the questionnaire. In Italy migrant women without documents and migrant women without residence permit are referred to as irregular/illegal migrant or clandestine- depending on how they entered Italy. Migrant women with insecure or temporary residence permit and asylum seekers/ refugees are referred to as regular migrant with a different status of rights. All ethnic minorities (Roma, Black, Asian etc.) are from a legal point of view either Italian citizen or migrant in different categories as above.

Italy has a uniform national legislation on migration but there are great differences between local/regional laws regarding all social care services such as housing or funding for shelters. Furthermore, there are great differences in Italy’s labour market. The unemployment rate ranges from 2-3% in some rich northern areas and from 20-25% particularly in southern regions.