



WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE

COUNTRY REPORT 2011

EUROPEAN SERVICE FOR
WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

A Right for Protection and Support?

WAVE





IMPRINT

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WAVE (VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN EUROPE)

WAVE is a network of European women's non-governmental organizations that 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 Union, 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 survivors 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." 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

1.1. Women's Shelters in Europe

The WAVE annual report 2011 provides information on the situation of women's services in Europe with a special focus on the situation on rape crises and sexual assault centres as well as criminal and crime statistics. The objectives of this report are to raise awareness about sexual violence centers, to demonstrate the gaps in service provisions and access to services, and to provide recommendations for the improvement of sexual violence measures.

The report focuses on specific support services for women survivors of violence and their children. It does not include general services, such as shelters for homeless people, mother and child homes, or general helplines for survivors of violence. Research and practice of the last thirty years have shown that specific services for women are needed in order to provide adequate support. This principle is also recognised by the new Council of Europe Convention to Prevent and Combat Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, which was signed in May 2011 in Istanbul¹. Women's services need to apply a gender-specific approach in order to tackle the problem effectively and, according to the Council of Europe Convention, governments need to recognise that "the realisation of de jure and de facto equality between women and men is a key element in the prevention of violence against women".²

The information provided in the report is mainly about women's helplines, women's shelters and women's support centres. WAVE Country Report 2012 is going to, most likely, also include more detailed information on the health care response to violence against women.

Experts from 96 WAVE focal points in 45 countries were the main source of information for the report.⁵ Information was also collected from women's NGOs specialised in the support of migrant and minority ethnic women. We thank all of them for their contributions. Additionally, other sources such as research and project reports or international documents have been used, as it is documented in the endnotes.

CONTENT

The *second chapter* of the report provides an overview of the situation of women's support services for women survivors of violence and their children in Europe based on the collected information from 45 countries.

The *third chapter* deals with the rape crises issue; provides information on sexual assault centres and crime statistics.

The *fourth chapter* provides information on 45 European countries.⁶ The main focus of this part is on women's support services and the access of migrant, minority ethnic and refugee/asylum seeking women survivors of violence to support and protection. Additionally, information on legal measures and national action plans and policies is provided.

When gathering information for this report, we realised that the information on the problem of violence against women, especially on rape crises and sexual assault centres and crime statistics, is still incomplete, and that there is an urgent need for further research and data collection. There are serious gaps in available data which reveals the need for systematic and gender disaggregated data collection and analysis.

The WAVE report is a work in progress because as much as we try to gather relevant and comprehensive information, gaps and mistakes are unavoidable. Therefore, we kindly ask you to be a pro-active reader and inform us about any inaccuracy or missing information – we will include it in the WAVE report 2012.

The report aims at raising awareness of the gaps in service provision and on the exclusion of marginalised groups such as sexual violence survivors. At the end of the second and the third chapter we also take the opportunity to address different actors in the field and to make a number of recommendations to policy-makers, state authorities and service providers. Last but not least, the WAVE Country Report 2011 should not only be seen as a collection of data but also as a lobbying tool for addressing policy makers, both on the national and international level, in order to improve the protection and support of all women survivors of violence and their children, including sexual violence survivors.

1.2. The WAVE network

In 1993, women's NGOs from all over the world gathered at the UN World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna to campaign for women's human rights. Activists from Europe realised at this Conference that women's organisations in other parts of the world, in Latin America and Asia, were much better organised for forming transnational networks than European women's organisations. This observation gave the impetus for the setting up of European network Women against Violence Europe – WAVE in 1994. It was founded by activists from women's shelters and other women's services from Austria, Ireland, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Serbia and Sweden.

The Austrian women's shelter network took the initiative of coordinating the network, which was launched at the Fourth UN World Conference on Women in 1995 in Beijing. The first European conference took place in 1997 in Belgrade and the annual WAVE conferences are the main tool for networking, policy making and lobbying. The 2011 WAVE conference took place in Rome and the 2012 conference will be hosted by the UK WAVE focal points in London³.

WAVE is a network consisting of 96 focal points in 45 European countries. Most WAVE focal points represent national or regional networks and have the task of gathering and disseminating information. WAVE provides information on women's support service in Europe through the WAVE database⁴. The database includes more than 4,000 addresses of women's support services in Europe and serves as a tool for transnational cooperation and support of women survivors of violence⁵.

WAVE has participatory status at the Council of Europe and is part of the Conference of INGOs. In 2011, WAVE also was recommended by the ECOSOC NGO Committee to be granted for consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council in June 2011. WAVE is also part of the Global Shelter Network founded in 2009⁶.

WAVE has carried out several international projects, including DAPHNE projects funded by the European Union, a cooperation with UN Population Fund (UNFPA) in 2011-2012 and a research project funded by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE).

1.3. Violence against women – facts and figures

Violence against women, including domestic violence, is one of the most serious forms of gender-based violations of human rights in Europe. Women are affected by male violence regardless of their gender, sex, age, race, ethnicity, class, culture and religion. According to prevalence studies, approximately 20 per cent to 25 per cent of all women have suffered physical violence, and more than 10 per cent, sexual violence⁷, during adult life⁸. If all forms of violence against women are taken into account, around 45 per cent of women experience violence. This means that for example in the 27 member states of the European Union, with a total of almost 500 million inhabitants, about 100 million women are estimated to become victims of male violence in their lifetime and one to two million women are victimised daily.

Every day in Europe women are killed and the perpetrator is often not a stranger, but a partner or ex-partner. A survey on femicide carried out in the EU within a Daphne Project identified that the death of approximately 2,419 women related to intimate partner violence, from which about 1,400 were by a male partner⁹. Violence against women is not random violence; it is violence that is "directed against a woman because she is a woman or violence that affects women disproportionately". 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."

Violence against women always affects their children as well, and this is exacerbated by the fact that it is still predominantly women who care for children. No matter which form of violence it is that women have endured, sexual violence in the context of wars or armed conflicts, sexual harassment at work or rape by their partners: their children will always suffer, too, and it is important for women to get help for their children as well. In the case of domestic violence against women, children are very strongly affected; the violent husband or partner often also abuses the children. The more severe the violence against the wife or partner, the more massive the violence against the children will be, and it often will not stop even after the mother has separated from her violent partner (Hester 2005). Domestic violence can be lethal for children, as the case that reached the European Court of Human Rights shows: two children were murdered by their father who

had repeatedly abused his wife. After experiencing abuse, the woman escaped the abusive husband, but the children were left with the father, and the authorities did not take action to protect them from further harm. The European Court decided in 2007 that Slovakia had failed to protect the right to life of the two children. The various forms of violence against women are multifaceted problems, and survivors of violence need both crisis support and long term services in order to overcome their traumatic experiences. They need access to safe accommodation, protection, healthcare facilities, legal and psychological counselling, social support and financial aid (see chapter 2).

1.4. Recent developments at Council of Europe and European Union levels

1.4.1. The new Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

WAVE welcomes the initiative of the Council of Europe to establish a legally binding instrument on violence against women and domestic violence, the CAHVIO convention. WAVE represented by Hilary Fisher, had the opportunity to take part in the two years negotiations on the convention and to contribute the experience of the WAVE network to it. WAVE focal points have also lobbied their governments throughout the process and encouraged them to support a strong and comprehensive convention. Despite major difficulties, especially in keeping a clear gender and human rights focus, the draft convention is an important for Europe in order to combat all forms of violence against women.

The Draft Convention was finished in December 2010, the Explanatory Memorandum in January 2011. The approval by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers took place in April 2011 and the Convention was opened for signature and ratification in Istanbul in May 2011. As of 31 December 2011, 18 member states of the Council of Europe have signed the Convention. Upon ratification of a minimum of 10 parties, the Convention will enter into force. As of 31 December 2011, no state has ratified the Convention. A special expert committee (GREVIO) will be set up to monitor the implementation of the Convention and the compliance of the parties.

Very important provisions for migrant and asylum seeking women survivors of violence are included in Chapter VII on Migration and Asylum. Article 59 defines the obligation of the parties to *“take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that victims whose residence status depends on that of the spouse or partner as recognised by internal law, in the event of the dissolution of the marriage or the relationship, are granted in the event of particularly difficult circumstances, upon application, an autonomous residence permit irrespective of the duration of the marriage or the relationship.”*

Article 60 on gender-based asylum claims states that *“Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that gender-based violence against women may be recognised as a form of persecution within the meaning of Article 1, A (2), of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and as a form of serious harm giving rise to complementary/subsidiary protection”* (para 1). *Parties shall further “ensure that a gender-sensitive interpretation is given to each of the Convention grounds and that where it is established that the persecution feared is for one or more of these grounds, applicants shall be granted refugee status according to the applicable relevant instruments”.* (para 2).

These two articles set the standard that migrant and asylum seeking women have the right to be recognised, and protected when experiencing violence, and not to be subjected to further discrimination. A general obligation to refrain from any discrimination is also defined in the convention: *“The implementation of the provision of this Convention by the Parties, in particular measures to protect the rights of victims, shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, gender, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, state of health, disability, marital status, migrant or refugee status, or other status.”* (Article 4 para 3). This article establishes, for instance, the right for every victim to protection and support. The convention is a comprehensive standard setting framework; it contains 81 articles in 12 chapters and an extensive explanatory report. The provisions are quite detailed and concrete and cover the following areas: integrated policy and data collection, prevention, protection and support, substantive law, investigation, prosecution, procedural law and protective measures and other areas.

The substantive criminal law part contains, for example, a clear obligation to criminalize rape, also rape in marriage, and rape is defined by the absence of consent, not by violence. Article 22 defines the need for specialist women's support services to all women survivors of violence and their children. Article 23 aims for shelters in sufficient numbers and in the explanatory memorandum refers to the Council of Europe Task Force report recommendation of one family place per 10,000 inhabitants in specialised women's shelters (Article 135).

Further important provisions in the convention are, inter alia:

- The obligation of providing protection and support for child witnesses (Article 26).
- The recognition of repeated violence or the committing of violence in the presence of a child and other factors as aggravating circumstances (Article 46).
- The prohibition of mandatory alternative dispute resolution processes or sentencing (Article 48).
- The obligation to carry out risk assessment and risk management (Article 50).
- The provision of emergency barring orders and restraining or protection orders (Article 52 and 53).
- The establishment of one or more official bodies responsible for the coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women (Article 10).
- The recognition of NGOs and civil society (Article 9).

WAVE calls upon the Council of Europe member states and the European Union to quickly ratify and implement the Convention in order to intensify and improve their measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and their children and other victims of domestic violence.

In March 2012, 18 CoE Member states have signed the Council of Europe Convention, and Turkey was the first country to ratify the Convention on March 14, 2012¹⁰.

1.4.2. New activities of the European Union on the prevention of violence against women

1.4.2.1. European Protection Order

WAVE welcomes the initiative of the Spanish EU presidency in the first half of 2010 to initiate a European Protection Order (EPO) and WAVE provided a position paper on this important initiative.

Although protective measures for survivors of violence are in force in many member states, these measures are presently not directly applicable in another member states.

Due to increased mobility, more and more women survivors of violence are facing the problem that the protection they receive is limited to the country in which they live and that it ends when they move to another EU member state. Perpetrators of violence are also increasingly mobile, and they follow the victim and continue the abuse and harassment. Thus, the victim's freedom of movement is restricted.

According to the proposal, the Directive would grant protection to any victim who has been granted a protective measure in the country of origin, which would greatly improve the protection of victims, even if the current text provides for a certain degree of discretion to the authorities to adopt measures which they find appropriate under national law.

On Friday, 23 September 2011, EU justice ministers unanimously approved the EPO. Followingly, on 4 October 2011, it was endorsed by the Civil Liberties and the Women's Rights Committees. On 13 December 2011, it was further endorsed by the full Parliament at its plenary session.

1.4.2.2. Activities of the European Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission on violence against women

WAVE strongly supports the Council Conclusions and urges the Commission and the EU member states to swiftly implement the proposed provisions. In June and July 2010, the European Commission Directorate General on Justice and Fundamental Rights started to develop an EU Strategy for combating violence against women 2011-2015. A consultative process was carried out to include the opinion of various stakeholders in the future strategy, and WAVE was invited to submit a position paper.

In November 2010, the European Commission organised a conference on violence against women, and WAVE was invited to give a presentation. At the conference, a new study, carried out on behalf of the European Commission, was presented; emphasising the importance of standardising national legislation on violence against women, violence against children and sexual orientation violence.

Unfortunately, the Commissioner and Vice President of the EU Viviane Redding did not speak about a comprehensive strategy on violence against women at the Commission's conference, but just referred to a "victim's package". WAVE is of the opinion that a victim's package alone, which mainly focuses on criminal law provisions, is not enough to address the root causes of violence against women and to provide protection and support to the survivors. WAVE will continue to lobby for a comprehensive EU Strategy for combating violence against women and welcomes the resolution of the European Parliament adopted in April 2011 on priorities and outlines of a new EU policy framework to fight violence against women, which proposes a new comprehensive policy approach against gender-based violence including, inter alia:

- A criminal-law instrument in the form of a directive against gender-based violence.
- Demands on member states to ensure that perpetrators are punished in accordance with the gravity of the crime.
- Requires member states to demonstrate due diligence and to record and investigate all forms of gender-based violence crimes in order to initiate public prosecution.
- Policy proposals to help victims rebuild their lives, addressing the specific needs of different groups of victims such as minority women.
- Demands on member states to provide shelters for victims of gender-based violence in cooperation with relevant NGOs.
- Minimum requirements as to the number of victim support structures per 10,000 inhabitants for victims of genderbased violence in the form of centres with specific expertise to help victims.
- The establishment of a European Charter setting out a minimum level of assistance services to be offered to victims of violence against women, including the right to legal aid, the creation of shelters to meet victims' needs for protection and temporary accommodation, urgent psychological aid services to be provided free of charge by specialists on a decentralised and accessible basis, and financial aid arrangements aimed at promoting victims' independence and facilitating their return to normal life and the world of work and other measures.

2. Overview on women's helplines and women's shelters in Europe and recommendations for minimum standards for women's support services

The following chapter contains, in its first part, definitions of women's support services and a short outline on principles and quality standards for these services. The second part gives an overview on number of women's helplines and women's shelters in Europe. The third part of this chapter consists of recommendations for minimum standards regarding women's support services.

Services for women survivors of violence vary widely in Europe, and the process to create common definitions and standards has just started in the last years. In 2004, WAVE developed quality standards for women's shelters within the framework of the DAPHNE project. In 2008, an expert group of the Council of Europe, the Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence recommended qualitative and quantitative minimum standards for services supporting women survivors of violence. Additionally, a report on minimum standards for support services was prepared by the Child and Women Abuse Studies Unit at the London Metropolitan University. The following definitions and standards are based on the long-standing work of WAVE experts as well as on the named reports. In the last thirty-five years the women's movement against violence in Europe has developed and founded a range of women's services in order to support women survivors of violence and their children. Women's shelters and rape crises centres were among the first services that were established, followed by other services such as women's crises centres, sexual assault centres, specialized services for migrant and minority women and others. While in some countries a range of services could be developed (mostly thanks to active women's NGOs and engaged governments working in close cooperation with each other), other countries still lack basic support services such as women's shelters (see also part 2.2. in this chapter). Countries and regions with few women's support services often also lack specialised support such as services for survivors of sexual violence, and women's centres have to fulfil multiple functions and provide support to all women survivors of violence.

2.1. Definitions and principles of quality standards for women's support services

2.1.1. Definitions

Women's support services

The term "women's support service" is used in this chapter as the collective term covering all services supporting women survivors of violence and their children, such as women's shelters, women's helplines, women's centres, rape crises and sexual assault centres, specialised services for migrant and minority ethnic women, national women's helplines, outreach services, independent domestic violence advisors, intervention centres and others.

In order to tackle the root causes of violence, women's helplines, as well as other women's support services, have to apply a gender-specific and feminist²⁹ approach (see the next section for the information on the principles applied to women's support services).

National Women's Helpline

Research and practice show that women's helplines are an important provision of help for women survivors of violence, because women can stay anonymous and still get information and advice. Women's helplines provide low-threshold services and are an important "gate" to other services such as women's shelters or to reporting violence to the police. Therefore it has become a minimum standard that every country should have at least one national helpline for women survivors of violence (see also the recommendations at the end of this chapter).

A national helpline qualifies as a women's helpline if it is a service specifically for women and if it serves only or predominantly women survivors of violence. Other target groups can be family members, friends, neighbours or the professional surrounding of a survivor seeking information and advice in order to support the women.

A women's helpline should operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It should be free of charge and serve survivors of all forms of violence against women.

As the name states, national women's helplines need to operate nationally and provide adequate support to women from all regions of a country; this means the staff have to be knowledgeable about the regional situations and all relevant provisions.

In order to be able to provide adequate support to women survivors of violence, who may suffer from repeat violence and are traumatized, the staff of national women's helplines need appropriate training. Crises support in acute and dangerous situations of violence needs to be provided by a specialist women's helpline as well as long-term telephone counselling for survivors of violence who might be severely traumatized from repeat victimization. As stated, staff also have to be qualified to provide support concerning all forms of violence against women, from domestic violence to rape, sexual harassment, so called "honour related violence", female genital mutilation and other forms.

National women's helplines need to offer support in all main languages spoken in a country, at least for a considerable amount of hours a week and in cases of emergency. Since the work of a helpline for women victims requires professional and multiple skills, staff should be properly employed and paid. Engaged volunteers can be a necessary and valuable resource too, but they need to be well trained and adequately supported by employed staff.

Women's shelters

A women's shelter is a specialised service for women which provides immediate and safe accommodation to women survivors of violence and their children where they can live without fear of being abused. Women's shelters need to offer special services and safety precautions.

Violence can occur at any time of the day; thus, survivors need 24 hour access to women's shelters. Women's shelters should provide holistic and comprehensive support to women and their children. The services needed by survivors in a women's shelter are described in detail in the "Wave Manual : Away from Violence" which is available in more than ten languages on the WAVE website.

Women's centres

The term women's centre is used in this chapter for all women's services that provide non-residential support of any kind (information, advice, counseling, practical support, court accompaniment, legal information, pro-active support, outreach) to women survivors of any kind of violence and their children. Women's NGOs used different terms for this kind of services in different countries, such as "women's crises centres" or "women's counselling centres". Since these terms, especially the term "counselling" might have different meanings in different countries and regions, it was decided to use the term "women's centres" in the comparative part of the report.

2.1.2. Standards and principles of women's support services

The need for specialized women's services with a gender-specific approach

It is widely recognised among researchers, practitioners and in international documents that women survivors of violence and their children need services specialised on the issue of violence. General services such as social services or general shelters are not adequately provisioned to comprehensively support survivors. Specialised services are necessary, just as one needs specialised doctors for specific health problems. Services need to be specialised in two ways: they need to be specifically targeted at women survivors and their children. Further, they need to be specialised in dealing with violence against women as a gender-specific form of violence and need to tackle the root causes of violence against women, which, according to the new Council of Europe Convention, is the “historically unequal power relations between women and men, which have led to domination over, and discrimination against, women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women”. A “gender-neutral” approach is not able to tackle these root causes of violence and to empower women to live a life without violence.

Services should be run by independent women's NGOs and be supported by governments

Services supporting women victims/survivors of violence and their children belong to the range of victims support services and should be run by independent NGOs. The principle of independence is important to guarantee that the interests of women survivors of violence and their children are at the centre of the activities of the organisation running the service. The organisation should be only committed to the rights and the support of victims and should not be influenced by any party, religious group, state authority or any other institution. Women's services have to be able to lobby for the interests and needs of women survivors of violence, and they can only fulfil this role if they are autonomous and not subject to influence. Thus women's NGOs supporting survivors of violence are a part of civil society working for social change, gender equality and gender democracy. The new Council of Europe convention, as well as many other international documents, acknowledge the important role of NGOs calling upon the parties to “recognise, encourage and support, at all levels, the work of relevant non-governmental organisations and of civil society active in combating violence against women and establish effective co-operation with these organisations” (Article 9).

Principles for the support of women survivors of violence and their children

The Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence as well as other sources such as the WAVE Manual Away from Violence establish basic requirements for states and service providers and principles upon which services should operate. These principles combine human rights thinking and practices, which women's NGOs have developed and proved effective in supporting women and their children in the aftermath of violence. The principles apply to specialised women's support services but also to general services such as health services. Some basic principles are:

Working from a gendered understanding of violence against women

Services need to demonstrate an approach which recognises the gendered dynamics, impacts and consequences of violence against women and their children within an equalities and human rights framework, including the need for women only services.

Specialist women's support services

The support must be appropriate and tailored to the specific needs of service users. Special attention should be given to address the needs of specific groups of women, such as young women, older women, migrant women, asylum seeking and refugee women, women from minority ethnic groups, women with disabilities and others. The kind of support survivors need may differ according to the type of violence suffered and this makes it necessary to provide specialized services such as rape crises and sexual assault centres, women's centres for survivors of sexual harassment in the workplace, young women's shelters and women's shelters for victims of forced marriage.

Support for children

Children are always affected by the violence against their mother, especially in cases of domestic violence, and they are often abused as well. Therefore all women's services should also have the resources to adequately support the children, according to their age and their needs.

Safety, security and human dignity

Services need to ensure that all interventions prioritise the safety and security of survivors and respect their dignity.

Confidentiality

Services need to respect and observe service users' right to confidentiality; service users should also have the right to be informed of situations where that confidentiality may be limited.

Diversity and non-discrimination

All services need to respect the diversity of service users and apply a non-discriminatory approach (see also the non-discrimination clause in the new Council of Europe convention).

Fair access and free of charge

Support should be available free of charge, equitably distributed across regions, and crisis provisions, such as women's helplines and shelters, should be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Advocacy and support

Women's services need to provide both case and system advocacy to be able to promote the rights of and meet the needs of service users.

Empowerment and autonomy

The main aim of all services should be to empower women survivors of violence and their children by, inter alia, making sure they know their rights and entitlements and can make decisions freely in a supportive environment that treats them with dignity, respect and sensitivity. Services should always aim at supporting survivors supporting survivors in re-gaining control of their lives and in promoting their right to autonomy and self-determination.

Participation and consultation

Services need to promote service-user involvement in the development and evaluation of the service. Therefore, services should be organised in a democratic way and ensure the participation by the service users. Survivors should be regularly invited to participate in the evaluation of services and have the right to file a complaint to an independent body (for instance the ombudsperson) if they are not satisfied with the quality of the service.

Holding perpetrators accountable

Services for survivors of violence need to apply the approach of no excuse for violence; the perpetrator is always responsible for the abusive behaviour and that he has to be held accountable.

Governance and accountability

Services need to be effectively managed, ensuring that service users receive a quality service from appropriately skilled and supporting staff.

A co-ordinated response

Services need to operate within a context of relevant inter-agency co-operation, collaboration and co-ordinated service delivery. The protection and needs of women survivors of violence should always be the central focus of multi-agency work.

State obligations and due diligence

That women's services should be run by independent women's NGOs does not, of course, mean that there is no obligation of the state to fund the services. According to international human rights law, it is the responsibility of the state to prevent violence against women and to protect survivors. They have to exercise due diligence in doing so, which means they have to actively apply effective measures to prevent violence. This principle is also laid down in the new Council of Europe Convention.

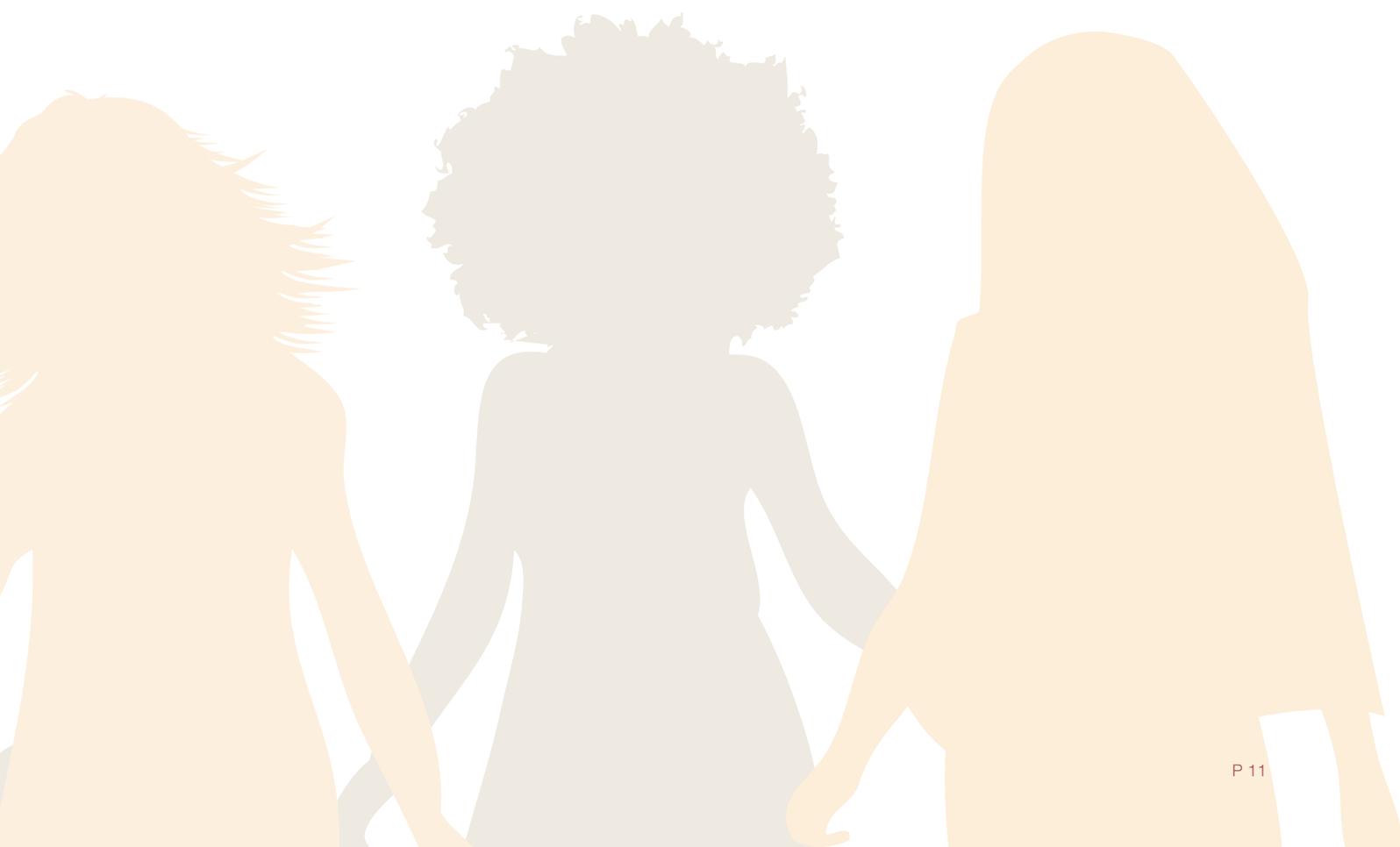
In terms of how many and what kind of services and support would be needed, the present report provides a list of recommendations at the end of this chapter as well as at the end of chapter three, including what needs to be done to address the needs of migrant and ethnic women.

The above described principles should be applied to all women's support services. However, it is impossible to determine the degree to which these recommendations are actually followed in the countries listed in this report; that would require an in-depth study on the quality of the services. However, the authors of the report were striving, as explained, to identify women's services providing specialist support with a gendered approach to women survivors of violence and their children.

2.2. Statistics on women's helplines and women's shelters in Europe

The following part provides an overview of the number of women's helplines and women's shelters in Europe and aims at identifying strengths and weaknesses of the European support network for women survivors of violence.

Due to limited resources and the complexity of the problem, it is not possible to cover all areas concerning the support and protection of women survivors of violence, and the aim is, to focus on specific themes in every WAVE country report. We are planning on including information on the health care support/response to women survivors of violence in our next report.



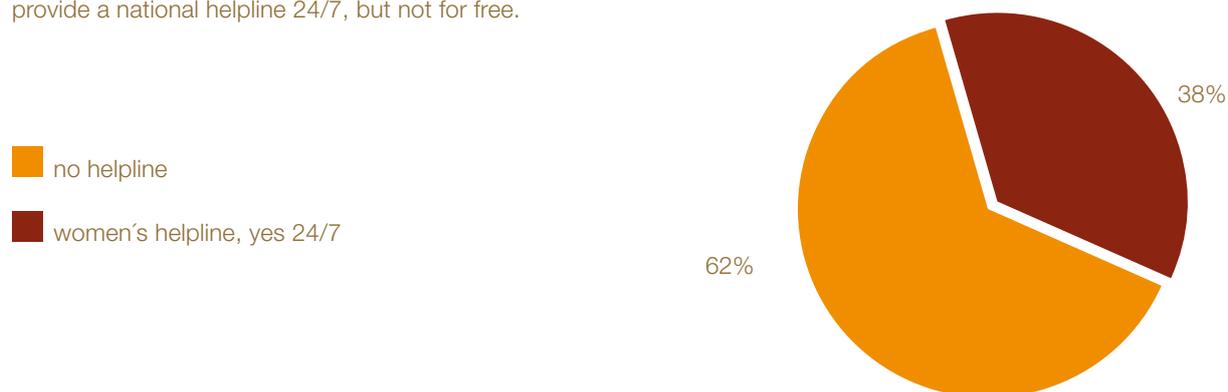
NATIONAL WOMEN'S HELPLINES

The following table shows the number of countries which have (at least one) national women's helpline. As previously mentioned, only specific services for women survivors of violence operating nationally were recorded.

	Population total	Helpline	National women's helpline free of charge	National women's helpline 24/7
Albania	3.069.275,00	no	no	no
Armenia	3.002.594,00	yes	yes	yes
Austria	8.340.667,00	yes	yes	yes
Azerbaijan	4.563.300,00	yes	yes	yes
Belarus	10.045.237,00	no	no	no
Belgium	10.296.350,00	no	no	no
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4.377.033,00	yes	yes	yes
Bulgaria	7.534.289,00	yes	yes	yes
Croatia	4.425.747,00	no	no	no
Cyprus	838.897,00	yes	yes	no
Czech Republic	10.230.060,00	no	no	no
Denmark	5.349.212,00	yes	yes	yes
United Kingdom and Northern Ireland	62.262.000,00	yes	yes	yes
Estonia	1.370.052,00	yes	yes	no
Finland	5.181.115,00	yes	yes	no
France	61.399.541,00	yes	yes	no
Georgia	4.355.673,00	yes	yes	yes
Germany	82.491.000,00	no	no	no
Greece	10.787.690,00	yes	no	yes
Hungary	10.198.315,00	yes	yes	no
Iceland	281.154,00	yes	yes	yes
Ireland	4.239.848,00	yes	yes	yes
Italy	57.110.144,00	yes	yes	yes
Latvia	2.377.383,00	no	no	no
Liechtenstein	33.307,00	yes	no	yes
Lithuania	3.483.972,00	yes	yes	no
Luxembourg	439.539,00	yes	no	no
Macedonia	2.022.547,00	yes	yes	yes
Malta	404.962,00	yes	yes	yes
Moldova	3.386.673,00	yes	yes	no
Montenegro	620.145,00	yes	no	yes
Netherlands	16.105.285,00	no	no	yes
Norway	4.520.947,00	yes	yes	yes
Poland	38.200.000,00	no	no	no
Portugal	10.555.853,00	no	no	no
Romania	19.500.000,00	yes	no	yes
Russian Federation	145.166.731,00	yes	no	no
Serbia	7.498.001,00	no	no	no
Slovakia	5.193.376,00	no	no	no
Slovenia	1.987.971,00	no	no	no
Spain	46.070.971,00	yes	yes	yes
Sweden	8.975.670,00	yes	yes	yes
Switzerland	7.288.010,00	no	no	no
Turkey	74.724.269,00	yes	yes	yes
Ukraine	48.240.902,00	no	no	no

The table shows, that out of the 45 countries which provided data to WAVE, 17 provide a national women's helpline operating 24/7 and free of charge (Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Denmark, Georgia, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Macedonia, Malta, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, UK).

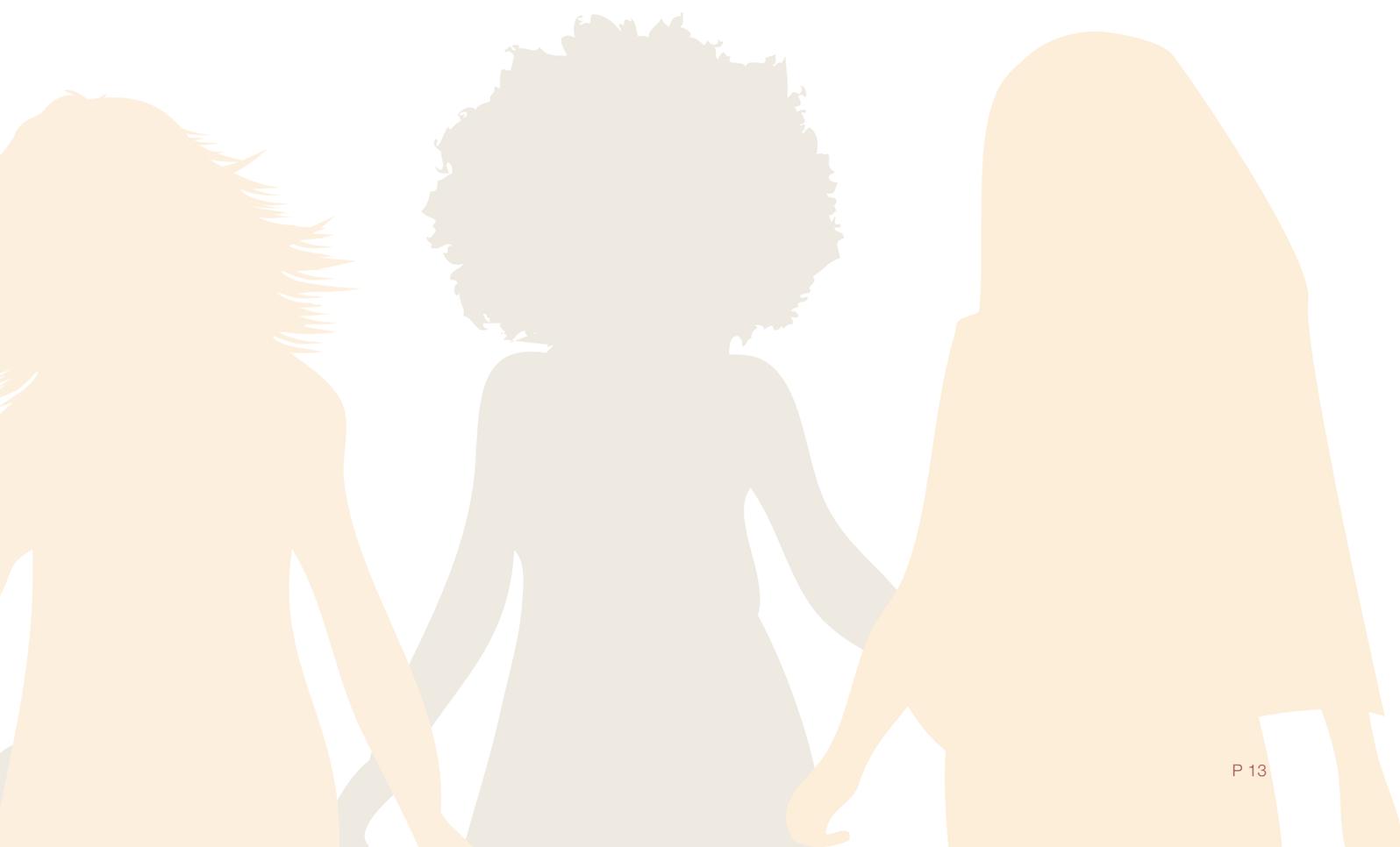
Additionally, seven countries (Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Lithuania and Moldova) provide a national women's helpline free of charge, but not available 24/7. Four Countries Greece, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, and Romania provide a national helpline 24/7, but not for free.



As can be seen only approximately one third (38%) of the countries in Europe fulfill the standard of providing free of charge and around the clock telephone support to women survivors of violence. Two thirds of the countries (63.6%) do not yet offer such services.

The most recent women's helpline was established in Russia in the beginning of 2011. In Germany, the government is planning to open a women's helpline in the near future.

The funding situation of women's helplines is still a major problem, and a lack of resources is often the reason why national women's helplines cannot provide their services around the clock and free of charge.



WOMEN'S SHELTERS IN EUROPE

Country	Population total	Number of women's shelters	Number of places (beds) in these women's shelters
Albania	3.069.275	6	200
Armenia	3.225.953	2	31
Austria	8.032.926	30	750
Azerbaijan	8.922.300	2	50
Belarus	10.045.237	0	0
Belgium	10.296.350	26	460
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4.377.033	9	173
Bulgaria	7.534.289	5	60
Croatia	4.425.747	12	150
Cyprus	838.897	1	12
Czech Republic	10.230.060	3	84
Denmark	5.349.212	39	328
United Kingdom and Northern Ireland	62.262.000	1.025	4.916
Estonia	1.370.052	10	69
Finland	5.181.115	2	16
France	61.399.541	42	1.500
Georgia	4.355.673	5	85
Germany	82.491.000	346	6.968
Greece	10.787.690	8	201
Hungary	10.198.315	0	0
Iceland	281.154	2	24
Ireland	4.581.269	20	141
Italy	57.110.144	54	500
Latvia	2.377.383	0	0
Liechtenstein	33.307	1	3
Lithuania	3.286.800	0	0
Luxembourg	439.539	9	154
Macedonia	2.022.547	6	30
Malta	404.962	4	43
Moldova	3.386.673	1	25
Montenegro	620.145	2	20
Netherlands	16.105.285	100	2.203
Norway	4.520.947	46	815
Poland	38.200.000	1	26
Portugal	10.555.853	38	632
Romania	19.500.000	37	n.a.
Russian Federation	145.166.731	25	200
Serbia	7.498.001	8	n.a.
Slovakia	5.193.376	2	17
Slovenia	1.987.971	15	227
Spain	46.070.971	148	4.500
Sweden	8.975.670	156	510
Switzerland	7.288.010	18	247
Turkey	74.724.269	80	1.968
Ukraine	48.240.902	3	20
Total:	822.964.574	2.349	28.358

This table on women's shelters shows that there are 2,349 women's shelters in the whole of Europe, providing approximately 28,000 shelter places to women and children survivors of violence. According to the minimum standard of one place per 10,000 inhabitants, a total of approximately 82,000 places would be needed in Europe. Thus, there is a shortage of approx. 53,800 places. The average rate of women's shelter places is 0.34 per 10,000 inhabitants.

Women's shelter places needed	Women's shelter places missing	Women's shelter places per 10,000 inhabitants	Number of inhabitants per 1 women's shelter place
310	110	0,65	15.346
323	292	0,10	104.063
803	53	0,93	10.711
892	842	0,06	178.446
1.005	1.005	0,00	
1.030	570	0,45	22.383
438	265	0,39	25.301
707	647	0,08	125.571
444	294	0,34	29.505
84	72	0,14	69.908
1.023	939	0,08	121.786
535	207	0,61	16.309
6.224	1.308	0,79	12.665
137	68	0,50	19.856
518	502	0,03	323.820
6.140	4.640	0,24	40.933
436	351	0,19	
8.249	1.281	0,84	11.839
1.096	895	0,18	53.670
1.020	1.020	0,00	
28	4	0,86	11.715
424	283	0,33	
5.711	5.211	0,09	114.220
237	237	0,00	
3	0	1,00	11.102
348	348	0,00	
44	0	3,50	
202	172	0,15	67.418
40	0	1,08	9.418
338	313	0,07	
62	42	0,32	31.007
1.611	0	1,37	7.311
452	0	1,80	5.547
3.820	3.794	0,01	1.469.231
1.056	424	0,60	16.702
1.950	n.a		
14.517	14.317	0,01	725.834
750	n.a		
519	502	0,03	305.493
199	0	1,14	8.758
4.607	107	0,98	10.238
898	388	0,57	17.599
729	482	0,34	29.506
7.472	5.504	0,26	37.970
4.824	4.804	0,00	2.412.045
82.255	52.293		

WOMEN'S SHELTERS IN EUROPE ACCORDING TO NUMBERS (DESCENDING ORDER)

	Population total	Number of women's shelters	Number of places (beds) in these women's shelters
Luxembourg	439.539	9	154
Norway	4.520.947	46	815
Netherlands	16.105.285	100	2.203
Slovenia	1.987.971	15	227
Malta	404.962	4	43
Spain	46.070.971	148	4.500
Austria	8.032.926	30	750
Liechtenstein	33.307	1	3
Iceland	281.154	2	24
Germany	82.491.000	346	6.968
United Kingdom and Northern Ireland	62.262.000	1.025	4.916
Albania	3.069.275	6	200
Denmark	5.349.212	39	328
Portugal	10.555.853	38	632
Sweden	8.975.670	156	510
Estonia	1.370.052	10	69
Belgium	10.296.350	26	460
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4.377.033	9	173
Croatia	4.425.747	12	150
Switzerland	7.288.010	18	247
Montenegro	620.145	2	20
Ireland	4.581.269	20	141
Turkey	74.724.269	80	1.968
France	61.399.541	42	1.500
Georgia	4.355.673	5	85
Greece	10.787.690	8	201
Macedonia	2.022.547	6	30
Cyprus	838.897	1	12
Armenia	3.225.953	2	31
Italy	57.110.144	54	500
Czech Republic	10.230.060	3	84
Bulgaria	7.534.289	5	60
Moldova	3.386.673	1	25
Azerbaijan	8.922.300	2	50
Slovakia	5.193.376	2	17
Finland	5.181.115	2	16
Russian Federation	145.166.731	25	200
Poland	38.200.000	1	26
Ukraine	48.240.902	3	20
Belarus	10.045.237	0	0
Hungary	10.198.315	0	0
Latvia	2.377.383	0	0
Lithuania	3.286.800	0	0
Romania	19.500.000	37	n.d.
Serbia	7.498.001	8	n.d.
Total:	822.525.035	2.340	28.204
Average:			

Table: Women's shelters in Europe according to numbers (descending order); ² Only the specific women's shelters were counted, not the family shelters

	Women's shelter places needed	Women's shelter places missing	Women's shelter places per 10,000 inhabitants	Number of inhabitants per 1 women's shelter place
	44	0	3,50	2.854
	452	0	1,80	5.547
	1.611	0	1,37	7.311
	199	0	1,14	8.758
	40	0	1,08	9.418
	4.607	107	0,98	10.238
	803	53	0,93	10.711
	3	0	1,00	11.102
	28	4	0,86	11.715
	8.249	1.281	0,84	11.839
	6.224	1.308	0,79	12.665
	310	110	0,65	15.346
	535	207	0,61	16.309
	1.056	424	0,60	16.702
	898	388	0,57	17.599
	137	68	0,50	19.856
	1.030	570	0,45	22.383
	438	265	0,39	25.301
	444	294	0,34	29.505
	729	482	0,34	29.506
	62	42	0,32	31.007
	424	283	0,33	32.491
	7.472	5.504	0,26	37.970
	6.140	4.640	0,24	40.933
	436	351	0,19	51.243
	1.096	895	0,18	53.670
	202	172	0,15	67.418
	84	72	0,14	69.908
	323	292	0,10	104.063
	5.711	5.211	0,09	114.220
	1.023	939	0,08	121.786
	707	647	0,08	125.571
	338	313	0,07	135.467
	892	842	0,06	178.446
	519	502	0,03	305.493
	518	502	0,03	323.820
	14.517	14.317	0,01	725.834
	3.820	3.794	0,01	1.469.231
	4.824	4.804	0,00	2.412.045
	1.005	1.005	0,00	
	1.020	1.020	0,00	
	237	237	0,00	
	348	348	0,00	
	1.950	n.d		
	750	n.d.		
	82.211	52.293		
			0,34	29.505

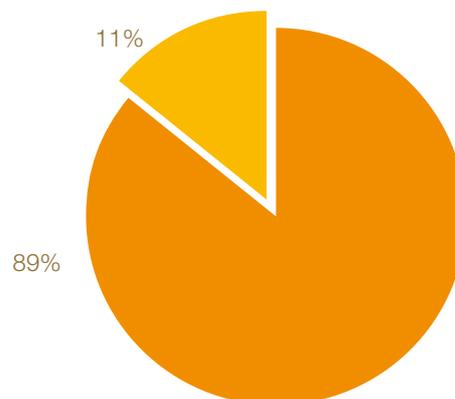
As the table suggests, there are only 5 countries in Europe (Luxembourg, Norway, Netherlands, Slovenia, and Malta) where the standard of providing one or more than one women’s shelter places per 10,000 inhabitants is fulfilled. in Europe (Luxembourg, Norway, Netherlands, Slovenia, and Malta) fulfil the standard of providing one or more than one women’s shelter places per 10,000 inhabitants.

NUMBER OF SHELTER PLACES PER POPULATION



more than 1 shelter place per 10,000 inhabitants

less than 1 shelter place per 10,000 inhabitant⁹



Compared to 2010, the number of shelters increased, but also the population of Europe increased, so the average coverage of 0,34 shelters per 10,000 inhabitants or 1 shelter place per 29,000 inhabitants remained the same. Improvements can be seen in Albania (100 more shelter places compared to 2010), Croatia (+90 shelterplaces), UK (+200 shelter places), France (+400 shelter places) and Turkey (+490 shelter places). Shelters were closed in Bosnia (-10 shelter places compared to 2010), Denmark (- 4 shelter places), Macedonia (-45 shelter places), Sweden (-110 shelter places), Norway (-27 shelter places) and Slovakia (-43 shelter places).

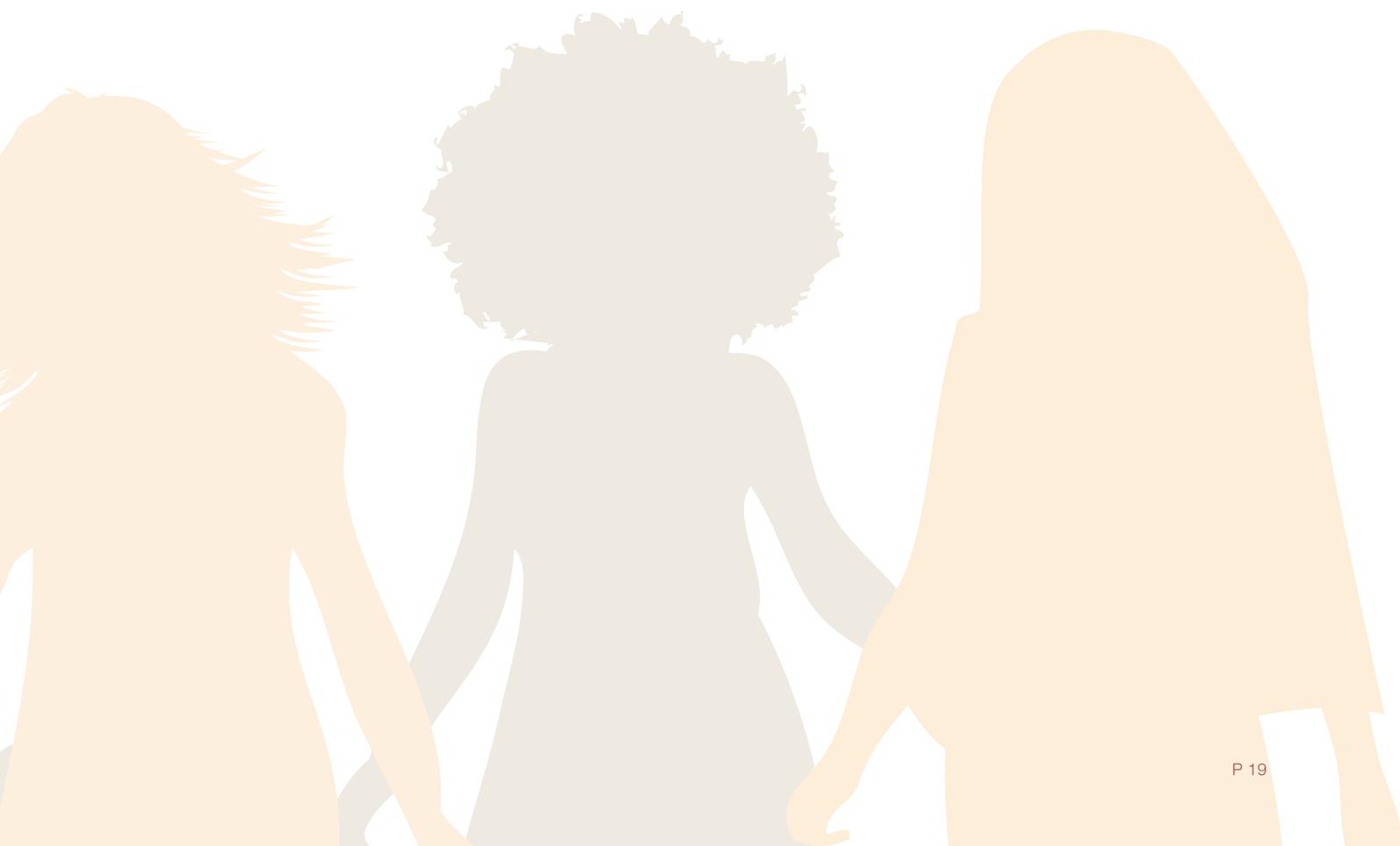
Eleven countries (Spain, Austria, Liechtenstein, Iceland, Germany, UK, Albania, Denmark, Portugal, Sweden and Estonia) provide 1 shelter place per 10,000-20,000 inhabitants, so these countries fulfil half of the standard.

13 countries (Belgium, Bosnia, Croatia, Switzerland, Montenegro, Ireland, Turkey, France, Georgia, Greece, Macedonia, Cyprus, Armenia) provide 0.45 – 0.1 shelter places to 10,000 inhabitants. This is a rather poor provision of service, with one shelter place serving up to 100,000 inhabitants. It is surprising, and concerning that even a country like Switzerland, one of the richest in the world, provides a very low number of women’s shelter places (one place per 29,000 inhabitants). Also, the situation in France is worrying, in particular because one women’s shelter place has to cover over 40,000 inhabitants.

In Poland, the most ill-equipped country in this group, one women’s shelter place serves almost 1.5 million people.

It has to be noted that these numbers mentioned are only representing a numerical trend; unfortunately, it’s currently impossible to evaluate the data in regards to the quality of services provided. It is known, for instance, that Finland provides good quality family shelters; but since they are not services specifically for women survivors of violence, they were not listed in the report.

Four countries (Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus) do not seem to have any service that would qualify as a women specific shelter. This situation, of course, causes considerable concern.



WOMEN'S SHELTERS IN EUROPE (NON EU COUNTRIES)

Country	Population total	Number of women's shelters	Number of places (beds) in these women's shelters
Albania	3.069.275	6	200
Armenia	3.225.953	2	31
Azerbaijan	8.922.300	2	50
Belarus	10.045.237	0	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4.377.033	9	173
Croatia	4.425.747	12	150
Georgia	4.355.673	5	85
Iceland	281.154	2	24
Liechtenstein	33.307	1	3
Macedonia	2.022.547	6	30
Montenegro	620.145	2	20
Norway	4.520.947	46	815
Russian Federation	145.166.731	25	200
Serbia	7.498.001	8	n.a.
Switzerland	7.288.010	18	247
Turkey	74.724.269	80	1.968
Ukraine	48.240.902	3	20
Total	328.817.231	227	4.016

A look at the table about women's shelters in non-EU countries shows that there is a huge disparity between EU and non-EU countries. Out of the 2,349 women's shelters in Europe, 2,122 are located in EU countries and only 227 in non-EU countries. The 227 women's shelters have to serve a population of more than 328 million people, which is clearly not enough.

Only 4,016 places are available in women's shelters, the minimum standard of one place per 10,000 inhabitants would require 32,892 places. Thus 32,892 places are missing and only less than 10 per cent of the places needed exist. The rate of women's shelter places is 0.12 per 10,000 inhabitants. Thus one shelter place serves a population of 81,877 on average. The situation is most concerning in Russia, where for 145 million people only 22 women's shelters are available, one shelter bed has to serve 725,000 people. Combined with the housing problem – women in Russia often have to stay with the abuser even after divorce, due to a lack of housing, this situation becomes a deadly trap in Russia. According to the Russian WAVE focal point expert Marina Pisklakova-Parker, women are beaten to death and thrown out of the windows, and lately more of them are being shot than ever before in Moscow. According to Tatiana Melnikova, head of the Duma's Committee on Social Defense, of 21,400 murders in the country in the year 2009, 14,000 were of women who died in domestic violence (not counting the ones attributed to other causes or not reported at all to the police). The Interior Ministry reports that at least 34,000 women fall victims to domestic violence every year. The situation is very problematic in the Ukraine as well, where only three women's shelters are available for a population of more than 48 million people.

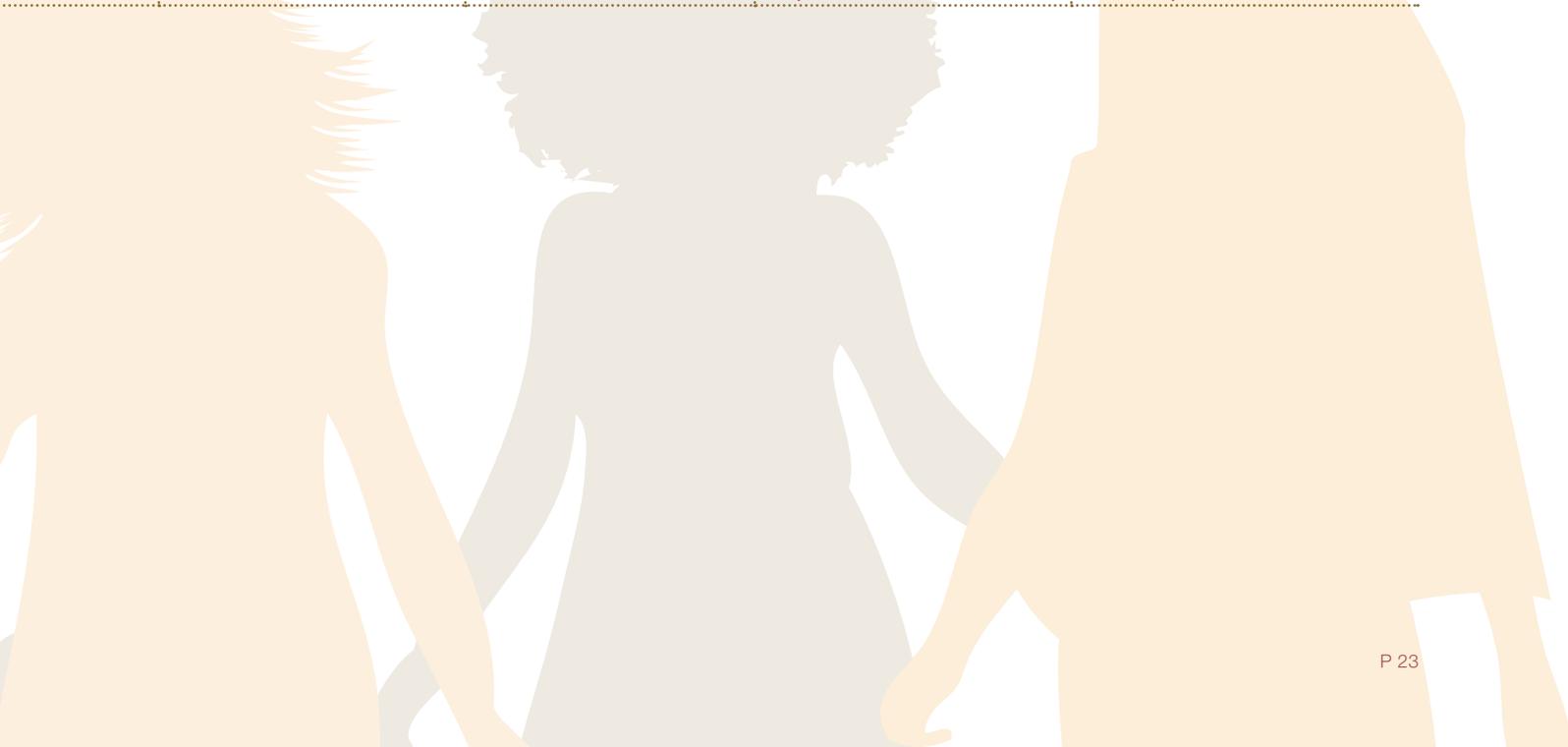
Women's shelter places needed	Women's shelter places missing	Women's shelter places per 10,000 inhabitants	Number of inhabitants per 1 women's shelter place
310	110	0,65	15.346
323	292	0,10	104.063
892	842	0,06	178.446
1.005	1.005	0,00	
438	265	0,39	25.301
444	294	0,34	29.505
436	351	0,19	51.243
33	9	0,73	11.715
3	0	1,00	11.102
202	172	0,15	67.418
62	42	0,32	31.007
452	0	1,80	5.547
14.517	14.317	0,01	725.834
750	no data	no data	no data
729	482	0,34	29.506
7.472	5.504	0,26	37.970
4.824	4.804	0,00	2.412.045
32.892	28.489	0,12	81.877



WOMEN'S SHELTERS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Country	Population total	Number of women's shelters	Number of places (beds) in these women's shelters
Austria	8.032.926,00	30	750
Belgium	10.296.350,00	26	460
Bulgaria	7.534.289,00	5	60
Cyprus*	838.897,00	1	12
Czech Republic	10.230.060,00	3	84
Denmark	5.349.212,00	39	328
United Kingdom and Northern Ireland	62.262.000,00	1025	4.916
Estonia	1.370.052,00	10	69
Finland	5.181.115,00	2	16
France	61.399.541,00	42	1.500
Germany	82.491.000,00	346	6.968
Greece	10.787.690,00	8	201
Hungary	10.198.315,00	0	0
Ireland	4.581.269,00	20	141
Italy	57.110.144,00	54	500
Latvia	2.377.383,00	0	0
Lithuania	3.286.800,00	0	0
Luxembourg	439.539,00	9	154
Malta	404.962,00	4	43
Netherlands	16.105.285,00	100	2.203
Poland	38.200.000,00	1	26
Portugal	10.555.853,00	38	632
Romania	19.500.000,00	37	n.a
Slovakia	5.193.376,00	2	17
Slovenia	1.987.971,00	15	227
Spain	46.070.971,00	148	4.500
Sweden	8.975.670,00	156	510
Total:	490.760.670,00	2.121	24.317

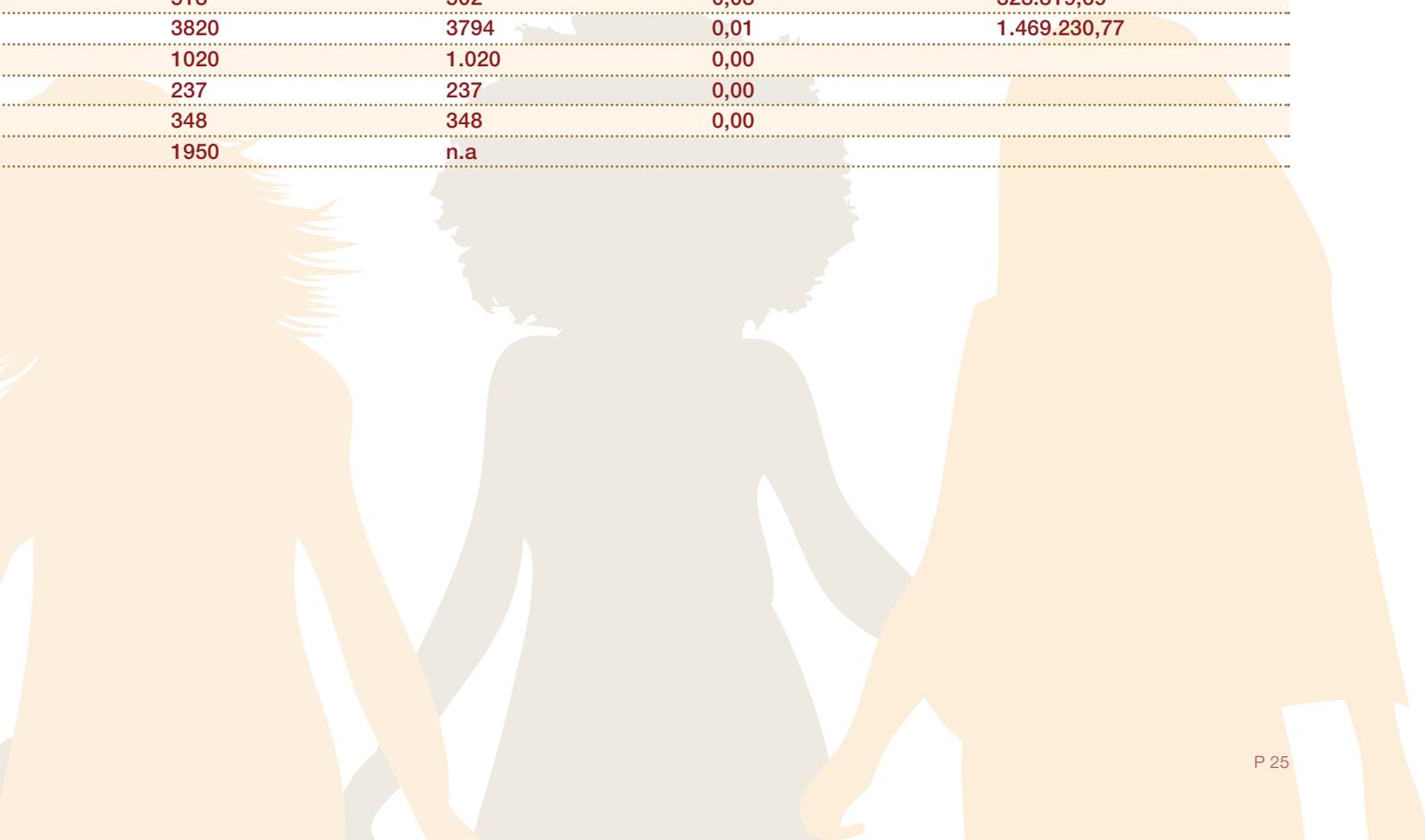
Women's shelter places needed	Women's shelter places missing	Women's shelter places per 10,000 inhabitants	Number of inhabitants per 1 women's shelter place
803	53	0,93	10.710,57
1030	570	0,45	22.383,37
407	347	0,15	125.571,48
84	72	0,14	69.908,08
1023	939	0,08	121.786,43
535	207	0,61	16.308,57
6.224	1.308	1	12.665,17
137	68	0,50	19.855,83
518	502	0,03	323.819,69
6140	4.640	0,24	40.933,03
8249	1281	0,84	11.838,55
1096	895	0,18	53.670,10
1020	1.020	0,00	
424	283	0,33	32.491,27
5711	5211	0,09	114.220,29
237	237	0,00	
348	348	0,00	
44	0	3,50	2.854,15
40	0	1,08	9.417,72
1611	0	1,37	7.310,62
3820	3794	0,01	1.469.230,77
1056	424	0,60	16.702,30
1950	n.a		
519	502	0,03	305.492,71
199	0	1,14	8.757,58
4607	107	0,98	10.237,99
898	388	0,57	17.599,35
48730	23196	0,50	20.181,79



WOMEN'S SHELTERS THE EU ACCORDING TO NUMBERS (DESCENDING ORDER)

	Population total	Number of women's shelters	Number of places (beds) in these women's shelters
Luxembourg	439.539,00	9	154
Netherlands	16.105.285,00	100	2.203
Slovenia	1.987.971,00	15	227
Malta	404.962,00	4	43
Spain	46.070.971,00	148	4.500
Austria	8.032.926,00	30	750
Germany	82.491.000,00	346	6.968
United Kingdom and Northern Ireland	62.262.000,00	1025	4.916
Denmark	5.349.212,00	39	328
Portugal	10.555.853,00	38	632
Sweden	8.975.670,00	156	510
Estonia	1.370.052,00	10	69
Total:	244.045.441,00	1.920	21.300
Belgium	10.296.350,00	26	460
Ireland	4.581.269,00	20	141
France	61.399.541,00	42	1.500
Greece	10.787.690,00	8	201
Cyprus*	838.897,00	1	12
Italy	57.110.144,00	54	500
Czech Republic	10.230.060,00	3	84
Bulgaria	7.534.289,00	5	60
Slovakia	5.193.376,00	2	17
Finland	5.181.115,00	2	16
Poland	38.200.000,00	1	26
Hungary	10.198.315,00	0	0
Latvia	2.377.383,00	0	0
Lithuania	3.286.800,00	0	0
Romania	19.500.000,00	37	n.a

Women's shelter places needed	Women's shelter places missing	Women's shelter places per 10,000 inhabitants	Number of inhabitants per 1 women's shelter place
44	0	3,50	2.854,15
1611	0	1,37	7.310,62
199	0	1,14	8.757,58
40	0	1,08	9.417,72
4607	107	0,98	10.237,99
803	53	0,93	10.710,57
8249	1281	0,84	11.838,55
6.224	1.308	0,79	12.665,17
535	207	0,61	16.308,57
1056	424	0,60	16.702,30
898	388	0,57	17.599,35
137	68	0,50	19.855,83
24403	3836	0,87	11.457,53
1030	570	0,45	22.383,37
424	283	0,33	32.491,27
6140	4.640	0,24	40.933,03
1096	895	0,18	53.670,10
84	72	0,14	69.908,08
5711	5211	0,09	114.220,29
1023	939	0,08	121.786,43
407	347	0,15	125.571,48
519	502	0,03	305.492,71
518	502	0,03	323.819,69
3820	3794	0,01	1.469.230,77
1020	1.020	0,00	
237	237	0,00	
348	348	0,00	
1950	n.a		



WOMEN'S SHELTERS IN NEW EU COUNTRIES⁵

Country	Population total	Number of women's shelters	Number of places (beds) in these women's shelters
Bulgaria	7.534.289,00	5	60
Cyprus*	838.897,00	1	12
Czech Republic	10.230.060,00	3	84
Estonia	1.370.052,00	10	69
Hungary	10.198.315,00	0	0
Latvia	2.377.383,00	0	0
Lithuania	3.286.800,00	0	0
Malta	404.962,00	4	43
Poland	38.200.000,00	1	26
Romania	19.500.000,00	37	n.a
Slovakia	5.193.376,00	2	17
Slovenia	1.987.971,00	15	227
Total:	101.122.105,00	78	538

WOMEN'S SHELTERS IN OLD EU COUNTRIES⁶

Country	Population total	Number of women's shelters	Number of places (beds) in these women's shelters
Austria	8.032.926,00	30	750
Belgium	10.296.350,00	26	460
Denmark	5.349.212,00	39	328
Finland	5.181.115,00	2	16
France	61.399.541,00	42	1.500
Germany	82.491.000,00	346	6.968
Greece	10.787.690,00	8	201
Ireland	4.581.269,00	20	141
United Kingdom and Northern Ireland	62.262.000,00	1025	4.916
Italy	57.110.144,00	54	500
Luxembourg	439.539,00	9	154
Netherlands	16.105.285,00	100	2.203
Portugal	10.555.853,00	38	632
Spain	46.070.971,00	148	4.500
Sweden	8.975.670,00	156	510
Total	389.638.565,00	2.043	23.779

Women's shelter places needed	Women's shelter places missing	Women's shelter places per 10,000 inhabitants	Number of inhabitants per 1 women's shelter place
407	347	0,15	18.511,77
84	72	0,14	9.986,87
1023	939	0,08	10.000,06
137	68	0,50	10.000,38
1020	1.020	0,00	9.998,35
237	237	0,00	10.031,15
348	348	0,00	9.444,83
40	0	1,08	10.124,05
3820	3794	0,01	10.000,00
1950	n.a		10.000,00
519	502	0,03	10.006,50
199	0	1,14	9.989,80
9784	7327	0,05	10.335,46

Women's shelter places needed	Women's shelter places missing	Women's shelter places per 10,000 inhabitants	Number of inhabitants per 1 women's shelter place
803	53	0,93	10.003,64
1030	570	0,45	9.996,46
535	207	0,61	9.998,53
518	502	0,03	10.002,15
6140	4.640	0,24	9.999,93
8249	1281	0,84	10.000,12
1096	895	0,18	9.842,78
424	283	0,33	10.804,88
6.224	1.308	0,79	10.003,53
5711	5211	0,09	10.000,03
44	0	3,50	9.989,52
1611	0	1,37	9.997,07
1056	424	0,60	9.996,07
4607	107	0,98	10.000,21
898	388	0,57	9.995,18
38946	15869	0,61	10.004,58

WOMEN'S SHELTERS IN EUROPE – OVERVIEW PER REGION

	Population total	Number of women's shelters	Number of places (beds) in these women's shelters ⁷
Europe (45 Countries)	822.525.035	2.338 (100%)	28.333
Europe without EU (18)	328.817.231	227 (9,7 %)	4.016 (14,1%)
EU (27)	490.760.670,00	2.121 (90,03%)	24.317 (85,9%)
EU new countries (12)	101.122.105,00	78 (3,3%)	538 (2,2%)
EU old countries (15)	389.638.565,00	2.043 (96,7%)	23.779 (97,8%)

This overview shows the huge differences concerning women's shelters in Europe:

- Of the 2,338 women's shelters in Europe, only 227 (9,7%) are located in non-EU countries serving a population of over 328 million people.
- Of the 2,121 women' shelters in EU countries, 2,043 (96.7%) are located in the old EU countries.
- Only 78 women's shelters (3.3%) are located in the 12 new EU countries.
- Only 503 women's shelter places are available in the new EU countries for a population of more than 10 million people and one women's shelter place has to serve a population of almost 188,000 people.

WAVE urgently calls upon the Council of Europe and the European Union as well as the member states to undertake effective measures to increase the number of safe women's shelters and not to accept that the economic crises would lead to further budget cuts and cause the deterioration of the situation and jeopardize health, live and freedom of hundreds of thousands of women and their children in Europe.

No women's shelter shall be closed! New women's shelters shall be opened daily in Europe, until we meet the minimum standard of providing one women's shelter place per 10,000 inhabitants!

Women's shelter places needed	Women's shelter places missing	Women's shelter places per 10,000 inhabitants	Number of inhabitants per 1 women's shelter place
81.622	51.658	0,34	29.505
32.892	28.489	0,12	81.877
48.730	23.196	0,50	20.181,79
9.784	7.327	0,05	187.959
38.946	15.869	0,61	10.004,58

2.3. WAVE recommendation for minimum standards

As demonstrated in the previous part of this chapter, there is still a concerning lack of services for women survivors of violence and their children in Europe and also in the EU member states, especially in new EU member states. In Western European countries, it was the women's movement against gender violence which, since the 1970s, engaged in establishing a network of women's shelters, rape crisis centres, women's helplines and other services. States increasingly valued the important work of women's NGOs, and therefore funded these services and were willing to cooperate. The new EU member states were often more reluctant to support and fund the work of women's NGOs and, as a result, much fewer women-specific services could be established.

The concerning lack of specific services means that women survivors of violence and their children often do not get adequate help or no help at all. For instance, in many countries there are not enough women's shelters. According to recommendations of the European Parliament and the Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, a minimum standard of one family place in a shelter should be provided per 10.000 inhabitants. The Task Force also recommends having at least one national women's helpline 24/7 free of charge in every country and defines other minimum standards; as described in the previous chapter, only 38 per cent of 45 countries in Europe currently fulfil these standards.

Without support, women victims of partner violence feel like there is no alternative, and they cannot leave because there is nowhere to go or there is no-one to help them. Women's shelters are especially important because they offer a safe place for women and children, provided they are equipped with the necessary safety devices.

Women's shelters can save lives of women and children, especially if the mentioned victims are at high risk of violence. Besides the lack, in quantity there is also a concerning lack of quality of services. WAVE experts are reporting that in some regions "shelters resemble prisons and provide sub-standard living conditions". It is not enough to have "a roof over the head"; women survivors of violence and their children need good quality services, that are independent, empowering and gender-specific. and other services; these standards should be strived for in all countries and regions, general services such as homeless shelters or social services are not adequate. WAVE experts, as well as experts from other organisations, have developed quality standards for women's shelters and other services and other services; these standards should be strived for in all countries and regions.

Standards for specialised women's support services

Some indicators for minimum standards in service provision are, inter alia:

- Every woman victim/survivor of violence and her children should be guaranteed effective protection and adequate support, regardless of age, status, nationality, ethnic background, ability, residence status, religion.
- Every country should have at least one national women's helpline so that all women survivors of violence can get assistance 24 hours a day and free of charge.
- Provision of safe accommodation and high quality support in a women's shelter for women and their children. A minimum standard of one place for every 10,000 inhabitants should be guaranteed; Moreover, governments should aim at providing a standard of one family place per 10,000 inhabitants
- Qualitative standard of one room per family.
- One rape crisis centre per 200,000 women.
- One women's centre for 50,000 women in order to provide crisis intervention as well as short and long-term support to victims of all forms of violence or to special groups (i.e. specialised services for victims of trafficking or for women who have suffered sexual harassment in the workplace).
- One domestic violence intervention centre per district/province that provides pro-active support and advocacy to women survivors of violence after police interventions or interventions of health or other agencies.
- Every woman victim of violence should have the right to be supported by an independent (domestic) violence advocate throughout all legal and institutional proceedings.
- Sufficient numbers of specialised services for migrant/minority and refugee women.
- Outreach services to victims in rural areas.
- Short and long-term support and, if a woman wishes, therapy to overcome the psychological/emotional trauma resulted from violence.
- All women's services should apply a gender-specific and feminist approach.⁴¹
- All services for women survivors of violence should be free of charge and should aim at empowering women and ensuring their safety; they should also have the necessary resources to provide adequate support to the women's children.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

It is also necessary to guarantee social and economic rights of women so that they have a chance to live a self-determined life and not to depend on their husbands or families. This is important for the prevention of violence because women, who are financially dependent on their partner, run a higher risk of suffering violence. It is also important when trying to get out of a violent relationship, which is easier if a woman has her own income that ensures her subsistence. It must also be taken into account that women often are the primary care takers of children.

The following social and economic rights should be granted to all women and in particular to women survivors of violence:

- The right to affordable housing. Women survivors of violence should not be constrained to live with a violent partner even after being separated, because of the lack of affordable housing. This situation is still common in many regions of the EU. Also, women and their children should not have to stay at a women's shelter for a long period due to a lack of affordable housing.
- The right to free or affordable childcare.
- The right to education and training, including the right to free language courses for migrant and refugee women.
- The right for support in finding a job which ensures the subsistence of the woman and her children.
- Effective measures to close the gender-pay-gap.
- The right to adequate financial assistance (at a level that ensures subsistence) for all women who do not have a sufficient income of their own.
- Free health care for all women survivors of violence and other measures.
- An independent residence permit for women survivors of violence and humanitarian visas for undocumented women (see also recommendations at the end of chapter 3).

WAVE OBSERVATORY

Despite considerable changes, many governments have not made much progress in preventing violence against women and supporting victims in Europe in the last decade; therefore, it often becomes the responsibility of engaged NGOs to negotiate and fundraise. This creates quite a challenging environment when trying to eliminate violence against women. The economic crisis has worsened the situation, and women's NGOs all over Europe are experiencing budget cuts, which jeopardize the existence of women's shelters and other services or lead to a restriction of their services. Some governments, especially in Eastern and Southern Europe, are still providing very little or no funding to women's NGOs making their work dependent on foreign donors, who often follow their own funding strategies rather than the needs of women survivors of violence. For example, there are donors who fund shelters for women victims of trafficking, which is seen as a serious and organised transnational crime, but would not fund shelters for women victims of domestic violence, because it's a "domestic problem".

Another threat to the existence of independent women's NGOs comes from the EU Directive on Goods and Services. Although not obligatory in the social sector, more and more governments on the national, regional and local level have begun to commission women's services and women's shelters who have been established through the commitment of civil society organisations such as women's NGOs have suddenly to compete for the (sometimes little) funding they get on the "free market". If the funding becomes more available, for-profit organisations appear who have special departments, lawyers and resources to join competitions, while women's NGOs are mostly underfunded and do not have such resources. The experience and values, women's NGOs bring into the work, their engagement against violence, the awareness raising work they are doing besides providing services, is often not valued and organisations can win a tender for running a victim service without engagement and commitment to end violence against women in society. This is a concerning development, and women's NGOs are struggling to fulfill their important role in eliminating violence against women.

In order to deal with the mentioned tendencies, WAVE decided to continue pushing for the quantitative and qualitative improvements of women's support services; as well as to lobby against the reduction of financial resources allocated to the women's support services and further service interruptions caused by the women's support services being shut down.

In order to monitor the developments and to react quickly to budget cuts, a WAVE Observatory has been established in the first half of 2011.

3. Sexual Violence and Rape Centers

Sexual violence can take many forms and take place under very different circumstances. A person can be sexually violated by one individual or several people (e.g. gang-rapes); the incident may be planned or a surprise attack. Although sexual violence occurs most commonly in the survivor's home (or in the perpetrator's home), it also takes place in many other settings, such as the workplace, at school, in prisons, cars, the streets or open spaces (e.g. parks, farmland).

Generally, over 20% of women experience sexual violence once in their lifetime. UK study showed that 23 per cent of women and 3 per cent of men experience sexual assault as adults. Knowing this, the extremely low reporting and even lower conviction rate of sexual crimes and rape are very alarming. This was one of the reasons why the WAVE office decided to shed some light on the issue of sexual violence and the current situation in regards to the sexual violence help centers and services.

The perpetrator of a sexual assault may be a date, an acquaintance, a friend, a family member, an intimate partner or former intimate partner, or a complete stranger, but more often than not, is someone known to the survivor. There is no stereotypical perpetrator; sexually violent men come from all backgrounds, rich and poor, academic and uneducated, religious and non-religious. Perpetrators may be persons in positions of authority who are respected and trusted (e.g. a doctor, teacher, tourist guide, priest, police officer) and thus less likely to be suspected of sexual violence. Sexual violence is common in situations of war and armed conflict. Specifically, rape and sexual torture are frequently used as weapons to demoralize the enemy; women are sometimes forced into "temporary marriages" with enemy soldiers. Women who are incarcerated may be subjected to sexual violence by prison guards and police officers.

As described in recommendations, the standard created by the European Parliament requires at least one sexual violence center per 200,000 inhabitants. When consulting the WAVE Focal points on the number of available sexual violence centers, the researchers were shocked by the extremely low number of available services:

Country	Population total	Sexual Violence Center	Sexual Violence Centers needed	Population per Sexual violence Centers
Albania	3.069.275,00	0	15	
Armenia	3.225.953,00		16	
Austria	8.032.926,00	6	40	1.338.821
Azerbaijan	8.922.300,00	0	45	
Belarus	10.045.237,00	0	50	
Belgium	10.296.350,00		51	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4.377.033,00	2	22	2.188.517
Bulgaria	7.534.289,00	0	38	
Croatia	4.425.747,00	1	22	4.425.747
Cyprus	838.897,00	0	4	
Czech Republic	10.230.060,00	2	51	5.115.030
Denmark	5.349.212,00	4	27	1.337.303
United Kingdom and Northern Ireland	62.262.000,00	96	311	648.563
Estonia	1.370.052,00	0	7	
Finland	5.181.115,00	1	26	5.181.115
France	61.399.541,00	n.d.	307	
Georgia	4.355.673,00	0	22	
Germany	82.491.000,00	100	412	824.910
Greece	10.787.690,00	0	54	
Hungary	10.198.315,00	0	51	
Iceland	281.154,00	5	1	56.231
Ireland	4.581.269,00	17	23	269.486
Italy	57.110.144,00	n.d.	286	
Latvia	2.377.383,00	0	12	
Liechtenstein	33.307,00	0	0	
Lithuania	3.286.800,00	0	16	
Luxembourg	439.539,00	0	2	
Macedonia	2.022.547,00	0	10	
Malta	404.962,00	0	2	
Moldova	3.386.673,00	0	17	
Montenegro	620.145,00	0	3	
Netherlands	16.105.285,00	n.d.	81	
Norway	4.520.947,00	23	23	196.563
Poland	38.200.000,00	0	191	
Portugal	10.555.853,00	0	53	
Romania	19.500.000,00	n.d.	98	
Russian Federation	145.166.731,00	1	726	145.166.731
Serbia	7.498.001,00	0	37	
Slovakia	5.193.376,00	0	26	
Slovenia	1.987.971,00	0	10	
Spain	46.070.971,00	27	230	1.706.332
Sweden	8.975.670,00	3	45	2.991.890
Switzerland	7.288.010,00	6	36	1.214.668
Turkey	74.724.269,00	0	374	
Ukraine	48.240.902,00	0	241	

According to the data in the table above, only Iceland and Norway provide sufficient services to survivors of sexual violence. Many countries don't seem to provide any specialized services at all.

Endnotes

- ¹ Council of Europe (2011): Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, Istanbul, download: http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/violence/documents_en.asp, 11 May 2011
- ² http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/violence/documents_en.asp
- ³ Detailed information on the WAVE Conference as well as other WAVE activities can be found on the WAVE website: <http://www.wave-network.org/start.asp?ID=23097>, 31 March 2012
- ⁴ WAVE data base Get information on help services: <http://www.wave-network.org/start.asp?ID=22651>, 31 March 2012
- ⁵ Unfortunately, due to a lack of resources, some of the country information on the database is out-of-date; updating information as a constant goal and challenge and we kindly ask the reader to notify the WAVE office if you come across any incorrect or missing information: office@wave-network.org
- ⁶ Global Network of Women's Shelters website: <http://www.gnws.org/>, 31 March 2012
- ⁷ Council of Europe (2006): Combating Violence against women. Stocktaking study on the measures and actions taken in Council of Europe member States, prepared by Carol Hagemann-White with the assistance of Judith Katenbrink und Heike Rabe/University Osnabrück, on behalf of the Gender Equality, and Anti-Trafficking Division/Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs, Strasbourg
- ⁸ Ursula/Schröttle, Monika (2004): Lebenssituation, Sicherheit und Gesundheit von Frauen in Deutschland. Eine repräsentative Untersuchung zu Gewalt gegen Frauen in Deutschland. Im Auftrag des Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend, Berlin
- ⁹ Psytel, Ingénierie de l'information, Daphne Project 2007 „IP V EU Mortality“, http://www.psytel.eu/files/violences/IPV%20EU_Mortality/IPV%20EU_Mortality%20Synthese_En.pdf, 15 December 2010
- ¹⁰ http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/default_en.asp
- ¹¹ British Crime Survey 2009/10 and 2010/1, <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/violence-against-women-girls/strategic-vision/>
- ¹² WHO Guidelines for Medico-legal care of victims of Sexual Violence

ALBANIA

(REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA)

General Country Information

Population: 3,069,275¹

Female population: 1,538,832

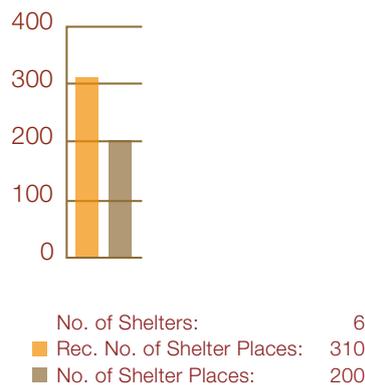
Member of Council of Europe: 1995

Member of European Union: No

CEDAW ratified: 1994

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2003

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: No



FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

Prevalence of male violence against women: According to a report by Amnesty International published in 2008, one third of Albanian women are affected by domestic violence.² In a national sample survey (2009), by the national Statistics Agency of Albania with UN support, on gender based violence involving 2,590 families, it was found that the numbers of women affected by violence are high: 50.6 per cent of women have suffered emotional abuse; 39.1 per cent of women psychological abuse; 31,2 per cent of women physical abuse.³

According to a public statement for the Network of the Civil Society Organisations Against Gender Based Violence in Albania⁴, in 2011, 17 women have lost their lives inside their family homes.⁵

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women:

According to the national sample survey by the National Statistics Agency, 12.7 per cent of women suffered sexual abuse.⁶

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

Women increasingly report domestic violence particularly in urban cities. Nonetheless, many incidents still go unreported or women withdraw complaints as a result of family pressure and economic dependence on the perpetrator.

In 2009, 1,063 cases of domestic violence were reported by the police and in more than 90 per cent of the cases, women were affected by violence.⁷ According to government figures, 1,744 cases of domestic violence were reported.⁸

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

The first Albanian women's helpline was established in October 1996 in Tirana. Currently there is no 24 hour helpline free of charge available specifically for women.

The only free of charge helpline (besides the police emergency helpline 129) is the national helpline for children survivors of violence and missing children ("ALO 116"), it is a 24/7 helpline and also provides support in English. There is a helpline for survivors of trafficking ("Anti-Trafficking Hotline", 800 12 12), run by the Ministry of the Interior, which also, but not solely, serves women.

On the regional level, ten helplines supporting women survivors of domestic and sexual violence are operated by counselling centres in Shkodra, Pogradec, Elbasan, Durrës, Bera, Vlora, Gjirokaster, Kukes and Tropoja..

Women's Shelters

There are six women's shelters in Albania with an approximate capacity of about 200 places; the last shelter (a state shelter) has been opened in 2011. Five of the shelters are run by independent women's NGOs, whereas one shelter is state run. All six shelters are open for women survivors of domestic violence, four of them also serve women survivors of trafficking.

Two of the shelters, the Shelter for Abused Women and Girls in Tirana, and the shelter "Other Vision" in Elbasan are specific shelters for women survivors of violence and their children.

All of the shelters also accept children, whereas between 51 to 75 per cent of the shelters have an age limit for boys. In one of the shelters, women and children can stay for a period between four to six months, the other shelters accept women and children for the time they need.

On average, it is estimated that women's shelters have between 14 to 16 staff members.

The shelters are predominantly funded by foreign donations (67 per cent) and by the State (33 per cent).⁹

According to the standard set by the Council of Europe Task Force to combat violence against women to provide at least one place per 10,000 inhabitants, approximately 310 shelter places are needed in Albania.¹⁰ Thus approximately 110 shelter places are still missing.

There are no national statistics on the use of women's shelters in Albania. However, according to information provided by the shelter "Vatra", this shelter accommodated 47 women and 3 children in 2010 (compared to 67 women and 11 children in 2009).

Migrant and minority women have access to women's shelters if they are in especially vulnerable situations such as threats to life, extreme poverty, and trafficking risk. However there are not enough shelter places in the country. The shelters seek to provide native language counselling for minority and migrant women and their children, but they often lack the necessary resources. According to the law, survivors of trafficking or survivors who are foreigners have the right to interpretation services..

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service ¹¹	State funding per % ¹²
6	200	310	110	Approx. 5	0	33 per cent

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children⁷

Currently, five centres supporting women survivors of violence and their children, run by independent Women's NGOs, are operating in Tirana, Elbasan, Durrës, Kukës and Shkodër.

The first counselling centre was created in Tirana in 1996. Several services, including the first helpline and the first women's shelter, were founded by the NGO "Refleksione".

General Women's Centres

There are different organisations focusing on issues such as economical empowerment of women, rural women, women's art.

National Networks of Women's Services

Since 1998, women's NGOs have formed a national network called the Network against Gender-Based Violence and Trafficking.¹³ In 2007, the "National Coalition of Anti-trafficking Shelters" was created¹⁴.

Another network is the Albania Women Empowerment Network (AWEN), consisting of eight NPOs which work together to protect and empower women. In June several organisations of the network have prepared the Shadow Report for Albania to the UN CEDAW Committee.

Recent Changes in service provision

Due to the lack of funds, the centres which are funded by international donors are in risk of being closed.

Furthermore, all organisations are concerned by the reduction of funds due to the global economic crisis.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

Social security benefits are available to women survivors of violence. According to the amendments from 17 January 2011 in the Law of 10 March 2005 "For aid and social services", No. 9355, the survivors of domestic violence benefit from the economic aid during the period in which the protection order or the immediate protection order is valid.

ALBANIA (REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA)

Legal protection from violence

Domestic violence is not specifically mentioned in the criminal code, and is generally only prosecuted when accompanied by threats to life or results in severe injury or death.¹⁵

Protection orders:

Protective orders are provided for in the Law No. 9669, “On Measures against Violence in Family Relations”¹⁶, approved on 18th of December 2006, which entered into force in June 2007 and was amended in September 2010 to provide for the establishment of a shelter for survivors of domestic violence, mechanisms for coordinating responses to domestic violence referrals and free legal aid for petitioners for protection orders, with court expenses to be paid by the perpetrators¹⁷. This law enables women to request a protection order.

The police are required by law to respond to calls by providing immediate support to the survivor and arresting the perpetrator until the court releases a protection order. This order, which must be based on clear evidence that there has been violence, prohibits the perpetrator from approaching the survivor.

There are Police administrative orders and Civil law protective orders, for the duration of one year, under the condition of physical violence, threats with violence or psychological violence. Both protective measures may consist in a general contact prohibition and extend to places such as the workplace or the school of the children; civil law protection orders may also extend to dwellings of the survivor and the surroundings of the dwelling.

In 2009, courts received 747 petitions for protection orders from survivors¹⁸. There is no exact data, but it is estimated that only 20 per cent of these orders were fully granted¹⁹ “

According to information provided by Legal Aid Services in Elbasani and Shkodra, 20 police barring orders, all of them to protect women and girls, were issued in 2009, whereas the number increased to 64 in 2010. According to this information, 54 civil law protective orders, all of them to protect women and girls, were granted in 2010.

Legal Aid

Legal Aid is regulated by Law No. 10039, on Legal aid, dated 22 December 2008.

When needed, interpretation should be provided in legal proceedings. According to the law, the government should also provide free legal assistance, but there is still room for improvement in this area. According to NGOs, many survivors of violence do not have legal representative in court.

Further issues:

From 2007 to 2009, the Network against Gender-Based Violence and Trafficking carried out the project “Making it Real: Implementing the Law against Domestic Violence in Albania” in order to facilitate the implementation of the law and to establish a co-ordinated community response.²⁰ The initiative to build a coordinated community response to tackle domestic violence is piloted in 17 Albanian municipalities.

The Albanian Ministry of Health, has issued a number of regulations regarding the treatment of survivors of domestic violence in the health system²¹. The Ministry of Health has also signed a cooperative agreement in 2008 called Measures against Violence in Family Relationships. The agreement was signed by the following institutions: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, and Equal Opportunities, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education and constitutes an important basis for the implementation of and compliance with the Law.

Another legal document to be mentioned is the Law No. 9970, “On Gender Equality in Society”, approved on 24 July 2008.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

In cooperation with women’s NGOs, the Albanian government has been working on the implementation of the National Strategy on Gender Equality and Domestic Violence (2007-2010)²².

There is a national action plan for 2011-2015, covering the topics of rape and sexual violence, domestic violence, sexual harassment, genital mutilation, forced marriages and so called honor crimes. An inter-ministerial body is responsible for the implementation and coordination of policies regarding violence against women²³. Women’s NGOs are part of the body²⁴.

CEDAW²⁵

In its concluding comments on Albania issued at the 46th session, 12-30 July 2010, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recognised the progress made by the Government in fighting violence against women, including domestic violence and emphasized the adoption of the National Strategy and action plan on Gender Equality and Domestic Violence 2007-2010, the opening of the first Government-run shelter for survivors of domestic violence and the establishment of a referral system for cases of domestic violence.

The Committee expressed concern about the high prevalence of violence against women in Albania and about the fact that domestic violence is not appropriately sanctioned and criminalised. It criticises that marital rape is not defined as a specific offence under the new Penal Code. It therefore recommended that State Parties undertake comprehensive measures fighting violence against women and amend the Penal Code so as to establish marital rape as a specific criminal offence. Accordingly, it recommended that all cases of domestic violence be appropriately sanctioned, criminalized and swiftly prosecuted and punished. The Committee also recommended the enhancement of immediate protection for female survivors of violence. Measures to prevent suicides by survivors of domestic violence should also be undertaken by the State Party. Another area of concern is the lack of systematic data collection on violence against women.

Endnotes

- ¹ Data from latest available census, 1 April 2001 Source: United Nations Statistics Division, Population, latest available census and estimates, latest available data, (last updated December 2011), <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/vitstats/seratab2.pdf> (24 March 2012).
- ² Amnesty International, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/region/albania/report-2008> (24 March 2012).
- ³ Forwarded to the WAVE office by the Executive Director of the Organization Gender Alliance for Development Center, Miriela, Arqjmandriti in 2011.
- ⁴ Source Courts Service Report 2010: www.courts.ie (23 March 2012).
- ⁵ Until November 2011.
- ⁶ <http://www.un.org.al/subindex.php?page=news&newsid=216> (24 March 2012).
- ⁷ Annual Report on Human Rights for 2009, Albania. USA Embassy in Albania: http://albanian.tirana.usembassy.gov/10pr_0311.html (24 March 2012). See also the Amnesty International Report 2010: http://thereport.amnesty.org/sites/default/files/AIR2010_AZ_EN.pdf#page=5 (24 March 2012).
- ⁸ US Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor: 2010 Human Rights Report: Albania, April 8, 2011: <http://www.state.gov/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/eur/154409.htm> (24 March 2012).
- ⁹ Information provided by Vatra Shelter in October 2011.
- ¹⁰ Council of Europe (2008): Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence (EG-TFV)- Final Activity Report, Gender Equality, and Anti-Trafficking Division/Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs, Strasbourg http://www.coe.int/t/dg2/equality/domesticviolencecampaign/Source/Final_Activity_Report.pdf (24 March 2012).
- ¹¹ Information according to the Country Report 2010, based on the availability of five shelters in total.
- ¹² Information according to the Country Report 2010.
- ¹³ The following NGOs are members of the "Network against Gender-Based Violence and Trafficking": Refleksione, Shelter, Gender Alliance for Development Centre, Counseling Centre for Women and Girls, Centre for Legal Civic Initiatives
- ¹⁴ The Albanian initiative: Coordinated Action against Human Trafficking: <http://www.caaht.com> (24 March 2012).
- ¹⁵ Amnesty International Report 2010: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/annual-report/2011#page=5.%20November%202010> (24 March 2012).
- ¹⁶ Law No. 9669 of 18.12.2006 "ON MEASURES AGAINST VIOLENCE IN FAMILY RELATIONS": http://www.mpcs.gov.al/images/stories/ministria/mpcsshb/legislation/law_nr_9669_on_measures_against_violence_in_family_relations.pdf (24 March 2012).
- ¹⁷ <http://www.un.org.al/editor-files/file/news/One%20UN%20Annual%20Report%202010.pdf>; (24 March 2012). <http://www.amnesty.org/en/region/albania/report-2011#section-2-3> (24 March 2012).
- ¹⁸ Albanian State Police Department
- ¹⁹ Centre for Legal Civic Initiatives (CLCI), <http://www.qag-al.org/ang> (24 March 2012).
- ²⁰ Refleksione Association (Ed.) (2010): Report on the Establishment and Effectiveness of Functioning of the Cross-Sectoral Referral System of Domestic Violence cases, at the Local Level; prepared in co-operation with the Network against Gender-Based Violence and trafficking within the framework of the project "Making it Real: Implementing the Law against Domestic Violence in Albania", prepared and published with the financial support of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women (UN Trust Fund), Tirana, download: <http://www.refleksione.org> (24 March 2012).
- ²¹ Order No 13 from 23rd of January 2008 for the "equipment of violated persons in family relations with the relevant medical report" and order No.15 from 24 January 2008 on the "Medical treatment at public health institutions of persons violated in family relations".
- ²² Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, National Strategy on Gender Equality and Domestic Violence 2007 – 2010: http://www.mpcs.gov.al/images/stories/ministria/mpcsshb/strategy/2.1_national_strategy_for_gender_equality_and_domestic_violence.pdf (24 March 2012).
- ²³ Minister of Labour, Social Affairs, and Equal Opportunities (MOLSAEO): <http://www.mpcs.gov.al/dpshb/en> (24 March 2012).
- ²⁴ Gender Alliance Development Center, Kvinna till Kvinna, Children's Rights Center Albania, Service alo 116, Albanian Center for Population and Development, Reflexion, Women's Network „Milenium“, Counseling Center, Different and Equality, National Center for Social Study, „Vatra“, Vlore, Horizont 3000, Albanian Disability Right Foundation, Human Rights Democracy Center, American commerce Chamber, Center for Legal Initiative.
- ²⁵ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Forty-sixth session, 12–30 July 2010. Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: Albania, CEDAW/C/ALB/CO/3. See: <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N10/485/20/PDF/N1048520.pdf?OpenElement>

ARMENIA

ARMENIA

General Country Information

Population: 3,002,594

Female population: 1,595,374

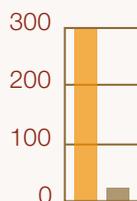
Member of Council of Europe: 2001

Member of European Union: No

CEDAW ratified: 1993

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2006

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: No



No. of Shelters:	1
Rec. No. of Shelter Places:	300
No. of Shelter Places:	21

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

Prevalence of male violence against women:

In 2007, the non-governmental organisation Women's Rights Centre, "Turpanjian Center for Policy Analysis", conducted a nationwide survey on "Domestic Violence and Abuse of Women in Armenia".¹ There were 1,006 women respondents to the survey, aged 18-75. Nearly three out of ten Armenian women experienced physical abuse at home, with about two in ten experiencing it often or sometimes. The perpetrators in almost nine out of ten incidents of severe physical abuse were husbands, and in one out of ten incidents mothers-in-law physically abused their daughters-in-law. Domestic violence and abuse of women are for the most part equally distributed in Armenia across ages, income, employment status, and education. Four out ten abused Armenian women reported that children had witnessed incidents of violence. About 66 per cent of Armenian women experienced psychological abuse, with 46 per cent experiencing it often or sometimes.

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women:

There is no prevalence data available. However, Demographic and Health Survey of 2005² indicated broadly similar opinions among men and women on circumstances allowing a wife to refuse sexual relations with her husband. 44 per cent of women and 45 per cent of men disagreed that a wife may justifiably refuse sexual relations with her husband under three given circumstances. A greater proportion of younger women indicated feeling pressure to have sexual relations on demand, with 28 per cent of those aged 15-19 believing that a wife is not justified in refusing sex under any of the specified circumstances.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is still a serious problem in Armenia; however it is not always taken seriously. As a result, there are few services for women survivors of violence, operated by WRC (Women's Rights Centre).

National Women's Helplines

There is one national helpline operating 24 hours a day, the "National Hotline Service in Yerevan", operated by the WAVE focal point Women's Right Center (WRC). It has been in operation without interruption since 1997. It provides free psychological and legal counselling to survivors of domestic violence and covers the whole territory of Armenia.

In 2009, the WRC established four Crisis Centres that provide regional helpline services in four regions of Armenia (Gegharkounik, Tavoush, Lori and Syunik). The work of the Crisis Centres and the hotlines is funded by international organisations and donors. Neither the State nor other Armenian organisations provide support.

Table of Women's HELPLINES:

Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls
1	1	1	1	1	No data available.
4	4	0	4	0	No data available.

Women's Shelters

Currently in Armenia, only one women's shelter for survivors of domestic violence exists for a population of more than three million inhabitants. It offers accommodations for eight women and 13 children; however, there is still an enormous gap between the demand for services and what the shelter can offer. The women's shelter was opened in 2002, but was not always able to operate continuously due to a lack of resources.

Since 2002 three more NGO shelters had opened with the funding support of the US Agency for International Development, but were later closed due to lack of funding. The only remaining women's shelter continues its service through the support of international donors and thanks to the enthusiasm of the WRC staff. Neither the State nor any local authority supports it. The last shelter was opened in 2009 and operates until now. Despite some recent improvements, the number of women's shelter places is clearly not high enough. According to the Council of Europe Task Force minimum standards recommending one place per 10,000 inhabitants, which means that about 300 places are needed in Armenia. Thus, approximately 280 places are missing, representing a serious lack of safe places for women survivors of violence and their children.

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
1	21	300	Approx. 280	1	1	0 per cent

Further Services for Women Survivors of Violence

In 2011 the WRC offered psychological and legal counselling and support in Yerevan and four regions of Armenia, as well as the Emergency Shelter with Transitional Housing to women survivors of domestic violence and their children.

Legal protection from violence

There are still no implemented guidelines for the police or health care professionals on governmental level on how to deal with survivors of domestic violence and no special units or responsible persons in law enforcement agencies provide help to survivors of violence. However, some promising changes have been taking place. In 2010, the WRC published a manual for the students of the Police Academy on domestic violence and the manual was included in the curriculum of the Academy. In September 2010, trainings were provided to the lecturers and trainers of the Academy as well as to the Police Training Centre. In 2007, the WRC established a working group that included state officials to draft a Domestic Violence Law, which was revised by national and international experts and submitted to the Republic of Armenia Ministry of Labour and Social Issues in September 2009 for further circulation. In 2010, after the brutal murder of Zaruhi Petrosyan, a campaign was started to demand the adoption of the Domestic Violence Law³.

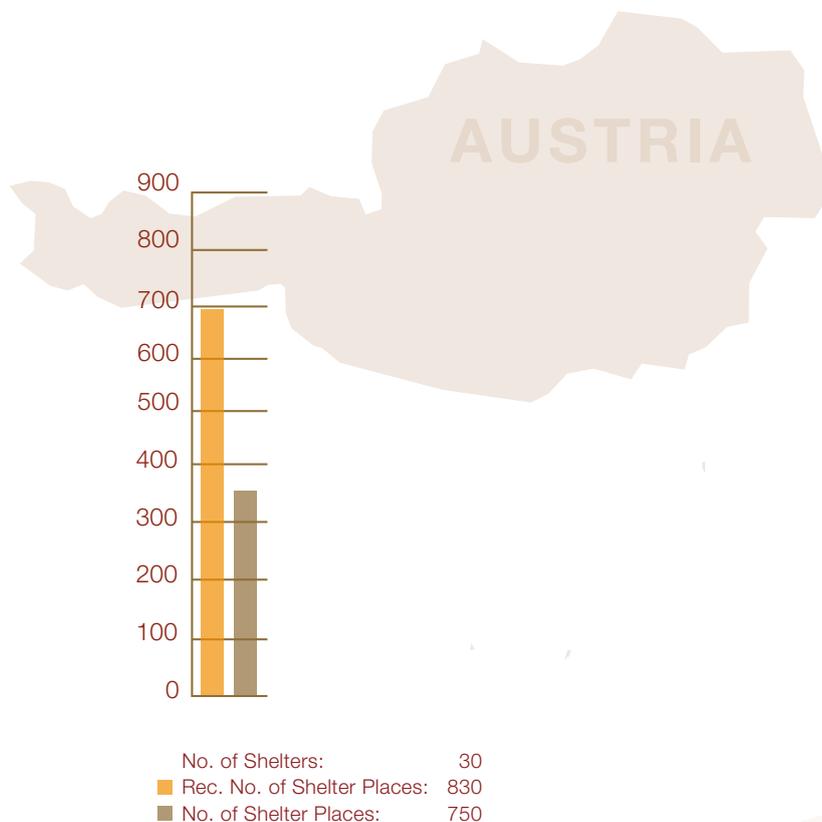
National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

A national action plan 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 which address violence against women and trafficking. A separate action plan on all forms of violence against women did not exist and the implementation of the above mentioned action plan was poor. However, recently very positive signs indicate that the situation might improve: On the 30 March 2010, an Interagency Commission on Combating Gender Based Violence was established by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia (decree No. 213). The goal of the Commission is to improve the effectiveness of events and expand certain mechanisms aiming to prevent gender based violence. WRC participates in the Commission as an observer. Within the framework of the Commission, a working group was formed with an aim to develop a National Action Plan on Combating Gender Based Violence. WRC is also a member of this working group.

Endnotes

- ¹ Women's Rights Center: Domestic Violence and Abuse of Women in Armenia (2007): http://webapps01.un.org/vawdatabase/uploads/Armenia_per_cent20_per_cent20WRC_per_cent20report_per_cent20on_per_cent20nationwide_per_cent20survey_per_cent202007.pdf, p. 28-31.
- ² National Statistical Service [Armenia], Ministry of Health [Armenia], and ORC Macro.2006. Armenia Demographic and Health Survey 2005. Calverton, Maryland: National Statistical, Service, Ministry of Health, and ORC Macro. <http://www.measuredhs.com/pubs/pdf/FR184/FR184.pdf> (24 March 2012),p.220
- ³ To support the "Armenia Must Pass Domestic Violence Legislation" Petition campaign" go to: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/armenia-must-pass-domestic-abuse-law/> (24 March 2012).

AUSTRIA



General Country Information

Population: 8,340,667

Female population: 4,143,737

Member of Council of Europe: 1956

Member of European Union: 1995

CEDAW ratified: 1982

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2000

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: 11 May 2011

ratified: No

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

Prevalence of male violence against women: An Austrian survey from 1993 estimated every fifth women in Austria is likely to experience domestic violence. A new prevalence study by the Ministry for Economic, Family and Youth is due to be published in October 2011¹

The survey is divided into three segments: in experiences of violence 1. in the childhood until the age of 16; 2. since the age of 16 and 3. in the past 3 years (2007 – 2010). This division facilitates a thorough insight in the experienced four forms of violence investigated which are: 1. violation of mental integrity because of mental assaults, 2. physical violence, 3. sexual harassment and 4. sexual violence. All in all, 1,292 women and 1,042 men between the age of 16 and 60 were interviewed. The analyses reveal that only a small group of respondents (7.4 per cent of women and 14.7 per cent of men) has never experienced any form of violence. Psychological violence is the most frequent form of violence: 85.6 per cent of women and 78.4 per cent of men were affected by violence at least once in their life. The data shows a clear gender specific difference in experiencing mental violence in partnerships: women (44.6) are far more often survivors of mental violence in partnerships than men (28.2). The results of the study show an almost equal occurrence of experienced physical violence: 61.4 per cent of men and 56.8 per cent of women were at least once in their life exposed to physical violence. But whereas men experience this form of violence mainly in the public space (33.0 per cent), women experience it primarily in the close social environment: 29.1 per cent of women reported on physical violence in partnerships and 25.2 per cent of women experienced this form of violence in the family.

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women:

The analyses reveal the biggest gender specific gap in sexual harassment and sexual violence. All in all, 3 of 4 women (72.4 per cent) as opposed to every fourth man (27.2 per cent) experienced sexual harassment. Women are exposed to this form of violence mainly in the public sphere (51.3 per cent). Sexual violence experienced every third woman (29.5 per cent) compared to every tenth man (8.8 per cent). Women are exposed to sexual abuses mainly in partnerships, in public sphere and in circle of friends. Women primarily experience abuses in their close social environment, in their own or in the home of friends. The trial data shows the extent to which women are affected: Every second woman (55.9 per cent) is subject to physical violence and every third woman (32.3 per cent) to sexual violence within the own home or in someone else's home.

Crime statistics reported by the Police: Number of femicides: there are not exactly data available; we have only an estimation approx 30-40 femicides in 2009 and in 2010

In 2009 the police executed 6731 barring orders and in 2010 6,759 barring orders. In 2010 2,534² survivors of stalking applied for a police report thereof 2,035 cases where solved and in 2011 2,584 survivors (male and female) applied and thereof 2,139 cases were solved.³

National Criminal Justice Statistics: No data available.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

Austria has one national women's helpline, the National Women's Helpline against Male Violence (0800/222 555), established in 1998. It is run by an independent women's NGO Austrian Women's Shelter Network, "AÖF" for survivors of all forms of violence against women including girls.

The helpline provides free telephone counseling 24 hours a day using a gender specific approach. Multi-lingual support is available in Arabic, Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian, Turkey and Russian, Polish and English. The helpline is 100 per cent funded entirely by the Ministry for Women's Affairs and Public Administration.

Table of Women's HELPLINES:



Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls
1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2009: 7,450 2010: 7,660 2011: 7,885

Other National Helplines

There are two other national helplines, a helpline for all survivors of crime and a nationwide helpline for children. The Nationwide Helpline for Children with the free of charge Number 0800/567 567 is run by an independent NGOs for children survivors of violence which is called "Verein Lichtblick" in Wiener Neustadt.

The general helpline for crime survivors with the Number 0800/112 112 is funded by the Ministry of Justice and supports all survivors of violence, including survivors of domestic and family violence. The helpline is free of charge and available 24/7 but does not provide multi-lingual support. The general helpline which called "Opfernotruf" and is run by the independent NGO "Weisser Ring" received 11,448 calls in 2009 and 13,155 calls in 2010.

Women's Shelters

Austria has 30 shelters for women survivors of violence and their children. The first was established in 1978 in Vienna and the most recent in 2005 in Carinthia. All 30 are run by independent women's NGOs and each one uses a gender specific approach. All the shelters are accessible 24/7 and provide services free of charge.

The shelters provide places for 750 women survivors of violence and their children. However the number available does not fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of one family place per 10,000 head of population which should be 830. Four of the shelters are located in Vienna. Additionally, the City of Vienna offers funds for approximately 41 safe transition apartments for women survivors of violence and their children including special counselling services. In 2013 the city of Vienna will build up a new women's shelter with 9 places more.

The Austrian women's shelters provide support for women survivors of all forms of violence, including domestic violence, forced marriage and trafficking. Women can stay in the shelters for four to six months (five shelters) and seven to 12 months (25 shelters).

Support is available to all women regardless of age or ethnic origin. The majority of shelters also offer access to asylum seeking women. However this is becoming increasingly difficult as new contracts with funding bodies either prohibit or restrict accommodation to two or three weeks only. Only in Vienna and Lower Austria are women seeking asylum able to stay for up to three to six months in the shelter. The "Hollabrunn shelter" in Lower Austria is the only shelter providing specific services for asylum seekers who are survivors of domestic or sexual violence, including during a conflict. There are no specific shelters for migrant or minority ethnic women.

Just over a half of the shelters offer access to undocumented women, Roma women and women with disabilities. None of the shelters have specific facilities for women with disabilities though the more modern shelters have partial wheelchair access and some of the shelters in Vienna have an elevator.

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All 30 shelters accept children, with the majority having an age limit for boys of up to 14. Only a quarter of the shelters haven't an age limit for boys. The shelters have an average of four to six staff with the majority dedicated to working with children.

Funding is provided primarily by the state of the regional counties (80-90 per cent) with the remainder coming from private national donations (10-20 per cent). The majority of state funding comes from the regional states and as a result the financing of women's shelters varies between states. In many cases financing is not secure. Only in a few regions such as Upper Austria, Burgenland and Carinthia the state is funding the women's shelters as prescribed by law. In Vienna the four existing women's shelters and the affiliated counseling centre have a permanent contract with the city of Vienna.

National statistics are collected by 26 of the women's shelters. In these 26 in 2009 1,598 women and 1,565 children were accommodated and in 2010 1,733 women and 1,715 children. This was a total of 89,250 overnight stays by women and 90,440 stays by children in 2009 and 95,196 stays by women and 98,983 stays by children in 2010. Approximately 150 women and their children could not be accommodated by the 26 shelters because of lack of available places in 2009, and approximately a 100 women and their children could not be accommodated in 2010.

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
30	750	830	80	30	App. 15	80 per cent

Other Shelters

There is one other shelter for survivors of trafficking providing approximately 10 places.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are six sexual violence centres in Austria providing support to women and girls survivors of sexual violence. Austria doesn't meet the Council of Europe recommendation of one centre per 200,000 inhabitants.

Austria would need approx. 40 centres. The first three were set up in 1982, the Autonomous Women's Centre in Linz (Upper Austria), the Association Against Rape (Tyrol) and the Autonomous Emergency Wien (Vienna). The last two were opened in 1984 in Graz and Salzburg. All six sexual violence centres offer phone counselling too.

Five of the centres are run by independent NGOs and one, the 24 Hours Centre for Women of the City of Vienna is run by the state. Only the state run centre is free of charge and open 24/7. This is a regional helpline for women.

All six employ a gender specific approach and support women and girls from 15 years including, asylum seeking women, migrant and undocumented migrant women and Roma women. Over half offer support to women with disabilities and several also offer support to the children of women survivors of violence.

The centres are funded in the main by the state on the federal level (90 per cent) with additional support from national private donations (10 per cent). Only the centre in Vienna is fully funded by the City of Vienna (100 per cent).

Statistics collected for five of the sexual violence centres indicate that 727 women and girls were supported in 2009 and 784 in 2010.

There are also two counselling centres for girls and young women, who have been sexually abused, "Tamar Club" in Vienna and the Counselling Centre for Girls and Women in "Theobaldgasse" in Vienna, and one for women with disabilities, "Verein Ninlil".

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

There are nine intervention centres for survivors of domestic violence, one in each region and one intervention centre for survivors of trafficking. The first women's centres were opened in 1998 in Vienna and Graz, Domestic Abuse Intervention Centres, the last in 2000.



All 9 Domestic Abuse Intervention centres against violence are run by independent women's NGOs and use a gender-specific approach. The intervention centres were established by the Protection Law, a proactive approach to help women affected by violence. Each time a barring order is implemented the police are legally obliged to inform their regional intervention centre which will then contact the woman to offer support and protection.

Austria also has approx. 10 women's centres specifically for migrant, minority ethnic, Roma women, asylum seeking women and undocumented women. These centres offer specialised legal support and psychological support for all women but also for survivors of domestic violence against women. One Organisation called "Verein Orient Express" is specialised for survivors of forced marriage. Almost half also offer support to girls under 18 years old and nearly all also support the children of women seeking help.

In 2010 approximately 14,622 survivors were supported by Domestic Abuse Intervention Centres and thereof 13,263 women and children received support.

General Women's Centres

There are also 50 girls and women general counselling centres/services across Austria, they are working in the field of employment for women but individually they provide counselling to women survivors of violence.

National Networks of Women's Services

There are four national networks of women's services in Austria. The Austrian Women's Shelter Network "AÖF", which was founded in 1988; the Network of Sexual Violence Services founded in 2010; the Network for Counselling Services for Girls and Women founded in 1985 and the Platform against Violence in the Family was set up 1993. The latter is a nationwide network of over 45 organisations working to combat domestic violence coordinated by the Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth.

Recent Changes in service provision

One women's service, "Verein Horizont", providing specialized services to migrant women closed for financial reasons in 2010. One women's shelter was threatened with closure in 2010 by the local government in Salzburg ("Frauenhaus Miriam") for financial reasons.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

Social security benefits and housing programs are available to Austrian women and migrant women survivors of violence.

Legal protection from violence

Police barring orders were introduced in Austria in the Protection Order Law in 1997 and there were three times improvements, the last were in June 2009. The current orders provide protection for 14 days following physical, psychological or threats of violence and stalking. These protective measures can cover a wide area including the survivor's home and surrounding area, workplace and children's schools and prohibit general contact. In 2009 6,731 police barring orders were issued and in 2010 6,759 (6,926) were issued.

Civil law protection orders can be used for four to six weeks or until the end of the marriage. Civil law protections orders against stalking can last for a year. Civil law protection orders provide protection for the same crimes as police barring orders and can cover the same areas. In 2009 the intervention centres reported that an "EV" (injunction orders or restraining orders) 2,439 civil law protection orders were applied and 2010 2,706 were applied.

The Protection Order Law provides protection to women and men, married, cohabiting and same-sex partners, ex-partners, all family members including children, migrant, asylum seeking and undocumented women.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Austria does not have a national action plan to prevent and combat violence against women. It only has national action plans for trafficking and for children.⁴

AUSTRIA

CEDAW⁵

In the concluding comments on Austria at the Thirty-seventh session, January-February 2007, CEDAW acknowledged the legislative and awareness raising efforts by the state to combat violence against women. However CEDAW remained concerned at the persistence of violence against women, including domestic violence and the lack of a comprehensive strategy to combat all forms of violence against women or an institutional mechanism to coordinate, monitor and evaluate actions by the government to address it. The Committee also urged Austria to ensure sufficient numbers of adequately funded shelters and intervention centres were available to survivors of violence and increase its cooperation with NGO's working to combat violence against women.





Endnotes

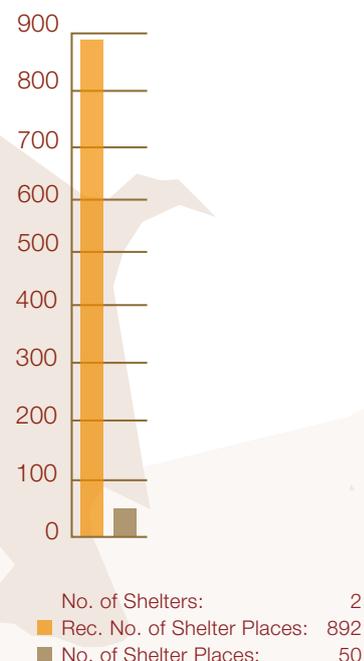
- ¹ Prävalence Survey: Violence in the family and in the close social environment. A prevalence study on violence against women and men (Vienna 2011) Editor: Austrian Institute for Family Studies, University of Vienna Authors: Olaf Kapella, Andreas Baierl, Christiane Rille-Pfeiffer, Christine Geserick, Eva-Maria Schmidt in cooperation with Monika Schröttle (Konsulentin), University Bielefeld
- ² Polizeiliche Kriminalstatistik Österreich 2011
- ³ Bundeskriminalamt im Bundesministerium für Inneres 2009
- ⁴ Bundeskriminalamt im Bundesministerium für Inneres 2010
- ⁵ CEDAW Concluding observations Thirty-seventh session, January – February 2007, sections 23- 26, <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N07/243/44/PDF/N0724344.pdf?OpenElement>

AZERBAIJAN

General Country Information

Population: 8.922.300
Female population: No data available.
Member of Council of Europe: 2001
Member of European Union: No
CEDAW ratified: 1995
Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: No
ratified: No

AZERBAIJAN



FACTS AND FIGURES

Number of femicides: According to a monitoring report in the first quarter of the year 2010, 32 women were murdered in Azerbaijan.

Latest number of DV cases reported by police:
 No data available.

Latest number of DV cases reported by women's shelters: 321 women survivors of violence and their children were hosted and supported in the Clean World Women's Shelter since 2002.

Prevalence of DV: There is no prevalence data on violence against women available in Azerbaijan. 26 women experienced attempted murder, 3 women were abused, 20 women committed suicide, 7 attempted suicide and 23 women were raped in the first quarter of 2010. Given that the population of Azerbaijan is about 8 million, these numbers indicate that the prevalence of violence against women is high.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

Women's Helplines

In the Republic of Azerbaijani there is one national helpline for women victims of family violence and human trafficking, which was established in 2005. The helpline is operated by the WAVE focal point Clean World - Social Union Aid to Women. Service is provided 24 hours a day and operates all year round. Phone calls are free of charge and multilingual counselling is provided in Azerbaijani, Turkish and Russian. The helpline does not receive any state funding. The Clean World - Social Union Aid to Women also runs a second telephone line for women working in prostitution who are exposed to violence.

There is also a helpline within the Ministry of Internal Affairs for victims of trafficking. Counselling is provided in Russian, English and Azerbaijani.

Table of Women's HELPLINES:

Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls
1 national	Yes	Yes	Yes	No data available.	No data available.
0 regional	/	/	/	No data available.	No data available.

Women's Shelters

The first shelter in Azerbaijan was established in 2003. Currently there is still just one shelter available for women who are exposed to different forms of violence, the shelter operated by the WAVE focal point Clean World called the Clean World's Special Shelter. It offers 17 shelter places to women and children without any age discrimination. The shelter offers 24 hour service throughout the year and provides multilingual counselling in Azerbaijani, English, Turkish and Russian. Clean World - Social Union Aid to Women does not receive any state funding and is solely financed through international donations. Additionally there is a state shelter for victims of trafficking funded by the Ministry of Internal Affairs since 2006.

The women's shelter needs to be enlarged urgently, since the existing places are simply not enough. Adequate and sustainable funding is urgently needed.

According to NGO information, the two shelters in Azerbaijan provide about 50 places for victims of trafficking and for women victims of other forms of violence. According to government information, five shelters exist, providing 47 places.²

The minimum standard set by the Council of Europe Task Force to combat violence against women³ requires governments to provide at least one place per 10,000 inhabitants and thus approximately 892 shelter places are needed in Azerbaijan. Therefore, 842 places are missing and Azerbaijan does not even provide one tenth of the minimum number of shelter places that would be needed. This is very concerning and the number of women's shelters need to be increased urgently.

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
2	50	892	842	1	1	No data available.

National Action Plan

Azerbaijan has an action plan prepared by the Family, Child and Woman Committee. According to information by the government, it includes measures on domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual harassment, forced marriage and killings in the "name of honour".⁴ Regrettably, NGOs were not involved in the preparation of this plan.

Situation of MM Women survivors of violence in Azerbaijan⁵

The percentage of immigrants amounts to three per cent of the total population in Azerbaijan and women represent 57.1 per cent of the total immigrant population. Azerbaijan is faced with high migration flows within the country from rural areas to cities as well as from abroad. Many people leave the country in search of employment opportunities. According to official information, 57,600 labour migrants left the country in 2008. 52 per cent of these migrants were women. At the same time immigrants come to Azerbaijan in search of labour and the country is also a transition country for migrants from Central Asia and the Middle East.

There is a large group of internally displaced people from the Nagorno-Karabakh region. With the exit of Azerbaijan from the Soviet Union, a conflict with the majority Armenian population in Nagorno-Karabakh emerged that is still not solved. As a consequence of the conflict, an estimated 750,000 internally displaced people and refugees from Armenia are living in Azerbaijan, accounting for approximately nine per cent of the total population.⁶

According to the 1999 Census, the main minority ethnic groups included Lezgins (approx. 2.2% of total population), Russians (1.8%), Armenians (1.5%) Talys (1.0%) and Avars (0.6%).⁷ There is also a large number of smaller minorities in Azerbaijan, each comprising less than one per cent of the total population.

Some protection for minority ethnic groups was first legally granted in 1992, however, there is still no national law on minority rights.⁸

AZERBAIJAN

Statistics on migration in Azerbaijan in 2000-2007 show that the emigration from Azerbaijan in 2005 was equal among genders in the age categories of 0-14 years and 30 years and over, while in the ages 15-29 years, the emigration of women is approximately twice that of men.⁹

Trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation and slavery from and through Azerbaijan remains a major problem. Azerbaijan serves as a transit country for victims from Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Moldova.¹⁰

Domestic violence against women, including such violence against MM women, is a serious problem in Azerbaijan and not all forms of violence are recognised by law. Marriages of girls at an early age are common in rural areas.

Major problems of MM women survivors of violence in Azerbaijan are problems concerning housing, unwillingness of in-laws to support women when they are violated and the stigma women survivors of violence are facing.

1. Access of MM women to women`s shelters and other services

As stated before, two shelters exist in Azerbaijan. One is a shelter for victims of human trafficking operating under the auspices of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. This shelter only accommodates women victims of trafficking, but not victims of other forms of violence such as domestic violence. The shelter employs four social workers and accommodates 50 persons. There are special facilities for children, such as a study room, play room and a dining room. Girls and boys up to the age of 18 are admitted in principle. There is also an Aid Center for victims of trafficking within the Ministry of Labour and People's Social Protection. It provides training courses and physiological aid for women.

Apart from the trafficking shelter, there are no special shelters for MM women in Azerbaijan. The Clean World women's shelter is also open to MM women survivors of domestic violence. However, the shelter does not have sufficient number of spaces.

Information material in different languages is mainly provided within the framework of the services. The women's shelter provides information materials in English, Russian and Turkish. Women's NGOs have difficulties in advertising their service because of lack of funding.

The department on Combating Human Trafficking within the Ministry of Internal Affairs carried out a campaign against trafficking including a TV spot and posters. However, according to NGOs, the effectiveness is questionable since women were not provided with information about how to get help.

2. Right of residence

Cohabitation with a man from Azerbaijan provides a MM woman with the right to obtain an independent residence permit but only for a brief period. A same sex partnership/cohabitation does not give this right. Migrant women with HIV infection are prohibited from receiving a residence permit.

3. Access of MM women to public funds and services

Housing programmes

A major problem, that also affects MM women, is housing. There are no housing programmes and divorced couples often remain living together. This is very dangerous for women experiencing violence by an ex-partner. Also, women survivors of domestic violence who have no place to live become very vulnerable to traffickers.

4. Legal protection of MM women from violence

In 2010, with the support of the OSCE, a domestic violence law was finally passed in Azerbaijan. The law provides some important remedies for protection for women, such as a protection order or the provision of shelter, but it has still to be seen if it will be implemented and if it will be effective in protecting, supporting and empowering women survivors of violence and their children.¹¹

In Azerbaijan, traditionally, only specific forms of violence such as forced marriage, so called "honour related crimes", female genital mutilation or trafficking in women are considered to be crimes, whereas other forms of violence such as threats, physical and sexual violence against women and girls in the family are not considered to be criminal. The police response in Azerbaijan has also been unsatisfactory until now. Family conflicts are registered by the police, but there is no mechanism to intervene and to protect women.

The new law provides important provisions to change this and it remains to be seen if it will.

There are very few women police officers in Azerbaijan and the response of the police differs from region to region. In some areas women refrain from reporting violence to the police, because the police often blame women for “disturbing the family”. This attitude needs to be challenged and changed urgently in order to guarantee effective implementation of the new legal provisions.

The justice system needs also to be sensitised. At the moment, if women survivors of violence are not legally represented in court (which is often the case), judges tend to make decisions that benefit the perpetrators.

Legal aid

There is no free legal aid provided by the state. Labor migrants are provided legal support and counseling from the International Organisation for Migration and refugees and asylum seekers receive support from the UNHCR. Some NGOs also provide legal aid for migrants. However, many migrants and shelters do not know where to get legal support and they often face deportation.

5. Policy measures and statistics

There is no general policy on the protection and support of MM women victim of violence but only a policy addressing trafficking. In 2004, after years of denying the problem of trafficking, Azerbaijan adopted the National Action Plan for the Suppression of Human Trafficking. Consequently, several laws and regulations against trafficking were adopted which criminalised it as an offence. Despite many efforts, state policy to combat trafficking is still not very effective. There continues to be a failure to recognise the scale of the problem and to address its root causes. In addition, there is a lack of training and corruption among low level law enforcement officers and the judiciary which significantly impedes efforts to combat trafficking.¹²

Endnotes

- ¹ Women’s NGO “Clean World Social Union Aid to Women”
- ² Council of Europe/Directorate general of Human Rights and Legal Affairs (2010): Protecting women against violence. Analytical study of the results of the third round of monitoring the implementation of Recommendations Rec (2002), prepared by Carol Hagemann-White, University of Osnabrück, Strasbourg, p.20
- ³ Council of Europe (2008): Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence (EG-TFV)- Final Activity Report, Gender Equality, and Anti-Trafficking Division/Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs, Strasbourg http://www.coe.int/t/dg2/equality/domesticviolencecampaign/Source/Final_Activity_Report.pdf, 15th December 2010
- ⁴ Council of Europe 2010, p. 33
- ⁵ The information is provided, unless quoted otherwise, by the women’s NGO and WAVE focal point “Clean World” Social Union
- ⁶ Minority Rights Group International: World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples, website Information on Azerbaijan: <http://www.minorityrights.org>, 23rd December 2010
- ⁷ World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples, website Information on Azerbaijan, see footnote 4
- ⁸ *ibid*
- ⁹ State Committee on Statistics, source: <http://www.azstat.gov/statinfo/demographic/az/051.shtml#s3>, 15th December 2010
- ¹⁰ US Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2008. Source: <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008/105387.htm>, 15th December 2010
- ¹¹ Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, <http://www.osce.org/baku/51655>, 15th December 2010
- ¹² Human Rights Center of Azerbaijan (2009): Alternative Report on the Compliance of the Azerbaijan Republic with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Submitted to the 44th session of the Committee on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (20 July 7 August 2009)

Daten von 2010!

BELARUS

General Country Information

Population: 10,045,237

Female population: 5,327,616

Member of Council of Europe: No

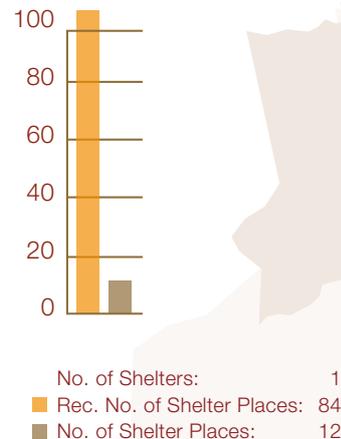
Member of European Union: No

CEDAW ratified: 1981

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2004

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: No

ratified: No



FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women¹:

Prevalence of male violence against women: Four out of five women in Belarus aged 18 to 60 are subject to psychological violence in the family, one in four (with varying degrees of frequency) are subject to physical violence.

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women:

13.1 per cent of women have experience sexual violence from their husband or permanent partner.

Research data available on other forms of violence against women:

22.4 per cent of women experienced economic violence.

8 per cent of women experienced physical and sexual violence at home.

9.5 per cent of women were subjected to physical violence by their husband/partner during pregnancy.

Crime statistics reported by the Police²:

Number of femicides: 2009: 272 murder cases in family conflicts were committed according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs Statistics.

Number of cases of male violence against women: 2,115 cases of domestic violence against women were reported by the police (2007).³

National Criminal Justice Statistics: No data available.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There is no national helpline in Belarus therefore Belarus does not fulfill the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women, a helpline for women.

Other National Helplines

There are two national helplines for all survivors of trafficking; they are not free of charge but are the price of a standard phone call. They are open 24/7 providing support also in Russian.

Women's Shelters

There are no women's shelters. Therefore Belarus does not fulfill the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are no gender specific sexual violence centres in Belarus for women and girls. Therefore Belarus does not meet the Council of Europe recommendation of one centre providing services for women and children survivors of sexual violence per 200,000 inhabitants.

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

Belarus has no women's centres providing support to survivors of violence and their children or general women's centres.

National Networks of Women's Services

There are no national networks or coalitions of shelter service providers, sexual violence centres or women's centres.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

There is no financial aid or housing support available to women survivors of violence in Belarus.

Legal protection from violence

In January 2009, a new Law on Crime Prevention came into effect which for the first time specifically referred to domestic violence and called on State bodies including the Ministry of Internal Affairs to investigate all cases of domestic violence and to prosecute the perpetrators.⁴ The Ministry of the Internal Affairs classifies cases of domestic violence as crimes occurring in the context of domestic relationships, and these crimes are most frequently prosecuted under provisions of the Criminal Code.⁵

There are no police barring orders or civil or criminal law protection orders available in Belarus.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Belarus has a national strategy to combat violence domestic violence against women. There is a governmental coordinating body responsible for implementing and coordinating the policies regarding violence against women.

CEDAW⁶

In the concluding comments on Belarus at the Forty-eight Session January –February 2011 CEDAW expressed concern at the persistence of violence against women, particularly domestic and sexual violence. The Committee encouraged increasing the efforts to prevent and prosecute acts of domestic and sexual violence including adopting laws, criminalising domestic violence and marital rape and training judges, prosecutors and the police on application of legal provisions regarding violence against women. The committee also urges Belarus to strengthen the provision of support services for women survivors of violence.

Endnotes

- ¹ THE UN Secretary-General's database on violence against women, Research Study on Domestic Violence, 2008: <http://webapps01.un.org/vawdatabase/advancedSearch.action> (20 March 2012).
- ² Data from WAVE Country Report 2010 – no data is available for the year 2010 yet: http://aoef.at/cms/doc/WAVE_COUNTRY%20REPORT%202010_NEU.pdf (20 March 2012).
- ³ Data are from Wave Country Report 2010 – no data is available for the year 2010 yet.
- ⁴ Data are from Wave Country Report 2010 – no data is available for the year 2010 yet.
- ⁵ Women's Independent Democratic Movement (2010), Shadow Report. The Republic of Belarus. On the Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, [online]: http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/docs/ngo/PAWIDM_Belarus48.pdf, (20 March 2012), p. 26-27.
- ⁶ Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Belarus, CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/7: <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G11/418/64/PDF/G1141864.pdf?OpenElement>

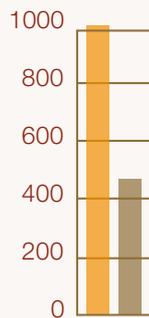
BELGIUM

(KINGDOM OF BELGIUM)



General Country Information

Population: 10,296,350
Female population: 5,260,904
Member of European Union: 1957
CEDAW ratified: 1985
CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2004



No. of Shelters: 26
 Rec. No. of Shelter Places: 1,030
 No. of Shelter Places: Approx. 460

FACTS AND FIGURES

Latest number of femicides: No data available.

Latest number of DV cases reported by police:

In 2009, the federal police reported 10,460 cases of physical violence between partners during the first half of the year.²

Latest number of DV cases reported by women's shelters: Approximately 5,000 cases were reported in Flanders (Northern region of Belgium).

Prevalence of DV: Numbers on domestic violence are also available on the website of the Belgian Institute of Equality of Women and Men.³

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

Women's Helplines

According to WAVE focal point Province of Antwerp, Departement of Health and Welfare, Violence Victims and Policy Coordination, there is no national women's helpline operating 24 hours a day in Belgium. There are three general helplines - one in Flemish (106), one in French (107) and one in German (108), which are available for anyone in trouble but not especially for women survivors of violence. Their telephone service is available free of charge, 24 hours a day. Limited English language support is also available. They are financed through state funding and donations.

A national website for survivors of domestic violence was started in 2009.

Moreover, there is a helpline supporting women suffering from AIDS, another one provides support on human rights issues, and two helplines offer support for survivors of human trafficking.

Since 2007 in each of the five provinces of the Flemish region there is a Centrum for Social Care (CAW) which has a specialised team supporting survivors of domestic violence. It also offers 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.

Table of Women's HELPLINES:

Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls
Regional 5	5	No data available.	5	100 per cent	No data available.

Women's Shelters

The four first Belgian women's shelters were set up in 1977; in 1980, 10 more women's shelters were established. Currently, 26 women's shelters provide a safe place and counselling service in Dutch and French for women survivors of violence in Belgium: 22 of them are in Flanders, three in Wallonia and one in Brussels. The shelters in Flanders have a capacity of 350 beds for women and children survivors of violence whereas the shelters in Wallonia and Brussels offer 110 shelter places.⁴ The WAVE focal point Collectif Contre les Violences Familiales et l'Exclusion (CVFE) reported that the Walloon government has encouraged the creation of at least four additional shelters (specialised in other services) in Wallonia to increase their capacity to care for survivors of domestic violence. The necessary specialised training was given to these shelters by CVFE. All shelters have secret locations and a specialised team of social workers and are mainly funded by the state but also through projects. However, the Belgian Government is still far from reaching the recommendation of the European Parliament which indicates the need for 1,030 shelter places in Belgium.

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
26	460 places (in Flanders 350 in Wallonia 110)	1,030	570	Some	26	No data available.

Further Services for women survivors of violence

In Flanders, every region has one multi-service institution – Centrum for Social Care (CAWs) providing different but specialized services to survivors of domestic violence such as helplines, shelters, and counselling. Every region has a multi-agency network, which facilitates the cooperation between police, justice, social care, shelters, victim aid, child care, mental health, in cases of domestic violence.

In Wallonia, there are two regional pools of intervention functioning as regional multi-agency networks, coordinating the cooperation between shelters and other professionals involved in domestic violence cases. They also offer perpetrator programmes. Every region (every CAW) has a victims' service, a team working on domestic violence against women.

National Action Plan

In 2001, Belgium produced its first national action plan to eliminate intimate partner violence with a special focus on gender-based violence. In 2005, the Institute of Gender Equality developed a national action plan focusing also on the elimination of intimate partner violence. An evaluation of these action plans was conducted in 2007. Subsequently, the next National Action Plan on Partner Abuse for 2008-2009 was prepared. The National Action Plan on Domestic Violence (2010-2014) was ratified in 2010.⁵

Additional Issues

Currently, Belgium is implementing a multidisciplinary approach to tackling domestic violence at the regional level, which aims to improve the cooperation between police, justice, women's aid, social care, mental health, childcare, and the medical sector. Attention is given to specific target groups such as children witnessing and experiencing family violence, and abuse of elderly women. Furthermore, in some regions, perpetrators' programmes are included in the multidisciplinary context.

Situation of MM Women Survivors of violence in Belgium⁶

Belgium consists of two main linguistic groups: the majority are the Flemings (6 million, 57.2%) followed by the Walloons (3.4 million, 32.4%). Additionally, there are German-speaking Belgians, Italians, French, Dutch, Moroccans, Turks and several other groups living in Belgium.

Most foreigners live in Wallonia, but the highest proportion of migrant population lives in Brussels (28.5%).⁷

BELGIUM

1. Access of MM women to shelters and specialised services

In Belgium, there are three shelters specialised in women victims of trafficking set up in 1995. They are funded by the Federal Government and the federated entities (Communities and Regions). The shelters have between 10 and 15 beds and have secret locations. The centres are run by multidisciplinary teams (educators, social workers, criminologists), who provide various types of care and support to victims of trafficking:

- psychosocial care
- administrative care
- medical care
- legal aid

2. Right of residence

Since 1985, citizenship is granted to children of foreign parents born in Belgium automatically, if the parents had also been born in Belgium. Children of those foreign nationals who have been residents in the country continuously for 10 years can also get Belgian citizenship. Foreign nationals who have lived in Belgium for five years can become naturalised Belgian citizens but must renounce their former nationality.⁸

In July 2009, the federal government issued an instruction on regularisation proceedings for irregular migrants; the introduction of this measure was preceded by numerous public protests of irregular migrants.⁹

3. Access of MM Women to public funds and services

Healthcare services

Undocumented migrants have the legal right to urgent medical care, which can be both preventive and/or curative. Thus, urgent medical care refers to a variety of care provisions such as operations, childbirth, examinations, physiotherapy. Another law stipulates Emergency Medical Assistance, that is, immediate medical assistance in cases of accident or illness; it applies to everyone living in Belgium.¹⁰

Social benefits

Persons without legal residence (undocumented migrants) do not have the right to social assistance in Belgium. Rejected asylum seekers who are waiting for a decision on their appeal to Belgium's highest administrative court, have the right to food and housing assistance.¹¹

Housing programmes

The housing conditions of asylum seekers in Belgium have been subject to criticism at various times. The governmental agency responsible for receiving asylum seekers was condemned by the administrative court for its failure to provide them with housing. An NGO estimated that in October 2009 around 200 asylum seekers, including families had no accommodation. There is thus an obvious lack of housing places for asylum seekers in Belgium. The Office of the Federal Ombudsperson after an investigation was further concerned about the living conditions inside detention centres for asylum seekers.¹²

Education/training programmes

Based upon an official agreement, all children or minors living in Belgium have the right to education up to the age of 18. This includes undocumented minors. This agreement does not apply to adults; undocumented adult migrants cannot attend training/education courses that the government is (co-)funding; they can attend language courses only if they are not (co-)funded by the government.¹³

4. Legal protection of MM women from violence

Legislation on forced marriage

In 2007, forced marriage was criminalised in Belgian law; further, the means of annulations were expanded. The newly introduced article 146 of the Civil Code provides that: "Likewise, no marriage is valid when it is contracted without the free consent of the two spouses and when the consent of at least one of the spouses was obtained through violence or threat." The new provision permits the civil registrar to refuse to conduct the marriage ceremony if it is a forced marriage. Forced marriage can be annulled, which may be invoked by the Public Prosecutor's Office, the spouses themselves or any interested parties. A criminal penalty is also established. A term of imprisonment of one to two years

or a fine of EUR 100 to EUR 500 shall be imposed on any person who, through violence or threat, coerces someone into contracting a marriage. Any attempt to do so is also punishable. Before the introduction of this article, forced marriage was actually already punishable in Belgian law.

Legislation on human trafficking

To combat trafficking in human beings an amendment was introduced into the law in 2005 which makes a clear distinction between trafficking in human beings and illegal transporting of migrants. The new charge of trafficking in human beings has been substantially modified. In addition to transnational trafficking (implicating the removal of the victim from her country of origin to a country of destination), the charge now covers national trafficking, which is committed within the territory of Belgium. The charge of trafficking in human beings places the emphasis not only on the notion of the abuse of the victim, as covered by the law of 13 April 1995, but also on exploitation. Another innovation of the new law is in stipulating the aim of exploitation. Several forms of exploitation are therefore enumerated: sexual exploitation (exploitation of prostitution and child pornography), exploitation through begging, exploitation through work (work under conditions that are contrary to human dignity), illegal trafficking in organs, and the commission of crimes. For the crime of trafficking in human beings to be committed, the exploitation does not have to be realised, though it is necessary to prove that one of the forms of exploitation discussed above was intended.

5. Policy measures and statistics

In 2008, Belgium held a conference at which a special focus was devoted to migrant women. Following this conference, information materials were translated into several languages. The 2008 National Action Plan on Intimate Partner Violence also addressed female genital mutilation, racism and forced marriage. Furthermore, the government adopted a National Action Plan on Combating Human Trafficking in 2008. These national action plans draw attention to the complexity of gender based violence and especially violence against migrant and minority ethnic women.

In its Concluding Observations of the last periodic report from Belgium, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) expressed its concern with the lack of information on convictions and penalties in cases of violence against women. The Committee requested that Belgium, in its next periodic report, include the number and nature of reported cases of domestic violence against women, including convictions, types of sanctions imposed and assistance given to victims. Furthermore, the CEDAW Committee urged Belgium to take effective measures and implement policies for the elimination of discrimination against immigrant, refugee and minority women, including conducting research on all forms of violence against these groups of women.¹⁴

Endnotes

- ¹ United Nations Demographic Yearbook 2008 <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dybsets/2008%20DYB.pdf>
- ² US Department of State: „Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2009 - Human Rights Report: Belgium”, <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2009/eur/136022.htm>
- ³ <http://igvm-iefn.belgium.be/en/>
- ⁴ This information is provided by the WAVE focal point “Collectif contre les Violences Familiales et l'Exclusion” (CVFE) in October 2010. <http://www.refuge.be>
- ⁵ For further information, see: European Parliament, DG for Internal Policies, Policy Department Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs: “The policy on gender equality in Belgium”, 2010, <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/studies/download.do?language=en&file=32855>
- ⁶ The information in this section has unless quoted otherwise been provided by the Province of Antwerp-Department of Health and Welfare, Violence Victims and Policy Coordination, <http://provant.be>
- ⁷ <http://www.minorityrights.org/1507/belgium/belgium-overview.html>
- ⁸ <http://www.minorityrights.org/1507/belgium/belgium-overview.html>
- ⁹ AI - Amnesty International: Amnesty International Report 2010, http://www.ecoi.net/local_link/143064/257840_de.html
- ¹⁰ <http://www.picum.org/article/basic-social-rights-belgium>
- ¹¹ *ibid*
- ¹² See Footnote 6
- ¹³ <http://www.picum.org/article/basic-social-rights-belgium>
- ¹⁴ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Forty-second session, 20 October-7 November 2008. Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: Belgium, http://www.iwraw-ap.org/committee/pdf/42_concluding_observations/belgium.pdf

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

General Country Information

Population: 4,377,033¹

Female population: 2,193,238

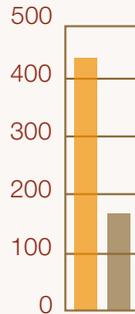
Member of Council of Europe: 2002

Member of European Union: No

CEDAW ratified: 1993

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2002

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: No



No. of Shelters:	9
Rec. No. of Shelter Places:	438
No. of Shelter Places:	173

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

There are no country wide prevalence surveys.² One done in three local communities indicated that the rate of gender based violence is 6.5 per cent. The most common forms are psychological violence (5.5 per cent), physical violence (1.8 per cent) and economic violence (1.7 per cent), with sexual violence (0,3 per cent). Women are predominantly survivors of gender based violence (88 per cent), while men are dominantly perpetrators of violence (88.2 per cent).³

Prevalence of male violence against women:

22 - 24 per cent of women experienced some kind of violence in intimate partnership relations, with psychological violence (41.67 per cent - 56.06 per cent), physical and psychological violence (23.48 per cent - 33.33 per cent), psychological, sexual and physical violence together (2.88 per cent - 25 per cent) and sexual violence (7.58 per cent).⁴

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

Number of femicides: No data available.

National Criminal Justice Statistics⁵: 2006 - 2010 there were 1,275 domestic violence cases⁶ in total recorded 97.53 per cent of the perpetrators were men. Out of the total number of 1,258 injured survivors of these crimes, 1,005 (79.87 per cent) were women.⁷

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There are two national women's helplines in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The first helpline, "Republic of Srpska SOS Helpline" was established in 2005 to support women survivors of all forms of violence. The helpline is run by several women's NGOs. A second helpline was established for the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2008, SOS Helpline in support of survivors of violence in the family (1265), primarily for women survivors of domestic violence. The helplines were established by entity Gender Centers and run in cooperation with several independent women's NGOs and one Social Service Center in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The helpline in the Federation is run in cooperation with NGOs and one Social Service Center. Both helplines use a gender-specific approach.

Both helplines are free of charge and open 24/7. Bosnia and Herzegovina therefore fulfills the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge, for women survivors of violence.

Both helplines provide multi-lingual support in Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian languages, the languages of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Funding for the maintenance of the Bosnia and Herzegovina SOS Helpline is from the state, while the NGOs cover all the costs of the helpline staff. No information is available on the funding of the Republic of Srpska SOS Helpline.

Table of Women's HELPLINES:



Number of national helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls ¹⁰
1 (helpline for FBiH)	Yes	Yes	Yes	In part	2009 2,978 2010 1,902 ¹¹
1 (helpline for RS)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No data	2009 2,619 2010 2,901 ¹²

Other National Helplines

There are no other national helplines for survivors of violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Women's Shelters

There are nine shelters in Bosnia and Herzegovina, eight run by independent women's NGOs and one by a religious based NGO. The first shelter was opened by "Medica Zenica" in 1993. All nine shelters provide assistance and support to survivors of domestic violence, while one of these nine shelters, provides assistance and support to survivors of all forms of violence including foreigners and Bosnia and Herzegovina nationals survivors of trafficking in human beings, and another shelter out of these nine shelters apart from assistance to survivors of domestic violence serves Bosnia and Herzegovina nationals -women survivors of trafficking, all nine using a gender specific approach.

The shelters offer access 24/7, free of charge. The women and children are allowed to stay for one three months, with all members of staff dedicated to the work with children. There is an average of seven to ten staff in the shelters.

There are no specific shelters for migrant women in the country, but they do offer access to migrant women, undocumented migrant women, women asylum seekers, Roma women and women with disabilities survivors of violence. Women with disabilities are accepted in the shelters, but only a few can provide suitable access. The shelters also offer access to children although there is an age limit of 13 years old for boys.

The shelters provide a total of 173 places for women and their children. This does not fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.

Currently the funding of each shelter varies between federal, cantons and municipalities and other donors.¹³

National statistics on the users of shelters are not collected.

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
9	173	438	265	9	All when the need arises	No data available.

Other Shelters

Bosnia and Herzegovina has one other shelter for all survivors of trafficking where they can stay for one to three months.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are two sexual violence centres for women and girls, both run by independent women's NGO's. The first one was

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set up in Zenica, by “Medica Zenica”¹⁴ in 1993, the second one in Tuzla in 1994. Both centres provide a gender-specific approach. They all offer access to migrant, undocumented, asylum seekers, Roma women and women with disabilities. Funding is from foreign donations (100 per cent).

No national statistics are collected on the users of sexual violence centres.

Women’s Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children¹⁵

There are 13 women’s centres for survivors of violence and their children in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They are run by independent women’s NGOs (12) and religious based NGOs (1) and all of them apply a gender-specific approach.

The 13 centres are made up of two crisis centres, five psychological counselling centres, six legal aid advice centres. There are no specialised women’s centres for migrant and minority ethnic women. All 13 women’s centres offer access to migrant, undocumented, asylum seekers, Roma women and women with disabilities.

Funding for the women’s centres is primarily from foreign donations (90 per cent) with limited support from the state (10 per cent). No national statistics are collected on the users of women’s centres.

General Women’s Centres

There are a number of women’s centres in Bosnia and Herzegovina providing support to women.

National Networks of Women’s Services

There is a national network of women’s shelters in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Safe Network Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Recent Changes in service provision

There was one change in service provision for women survivors of violence during 2011, the setting up of a free legal aid service, by Association Gram Concordia Zenica. Three safe houses “Biha ”, “Prijedor” and “Mostar” were under threat due to lack of funding and all services that receive any state funding are in danger of budget cuts.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

In three Cantons of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo, Tuzla and Zenica Doboij Canton) survivors of violence are recognized within the Law on Social Protection as a social category and they are entitled to social benefits. However survivors in seven cantons in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and in RS are not recognized and therefore are not entitled to social benefits. There are no specific housing programs available to women survivors of violence.

Legal protection from violence

There are two laws in Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted in 2005: the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence of Republika Srpska and the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.¹⁶

Both laws provide for the use of protective measures.

Protective orders in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina under the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence, can be issued in cases of physical violence, threats of violence, psychological violence and stalking and can cover the survivors dwelling, the surrounding area and other places such as workplace and schools the survivor’s children attend.

Protective orders in the Republika Srpska under the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence, can be issued in cases of physical violence, threats of violence, psychological violence and stalking and can cover the survivors dwelling, the surrounding area and other places such as workplace and schools the survivor’s children attend.

Concern has been raised that in some instances protective orders have been used without the police referring the crime to the competent public prosecutor, and they appear to be being used as a substitute to prosecuting acts of domestic violence.¹⁷

No national statistics are available on the use of police barring orders.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Bosnia and Herzegovina has a national strategy plan to combat violence against women, Strategy for Prevention and Combating Domestic Violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is included in the national gender action plan 2009-2011, chapter 11 "Domestic violence, gender based violence, harassment, sexual harassment and trafficking in human beings". The strategy covers rape and sexual violence, sexual harassment, stalking and domestic violence. There is no governmental coordinating body responsible for implementing and coordinating the policies regarding violence against women.

CEDAW¹⁸

In the concluding comments on Bosnia and Herzegovina at the Thirty-Fifth session, May - June 2006, CEDAW welcomed the Law on Protection against Family Violence and the adoption of anti trafficking measures including the creation of a stated coordinator against trafficking in human beings. However the Committee expressed concern that different judicial interpretations and inconsistent penalties for domestic violence crimes could result from the adoption of different legal texts in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Republika Srpska. In the former domestic violence is defined as a crime, while in the latter it is defined as both a crime and a misdemeanor. The Committee also recommended that measures be taken to empower women to report domestic violence and ensure that law enforcement personnel, the judiciary and others are sufficiently sensitized and informed to be able to adequately respond. The Committee also urged the State party to explicitly recognize and adequately protect women who were civilian survivors of sexual violence during the armed conflict.

Endnotes

- ¹ Data from latest available census, 31 Mar 1991. Source: United Nations Statistics Division, Population, latest available census and estimates, latest available data, (Last Updated 27 December 2011), <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/vitstats/seratab2.pdf> (22 February 2012).
- ² In the governmental combined fourth and fifth report to the CEDAW Committee (2011), it was announced however, that a survey would be conducted in cooperation with statistical agencies. Fourth and Fifth Combined UN CEDAW Report of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2011, http://www.arsbih.gov.ba/images/documents/cedaw_4_5_e.pdf (22 February 2012).
- ³ The Gender Center of the Federation of BiH research on prevalence of gender based violence in three local communities (Bihać, Goražde and Mostar) within the project "Preventing and combating sexual and gender based violence in BiH" February 2011. Also, in June 2011, the Gender Center of the Federation of BiH published the report on the results of research conducted on establishing referral mechanisms for assistance to survivors of sexual and gender based violence in three local communities (Bihać, Goražde and Mostar), - research and assessment of the research. Following these researches, the directions for establishing referral mechanisms for survivors of sexual and gender based violence were developed in 2011.
- ⁴ WAVE Focal Point Medica Zenica in 2008 completed a research on gender based violence and violence against children ("A second look at the tip of the Ice berg"). The research, conducted in two local communities in the Federation (Zenica municipality) and in the Republic of Srpska (Modriča municipality), involved 700 persons: http://medicazenica.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=57&Itemid=18 (22 February 2012).
- ⁵ There is no unified system for collecting and analysing statistical data on domestic violence against women, neither at the entity nor at the state level Alternative Report on the Implementation of CEDAW and Women's Human Rights in BiH, coordinated and supported by Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka and Rights for All from Sarajevo, October 2010: <http://humanrightshouse.org/noop/file.php?id=15610> (22 February 2012). The WAVE Focal Point Medica Zenica, in cooperation with relevant institutions and organisations, started collecting statistical data on this issue at the municipal level in 2011. Information supplied by the competent courts in the Federation.
- ⁶ Based on Article 222 of the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the criminal offense of domestic violence.
- ⁷ http://www.arsbih.gov.ba/images/documents/cedaw_4_5_e.pdf (22 February 2012). The number of male survivors of domestic violence was 100 or (7.95 per cent). Children were recorded as survivors of crimes of domestic violence in 153 (12.17 per cent) of cases.
- ⁸ Several WNGOs run the helpline; "Udružene žene-Banja Luka", "Budućnost-Modriča", "Association of Women Lara-Bijeljina" and "Žerenski centar-Trebilje".
- ⁹ The helpline is run by several NGOs based on a memorandum of Cooperation which regulates the manner of functioning of the hotline and which was signed between the "Gender Centre of the Federation of BiH", the "Social Welfare Centre-Jajce", the "Foundation of Local Democracy-Sarajevo", the "NGO Medica-Zenica", "Vive žene-Tuzla", "Žene BiH-Mostar" and "Žene sa Une-Bihac".
- ¹⁰ Total calls for both helplines December 2008 – December 2009 5,597, 2010: 4,803.
- ¹¹ December 2008 –31 December 2009, Fourth and Fifth Combined UN CEDAW Report of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2011. <http://www.iwraw-ap.org/committee/bosnia.htm> (22 February 2012).
- ¹² Report on the implementation of the strategy for prevention and combating domestic violence in BiH-2009-2011" as well as available at the site of the Gender Center of Republic of Srpska: <http://www.vladars.net/sr-SP-Cyri/Vlada/centri/gendercentars/Pages/default.aspx> (22 February 2012), 99 per cent of the callers were women seeking help, most of them between 19-60 years old.
- ¹³ NGOs in BiH advocate for inclusion of the model of financing of safe houses within the new law on Protection from Domestic Violence - a model would include a portion of funds allocated from the federal budget, and a portion from the cantonal and municipal budgets.
- ¹⁴ In December 2011, Medica Zenica established the first network in the regions for survivors/witnesses in war crime cases, sexual violence and other criminal cases. The work and authorities of the network are stipulated by the protocol among 17 institutions and NGOs relevant in this field and, "Medica Zenica" has developed directions and procedures which provide survivors with useful information, where, whom and when to approach for help and how to obtain it in the quickest and most qualitative way.
- ¹⁵ There are also eight state run Centers providing legal aid free of charge to citizen's including survivors of violence for people on low incomes.
- ¹⁶ However the provisions of these laws are not harmonized with each other, which cause legal insecurity, unequal treatment of the law, and make it impossible for women and children survivors of violence to seek for appropriate protection. In the FBIH, domestic violence is legally treated as a criminal offense, while RS treats it as both as a criminal offense and minor offence, i.e. misdemeanor.
- ¹⁷ Alternative Report on the Implementation of CEDAW and Women's Human Rights in BiH, coordinated and supported by Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka and Rights for All from Sarajevo, October 2010: <http://humanrightshouse.org/noop/file.php?id=15610> (22 February 2012). OSCE report „Response to Domestic Violence and Coordinated Survivors Protection in Federation of BiH and RS - Preliminary Findings on the Implementation of Laws on Protection from Domestic Violence“, July 2009. <http://www.oscebih.org/documents/16324-eng.pdf>
- ¹⁸ <http://www.iwraw-ap.org/committee/bosnia.html> (22 February 2012).

BULGARIA

BULGARIA

General Country Information

Population: 7,534,289

Female population: 4,066,436

Member of Council of Europe: 1992

Member of European Union: 2007

CEDAW ratified: 1982

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2006

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: No



No. of Shelters: 5
 Rec. No. of Shelter Places: 407
 No. of Shelter Places: 60

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

According to a survey in 2008-2009¹, 25 per cent of women are estimated to have been survivors of domestic violence. An estimated 900,000 women in Bulgaria suffer from domestic abuse each year.² 4.1 per cent of women revealed to have been survivors of sexual violence.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There is at least one national women's helpline in Bulgaria. The helpline is called "Natzionalna goreshta telefonna linia za postradali ot nasilie" (National Hot Line for survivors of violence) and is run by Animus Association (359 2 981 76 86), an independent woman's NGO. The helpline is specialised in providing support to women and girls survivors of all forms of violence against women. Multi-lingual support is not provided.

The helpline is free of charge and open 24/7i and therefore fulfills the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women, a helpline for women.

Funding comes from the state (50 per cent), foreign donations (20 per cent) inter-governmental state organisations (20 per cent) and volunteers (10 per cent). The helpline has four to five full-time staff.

Table of Women's HELPLINES:

Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls
1	Yes	Yes	No	50 per cent	2,378 in 2010 ⁴

OTHER NATIONAL HELPLINES

There is no information provided on other national helplines.

Other National Helplines

There are no other national helplines for survivors of violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Women's Shelters

There are five shelters in Bulgaria run by independent women's NGOs serving women survivors of domestic violence. The first shelter was opened in 1997 and the most recent in 2009.

The shelters provide a total of 60 places for women and their children. This does not fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.

The shelters are free of charge and open 24/7. There are no specific shelters for migrant women in the country. The shelters all take children but more than 50 per cent have an age limit for boys of around 10-12 years old; there is no limit for girls. They all offer access to migrant, undocumented, asylum seekers, Roma women and women with disabilities. There is an average of one to three staff in shelters, with all of the staff being dedicated to the work with children.

The shelters are funded in part by the State, private donations and foreign donations.

National statistics on the users of shelters are not collected.

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
5	60	407	347	5	No data available.	No data available.

Other Shelters

Bulgaria has no other shelters.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are no gender specific sexual violence centres in Bulgaria for women and girls. Therefore Bulgaria does not meet the Council of Europe recommendation of one centre providing services for women and children survivors of sexual violence per 200,000 inhabitants.

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children¹⁵

Bulgaria has no women's centres providing support to survivors of violence and their children.

National Networks of Women's Services

There is a national network of women's support services in Bulgaria, the "Alliance against Domestic Violence" network.

Recent Changes in service provision

There were no changes in service provision for women survivors of violence during 2011.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

No financial aid or housing support is available to women survivors of violence in Bulgaria.

Legal protection from violence

Civil protection orders were introduced in Law on Protection against Domestic Violence in 2005. Amendments to this law

BULGARIA

and the Criminal Code have included criminalising the violation of a protective order, expanding the range of individuals who can be charged with the crime of domestic violence, extended the duration of the order from 12 to 18 months, among others.⁵ Limitations were also introduced on perpetrators of domestic violence rights to possess weapons for a period of three years after the court decision.

Civil protection orders are available for 3 - 18 months, to survivors in cases of physical and psychological violence, emotional and economic violence, deprivation of liberty, personal rights and the attempt of, threats of violence and domestic violence in the presence of a child.

The orders covering the survivor's house the surrounding area and other places such as workplace and schools the survivor's children attend. They include temporary placing of the child/children with the non-violent parent; general prohibition for domestic violence; require the respondent to attend specialised programmes and advise the survivors to attend recovery programmes, temporary relocating the residence of the child with the parent who is the survivor, provided that this is in the best interest of the child.

Civil protection orders are available to all family members including women and men, married cohabiting and ex-partners partners, and children.

Protective orders and criminal law protection orders are not available.

Statistics on Protective Orders

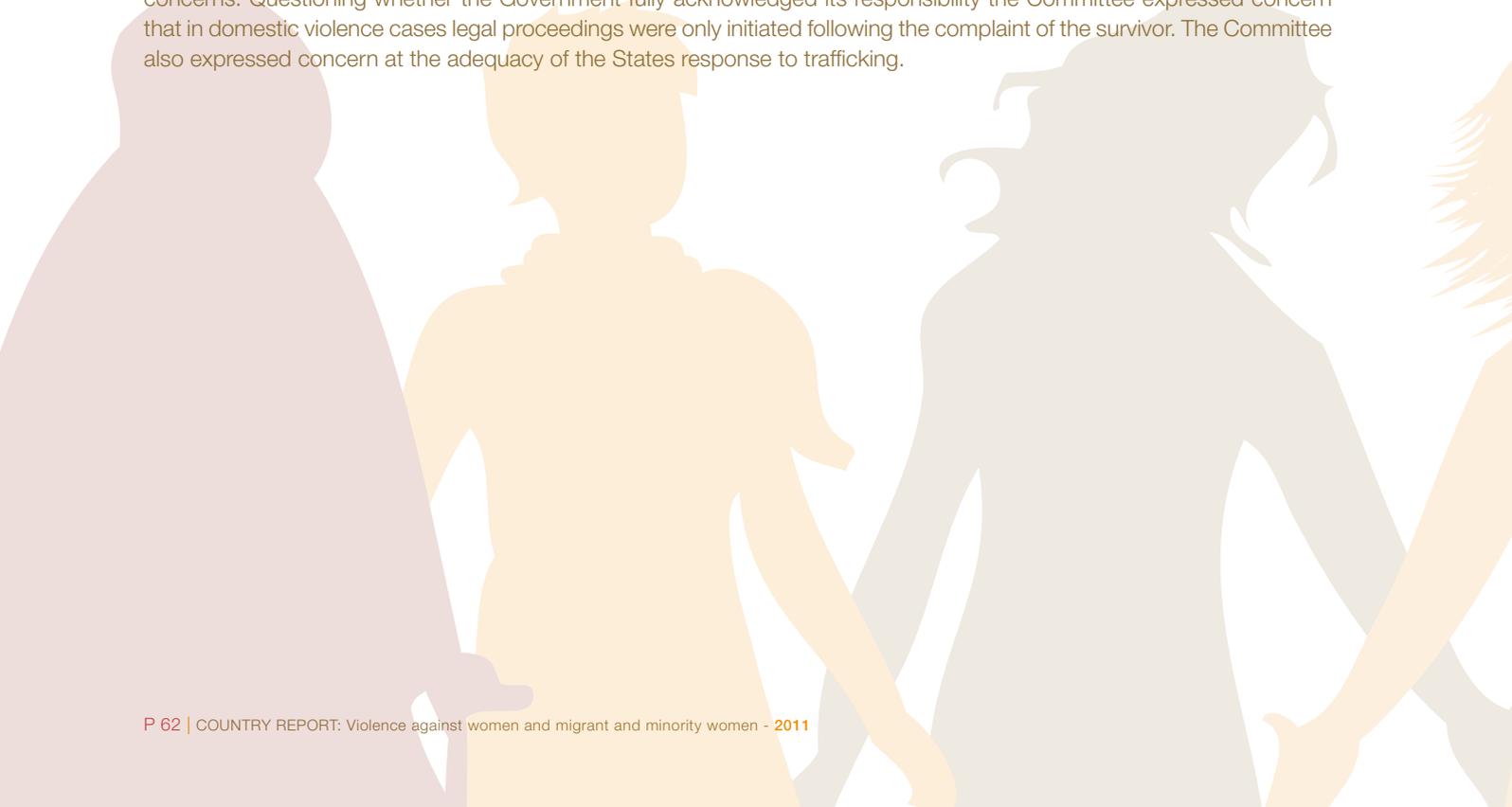
1,330 civil protection orders were applied for in 2009 and 484 were granted, 1,287 were applied for in 2010 and 480 were granted. 1,287 civil protection orders were applied for in the first nine months of the year of 2011 and 320 were granted.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Bulgaria had a national strategy to combat violence against women for the period of 2007-2009. There is not a governmental coordinating body responsible for implementing and coordinating the policies regarding violence against women and no budget allocated to implement the national action plan. According to a recent EWL Barometer Report 2011, Bulgaria has a National Strategy of Empowerment of Women (2009-2015). The strategy includes a focus on 'eradication of gender violence and human trafficking' as an objective, and 'increasing the effectiveness of measures against domestic violence' However, no concrete steps have been taken and the strategy is gender blind.

CEDAW⁶

In the concluding comments on Bulgaria on 28 January 1998 CEDAW identified violence against women as one of its main concerns. Questioning whether the Government fully acknowledged its responsibility the Committee expressed concern that in domestic violence cases legal proceedings were only initiated following the complaint of the survivor. The Committee also expressed concern at the adequacy of the States response to trafficking.



Endnotes

- ¹ Hagemann-White, Carol. (2002), Protecting women against violence: Analytical study of the results of the third round of monitoring the implementation of Recommendations Rec (2002) 5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member states. Council of Europe. Pg. 56. http://www.coe.int/t/DGHL/STANDARDSETTING/EQUALITY/03themes/violence-against-women/cdeg_2010_12en.pdf (21 March 2012).
- ² Advocates for Human Rights and Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation, 2010. 9th session of the working group on the universal periodic review UN Human Rights Council, p.1. http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session9/BG/BGRF_BulgarianGenderResearchFoundation_JS.pdf (21 March 2012).
- ³ <http://www.animusassociation.org/en/help-line/> (21 March 2012).
- ⁴ Data is taken from the National Women's Helpline run by the Animus Association: <http://www.animusassociation.org/en/help-line/> (21 March 2012).
- ⁵ Advocates for Human Rights and Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation, 2010. 9th session of the working group on the universal periodic review UN Human Rights Council, p.3. http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session9/BG/BGRF_BulgarianGenderResearchFoundation_JS.pdf (21 March 2012).
- ⁶ [http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/A.53.38.para.208-261.En?Opendocument](http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/A.53.38.para.208-261.En?Opendocument) (21 March 2012).

CROATIA

CROATIA

General Country Information

Population: 4,425,747¹

Female population: 2,301,560

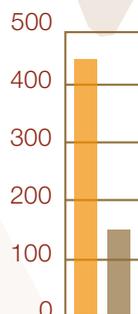
Member of Council of Europe: 1996

Member of European Union: No

CEDAW ratified: 1992

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2001

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: No



No. of Shelters: 12
Rec. No. of Shelter Places: 444
No. of Shelter Places: Approx. 150

FACTS AND FIGURES

In Croatia there are two relevant surveys:

The first survey was carried out by "AWHZ" (Autonomous Women's House Zagreb) in cooperation with the State Institute for Protection of Family, Motherhood and Youth as part of the project "Social costs of domestic violence against women" and was in 2003 in Zagreb². The representative sample was 100 women and it was a prevalence study.

The 2nd survey, "Economic violence against women: manifestation, consequences and ways of recovering", was also carried out by the AWHZ in cooperation with the Ministry of Family, Veterans' Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity and was published in 2010 in Zagreb³. The sample was not representative, but rather consisted of women beneficiaries of the AWHZ Women's Counselling centre. The sample was 240 women and it was a qualitative study.

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

The 2003 survey showed that every third woman in Croatia (33,33 per cent) has survived some sort of physical violence by current or former husbands or partners, and the data on psychological violence showed that more than 50 per cent of women in Croatia survived this form of violence.

The 2010 survey showed that economic inequality is the most common context of violence against woman. 75 per cent of women in the survey survived some form of economic violence. Promotion of economic equality in society would be an indirect measurement of prevention of violence. All forms of economic violence are associated with the overall violence against women. According to the police statistics, there were 14,265 reports for family violence in 2009 and 14,129 in 2010 under the Misdemeanor Law for protection from family violence and 971 in 2010 for art. 215a of the Criminal Law (family violence). These statistics are not disaggregated according to gender.

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women: Every 3rd woman in Croatia has survived sexual violence: "Worryingly, a large percentage of women have experienced sexual intercourse against their will and at the express request of a partner - as much as 34 per cent, every third woman. But even more surprising is that 11 per cent of women had sexual intercourse against her will two to three times, and even 8 per cent more often." (2003 survey by AWHZ). 17 per cent of the respondent shave either experienced attempted rape or rape.

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

The official police statistic made for 2009 and 2010 does not precise the number of women murdered by their partners/ex partners, also does not provide the relationship between the perpetrator and the survivor. However, Women's NGOs have given a document (2009 data) to the Parliament Committee for Gender Equality from the Police Head Department and the "Annual report from Ombudswoman for gender equality" (2010 data) that says:⁴

Number of femicides: 2009: 13; 2010: 5

National Criminal Justice Statistics:

There is no official Criminal Justice Statistics in the Republic of Croatia. This sort of information is available for 2007 and 2008 because they were published in the "Report on implementation of the rules of procedures for cases of violence in the family". However, the report for 2009 and 2010 is not available and Women's NGOs request for it from the Ministry of Family (in charge of this report) has been unanswered. NGOs must conclude that the statistics exist, but are not available to the public.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There is no national women's helpline in Croatia. Therefore Croatia does not fulfill the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women.

Other National Helplines

Croatia has a national helpline for survivors of trafficking. It is not exclusive for women but the vast majority of calls are from women. The helpline, "SOS Helpline for Survivors of Trafficking" (+385) 0800 77 99), was set up by the Center for Women War Survivors "ROSA", the Organisation for Integrity and Prosperity Split, a combination of an independent women's NGO, another NGO and the State in 2003. It became part of the national plan for combating trafficking. The helpline provides support to survivors, including children, of trafficking using a gender-specific approach.

The helpline is free of charge but is only open weekdays and weekends from 10:00-18:00. Multi-lingual support is not provided. Funding comes from the State (50 per cent) and foreign donations (50 per cent). There are three paid staff and two volunteers working at the helpline. The helpline received 587 calls in 2009 and 403 in 2010

There are also national helplines for children and young people: "The Children's Line" and the "Blue Line". Both are available 24/7 all year.

Women's Shelters

There are 12 women's shelters in Croatia. Seven shelters support women survivors of violence and their children using a gender specific approach. Five are run by independent women's NGOs and two by other NGOs. The first one was set up in 1990 by Autonomous Women's House Zagreb and the most recent in 2008, the Centre for Women Adela (for survivors of domestic violence) in Sisak.

There are also three other shelters run by NGOs and by religious based organisations. These shelters also support women survivors of domestic violence and their children, but do not use a gender specific approach.

Croatia does not fulfill the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.

All the shelters are free of charge, about half offer access (24/7). All 12 shelters take children, about 75 per cent have an age limit for boys of 14 years; there is no age limit for girls. About a third offer access to migrant and undocumented women, just over half offer access to asylum seekers and disabled women and all offer access to Roma women.

Women can stay in the majority of shelters for up to three months though several enable them to stay from six months to a year. The majority of shelters have one to three staff running the shelters with about 25 per cent dedicated to supporting children.

The shelters are funded between 40 – 70 per cent by the State.

National statistics on the users of shelters are not collected by the State and the NGOs do not have the resources to collect them.

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
12	Approx.150	444	294	12	No data available.	Approx. 70 per cent

Other Shelters

There are also four other shelters run by the State and by religious NGOs that support all survivors of domestic violence and 11 shelters for homeless people.

CROATIA

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There is only one sexual violence centre in Croatia for women and girls. It was set up in 2002 in Zagreb by “Woman’s Room”, an independent women’s NGO using a gender-specific approach.

Croatia does not meet the Council of Europe recommendation of one centre providing services for women and children survivors of sexual violence per 200,000 inhabitants.

The centre offers access to migrant, undocumented, asylum seekers, and Roma women. Access is not available to women with disabilities. The centre is fund by the state (40 per cent), foreign donations (56 per cent) and private donations (4 per cent).

129 women were supported by the centre in 2009 and 105 in 2010.⁵

Women’s Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

There are a number of the women’s centres in Croatia which provide counselling and other support to women survivors of violence and their children. Approximately 18 provide counselling support in person and by phone. Centres with helplines include “B.a.b.e”, “be active be emancipated”⁶, which supports women survivors of all types of violence against women as does “Women Help Now” - SOS-Line for Women and Children Survivors of Violence and the Autonomous Women’s House Zagreb. The Women’s Room supports women survivors of sexual violence and trafficking.

National Networks of Women’s Services

There are no national networks or coalitions of women support services in Croatia. But there is a network of NGOs for prevention and elimination of trafficking in women and girls in Croatia, called “PETRA”.

Recent Changes in service provision

One shelter closed in 2011: “Udruga MIRTA”, in Split. At least nine shelters had budget cuts in 2011 and they all under threat due to lack of adequate financial support.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

Social security benefits are available to all citizens with residency rights in Croatia. However migrant and undocumented women do not qualify. Asylum seeking women can receive only 20 per cent of the benefits given to Croatian citizens per month.⁷ There are no specific social security benefits and housing programs available to women survivors of violence.

Legal protection from violence

Legal protection for women survivors of violence is provided by the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence, 2003, amended in 2009, (Misdemeanor Law) and the Penal Code (Criminal Law), 1997 ammended in 2000 and 2009. Rules on the implementation of protective measures which are regulated in the Act on Protection of Family Violence, which commissioned police jurisdiction 2004 and Rules of Procedure in Cases of Family Violence 2008.

Criminal law protection orders are available for physical and psychological violence and threats of violence. These protective measures can apply to the survivor’s dwelling and surrounding areas and workplace and children’s schools and prohibit general contact.

Protection orders are available for all family members including women and men, married cohabiting, same-sex and ex-partners partners, children and survivors of stalking. Women who do not live with the perpetrator or have not had a child with them do not qualify because they are not considered constituting a family and the law protects the family, not individual women.

The police have the power to issue an order to protect women. That needs to be confirmed by the court within eight days. These are rarely used as the police tend to suggest the need for protection orders to the court which then decides whether to issue a protection order. The purpose of these orders is to provide safety during the misdemeanour trial as protective measures do not come into effect until the court ruling on the case.

No data is available on the use of protective orders.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

There are three national strategies on violence against women. The National policy for Gender Equality, 2011- 2015, The National policy for Promoting Gender Equality 2006 – 2010 and the National strategy for Protection against Domestic Violence 2011-2016. The policies cover rape and sexual violence and domestic violence. The strategies state that there will be funds provided for each policy, but no details are given.

There is a governmental coordinating body responsible for implementing and coordinating the policies regarding violence against women. The coordinating body is led by the Ministry of Family, Veterans and Intergenerational Solidarity. There is also a Committee for the Protection from Violence in the Family which includes three members from NGOs, but it rarely meets. Implementation of the body is monitored by the Ministry of Family, Veterans and Intergenerational Solidarity which produces yearly reports that are not published.

CEDAW⁸

In the concluding comments on Croatia at the Thirty second session, 10 to 28 January 2005, CEDAW expressed concern at the high incidents of domestic violence, the limited number of shelters available for women survivors of violence, and the lack of clear procedures, or protocols, for law enforcement and health-care personnel who respond to cases of domestic violence. The Committee urged Croatia to prioritise the Law on Protection from Family Violence, ensure that violence against women is prosecuted and punished and that women survivors have access to a sufficient number of shelters. The Committee also called on the state party to ensure that public officials including the police and the judiciary were aware of the legal provisions and sufficient sensitised to and able to adequately respond to all forms of violence against women.

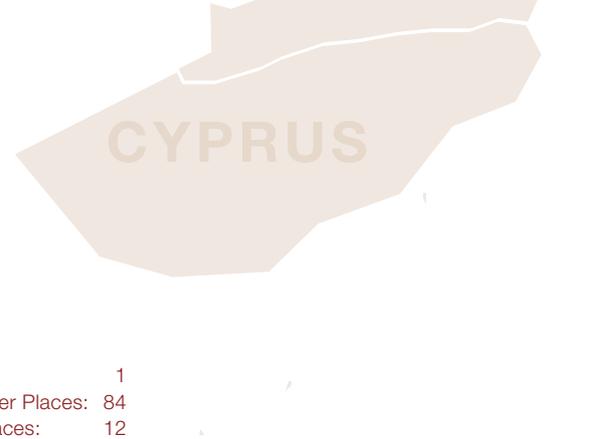
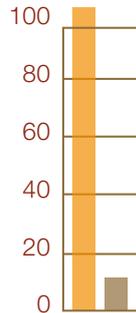
Endnotes

- ¹ Estimation 2009 - 2010
- ² Autonomous Women's House Zagreb (2003), Social expenses of the domestic violence against women, Zagreb, (976 respondents).
- ³ Autonomous Women's House Zagreb in cooperation with the Ministry of Family, Veterans' Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity (2010), Economic violence against women: manifestation, consequences and ways of recovering, Zagreb.
- ⁴ www.mup.hr (5 March 2012).
http://www.mup.hr/UserDocImages/statistika/2010/godisnje_izvjesce_2009_prava_verzija.pdf (5 March 2012).
<http://www.mup.hr/UserDocImages/statistika/2011/statistika2010.pdf> (5 March 2012).
http://www.prs.hr/docs/rh_prs_izvjesce_2010.pdf (5 March 2012).
- ⁵ Ministry of interior: <http://www.mup.hr/1263.aspx> (5 March 2012).
- ⁶ B.a.b.e was set up in 1994 and also runs a shelter and a counselling centre. The helpline (0800200144) is open 24/7 all year and is part of the counselling centre and shelter. In 2010 B.a.b.e had 1,795 cases of which 69.9 per cent were violence against women cases; 72 per cent of counselling was done by phone; 28 per cent of counselling was personal/face to face counselling. Out of the 1,795 cases 41.8 per cent were verbal violence, 50.8 per cent physical violence, 1.5 per cent sexual violence, 13.3 per cent economic violence.
- ⁷ About 15 Euro, see WAVE Country Report 2010.
- ⁸ <http://www.iwraw-ap.org/committee/croatia01.htm> (5 March 2012).

CYPRUS

General Country Information

Population¹: 838,897
Female population: 351,068
Member of Council of Europe: 1961
Member of European Union: 2004
CEDAW ratified: 1985
CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2002
Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: No



No. of Shelters: 1
 Rec. No. of Shelter Places: 84
 No. of Shelter Places: 12

FACTS AND FIGURES

There are no prevalence survey data on violence against women in Cyprus.

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

Number of femicides: In 2009 64 per cent of the survivors of the 19 homicides due to family violence were women.

Number of cases of male sexual violence against women: 38 rapes and attempted rapes of women were reported to the police in 2010.

Number of cases of family violence: There have been 884 cases of reported family violence, 611 against women and 60 against girls.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women’s Helplines

Cyprus has one national helpline, “Centre for Emergency Assistance Helpline”, established in 1988², run by a non-profit NGO and co-funded by the government. The NGO is called the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family.

The Centre for Emergency Assistance Helpline supports women survivors of domestic violence and also supports girls. The helpline accepts calls from survivors of all ages, however in the case of children (under 18) they are referred to the Social Welfare Services.

The helpline is free of charge. However it is not open 24/7, it is only open from 08:00 – 22:00, and does not provide multi-lingual support due to lack of funding. Therefore Cyprus does not fulfill the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women.

Funding is primarily from the State (60 per cent), foreign donations (5 per cent) and private donations (35 per cent). The helpline employs four fulltime paid staff and 30 volunteers.

Table of Women’s HELPLINES:

Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls
1	Yes	No	No	60 per cent	953 calls from women in 2009 899 in 2010

Women's Shelters

Cyprus has one shelter opened 1997 by the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family, an NGO, for women survivors of domestic violence.

The shelter provides 12 places for women and their children, which are 60 places less than the number of women's places needed according to the Council of Europe. Thus Cyprus does not fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.³

The shelter is free of charge and open 24/7. The shelter takes children up to 18 years for boys and girls. The shelter also offers access to migrant women, undocumented migrant women, women asylum seekers and Roma women survivors of violence and disabled women. However there are a number of language and cultural barriers as well as fear of deportation that often prevents these women from accessing the shelter. There are no specific shelters for migrant women in the country.

Women can stay in the shelter for six to eight weeks. In extreme cases additional time may be given. The shelter has approximately four to six staff with less than 25 per cent of staff dedicated to the work with children. The shelter is primarily funded by the state (60 per cent), with other support from foreign donations (5 per cent) and private donations (35 per cent).

National statistics on the number of women and children who use their services are collected by the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family. In 2009 54 women and children were accommodated and in 2010 35 women and children were accommodated. Approximately 195 women and their children could not be accommodated by the Cyprus shelter because of lack of available places in 2010.

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
1	12	84	72	1	No data available.	100 per cent

Further information: Cyprus also has a shelter for women survivors of trafficking which was opened in 2007. It is run by and fully funded by the State. The shelter is free of charge and open 24/7.

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

There is one women's centre in Cyprus providing support for survivors of violence and their children. It opened in 1990 in Nicosia and is run by the independent women's NGO Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family. The centre serves survivors of family violence and domestic violence against women, but does not apply a gender-specific approach.

The centre offers access to migrant, undocumented, asylum seekers, and Roma women. However language, cultural and other barriers often prevent women from these groups accessing the centre. Very limited access is offered to women with disabilities.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

Cyprus offers social security benefits to women survivors of violence under the Public Assistance Law of 2006. This consists of a monthly allowance and a rent allowance. The Public Assistance Law specifically mentions survivors of trafficking in human beings as beneficiaries. Survivors of other forms of violence against women (family violence) are eligible to assistance based on income and other criteria.

Undocumented migrant women are eligible for public assistance only in the cases where they are recognised survivors of trafficking in human beings.

CYPRUS

Legal protection from violence

Cyprus has one law protecting women from violence: The Violence in the Family (Prevention and Protection of Survivors) Law 47 (I), introduced in 1994. This law was later replaced by Law 119(I) in 2000, amended in 2004 by Law 212(I). The law is not gender specific and protective measures cover all survivors of violence in the family.

Criminal law protection orders protect all family members and cover the dwelling of the survivor and the surroundings of the survivors dwelling. The orders can be issued in cases of physical violence, threats of violence, psychological violence.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Cyprus has a national strategy to combat violence against women covering domestic violence. There is a governmental coordinating body responsible for implementing and coordinating the policies regarding violence against women, the Advisory Committee for the Prevention and Combating of Violence in the Family. It is an inter-ministerial body, but it does not have the power to make policy decisions. Two independent women's NGO are members of the coordinating body, the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies and the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family.

CEDAW

In the concluding comments on Cyprus at the Thirty-fifth session, May 2006, CEDAW while welcoming the positive measures taken by the State party and the legal and institutional progress made in addressing violence against women, expressed concern that violence against women remains a serious problem, especially within the family. In particular, the Committee noted with concern the lack of research, data and knowledge on the extent and causes of domestic violence and other forms of violence against women. The Committee urged Cyprus to put in place comprehensive measures to address all other forms of violence against women, in accordance with its general recommendation No. 19.



Endnotes

- ¹ Cyprus Census 2011
<http://www.cystat.gov.cy/mof/cystat/statistics.nsf/All/732265957BAC953AC225798300406903?OpenDocument&sub=2&sel=1&e=&print> (8 March 2012).
- ² Helpline is for survivors of violence in the family (gender-neutral).
- ³ The Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family are currently raising funds to open a larger shelter in order to fulfill the minimum standard, be accessible to women with disabilities, and offer multilingual services among others.

CZECH REPUBLIC

THE
CZECH REPUBLIC

General Country Information

Population: 10,230,060

Female population: 4,982,071

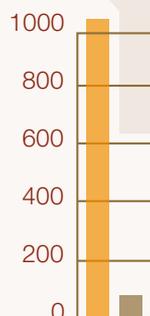
Member of Council of Europe: 1993

Member of European Union: 2004

CEDAW ratified: 1993

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2001

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: No



No. of Shelters:	3
Rec. No. of Shelter Places:	1,023
No. of Shelter Places:	84

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

Prevalence of male violence against women: 38 per cent of women have experienced any form of violence from their partners or ex-partners during their lives. Among the most frequent forms were slaps, kicking, biting, punching with a fist, pushing and threats of physical violence (20 – 25 per cent). 41 per cent of women feel their life is threatened.¹

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women: 13.5 per cent of women stated they had been forced into sexual intercourse in the past, 8.2 per cent once and 5.3 per cent repeatedly (1997).²

Research data available on other forms of violence against women:

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

Number of cases of male violence against women: Gender desegregated data is not available. But in 2010 568 case of violence within the same dwelling were recorded.

Number of cases of male sexual violence against women: Data is not desegregated by survivor's gender; but in 2010 there were 586 cases of rape and 22 cases of sexual coercion.³

National Criminal Justice Statistics:

No data available.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There are no national women's helplines therefore the Czech Republic does not fulfill the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women, a helpline for women.

Other National Helplines

There are two women's helplines providing support to women survivors of violence, but they are not promoted as national women's helplines. The first one was "ROSA" (420602246102) in 1998, by "ROSA Foundation-Nadace", a centre for battered women and an independent women's NGO. It applies a gender specific approach supporting women and girls survivors of all forms of violence, including domestic violence. The helpline is run by one and a half members of staff with no support from volunteers. It is open Monday to Fridays 09.00 to 18.00.

The helpline is not free of charge as clients are required to pay the cost of the local phone and multi-lingual support is not available. The majority of the funding for the ROSA Foundation-Nadace helpline is provided by the State (85 per cent), with private donations providing the rest (15 per cent).

The second helpline “DONA Link” (+420 25151 1313) was established in 2001 and is run by an NGO, “BKB-White Circle of Safety”. The helpline does not apply a gender-specific approach and supports women survivors of all forms of violence and both men and women survivors of domestic violence. The majority of clients are women. There is a local charge for the phone call and multi-lingual support is not available.

There is no information on the funding of the DONA Link helpline or the staff resources.

No data is available on the number of calls received as neither organisation has the capacity to collect statistics.

Other helplines are available part time providing legal counselling including for survivors of domestic violence: “Persefona”, and rape and trafficked women: “La Strada”.

There are two helplines for children: “Link of Safety” a free nationwide helpline for children and young people run by an NGO and “Pink Link”, Violence against Children. Pink Link is a medical counselling centre run by the Czech Society for the Protection of Children for which clients have to pay the cost of a local phone call.

Women’s Shelters

There are only three shelters in the Czech Republic that offer specialised, gender specific services to women survivors of domestic violence. ROSA opened in 1998 and the most recent, “Magdalenium” opened in 2011. The first shelter that opened in Prague in 1996 for mothers with children has since closed.

Both ROSA and Magdalenium are run by independent women’s NGOs, the third shelter, “Acorus”, is run by a NGO. The shelters provide 84 places for women survivors of violence and their children. Therefore the Czech Republic does not fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women’s shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.

Migrant women coming from the European Union or women who are seeking to live permanently in the Czech Republic and Roma women are accepted by all three shelters. However none of the shelters offer access to asylum seeking women or undocumented women survivors of violence and very limited access is available to women with disabilities. All three shelters accept children with their mothers regardless of their age.

None of the shelters are able to provide services free of charge or offer 24/7 access. Length of stay in the shelters is regulated by law. Women can stay in the shelters for up to 12 months and an extension is possible.

ROSA shelter is run by one part time member of staff, volunteers help with campaigning and official events but do not work directly with survivors. Funding for the shelters is provided by the state (75 per cent) and private donations (25 per cent).

The shelters do not have the capacity to provide statistics on their use.

Table of Women’s SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
3	84	1,023	939	No	No	75 per cent

Other Shelters

There are 106 shelters offering general support to homeless people and others requiring support. They also provide accommodation to men and women survivors of domestic violence. A further 23 shelters provide accommodation to survivors of trafficking. Women survivors of domestic violence are also supported by a religious charity, “Project Magdala”, which provides accommodation in a network of charity houses.

La Strada has a network providing flats for trafficked women and they also provide accommodate migrant women. Eight charity organisations run shelters for migrants which accommodate migrant women.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are two sexual violence centres specifically for women and girls in the Czech Republic which offer specialised support using a gender-specific approach.⁴ The first, “Elektra”, center for women sexually abused in childhood, was set up in Prague in 1995, the most recent was established in 2007 in Brno, “Persefona”.

The provision of services for women and children survivors of sexual violence in the Czech Republic does not meet the Council of Europe recommendation of one centre per 200,000 inhabitants.

Elektra and Persefona offer support to adult women and provide some support to their children. The centres do not support children survivors of sexual abuse, only the helplines for children provide this support. Migrant women, including women from the European Union, or women who are asking to stay permanently in the Czech Republic and Roma women are offered support, but women asylum seekers or undocumented women survivors of sexual violence are not. Limited support is offered to women with disabilities.

No information is available on the funding of these sexual violence centres. The centres do not have the resources to collect statistics on the users of their centres.

There are also another centres which women survivors of sexual violence can access including a specialist counselling centre, Project Magdala run by a religious NGO which also support parents and children.

Women’s Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

There are 11 women’s centres and 15 intervention centres. The first women’s centre, ROSA was set up in Prague in 1994. The intervention centres were set up by the state in each region by law.

There are four women’s centres run by independent women’s NGOs, ROSA, Persefona, ProFem, Magdalenium; four run by NGOs and three run by religious organisations. The centres provide a range of counselling, crisis support and advice. 10 are specialised in support of women survivors of domestic violence and one for women survivors of trafficking. There are no specific centres for migrant, minority ethnic or asylum seeking women, they all accept women from the European Union or have residency rights, but not asylum seekers.

There is also at least one family counselling centre in every city that women survivors of violence can access.

General Women’s Centres

There are a number of general women’s centres but no details are available.

National Networks of Women’s Services

There is a coalition of organisations against domestic violence: “Koordona”.

Recent Changes in service provision

A new women’s shelter was set up in 2011: Magdalenium. Many counselling centres are under threat because there is very limited financial support for these services.

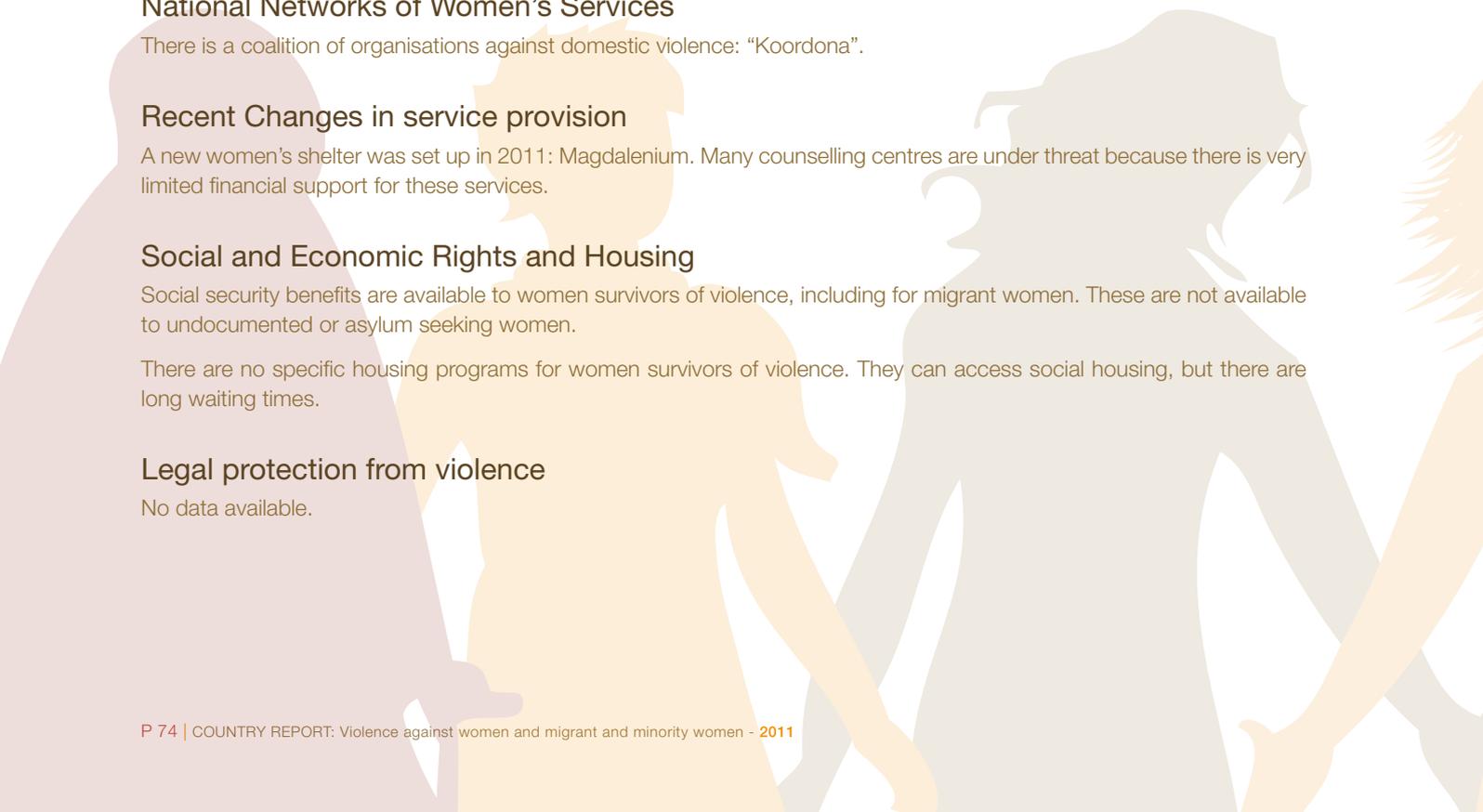
Social and Economic Rights and Housing

Social security benefits are available to women survivors of violence, including for migrant women. These are not available to undocumented or asylum seeking women.

There are no specific housing programs for women survivors of violence. They can access social housing, but there are long waiting times.

Legal protection from violence

No data available.



National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

The Czech Republic has a national action plan on the Prevention of Domestic Violence, from 2009-13. It contains provisions for the implantation of multiagency teams linking to health institutions, social agencies and policies.

CEDAW⁵

In the concluding comments on the Czech Republic at the Forty-seventh session, October 2010, CEDAW welcomed the adoption of criminal law provisions and restraining orders and the setting up of intervention centres to address domestic and sexual violence, but expressed concern at the low prosecution and conviction rates, lenient sentences and limited access to legal aid for survivors. The Committee urged the State to take effective measures to prevent and prosecute acts of domestic and sexual violence including training police, judges and other officials on procedures for dealing with survivors, strengthening cooperation and funding for non-governmental organizations assisting survivors and increasing the capacity of shelters for women survivors of violence.

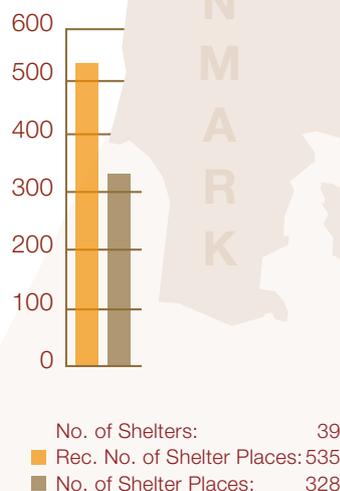
Endnotes

- ¹ Simona Pikálková, Mezinárodní výzkum násilí na ženách – Česká republika/2003: příspěvek k sociologickému zkoumání násilí v rodině, Sociologický ústav Akademie věd ČR, 2004 – Simona Pikálková, International Research on Violence against Women – the Czech Republic/2003, Sociology Department of Academy of Science of the Czech Republic, 2004, http://studie.soc.cas.cz/upl/texty/files/200_04-2%20opr%20zformatovany%20text%204%20pro%20tisk.pdf. Other surveys have been conducted but they are gender neutral as the Czech Republic promotes a gender neutral approach.
- ² Weiss, P. – Zvěřina, J.: Zkušenosti českých žen se sexuálním násilím. Výsledky národního průzkumu. Čs. psychiat., 1997, 93, s. 12 – 19. - Weiss, P. - Zverina, J.: Experiences of Czech Women with Sexual Violence. Results of National Survey. Czechoslovak psychiatry, 1997, pages 12 – 19.
- ³ Statistical overviews of crimes, published by the Police of the Czech Republic: <http://www.policie.cz/clanek/statisticke-prehledy-kriminality-448859.aspx> (21 March 2012).
- ⁴ A third sexual violence counselling centre is run by Project Magdala, but it does not use a gender-specific approach.
- ⁵ http://www.iwraw-ap.org/committee/pdf/47_concluding_observations/czechrepublic.pdf (21 March 2012).

DENMARK

General Country Information

Population: 5,349,212 (2001)
Female population: 2,704,893
Member of Council of Europe: 1949
Member of European Union: 1973
CEDAW ratified: 1983
CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2000
Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: No



FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

Prevalence of male violence against women: 3.9% of all Danish women experienced physical violence in 2005. 1.6% of all Danish women in 2005 reported serious physical violence in the last year.¹

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women: 2% of women interviewed in 2005 reported being forced to engage in sexual activities in the last year. 10% of 16-19-year olds interviewed and 1% of women over 40 years interviewed reported being forced to have sex.²

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

Number of femicides: An average of 23 to 25 women get killed annually

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

Denmark has one national helpline called "LOKK Hotline". It is founded in 2000. It is run by an independent women's NGO, the "National Organisation of Shelters for Battered Women and their Children", "LOKK".

The helpline is free of charge and open 24/7. It provides multilingual gender specific support to women survivors of all forms of violence against women and specifically women survivors of domestic violence, including girls from 14 years old.

The helpline is fully funded by the state. The helpline employs approximately ten to fifteen full time staff.

Table of Women's HELPLINES:

Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls
1	Yes	Yes	Yes	100	2009: approx 2,800 2010: approx 3,000

Other National Helplines

There is also a national help line, Hotline for ethnic youth, also run by "LOKK". The helpline is available 24/7 providing free of charge, multi-lingual support for survivors of so called honour related violence.

Women's Shelters

There are 39 shelters in Denmark, two less than reported in 2010. The first shelter was set up in 1978 and the most recent, a shelter for so called honour violence was set up in 2009.

36 of the shelters are run by independent women's NGOs, two by the state and one by a religious based NGO. All 39 apply a gender specific approach. One shelter provides support specifically for migrant women and one for survivors of so called honour crimes.

Between them the shelters provide places for 328 places for women survivors of violence and their children. The number of shelter places Denmark needs to fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population, is 535. Denmark is missing 207 Places.

All 39 shelters offer their services free of charge. Approximately three quarters of the shelters are accessible 24/7. Children are accommodated in almost all the shelters with the average age limit of 15 years for boys and 18 years for girls. All the shelters offer access to migrant women and Roma women. However less than 75 per cent take undocumented women and women asylum seekers. This is due to a lack of funding from the state for places for undocumented women. Access to a shelter is dependent on whether the shelter can afford to cover the cost of their place from their own resources. As a result undocumented women are not able to stay in shelters for very long.

Less than half of the shelters are accessible to women with disabilities, there is one shelter near Copenhagen that is specifically for physically disabled women. Women can stay in the shelters as long as they need to.

The shelters in Denmark are very different ranging size and organisation. There are ten big shelters in the bigger cities in Denmark and 29 small shelters in other parts of the country. The shelters have between seven and ten full time staff or equivalent and most of them have staff dedicated to work with children. They shelters offer a range of counselling, care and legal advice and they help women and their children access health care, the police and the local authorities.

In Denmark the shelters are primarily funded by the state (50 per cent), with the remainder of their funding coming from private donations (20 per cent) and volunteers (30 per cent).

National statistics on the number of women and children who use their services are collected all the shelters in Denmark. In 2009 1, 881 women and 1, 871 children were accommodated in the shelters and in 2010 2, 166 women and 1, 865 children were accommodated.

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
39	328	535	207	29	39	50 per cent

Other National Helplines

There are approximately three or four other shelters in Denmark. These shelters are not gender specific. They provide general support to all survivors of family violence.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

Denmark has between three and four sexual violence centres for women and girls survivors of sexual violence. The number of services available for women and children in Denmark does not meet the Council of Europe recommendation of one centre per 200, 000 inhabitants.

All the centres are run by the health service. They each offer access to migrant women, Roma women, undocumented migrant women and women seeking asylum. Less than half of the shelters are accessible to women with disabilities. Children of women survivors of sexual violence also have very limited access to support from the sexual violence centres.

They sexual violence centres are funded almost entirely by the state (90 per cent), with support from volunteers (ten per cent). No national statistics are collected on the use of sexual violence centres.

DENMARK

National Networks of Women's Services

There is a national network of women's shelters in Denmark, "LOKK" and a national network of sexual violence centres the Danish Organisation against Sexual Abuse. There is also a network of organisations and others working to combat violence against women, the National Observatory on Violence against Women. The Observatory collects and disseminates data on violence against women and good practice in combating it.

Recent Changes in service provision

A new woman's support service opened in 2010, Medusa Counselling service. Two women's shelters closed in 2011 due to insufficient use. There were no other services in danger of being closing.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

Social security benefits and housing programs are available to Danish women and migrant women survivors of violence. This support is not available to migrant women, undocumented women, or asylum seeking women.

Legal protection from violence

Protective orders were introduced in Denmark in the 2001 expulsion Act. Under the law the police can bar the perpetrator for four weeks and this order can be extended once for a further four weeks. The orders can be issued in cases of physical violence, threats of violence, psychological violence and stalking and can cover the survivors dwelling, the surrounding area and other places such as workplace and schools the survivor's children attend.

Civil protection orders are not available.

Statistics on Protective Orders

No national statistics are available on the use of police barring orders.

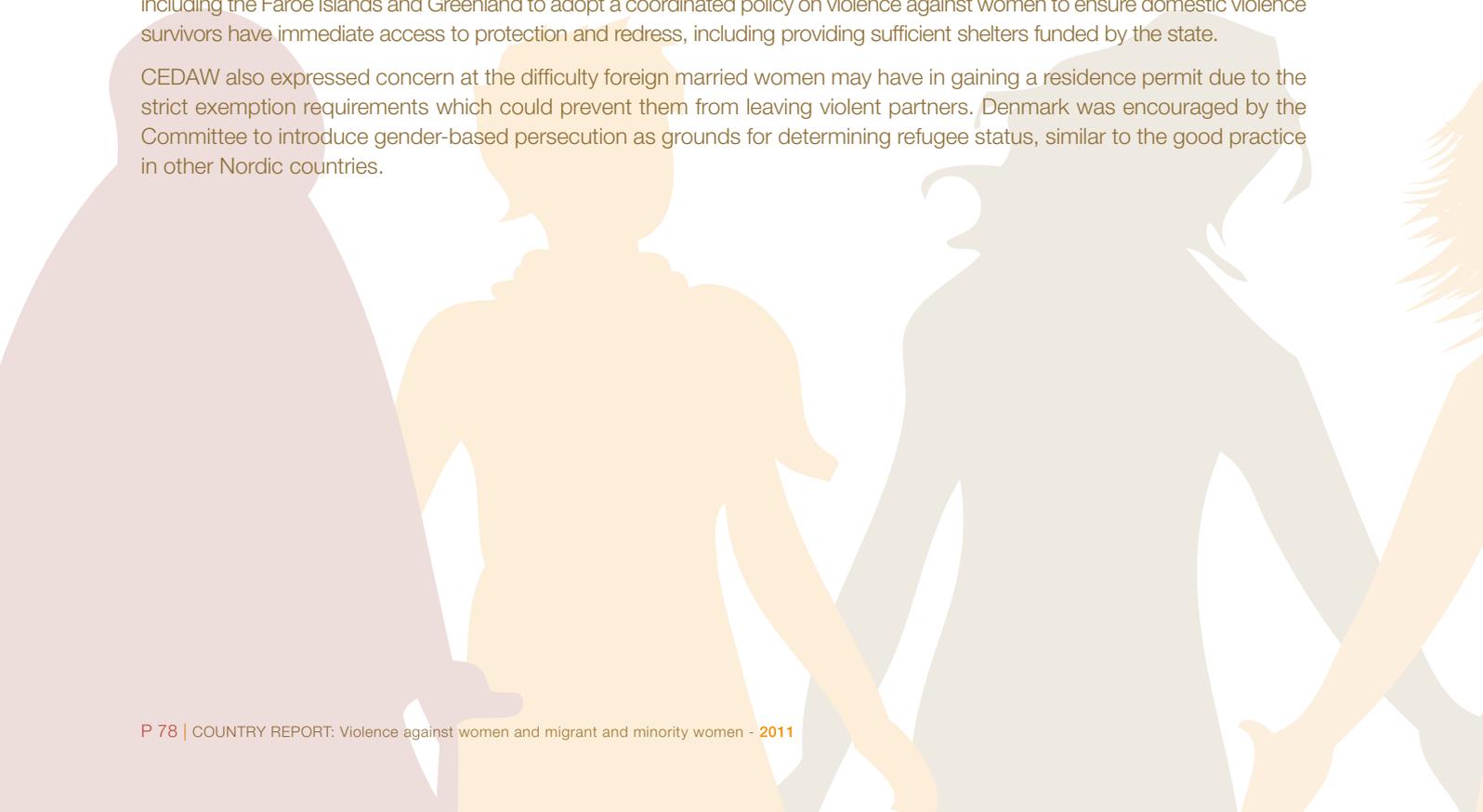
National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

There is currently no national action plan on violence against women and or domestic violence in Denmark.

CEDAW

In the concluding comments on Denmark at the forty-fourth session, July 2009, CEDAW welcomed the protection and services for survivors of sexual violence against women and despite the reported reduction of domestic violence against women remained concerned at the total number of women subject to physical violence. The Committee called on Denmark, including the Faroe Islands and Greenland to adopt a coordinated policy on violence against women to ensure domestic violence survivors have immediate access to protection and redress, including providing sufficient shelters funded by the state.

CEDAW also expressed concern at the difficulty foreign married women may have in gaining a residence permit due to the strict exemption requirements which could prevent them from leaving violent partners. Denmark was encouraged by the Committee to introduce gender-based persecution as grounds for determining refugee status, similar to the good practice in other Nordic countries.



Endnotes

¹ Men's violence against women. Extent, nature and action against violence - 2007 „Minister for Equality and the National Institute of Public Health, 30 November 2007.

² ibid

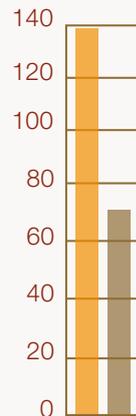
³ The Government reported having 355 places for women and 396 for children in the CDEG monitoring report, this includes general shelters that do not provide gender-specific services for women. CDEG, 2010, COE, Protecting women against violence Analytical study of the results of the third round of monitoring the implementation of Recommendation Rec (2002) 5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member states.

ESTONIA



General Country Information

Population: 1,370,052 (2000)
Female population: 738,201
Member of Council of Europe: 1993
Member of European Union: 2004
CEDAW ratified: 1991
CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: No
Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: No



No. of Shelters: 2
 Rec. No. of Shelter Places: 137
 No. of Shelter Places: 69

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

41,000 Estonian women were likely to have experience violence in 2006.

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

Number of femicides: 30 – 40 women approximately in 2009.

Number of cases of male violence against women by a partner or ex partner: 4,518 cases in 2009.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There is one national women's helpline in Estonia, set up in 2008 and run by the Women's Shelter Union, an independent NGO. It is staffed by four volunteers who provide counselling to survivors of all forms of violence against women using a gender specific approach. Multi-lingual support provided by volunteers.

The helpline is free of charge. In September the service increased following government funding from four hours a day five days a week to eight hours a day seven days a week. However, despite the increase in hours, the national helpline does not meet the Council of Europe standard of a 24/7 service.

Table of Women's HELPLINES:

Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls
1	Yes	No	1	?	No data

Women's Shelters

There are 10 women's shelters in Estonia, one more than in 2010. All 10 are run by independent women's NGOs. The first one was set up in 2002 and the latest one was set up in Võru in 2010 and opened in 2011. All 10 shelters provide support to women survivors of all forms of violence using a gender specific approach. 70 per cent of the funding for the shelters comes from national and local government and 30 percent from local volunteers.

The existing shelters are small, sometimes only temporary rented apartments, so the number of beds available can change quickly. In 2011 approximately 69 places for women and 69 beds for children were provided. The limited number of places available means that shelter provision in Estonia does not fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of one family place per 10,000 head of population.

Migrant women have access to the shelters which are used in particular by Russian women, the largest migrant group in Estonia.

Shelters also provide non residential support as there are no women's centres for women survivors of violence and their children in Estonia.



Table of Women's SHELTERS:

Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
10	69	137	68	6	9	70%

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are no specialized sexual violence centres for women and girls. Estonia therefore does not meet the Council of Europe recommendation of one centre per 200,000 inhabitants.

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

There are three women's centres in Montenegro run by independent women's NGOs. The two women's shelters also provide non residential support and there is also a women's crisis centre that provides help. All three centres support women survivors of domestic violence and their children and girls under 18 years. One centre provides supports to migrant and undocumented women, women seeking asylum and women with disabilities. Two centres give support to Roma women.

Funding for the centres is primarily provided by foreign donation (70%), with support from volunteer work (15%) and state funding by public tender (10%).

Statistics are only available from the women centre run by SOS Hotline Niksic. The centre supported 91 women and girls survivors of violence in 2009 and 109 in 2010.

Recent Changes in service provision

One new shelter opened in Võru, one service was extended from a mother-child home into women's shelter and one service was closed.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

Benefits are in theory available to women survivors of violence provided by the municipalities. However in practice municipalities do not have the resources to provide any financial or housing support.

Legal protection from violence

There is no specific legislation to protect women from violence in Estonia; this is covered by laws providing general protection to life and health. The police can bar the perpetrator from the home for 12 hours.

Prosecutors can seek a temporary restraining order to protect the victim once an investigation has started.

ESTONIA

A civil law restraining order for up to three years is available for anyone seeking protection, regardless of sex, age or status to apply for. However the judicial process is expensive and consequently inaccessible to many women. Since 2006 when restraining orders were introduced very few have been issued.

However these protection orders have not yet been implemented and no protocols or rule of procedure had been put in place to encourage their use.

Criminal law protection orders are also provided for in the law to protect victims of physical violence. Under these orders the perpetrator is required to report to the authorities and their passport and driving license is temporarily confiscated. Criminal law protection orders are available to all family members, regardless of gender, age, or marital status, including ex partners, same sex partners and children.

No criminal law protection orders have yet been issued.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Estonia does not have a NAP or strategy on violence against women.

CEDAW

In the concluding comments on Estonia at the thirty-ninth session, July-August 2007 CEDAW expressed concern at the prevalence of violence against women in Estonia, including domestic violence. The Committee urged the Government to adopt a NAP on domestic violence and recommended the introduction of a specific law on domestic violence against women which provides for protection and exclusion orders and access to legal aid.





Endnotes

¹ <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N07/460/37/PDF/N0746037.pdf?OpenElement>, articles 17-19.

FINLAND

General Country Information

Population: 5,181,115

Female population: 2,651,774

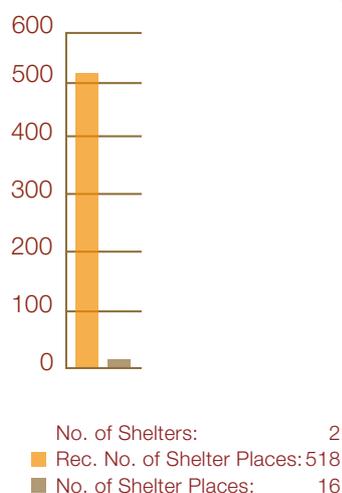
Member of Council of Europe: 1989

Member of European Union: 1995

CEDAW ratified: 1986

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2000

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: 11 May 2011



FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

Prevalence of male violence against women: 43.5 per cent of women over the age of 15 have experienced violence or threat of violence in their lifetime.

19.6 per cent of the women have experienced violence or the threat of violence in their current relationship, eight per cent in the last year (2006).¹

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women: 21.2 per cent of women from the age of 15 have experienced sexual violence or the threat of sexual violence in their lifetime from an unknown man and 4.3 per cent of women by their current partner (2006).

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There is one national women's helpline in Finland set up by Women's Line (0800 02400), an independent women's NGO, in 2002. The helpline provides support to women and girls survivors of all forms of violence against women using a gender-specific approach.

The service is free of charge and offers multi-lingual support in English and Swedish, but it is only open part time from 16.00 – 20.00 Monday to Friday. Therefore Finland does not fulfill the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women.

The helpline is funded primarily from volunteer work (70 per cent) with support from private donations (30 per cent). There are two full time paid staff and 50 volunteers working at the helpline. The telephone counselling is done entirely by the volunteers; the staff is responsible for coordinating and training volunteers and fundraising.

Table of Women's HELPLINES:

Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls
1	Yes	No	Yes	No data available.	1,081 in 2010

Women's Shelters

There are two shelters in Finland run by independent women's NGOs serving women survivors of domestic violence using a gender specific approach. Both shelters offer access 24/7 and provide a total of 16 places. This is significantly below the number required to meet the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.

No data is available on the use of the shelters.

There is also one shelter for migrant, minority ethnic, asylum seeking and refugee women.

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
2	16	518	502	2	1	No data available.

Other Shelters

Finland also has 14 shelters which are Mother and Child homes. Women using these shelters can stay up to 12 months.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There is one sexual violence centre for women and girls survivors of violence in Finland run by an independent women's NGO, "Tukinainen".

The provision of services for women and children survivors of sexual violence in Finland does not meet the Council of Europe recommendation of one centre per 200,000 inhabitants.

No data is available on the funding, access, or groups of women the centre serves.

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

Finland has no women's centres providing support to survivors of violence and their children.

General Women's Centres

There are approximately ten general women's centres in Finland. They are for the homeless centres especially for women and houses for girls. They also provide information on violence against women for girls.

National Networks of Women's Services

There are no national networks or coalitions of shelter service providers, sexual violence centres or women's centres. There is a network of organisations supporting migrant women, "MONIKA".

Recent Changes in service provision

There were no changes in service provision for women survivors of violence during 2011 though financing for these specialised support services is always insecure. The Rape Crisis Centre is facing budget cuts as its donor agency is cutting their funding.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

The social security benefits in Finland are considered one of the best in Europe and migrant women with insecure or temporary residence permit, asylum seekers/refugees and minority ethnic groups have access to them. However there are no specific social security benefits and housing programs available to women survivors of violence.

FINLAND

Legal protection from violence

There is no specific legislation to protect women from violence in Finland; this is covered by laws providing general protection to life and health. The police can bar the perpetrator from the home for 12 hours.

Prosecutors can seek a temporary restraining order to protect the victim once an investigation has started.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Finland has a national action plan which covers rape and sexual violence, domestic violence, sexual harassment, so called crimes of honor and forced marriage from 2010 to 2015. Finland has a governmental coordinating body responsible for implementing and coordinating policies with regard to violence against women.

The coordinating body, which include representatives from women's NGOs, is run by two members of staff from the Ministry of Social Affairs. It has the power to make decisions on policy.

Finland also has a national action plan against Trafficking in Human Beings.

CEDAW²

In the concluding comments on Finland at the Forty-first session, 30 June to 18 July 2008, CEDAW welcomed the introduction of restraining orders for people in the same household, however it expressed concern at level of violence against women including the high number of women killed in domestic violence. The Committee also expressed concern at the use of gender neutral language in the policy on violence against women undermining the notion that such violence is a clear manifestation of discrimination against women. CEDAW urged Finland to guarantee that a sufficient number of adequately resourced shelters were set up for women victims of violence.



Endnotes

- ¹ OPTL's publications 225 - Minna Bishop & Markku Heiskanen & Juha Kääriäinen, Reino & Siren, Violence against women in 2005, for publication on 15.12.2006, <http://www.optula.om.fi/37928.htm>
- ² <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/docs/co/CEDAW-C-FIN-CO-6.pdf>

FRANCE

General Country Information

Population: 61,399,541

Female population: 31,685,002

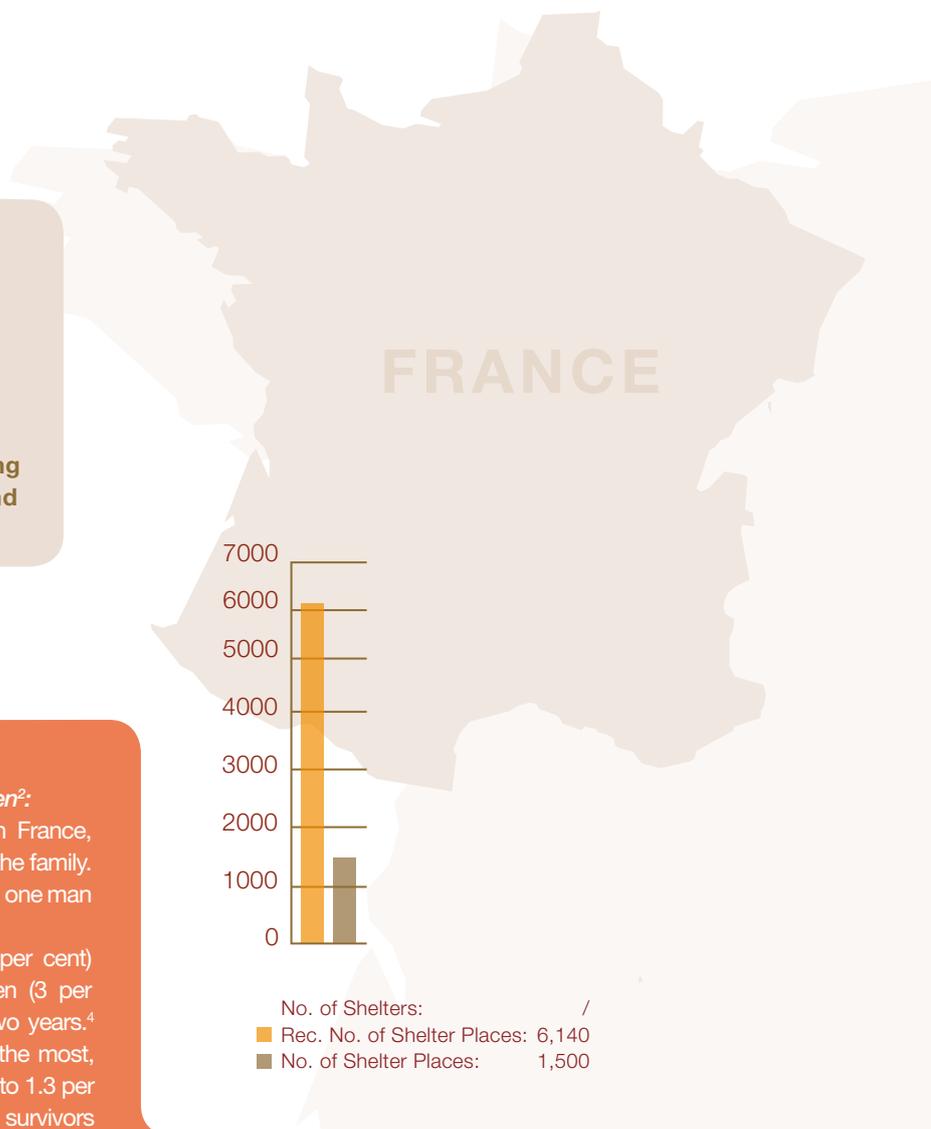
Member of Council of Europe: 1949

Member of European Union: 1957

CEDAW ratified: 1983

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2000

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: ratified



FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women²:

Prevalence of male violence against women: In France, every second day, a homicide is committed within the family. On average, one woman is killed every 2.5 days and one man every 14.5 days.³

567,000 women between 18 and 75 years (2.6 per cent) experience violence in 2007 and 650,000 women (3 per cent) in 2009, an increase of 0.4 per cent over two years.⁴ Reports of physical and sexual violence increase the most, with physical violence increasing from 1.1 per cent to 1.3 per cent. In 2009 305,000 women claimed they were survivors of at least one act of domestic violence, physical or sexual violence, an increase of 0.1 per cent from 2007.⁵

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women: Increased between 2007 and 2009, particularly for rape and sexual assault outside the home. A little fewer than 150,000 women aged 18 to 75 Stated they were survivors of sexual violence outside the home in 2009, 0.2 per cent more than in 2007. There was a 0.1 per cent increase for sexual violence in the home for the same period.⁶

Research data available on other forms of violence against women:

Between 42, 000 and 61, 000 adult women (an average of 53, 000 women) were estimated to have been affected by Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in France in 2004.⁷

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

Number of femicides: In 2009, 140 women and 25 men were murdered by their partner or former partner.⁸ Of the 25 female perpetrators 12 were survivors of violence from their partner.

Number of cases of male violence against women: 650,000 estimated⁹

Number of cases of male sexual violence against women: 1,108 in 2010¹⁰

National Criminal Justice Statistics:

Number of convicted cases of male violence against women by a partner or ex partner: 15,952¹¹

Number of convicted cases of male sexual violence against women: 1,392¹²

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There is one national women's helpline in France: The Domestic Violence Info ("3919 Violences Conjugales Info"). It was established in 1992 and has been run since then by the National Federation Solidarity Women ("Fédération Nationale Solidarité Femmes" (FNSF), an independent women's NGO network. The helpline applies a gender-specific approach providing support for women and girls survivors of all forms of violence against women.

The helpline is free of charge to landlines but there is a charge for calls from mobile phones. It is not open 24/7, therefore France does not fulfill the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women.

The helpline is open from 08.00 – 22.00, Monday to Saturday and public holidays from 10.00 – 20.00, except 1 January, 1 May and 25 December. Multi-lingual support can be provided in French, English, Arabic, Spanish and African Languages.

74 per cent of the cost of the helpline is funded by the State.

Table of Women's HELPLINES:



Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls ¹³
1	Yes for land lines No for calls from mobile phones	No	Yes	74 per cent	19,274 in 2009 19,707 in 2010

Other National Helplines

No data is available on other national helplines in France.

Women's Shelters

There are 42 shelters in France providing gender specific specialised support to women survivors of violence and their children. These shelters provide a total of 1,160 places. Some other shelters receive women survivors of violence but most of them are not gender specific. This is not sufficient to meet the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, of one family place per 10,000 head of population.

The overwhelming majority of shelters are provided by the

"Fédération Nationale Solidarité Femmes", the FNSF network of independent women's NGOs¹⁴ The shelters provide a range of services, but no details are available of the staffing levels, accessibility or funding.

The FNSF network collects comprehensive statistics for their shelters, which include the majority of all shelter places in the country (1,160 of 1,500). Therefore it is often referred to as the National statistic of women's shelters. It includes details on the number of women and children who use their services. In 2009 2,350 women were accommodated and 2,600 children were accommodated.¹⁵

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
Not available: 42 FNSF network	Around 1,500	6,140	4,640	No data available.	No data available.	No data available.

Other Shelters

No data is available about other shelters in France.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are a number of centres dedicated to supporting women survivors of sexual violence in France, however no specific data is available.

FRANCE

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

There are a number of women's centres in France providing support for survivors of violence and their children. These include counselling services and day care.¹⁶ No details are available on the services they offer, accessibility, staffing levels, funding or use.

National Networks of Women's Services

There is a national network of 68 feminist organisations which includes the 42 shelters providing services for women survivors of violence. The network is run by FNSF.

Recent Changes in service provision

No details are available of any recent changes in service provision, but all organisations in the FNSF network are facing significant reductions in funding for their shelters, advice and counselling centres. They all face a new policy to reorganise the shelters sector and there is concern that this policy does not take into consideration the specific nature of violence against women.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

There are no specific social security benefits and housing programs available to women survivors of violence. Social security benefits and housing programs are available to women who are French citizens or have residency status. They are not available to migrant women or other women who do not have residency status.

Legal protection from violence

Protective orders were introduced in France in Act No 2010 -769 on violence specifically against women, violence within intimate relationships and the impact of the latter on children, media campaign.

The law provides for protect orders. With this order, for the first time the law recognises the danger of violent men and can better ensure the safety of women, for example by allowing the withholding of information on their whereabouts. However in reality the law requires coordination and commitment from all partners (police, justice, prefectures, associations), this is hampered by the lack of human and financial resources and limited training of professionals. Only a limited number of orders have been issued and waiting time can vary from 72 hours to four months.¹⁷ A report published at the end of December 2011 concluded that not enough protection orders had been issued.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

France has a NAP to combat violence against women for 2011- 2013. The NAP covers rape and sexual violence, domestic violence, sexual harassment, female genital mutilation (FGM), and forced marriages. There is a governmental coordinating body responsible for implementing and coordinating the policies regarding violence against women, the National Commission against violence against women. It is an inter-ministerial body with the power to make policy decisions. The independent women's NGO-network, FNSF, is a member of the coordinating body.

CEDAW¹⁸

In the concluding comments on France at the fortieth session, in January and February 2008, CEDAW welcomed efforts being made by France to improve the situation of women, in particular Act No. 2006-399 to strengthen prevention and punishment of domestic violence and violence against children. The Committee remained concerned at the level of prevalence of violence against women and at the multiple forms of discrimination immigrant women face particularly with regard to accessing residence permits. The Committee urged France to take comprehensive measures to address violence against women, analyse all violence against women cases, particularly those that result in murders, and adopt effective prevention measures. CEDAW also urged the State to strengthen cooperation between police, the public prosecutor and non-governmental organizations in the prevention of violence against women.

Endnotes

- ² <http://webapps01.un.org/vawdatabase/uploads/Enquete%20INSEE%20sur%20les%20Violences%20faites%20aux%20femmes%20-%202008.pdf> (14 February 2012).
- ³ Ministère de l'Intérieur, de l'Outre-Mer et des Collectivités Territoriales (2009), (online) available at: <http://webapps01.un.org/vawdatabase/uploads/Etude%20nationale%20sur%20les%20morts%20violentes%20au%20sein%20couple%202009.pdf> (14 February 2012).
- ⁴ Bauer, Alain (2010), French National Supervisory on Crime and Punishment 2010 Report; <http://www.inhesj.fr/fichiers/ondrp/anglais/Synthese%20GB%20Final.pdf> (14 February 2012), p.12-14.
- ⁵ Source: Enquête de l'Observatoire national de la délinquance et des réponses pénales (ONDRP) intitulée „Cadre de vie et sécurité“ (2010): <http://webapps01.un.org/vawdatabase/uploads/Enquete%20ONDRP%202007-2009%20cadre%20de%20vie%20et%20securite%20-%20Synthese%202010.pdf> (14 February 2012), p.12-14. The study is an annual victimization survey of the l'Observatoire national de la délinquance (OND) in cooperation with INSEE. The results presented are based on a sample of more than 13, 500 people aged 18 to 75 years.
- ⁶ Ibid, see also Bauer OP.cit p.13
- ⁷ Estimated in 2004 from INSEE data (census and survey Family) and prevalence surveys conducted in African countries. See Institut national d'études démographiques (2009): Fiche d'actualité No. 10, (online) available at: <http://webapps01.un.org/vawdatabase/uploads/Etude%20INED%20sur%20FGM%20-%202009.pdf> (14 February 2012).
- ⁸ Of the 25 female perpetrators 12 were victims of violence from their partner.
- ⁹ Bauer OP.cit p.13
- ¹⁰ Bilan annuel « Criminalité et délinquance enregistrées en 2010 - Les faits constatés par les services de police et les unités de gendarmerie » ONDRP 2010: http://theseas.reseaudoc.org/opac/doc_num.php?explnum_id=537 (14 February 2012). Only 9.3 per cent of the survivors complain because in 80 per cent of cases, the perpetrator was known to rape the survivors, thus the actual number is hidden and could be up to 100, 000.
- ¹¹ Exploitation statistique du casier judiciaire, SDSED, ministère de la Justice. Données provisoires, in Chiffres Clés 2010, l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes, tab. 72 p. 81: http://www.solidarite.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/Chiffres_cles_2010_egalite_hommes_femmes.pdf (14 February 2012).
- ¹² Justice Infostat April 2011 No. 114: http://www.justice.gouv.fr/art_pix/1_stat_infostat114_condas90a09_20110502.pdf
- ¹³ In 2010, the majority of calls, 19,707 calls, involved domestic violence; 1,873 calls were about other forms of violence (rape, forced marriage, harassment at work, etc.); 2,255 calls were made by relatives. With regards to the received calls it can be said that, in the majority of domestic violence situations a woman is the victim of a male perpetrator (95 per cent of situations). 2.1 per cent of calls relate to situations „man-victim/woman-perpetrator.“ Media campaigns contribute to a great extent to an improved awareness of the national helpline for women survivors of violence. In 2010, the number of daily calls on domestic violence was twice as high during the times of the media campaign, see Fédération Nationale Solidarité Femmes – FNSF (2010): http://www.solidaritefemmes.org/ewb_pages/a/actualite-764.php (14 February 2012).
- ¹⁴ Number of places and services dedicated to women survivors of violence: 76 services in total comprised of; Re-integration shelters: 864 places and 40 services, Emergency shelters: 233 places and 22 services, Stabilization shelters: 84 places and 7 services. Total: 1,181 places and 71 services. These numbers includes the FNSF shelters (41), with 1,100 places. There are only 81 places dedicated to women victim of domestic violence registered outside of the FNSF network;
- ¹⁵ Information in this section has been provided by Federation nationale Solidarité Femmes (FNSF), <http://www.solidaritefemmes.org/>
- ¹⁶ See FNSF: Source: FNARS enquête sur l'accueil, l'orientation et l'hébergement des femmes victimes de violences, mai 2011, http://www.fnars.org/images/stories/enquedefvfinalis_v4.pdf (14 February 2012).
- ¹⁷ FNSF (2011), Violences faites aux femmes : 1er anniversaire de la loi du 9 juillet 2010. Où en est-on un an après? (online) available at: http://www.solidaritefemmes.org/ewb_pages/a/actualite-760.php (14 February 2012).
- ¹⁸ OHCHR (2008), Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 40th session (14 January - 1 February 2008), Concluding Observations, Document CEDAW/C/FRA/CO/6: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws40.htm> (14 February 2012).

GEORGIA



General Country Information

Population: 4,355,673¹

Female population: 2,305,887

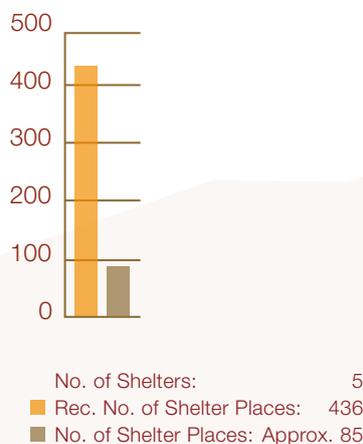
Member of Council of Europe: 1999

Member of European Union: No

CEDAW ratified: 1994

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2002

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: No



FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

Prevalence of male violence against women:

In 2008 the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) launched National Research on Domestic Violence against Women. The survey was implemented by the "ACT Marketing Research and Consulting and Center of Social Sciences". It collected the representative data at the national level from approximately 3,000 women on the prevalence and perceptions on GBV, causes and consequences of GBV, the extent to which intimate partner violence is associated with range of health, educational, legal and administrative outcomes, the effect of internal displacement on GBV, the strategies and services that women use to deal with violence and other relevant information.

A relatively small number of women in Georgia acknowledged being survivors of physical or sexual violence. Overall, 6.9 per cent of women reported having experienced physical violence. Of them, 2.6 per cent reported having experienced moderate physical violence and 4.3 per cent reported having experienced severe physical violence. At the same time results showed that in Georgia 9.1 per cent women who have ever been married/or had an intimate partner have experienced violence from their husbands/partners. This means that one of every 11 women in a marriage or serious relationship has been a survivor of physical or sexual violence.

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women: A UNFPA survey carried out in 2008 found that 3.9 per cent of women report sexual violence by her husband or partner, only 0.2 per cent of women report sexual violence by non-partners.²

Criminal statistics reported by the Police³:

Number of cases of male violence against women: 116 in 2009 and 174 in 2010.

Number of cases of male sexual violence against women: 31 in 2009 and 26 in 2010.

Number of cases of family violence: 122 in 2009 and 189 in 2010.

National Criminal Justice Statistics:

Number of convicted cases of family violence: 120 in 2009 and 145 in 2010.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines²

In 2010 the first domestic violence helpline was set up in Georgia. The "National Domestic Violence Hotline" (309 903) was started by UN Women, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency ("Sida") and the State Fund for Protection and Assistance of Survivors of Human Trafficking (ATIPFUND).

The helpline is run by the State and applies a gender-specific approach supporting all survivors of domestic violence. The helpline is free of charge and open 24/7.

Table of Women's HELPLINES:



Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls ¹³
1	Yes	Yes	No data available.	No data available.	349 in 2010

Women's Shelters

There are five shelters in Georgia, one less than in 2010, providing support for women survivors of domestic violence and their children. The first shelter was opened in 2003 by the Anti Violence Network of Georgia and the most recent, in 2010 by ATIPFUND. Two of the shelters are run by the State and three by independent women's NGOs. The State opened its first shelter in 2009 and the second in 2010. This was also the most recent shelter to be opened in Georgia.

The shelters provide approximately 85 places for women and their children. This provision does not fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.

No data is available on the services, access, staffing, funding or use of shelters in Georgia.

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
5	Approx. 85	436	351	5	No data available.	No data available.

Other Shelters

No information is available on other shelters in Georgia.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are no gender specific sexual violence centres for women and girls in Georgia. Therefore Georgia does not meet the Council of Europe recommendation of one centre providing services for women and children survivors of sexual violence per 200,000 inhabitants.

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children⁷

There are five women's centres in Georgia providing support for survivors of violence and their children. No data is available on the support they provide, their users, who they are run by or how they are funded.

National Networks of Women's Services

There is a national network of women's centres in Georgia, the Anti Violence Network of Georgia.⁴

Recent Changes in service provision

Two new services opened in 2010 in Georgia, a hotline and a State run Shelter (see above). One shelter closed in 2010 for unknown reasons.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

No financial aid or housing support is available to women survivors of violence in Georgia.

GEORGIA

Legal protection from violence

Georgia introduced protective orders in the Prevention of Domestic Violence Law, 25 May, 2006. Under the law police barring order are available for one month. The orders can be issued in cases of physical violence, threats of violence and psychological violence and can cover the survivors dwelling, the surrounding area and other places such as workplace and schools the survivor's children attend.

Civil protection orders are also available for one month for survivors of physical and psychological violence and threats of violence and cover the same areas as police barring orders. Civil and Criminal protection measures protect all family members.

Statistics on Protective Orders

96 police barring orders were issued in 2009 and 121 in 2010. 36 civil protection orders were applied for in 2009 and 23 granted, 31 were applied for in 2010 and 22 granted. The data available on protective orders is not disaggregated by gender.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Georgia has a national strategy to combat violence against women, included in the national action plan on domestic violence for the period 2011 to 2012. It covers rape, sexual violence and domestic violence. There is a governmental coordinating body responsible for implementing and coordinating the policies regarding violence against women, the Inter-agency Executive Council on the Prevention of Domestic Violence. It is an inter-ministerial body with the power to make policy decisions. The independent women's NGO, Advice centre for women, is a member of the coordinating body.

CEDAW

In the concluding comments on Georgia at the Thirty-sixth session, in August 2006, CEDAW welcomed the adoption in June 2006 of the Law on the Elimination of Domestic Violence, Protection and Assistance of the Survivors of Domestic Violence, but expressed concern at the prevalence of violence against women, the postponement of aspects of the law on domestic violence relating to shelter provision and rehabilitation centres and the continuing failure to address marital rape. The Committee called on Georgia to ensure the provision of immediate redress and protection to all women including access to sufficient safe shelters and that the police and judicial authorities, health professionals and others are aware of the law and sensitised to all forms of violence against women. The Committee also recommended that in light of CEDAW general recommendation 19 marital rape was addressed.



Endnotes

¹ <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dybsets/2009-2010.pdf> (21 March 2012).

² <http://www.genderbasedviolence.ge/conimages/annual-eng.pdf> (21 March 2012), p. 40.

³ http://www.police.ge/uploads/ojaxuri_dzaladoba/ojaxuri_dzaladoba.GEO-2009-2010w.pdf

⁴ <http://www.avng.ge>

GERMANY

General Country Information

Population: 82,491,000

Female population: 42,161,000 (51.11%)

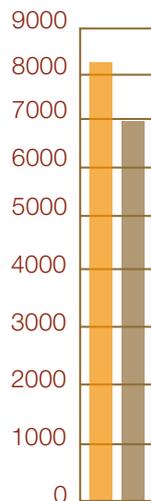
Member of Council of Europe: 1995

Member of European Union: 1957

CEDAW ratified: 1985

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2002

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: May 2011



No. of Shelters: 346
Rec. No. of Shelter Places: 8,249
No. of Shelter Places: 6,968

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women¹:

37per cent of all interviewees have experienced at least one form of physical attack or violence since the age of 16.40per cent of the respondents have experienced either physical or sexual abuse or both after the age of 16. Various forms of sexual harassment have been experienced by 58per cent of the women interviewed. 42per cent of all respondents said that they had experienced forms of psychological violence beginning with intimidation and aggressive yelling, on to slander, threats and humiliation, and up to psychoterror.

25per cent of all women resident in Germany have experience form of physical or sexual abuse or both, from current or previous partners.

99per cent namend male partners as the perpetrators.

10per cent of women who had experienced *physical incidents* selected female assailants from the list of possible perpetrators, 71per cent male, and 19per cent both. Concerning *sexual violence*, 99per cent of women affected named exclusively male assailants, while only 1per cent named women as sexual attackers.

In 97per cent of all cases, sexual harassment was initiated by males and in only 2per cent of the cases, by females.

47per cent of women affected by psychological or mental abuse named men exclusively as their assailants, 32per cent named men and women equally as perpetrators, and only 20per cent named women exclusively

Prevalence of male violence against women: 13 per cent

Research data available on other forms of violence against women: No Data available.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There is no national helpline in Germany, therefore Germany does not fulfill the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women.

There are plans for a State run, gender specific (there are different definitions z.B. gender-specific, State-run, asylum-seeking und centre/center please prove it)national women's helpline that will open in 2013.

Women's Shelters

There are 346 shelters in Germany coordinated by the feminist network ZIF and by the Frauenkoordinationstelle serving women survivors of domestic violence using a gender specific approach. The first shelter was opened in West Berlin and Cologne in 1976.

The shelters provide a total of 6,968 places in 2010 for women and their children, 1,281 places less than that recommended by the Council of Europe. Therefore Germany does not fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women’s shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.

There is one specific shelter for women survivors of trafficking and for migrant women in the country. The rest of the shelters are for women survivors of violence and their children. There is no data on how many offer support to migrant, asylum seeking, refugee and undocumented women as this depends on the provision for shelters within each locality, regionally and federally.

Children are welcome in every shelter. But not all shelters can offer institutionalised child-care. The majority of shelters have no limit on how long the women can stay, however due to funding the shelters need to report to authorities if women stay longer than a certain period.

No information is available on shelter funding or on the statistics of the use of women’s shelters.

Table of Women’s SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
346	6,968	8,249	1,281	346	75	No data available.

Other Shelters

No information is available on the range of other shelter support available in Germany.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are approximately 100 gender specific sexual violence centres for women and girls. The first one was set up in 1976. The State runs the majority (60) of the centres while religious organisations run about 20 and other NGOs also run approximately 20. Funding is predominantly from the State (approximately 70%). Many sexual violence centers focus exclusively on the women who seek support after acts of sexual violence and do not specifically support the children of survivors.

They all offer access to migrant, undocumented, asylum-seeking, and Roma women. Over half of Germany’s centres also offer access to women with disabilities.

National statistics on the use of sexual violence centres are difficult to obtain due to the federal nature of the German political system and mixed sources of funding, which often demand different kinds of data collection.

Women’s Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

There are 350 of women’s centres for survivors of violence and their children in Germany and all of them apply a gender-specific approach. The women’s centres are a mix of crisis, counselling, advice and intervention centres. There are few centres specializing in services for migrant, minority ethnic and asylum seeking women as well as domestic violence, trafficking and up to three on forced marriage.

They all offer access to migrant, undocumented, asylum-seeking, and Roma women, though there is still a lack of sufficient access for these groups. Germany’s shelters also offer over 50% access to women with disabilities.

Funding is predominantly from the State (approximately 70%).

National statistics on the use of women’s centres for survivors of violence are not available.

National Networks of Women’s Services

There are three national networks of women’s support services in Germany. Two for women shelters: One for autonomous organizations, the feminist network ZIF and one for welfare organizations, Frauenhauskoordinierung. Additionally, the bff

GERMANY

(National Association of Women's Counselling and Rape Crisis Programmes) represents non-residential support services for women.

There is also a national network on human trafficking in women and human rights of female migrants, the KOK. The KOK is a German nationwide activist coordination group combating trafficking in women and violence against women in the process of migration.

Recent Changes in service provision

There were some changes in service provision for women survivors of violence during 2011, two sexual violence centers closed, one in Tübingen and one in Wuppertal. In Böblingen a women's shelter was closed in 2011.

Funding for Women Shelters, Centers supporting victims of trafficking and counseling centers are under threat due to counseling services and shelters being merged and the withdrawal of funding from urban centres and reallocation to rural areas.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

Social security benefits are available to all citizens with residency rights in Germany including women survivors of violence, it depends on the legal status of migrant women if they qualify. Social security benefits are available to asylum seeking women in Germany; however the amount is 70 per cent less than the benefits nationals can obtain. Asylum seeking women are partly excluded from the rights of free movement in Germany and face labor restrictions. Undocumented women do not qualify for social security benefits.

Very few housing programs are offered in Germany. The existing ones generally provide reduced rate communal accommodation and support in ultimately finding permanent housing. There are also housing programs available for migrant women but only if they have legal status and it is in a reduced form to that received by nationals of the State.

Legal protection from violence

There is a law on protective measures for women survivors of violence in Germany, the Violence Protection Act introduced in 2002. Under the law the police can bar the perpetrator for 7-14 days. The orders can be issued in cases of physical violence, threats of violence and stalking and can cover the victims dwelling and the surrounding area.

Civil protection orders are available to victims in cases of physical and psychological violence, threats of violence and stalking, for up to 6 months. They cover the victim's house and other places such as workplace and schools the victim's children attend as well as general contact probation.

Criminal law protection orders are available in cases of physical violence, threats of violence and stalking. Criminal law protection orders are also imposed in connection with parole or probation cases. These protective measures can apply to the victim's dwelling and surrounding areas and workplace and children's schools and prohibit general contact.

Protection orders are available to women only, women and men, married cohabiting, same-sex and ex-partners, children, all family members, victims of stalking and to migrant women and asylum seeking women.

Women with disabilities who live in social welfare establishments are excluded because the law protects people in "domestic cohabitation". This definition does not however include establishments. The law also does not protect children against violence from their parents or caregivers. Undocumented migrant women are not specifically excluded however actually seeking protection under the 2002 Act would lead to severe consequences as the illegal status of the person is revealed.

No data on the use of protection orders is available.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Germany has a national strategy to combat violence against women covering rape and sexual violence, domestic violence, sexual harassment, genital mutilation, forced marriages, so called "honor crimes" and Violence in conflict and post-conflict situation. It began in 2001 and runs until it has been fully implemented. There is a governmental coordinating body responsible for implementing and coordinating the policies regarding violence against women. It is an inter-ministerial body which serves as a policy advisor without decision making competences. Independent women's NGO are members of the coordinating body. There are working groups on the federal and county level. Representatives of anti-violence projects are involved in these and Federal States working groups on domestic violence.

CEDAW

In the concluding comments on Germany at the Forty Third session, January - February 2009, CEDAW commend the State party for the adoption of the second Plan of Action to combat violence against women in 2007. CEDAW also welcomed the legislative developments to combat violence against women and trafficking Germany has implemented since the consideration of its last periodic report in 2004. However CEDAW expressed concern over the high prevalence of violence against women and girls, as well as the level of frequency of violence towards migrant women which is clearly above the average for the female population of Germany. The Committee urged Germany to ensure comprehensive measures are in place to address all forms of violence against women and effectively implement the 2007 action plan. Expressing concern at the lack of sustained funding for shelters and counseling centres in every region the Committee called on Germany to ensure the availability of a sufficient number of adequately financed shelters throughout the country open to all survivors of violence regardless of their financial resources.

Endnotes

¹ Source: Ursula Müller and Monika Schröttle: Survey about "Health, Well-Being and Personal Safety of Women in Germany". (Lebenssituation, Sicherheit und Gesundheit von Frauen in Deutschland. Published by the Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth, 2004

GREECE

GREECE

General Country Information

Population: 10,964,020

Female population: 5,536,338

Member of Council of Europe: 1949

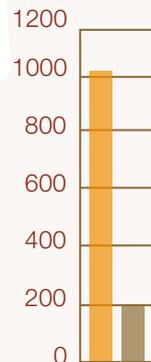
Member of European Union: 1981

CEDAW ratified: 1993

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2002

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: May 2011

ratified: No



No. of Shelters: 8
Rec. No. of Shelter Places: 1,096
No. of Shelter Places: 201

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women¹:

The findings of the first and only Greek National Epidemiological Survey on domestic violence¹, which was conducted in 2002-03 with a sample of 1,200 women (18-60 years old), showed that 56 per cent of the women reported having experienced verbal and/or psychological abuse, 3.6 per cent reported having suffered physical abuse, and 3.5 per cent reported having experienced sexual abuse. As only 8.8 per cent of the women considered their spouse/partner to be violent in nature, it is evident that Greek society in general has a high tolerance for intimate partner violence (IPV) as the majority of the victims don't consider the verbal/psychological abuse they suffered by their spouse/partner to be "violent behaviour". A strong indication that these small percentages of the reported physical and sexual abuse prove a highly underestimated magnitude of the IPV problem in Greece and not the real situation is the fact that of the 5.3 per cent of women who had been in a previous marriage/intimate relationship, 39.7 per cent reported having experienced IPV from their previous partner.

According to a CoE study published in 2010, titled Protecting Women against Violence², the aforementioned epidemiological survey represents the most recent available prevalence data in Greece.³

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

According to official data from Hellenic Police, during 2009 there were 13 cases reported of murdered women victims of domestic violence (10 Greek citizens, one citizen of Romania, one citizen of Moldova, and one citizen of Albania) and in 2008, 116 cases of women survivors of domestic violence were recorded.

In 2010, there were reported 292 rapes or attempted rapes (215 rapes and 77 attempted rapes), while in 2011 there were reported 233 (172 rapes and 61 attempted) cases; however gender of victims is not disaggregated.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There is one national women's helpline (Helpline 15900) in Greece operated by the General Secretariat for Gender Equality. The helpline provides support to survivors of all forms of violence against women using a gender-specific approach.

The helpline is free of charge and open 24/7 and therefore fulfills the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline for women, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women.

Multi-lingual support is not provided. The helpline is 100 per cent funded from the State.



Table of Women's SHELTERS:

Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls
1	1	1	No	100 per cent	Since 11/3/2011 until 11/3/2012: 3,955

Since 11/3/2011 until 11/3/2012, the Women's Helpline received 3,955 calls about gender-based violence (2,958 calls received by abused women themselves and 997 calls from third persons). Out of the 2,958 calls, the 83 per cent (2,448 calls) were about domestic violence by spouse/intimate partner, the 3 per cent (87 calls) was about sexual harassment, the 2 per cent (46 calls) about rape, 0.1 per cent (4 calls) about prostitution and 1 call about trafficking.⁴

Other National Helplines

There is also a helpline ("Helpline 197"), available to all citizens, who face all kinds of problems, including women survivors of violence in Greece. It is fully funded by the State and run by the National Centre for Social Solidarity. The helpline is free of charge and open 24/7.⁵

Women's Shelters

There are estimated eight shelters in Greece that accept women survivors of violence and their children. It is difficult to receive exact data on the number of women's shelters in Greece as the shelters do not continuously provide services, especially shelters funded by the State, for which funding is not always guaranteed.⁶

According to official statistics, there are a total of 201 shelter places available although no exact data for places for women and their children is provided.⁷

This does not fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.

Most of the shelters are funded primarily by the State and Municipality of Athens.

National statistics on the users of shelters are not available.



Table of Women's SHELTERS:

Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
8	201	1,096	895	1	0	12,5 per cent

Other Shelters

Greece has estimated a total of ten of shelters (including the estimated eight women's shelters). It is likely that the remaining shelters address a wide variety of social welfare issues including domestic violence and trafficking, homelessness, as well as issues specific to single mothers, migrants, street children, missing children, elderly people and other vulnerable groups.⁸

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There is no information provided on gender specific sexual violence centres in Greece for women and girls.

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

There is no information provided on women's centres for survivors of violence and their children in Greece.

GREECE

General Women's Centres

There are 32 counselling centres in Greece that also officially support women survivors of violence.

National Networks of Women's Services

There is a national network relevant to women's support services in Greece, the European Anti – Violence Network. The network is scientific, educational and research oriented.

Recent Changes in service provision

The recent change was the development of the National SOS line (15900), the implementation of an awareness raising campaign by the GSGE, a pilot training of police officers and nurses and the provision of free legal aid in collaboration with Lawyers' Associations.

Other changes that are expected to be made by the General Secretariat for Gender Equality in the framework of the first action plan for Preventing and Combating Violence against Women 2009-2013⁹ are, for example, the improvement of existing legislation and development of Counselling Centres and Shelters.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

Social security benefits are available to all persons with valid residency permit in Greece including women survivors of violence. However there are no specific housing programmes available to women survivors of violence. Social security benefits are available to migrant women with temporary residence permit and asylum seeking women in Greece. They are not available to undocumented women.

Legal protection from violence

The Criminal Court or the Investigating Judge or the Judicial Counselor can order the injunction of restraining orders if it is assessed that it is necessary for the protection of the victim. Apart from this, restriction orders can be issued from the civil court (Code of Civil Procedure). The police in Greece do not have the authority to issue temporary restraining orders, namely to immediately evict the perpetrator of domestic violence from the home. Only the victim can apply to the civil court for injunction of restraining orders.

Statistics on Protective Orders

There is no data is available on the use of protective orders.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Greece has a national strategy to combat violence against women titled "National Programme on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women", for the years 2009-2013. The document States that "for the first time, a complete action Programme is elaborated in Greece for combating gender-based violence. This programme is no longer part of the Gender Equality Programme and it is financially supported by the National Strategic Reference Framework." The programme is designed based on the following political priorities of Greece: targeting most vulnerable groups, prioritising provision of services to citizens, supporting women in employment, complying with priorities of the Council of Europe in the framework of gender equality and human rights, and adopting European policies for gender equality. In combating violence against women, the programme will focus on improving and strengthening legislation, establishing structures of support, developing services, raising awareness as form of prevention, training, research, involvement of civil society, and development of an institutional framework for cooperation.

CEDAW¹⁰

In the concluding comments on Greece at the Thirty- seventh session, January – February 2007, CEDAW welcomes State's initiative on recent legal reforms aimed at eliminating discrimination against women and promoting gender equality, especially the adoption of Law 3064/2002 on the Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings, the introduction of the Laws on Combating Domestic Violence and on Equal Treatment between Men and Women in the Field of Employment, Labour and Occupation in 2006.

However the Committee expressed concern at prevailing patriarchal attitudes in society which cause violence against women. It also suggests carry out studies concerning legislation on domestic violence and trafficking as whether they are fully enforced and promote women's human rights.

Endnotes

- ¹ Research Center for Gender Equality (2003), Domestic violence against women: the first epidemiological research in Greece. Athens: KETHI.
- ² Hagemann-White, Carol (2010), Protecting Women against Violence: Analytical Study of the Results of the Third Round of Monitoring the Implementation of Rec (2002)5 on the Protection of Women against Violence in Council of Europe Member States.
- ³ Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies, Intercultural Dialogue on Violence against Women, 2008
- ⁴ Press Release of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality:
www.isotita.gr/var/uploads/Press/DT_THLEFONIKH%20GRAMMH%20SOS%2015900_MARTIOS%202012.pdf (21 March 2012).
- ⁵ WAVE Country Report 2010: http://aoef.at/cms/doc/WAVE_COUNTRY%20REPORT%202010_NEU.pdf (20 March 2012).
- ⁶ WAVE Country Report 2010
- ⁷ Council of Europe
- ⁸ WAVE Country Report 2010
- ⁹ http://www.isotita.gr/var/uploads/Press/25112009_Ethniko_programma_bia.pdf (21 March 2012).
- ¹⁰ CEDAW: <http://daccess-dds.ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N07/243/74/PDF/N0724374.pdf?OpenElement>

HUNGARY



General Country Information

Population: 10,198,315

Female population: 5,347,665

Member of Council of Europe: 1990

Member of European Union: 2004

CEDAW ratified: 1980

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2000
(Accession only)

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: No



FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women¹:

Prevalence of male violence against women: 13.4 per cent of women are hit by their partner, 22.3 per cent are threatened with violence by their partner and 18.1 per cent are afraid of being hit by their partner. 19.6 per cent of women have witnessed their father hit their mother.

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women: 2.2 per cent of women are rape, 7.6 per cent of women were raped by their husbands and 9.4 per cent have experienced attempted rape, according to a prevalence survey in 1998.²

Research data available on other forms of violence against women: 17.8 per cent of women between the ages of 22 and 26 years old report feeling threatened in their intimate partner relationship.

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

No data is available.

National Criminal Justice Statistics:

No data is available.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There is one national women's helpline in Hungary supporting women survivors of violence. The first helpline, "NANE Helpline" for battered women and children (+36 80 505 101 only available inside Hungary and +36 1 2674900 also available outside Hungary), was set up in 1994.

The NANE Helpline for battered women and children is run by the NANE Women's Rights Association an independent women's NGO using a gender-specific approach. The helpline is free of charge. However it is only part time four days a week from 18:00-22:00. Hungary therefore does not fulfill the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women.

The NANE helpline provides support to women and girls survivors of domestic violence, people supporting survivors of domestic violence, adults who were victims of domestic violence or child abuse as children and professionals working with these groups of women. Multi-lingual support is not available.³ Three full time staff and 19 volunteers work at the helpline.

Funding is provided primarily by national private donations (50 per cent), volunteers provide significant support (35 per cent), limited funding is provided by the State (10 per cent)⁴ with the remainder of the funding coming from foreign donors (5 per cent).



Table of Women's HELPLINES:

Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls
1	Yes	No	No	10 per cent	2009: 1,248 2010: 1,314

Other National Helplines

A new helpline was established in February 2011 the "KERET Coalition's Helpline" for victims and survivors of sexual violence (+3640630006) and is currently in pilot phase. It is also run by NANE Women's Rights Association. The helpline is open part time Monday to Friday and is free of charge. It has a gender neutral approach, supporting primarily women survivors of sexual violence, but also others including children, and their friends, relatives or the professionals who are trying to support them.

Funding for the helpline is provided primarily by the Open Society Foundation and to a lesser degree (approximately. 5 per cent) by private donors and other funders.

Women's Shelters

Hungary does not have any shelters that provide the gender-specific approach required to adequately support women survivors of violence and their children. Hungary therefore does not fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.



Table of Women's SHELTERS:

Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
0	0	1,020	1,020	0	0	0

Other Shelters

There are 108 "family temporary homes" available for couples or single parents and their children. Although in Hungary the majority of these shelters are used by women survivors of domestic violence and their children, they do not provide the support that they need. These facilities operate solely on the basis of social need and homelessness. These facilities are fully funded by the State and municipalities are legally obliged to operate them. However there is often a year-long waiting list for these facilities.

To address the limited number of places available and the fact that these facilities do not cater for people without children "crisis shelters" were created. These facilities are run by organisations that also run the "family temporary homes". Funding is temporary and not legally secure, but based on individual ministerial decisions. In 2011 approximately 40 crisis places were available. The "crisis shelters" are open to any family member for any type of violence among co-habiting relatives, however they are primarily used by women survivors of domestic violence and their children.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are no sexual violence centres for women and girls survivors of sexual violence in Hungary, only a helpline. Therefore the provision of services in Hungary does not meet the Council of Europe recommendation of one centre per 200,000 inhabitants.

HUNGARY

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

Hungary does not provide any women's centres for survivors of violence and their children.

Recent Changes in service provision

A new helpline for survivors of sexual violence was set up in 2011, the "KERET Sexual Violence Helpline", see Other National Helplines above.

Changes in the nature and type of funding are also threatening all NGO services.⁵

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

Social security benefits are available to women survivors of violence if they have reported the crime to the police first and within 72 hours of reporting the survivor has approached the State-run victim support service. However the victim support service is only available in cities. Such requirements make it very difficult for women from rural areas, women traumatised by the violence they have experienced and women survivors of sexual violence to access social security benefits. Social security benefits are not available to migrant, undocumented or asylum seeking women.

Limited housing support is available. However it is dependent on having lived in the area of the municipality providing the housing support and many women survivors of violence want to move away from the area they were living in for safety reasons. Housing support is available to minority ethnic women and disable women, though finding accessible housing is difficult. It is not available to migrant, undocumented or asylum seeking women.

Legal protection from violence

Laws on protection measures were introduced in Hungary in 2006 and 2009. The law provides for a police prevention order for 72 hours and a civil law prevention order for 30 days. The prevention orders are available against spouses, registered partners (same sex), live in partners and co-habiting relatives as defined by the law. The law does not cover current and former non-cohabiting partners which is a large group of perpetrators of violence against women, from whom the survivors is not able to file for preventive protection.

Criminal law protection orders are available for 60 days and can be against anyone for whom the crime has been reported against if the crime carries a prison sentence.

No statistics are available on the use of prevention orders.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Hungary does not have a national action plan or strategy on violence against women.

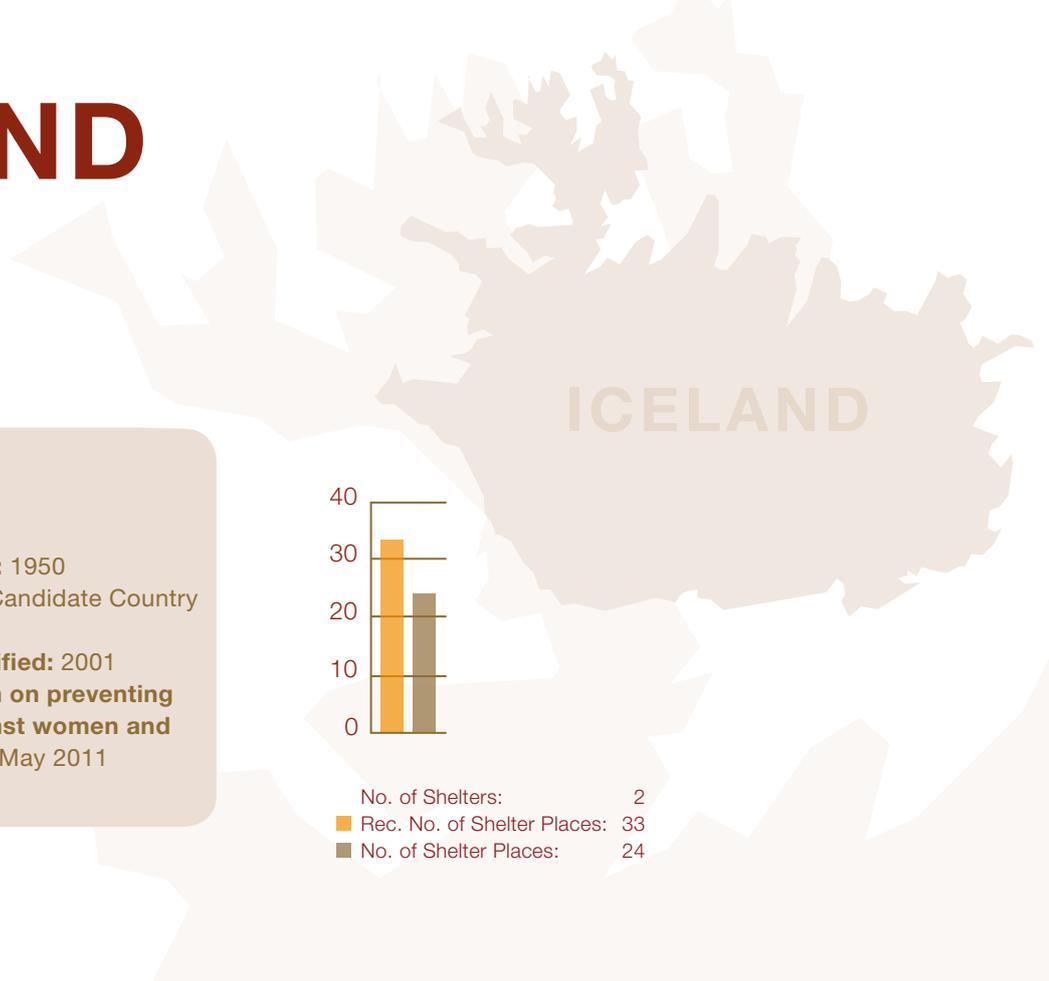
CEDAW

In the concluding comments on Hungary at the Thirty-ninth session, July- August 2007, CEDAW welcomed the ratification by the State party in December 2006 of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The Committee noted that the State party was preparing a draft national strategy to combat trafficking in human beings. However the Committee expressed concern at the increase of violence against women in both private and public spheres and the lack of a holistic approach to address it. Amongst other issues the committee expressed concern at the lack of a specific law on domestic violence against women and called for the reform of the law to define sexual crimes as crimes involving violations of women's rights to bodily security and integrity and for the State party to define the crime of rape as sexual intercourse without consent. The Committee also urged the State party to ensure that all women victims of domestic violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection, including protection orders, and access to a sufficient number of safe shelters and legal aid.

Endnotes

- ¹ óth, O. Erőszak a családban. TÁRKI Társadalompolitikai Tanulmányok 12., 1999 www.tarki.hu/adatbank-h/kutjel/pdf/a396.pdf (English abstract is available in the publication)
- ² The research was conducted approximately a year after the law was changed to include marital rape in the definition of rape.
- ³ Most of the volunteers speak English and assist non Hungarian speaking clients on a case by case basis.
- ⁴ This is not a government program, but from individual tax payers committing 1 per cent of their personal income tax to support the helpline.
- ⁵ One source of operational income is the National Civic Fund, which is currently being restructured. This fund used to issue calls for yearly operational funds, but the last time it was issued for a four-month period only, and no continuation is in sight. Changes in the flat rate of tax, lowering it to 16 per cent is impacting on the funding on ongoing services which are funded by the 1 per cent income tax donations.

ICELAND



General Country Information

Population: 28,154 (2000)

Female population: 140,436

Member of Council of Europe: 1950

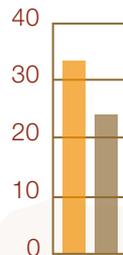
Member of European Union: Candidate Country

CEDAW ratified: 1985

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2001

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: 11 May 2011

ratified: No



No. of Shelters: 2
■ Rec. No. of Shelter Places: 33
■ No. of Shelter Places: 24

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

Prevalence of male violence against women:

42 per cent of women over 16 have experienced violence, physical (29.8 per cent), sexual (24 per cent rape or attempted rape 24 per cent and rape 13.2 per cent), threatened with bodily harm (23 per cent) and 32.7 per cent threatened with bodily harm unless they agreed to sexual intercourse in their lifetime, 4 per cent in the last 12 months.¹

4.5 per cent of women in a current relationship have experienced some form of violence from their current partner (physical 3.9 per cent, sexual 0.6 per cent, attempted rape 0.5 per cent). 18.7 per cent of women have experienced violence from their ex-partner, physical (16.3 per cent), sexual (5.6 per cent), attempted rape (4.2 per cent).²

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women: 15.5 per cent of women have been touched sexually in a manner that they have experienced as violating, 7 per cent have been coerced into sexual intercourse through violence or threats, 8.5 per cent have been threatened with bodily harm unless they agreed on sexual intercourse, 4.2 per cent have been forced or coerced into having sexual intercourse with a third party, 2.4 per cent have experienced other forms of sexual violence.³

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

Number of femicides: Between 1981-2009 17 women have been murdered, the majority by their partners or ex-partners. No women were murdered in 2010.⁴

Number of cases of male sexual violence against women: 318 cases reported in Reykjavik in 2009.

Number of cases of family violence: 900 cases reported in Reykjavik in 2010.

National Criminal Justice Statistics:

Number of convicted cases of male sexual violence against women: Between 2005 and 2009: 52 cases of attempted rape were convicted.⁵

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

Iceland has two national women's helplines. The first was opened in 1982 and the last in 2005. Both helpline are run by independent women's NGOs, one by Crossing Paths ("Stígamót"), 5626868 the other is run by the Women's Shelter ("Kvennaathvarfið") 5611205 . Both helplines use a gender-specific approach, are open 24/7 and provide an interpreter if multi-lingual support is needed. However it is only the Crossing Paths helpline that is free of charge.

Crossing Paths provides support to all women survivors of all forms of violence against women, including women survivors of sexual violence and trafficking. It is funded primarily by permanent funding from the State (80 per cent) with further support from private national donations (15 per cent) and foreign donations (5 per cent). The Crossing Paths helpline has seven full time staff and many volunteers.

Iceland therefore fulfills the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women a helpline for women.

The Women's Shelter helpline provides support to women survivors of domestic violence and women survivors of trafficking. The State provides most of the helplines funding, permanent (75 per cent) and temporary (20 per cent) with support from volunteers (5 per cent). The Women's Shelter helpline has eight full time staff and 12 volunteers.

Table of Women's HELPLINES:



Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls ¹³
2	1 Yes 1 No	Yes	Yes	75 & 80 per cent	No data available.

Other National Helplines

Crossing Paths also runs a helpline for men and women working in prostitution and the porn industry (5111323). The helpline is free of charge and open 24/7. Multi-lingual support is provided by an interpreter if required.

A general helpline for survivors of all forms of violence, including children is run by the Icelandic Red Cross, the Helpline 1717. The helpline is open 24/7 and is free of charge; however it is unable to provide multi-lingual support because of the cost.

Women's Shelters

There are two women's shelters in Iceland. The first was established in 1982 and the second in 2011. Both shelters are run by independent women's NGOs using a gender-specific approach. The Women's Shelter provides support to survivors of all forms of violence against women and the new shelter run by "Stigamót" is for women survivors of trafficking and women leaving prostitution.

Both shelters are free of charge, open 24/7 and offer accommodation to migrant, undocumented and asylum seeking women survivors of violence. 36 per cent of all the women staying at the shelters are migrants. One shelter also offers accommodation to disabled women. Children are accepted in one of the shelters and there is no age limit for either girls or boys staying with their mother in the shelter.

The shelters provide a total of 24 places for women and their children; this is less than the 33 needed. Therefore Iceland does not fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.

The shelters have between seven and ten staff of which less than a quarter are dedicated to work with children. The shelters are funded primarily by volunteer work (50 per cent), the remainder of the funding comes from permanent State funding (35 per cent), private national donations (10 per cent) and foreign donations (5 per cent).

118 women were accommodated in the Woman's Shelter in 2009 and in 2010, 60 children were accommodated in 2009 and 54 in 2010. There were a total of 1,346 overnight stays by women in 2009 and 1,601 in 2010 and 563 overnight stays by children in 2009 and 992 in 2010. There were no cases where women and their children could not be accommodated by the shelter.

ICELAND



Table of Women's SHELTERS:

Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
2	24	33	9	2	Yes	35 per cent

Other Shelters

Iceland also has one shelter for survivors of trafficking and one for the homeless. The homeless shelter only provides accommodation at night; men and women using the shelter are not able to stay in it during the day.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are five sexual violence centres for women and children in Iceland. Three of the centres are run by the independent women's NGOs, one by State agencies and one by health services. Crossing Paths opened the first sexual violence centre in Reykjavik in 2009.

Only the three centres run by women's NGOs use a gender-specific approach serving women survivors of sexual violence. One centre serves women and girls and one centre serves only girls.

The provision of services for women and children survivors of sexual violence in Iceland meets the Council of Europe recommendation of one centre per 200,000 inhabitants.

All five offer support to migrant, undocumented, asylum seeking and Roma women. Half offer support to disabled women. Half also offer support to the children of women survivors of sexual violence.

The State provides most of the funding for the sexual violence centres (75 per cent), the remainder is made up by a combination of private donations (10 per cent), volunteer work (10 per cent) and foreign donations (5 per cent).

No national statistics are kept on the users of sexual violence centres by women and children. Each centre collects their statistics some of which are available on the internet.

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children⁷

There are a number of women centres for women survivors of domestic violence. The Women's Shelter also runs a women's crisis centre for all women survivors of domestic violence, trafficking and forced marriage and their children. The centre offers access to migrant, undocumented and asylum seeking women and Roma women. It also offers limited support to disabled women, girls under 18 and the children of women seeking help.

Funding is mainly from the State (75 per cent), with support from private donations (10 per cent), volunteers (10 per cent) and foreign donations (5 per cent).

National Networks of Women's Services

There is not national network of women's services in Iceland though Icelandic women's organisations work in close cooperation on women's issues.

Recent Changes in service provision

A second women's shelter was opened in 2011 for survivors of trafficking and women leaving prostitution. No services were closed or in danger of being closed between 2010 and 2011.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

Social and economic rights and housing are generally available in Iceland, even to migrant women and minority ethnic women. However there are no special programmes for women survivors of violence.

Legal protection from violence

Iceland has legal protection measures from violence provided by the Act on Restraining Orders no. 85/2011. Police barring orders are available for up to three days for physical violence, threats of violence, psychological violence and stalking. The orders cover the survivors dwelling and surrounding areas and other appropriate places such as schools and workplace and general contract prohibition.

Criminal law protection orders are available for to a year with the possibility for extension for the same types of violence and on the same grounds as police barring orders.

The law protects all family members, including married, cohabiting and same sex-partners, ex-partners, children survivors of stalking and migrant, asylum and undocumented women.

Statistics on Protective Orders

No data is available on the use of protective orders.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Iceland has a national action plan on violence against women for the period 2011 to 2014 with a dedicated budget of 178,400.00 IKR (Icelandic Kronur). The national action plan covers domestic violence, rape and sexual violence and sexual harassment.

There is a coordinating body responsible for the implementation and coordination of policies to prevent and combat violence against women. However women's NGOs are not members of the coordinating body and there is no cooperation between the coordinating body and women's NGOs. There is an inter-ministerial body, but it does not have the competency to take policy decisions.

CEDAW⁶

In the concluding comments on Iceland at the Forty-first session, June – July 2008, CEDAW commended the State part on amendments to the penal code, including, on organized crime and trafficking in human beings (Act No. 40/2003) and on domestic violence (Act No. 27/2006) and on sexual offences (Act No. 61/2007). The Committee expressed concern at the light penalties for crimes of sexual violence, particularly rape and at the considerable difference between the number of cases investigated and those that reach prosecution and conviction. The Committee also expressed concern at the lack of data collection on prevalence of violence against women, on sexual and domestic violence and the use of protection orders and called for improved data collection in these areas. The Committee recommended that comprehensive legal measures are introduced to address all forms of violence against women and that sufficient financial resources allocated to ensure that all women per cents of violence have access to immediate protection, including safe and adequate shelters throughout the country.

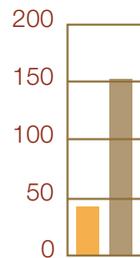
Endnotes

- ¹ Annual Report, Stígamót, December 2010. The 2010 study is the first and only representative study on violence against women in Iceland. Stígamót interviewed 3,000 women on phone. http://www.velferdarraduneyti.is/media/ritogskyrslur2011/26012011_Ofbeldi_a_konum.pdf
- ² *ibid*
- ³ *ibid*
- ⁴ Information provided by Stígamót 2011.
- ⁵ 280 attempted rape cases were received, 198 were dropped and 84 prosecuted.
- ⁶ <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/docs/co/CEDAW-C-ICE-CO-6.pdf> (23 March 2012).

IRELAND

General Country Information

Population: 4,581,269 (census from 2011)
Female population: 2,312,571 (census from 2011)
Member of Council of Europe: 1949
Member of European Union: 1973
CEDAW ratified: 1985
CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2000
Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: No



No. of Shelters:	9
Rec. No. of Shelter Places:	44
No. of Shelter Places:	154

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

42 per cent of women have experienced sexual violence in their lifetimes – penetrative abuse was experienced by 10 per cent, attempted penetration or contact abuse by 21 per cent and non-contact abuse by 10 per cent.¹

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

Since 1996 there have been 174 women murdered in the Republic of Ireland. 107 women (61 per cent) were killed in their own homes, 47 women were killed by someone they knew (e.g. brother, son, neighbour)².

Number of cases of male violence against women by a partner or ex partner:

There is no clear published data from the Gardaí in 2010 related to Domestic Violence including the breach of domestic violence orders. In 2009 there were 1,246 breaches of domestic violence order (protection, safety, barring) recorded by the Gardaí³. There is no gender breakdown of these offences published.

Under the Domestic Violence Act there were 2,726 applications for barring orders (2,357 were made by a spouse or common law partner), 3,561 applications for safety orders, 2,926 applications for protection orders and 530 applications for interim barring orders. In addition there were 170 orders made to the Circuit Court. There is no gender disaggregated data related to the applicants for these orders.⁴

National Criminal Justice Statistics:

Number of convicted cases of male sexual violence against women:

According to the courts service report there were 45 convictions of rape and other sexual offences in the Central Criminal Court in 2010. There were 98 convictions for sexual offences in the Circuit Court and there were 1,815 convictions for sexual offences in the district courts (Total of 1,944 convictions) and statistics are not gender disaggregated.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There are 35 domestic violence services who operate helplines, many of which are accessible to women throughout Ireland but are primarily focused on the local regions. Ireland has one national helpline for women survivors of domestic violence. The „National Freephone Helpline“ (1800 341 900) was established in 1994 and is free of charge and open part time from: Monday to Sunday from 10.00 to 22.00 (except Christmas Day). The helpline is run by an independent women's NGO, Women's Aid Dublin, using a gender-specific approach.

The helpline therefore does not fulfill the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women. Multi-lingual support is available since September 2011.

The major part of funding comes from the State.

Table of Women's HELPLINES:



Number of national helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls ¹⁰
1	Yes	No	Yes	Approx. 100 per cent	10,055
National total of helpline calls answered by all services				100 per cent	38,629

Other National Helplines

There is also a national helpline for survivors of sexual violence, "Rape Crisis Helpline" (1800778888). The helpline is run by the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, an independent women's NGO for women and girls from the age of 14 years old and men survivors of sexual violence and their supporters. The helpline is 24/7 but charges are made for calls between midnight and 08.00. Multilingual support is not provided. The helpline is operated by staff and volunteers. In 2009 they received 14,289 calls and in 2010 11,618 calls. In addition, helplines throughout the country operated by local RCC's received 15,289 helpline contacts.⁶

There is also a non-gender specific helpline for national crime survivors run by an NGO. The helpline operates Monday: 10.00 - 19.30. Tuesday to Friday: 10.00 - 17.00. Saturday: 14.00 -16.00. Bank Holidays: 14.00 -16.00. 14 per cent of its case load is on sexual violence and three per cent on Domestic Violence.

Women's Shelters

Ireland currently has 20 shelters (termed refuges). The first shelter was opened in 1974 and the last one, "VIVA House", was built in 2010. There are plans to open one more in 2012 in Kildare and restore a current shelter in Donegal. These are specifically for survivors of domestic violence and limited services for survivors of trafficking. One Shelter is State run while the other 19 are provided by independent women's NGOs.

The shelters provide 141 family units for women and children. This does not fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population. To meet this standard another 283 family units would need to be made available. There are plans for a new four unit refuge to open in 2012.

All shelters provide access 24/7. Only a limited number (Approx 2) have age limits for boys under 16. All the NGOs run shelters offer access to women from the Traveller community (ethnic minority group in Ireland) and all migrant women regardless of their status. The shelters provide access to women with disabilities. In a national study of refuges conducted in 2008, 45 per cent of women who responded stayed less than one week, 16.9 per cent stayed for 1-2 weeks, 14.4 per cent stayed for 3-4 weeks, 7.5 per cent stayed for 5-8 weeks, 8.8 per cent for 9-12 weeks and 7.5 per cent for 13 weeks or more. There were 188 members of staff working full time in the shelters in 2009.

National statistics are collected by SAFE Ireland on the number of women and children who use shelters services. In 2009 1,543 women were accommodated in 19 shelters, this included a total of 2,253 women admissions. In 2010, 1,545 women were accommodated (1,993 admissions) in 18 shelters. There were 4,197 children admissions to shelters in 2009 (2,462 individual children) and 3,402 admissions (2,355 individual children) in 2010. In 2009, on more than 2,341 occasions women could not be accommodated in shelters because they were full or there was no shelter in their area. In 2010 this figure rose to more than 3,236 occasions because of lack of available places.

The State provides the majority of core funding to services which is renewed on an annual basis. In 2010 approximately €13 million was provided in State funding for shelters as well as for the provision of a wide range of supports and services for women who did not need to access shelter accommodation.

IRELAND

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
20	141	424	283	20	No data available.	Approx. 100 per cent

Other Shelters

There are also shelters for homeless people and State funded bed and breakfast accommodation.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are 17 sexual violence centres in Ireland providing support for women survivors of violence and their children. The Rape Crisis Network Ireland (RCNI) is represented by 15 member RCCs across Ireland (14 member RCCs in the Republic of Ireland and 1 member RCC in Northern Ireland). RCNI was set up in 1985 and six Rape Crisis Centres were opened. The Network has achieved commitments to funding for Rape Crisis Centres.⁹

According to Rape Crisis Network Ireland report in 2010¹⁰, 1,545 people who were survivors of sexual violence turned to Rape Crisis Centers throughout Ireland for counselling and support and 85 per cent of them were women. 57.8 per cent out of 984 women have disclosed rape as the type as sexual violence, 40.5 per cent - sexual assault.

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children⁷

In addition to the 20 domestic violence services which provide refuge (as mentioned above) there are also 23 organisations that provide a range of crisis support, information and advocacy services. One of these services provides a counselling as only service. In addition to these services there are population specific services for the Traveller community and other ethnic minority communities. Some of these services provide a support and referral service for women experiencing domestic violence.

In 2009 5,868 women received a wide range of face to face supports including advocacy, emotional support and practical support, information, counselling, court accompaniment and/or support groups from 39 services. In 2010 this figure was 5,639 across 38 of the services.

These figures include women supported by women's shelters, which also offer counselling and crisis services.

Approximately €4 million was provided to the non-accommodation services in 2010. This includes funding for the operating of the national helpline.

National Networks of Women's Services

There is a national network of women's centres, shelters and support services, Safe Ireland. There is also a network of sexual violence centres, Rape Crisis Network Ireland (RCNI). The National Women's Council is a national representative body for a range of women interest groups and individuals.

Recent Changes in service provision

One new women support service was opened in 2010, the shelter VIVA House. 41 services were in danger of funding cuts ranging between 5 and 30 per cent in 2011. Over €1 million of State funding has been removed from domestic violence services since 2008.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

There are no specific benefits or housing programmes for women survivors of violence. Irish women nationals, migrant women and minority ethnic women qualify for social benefits and housing support in the same way as other women with legal residence rights; undocumented migrant women and asylum seeking women do not. In order to qualify for social welfare and housing supports all individuals must satisfy the common residency conditions.

Legal protection from violence

There are a vast range of laws that survivors can invoke when they seek protection, however there are ambiguities and no specific definition of domestic violence within the Irish legal system exists. The Domestic Violence Act makes provision for a person to apply for protection under a series of protective orders (depending on the severity of the threat of violence). These orders are issued under Civil Law at a local district court level. It is only on breach of these orders that a crime is recorded where a conviction is upheld.

The Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011 introduced amendments to the Domestic Violence Act 1996 and 2002 to extend the powers of the court to order protection of persons in cases of domestic violence (Part 15 of the 2011 Act).

The Act amends the Domestic Violence Act 1996 so that:

(i) A parent may now apply for a safety order against the other parent of the child, even when the parents do not live together and may never have lived together. This ensures that the full protection of the law is available where access to a child is an occasion of intimidation or even violence between disputing parents.

(ii) The protections of the Act are available on the same basis to unmarried opposite-sex couples and same-sex couples who are not registered in a civil partnership.

(iii) Couples who are not married or are not in a registered civil partnership are no longer required to have lived together for a particular minimum period of time before one of them can obtain a safety order against the other.

It should be noted however that couples as mentioned in (ii) and (iii) are those who have lived together “in an intimate and committed relationship” prior to the application for the order. The minimum period of living together for a barring order remains an aggregate of six months in the nine months prior to the application.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Ireland has a national strategy to combat violence against women covering rape and sexual violence and domestic violence. There is a governmental coordinating body responsible for implementing and coordinating the policies regarding violence against women, led by the National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence (Cosc). There is a national steering committee (NSC) which has a remit to advise the Government. This committee is currently chaired by Cosc and the independent women’s NGOs, SAFE Ireland, RCNI, “Ruhama”, the National Women’s Council, DRCC and Women’s Aid Ireland are members.

CEDAW¹¹

In the concluding comments on Ireland at the Thirty- third session, July 2005, CEDAW welcomed State’s initiative on strategic plan that had been passed to address domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, defining them as criminal acts, and it has welcomed its efforts to combat the trafficking of women for prostitution.

However the Committee expressed concern regarding the prevailing violence against women and their trafficking in Ireland. The Committee notes high withdrawal rates of complaints and inadequate funding to organisations dealing with violence as well as lack of services for survivors of trafficking.

Endnotes

- ¹ Sexual Abuse and Violence in Ireland report 2002, general population prevalence study of sexual violence. Rape and Justice in Ireland 2009: <http://www.rcni.ie/rape-justice-ireland.aspx> (23 March 2012). Annual RCNI national Rape Crisis Statistics since 2004. RCNI disability and sexual violence 2011 (to be published). RCNI report on Child Sexual abuse experienced by survivors accessing RCCs, 2011 (to be published).
- ² Women’s Aid Female Homicide Media Watch, September 2011
- ³ http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/releasespublications/documents/crimejustice/2009/gardacrimestats_2009.pdf (23 March 2012).
- ⁴ Source Courts Service Report 2010: www.courts.ie (23 March 2012).
- ⁵ Source DRCC Annual Report 2010.
- ⁶ Source RCNI National Rape Crisis Statistics and Annual Report 2010.
- ⁷ There are 412 children’s beds including bunk beds and pull out beds.
- ⁸ SAFE Ireland 2009, ‘Safety & Change’ A national study of the needs and outcomes of women accessing refuge in Ireland.
- ⁹ <http://www.rcni.ie/> (23 March 2012).
- ¹⁰ <http://www.rcni.ie/uploads/RCNINationalRapeCrisisStatisticsAndAnnualReport2010.pdf> (23 March 2012).
- ¹¹ <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N05/450/60/PDF/N0545060.pdf?OpenElement>

ITALY

General Country Information

Population: 57,110,144

Female population: 30,412,846

Member of Council of Europe: 1949

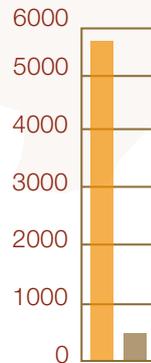
Member of European Union: 1957

CEDAW ratified: 1985

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2000

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: No

ratified: No



No. of Shelters: 54
Rec. No. of Shelter Places: 5,711
No. of Shelter Places: 500

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women¹:

According to the survey by the Italian National Statistic Institute on Violence against Women in 2006, a third of the women survivors of violence suffer from both physical and sexual violence. 6,743,000 of women, between 16 and 70 years of age, were estimated to be survivors of physical or sexual violence during their lifetime (31.9 per cent of women in the considered age group). 23.7 per cent women were survivors of sexual violence, 18.8 per cent of physical violence. Partners are recognised as the main perpetrators responsible for physical as well as some forms of sexual violence. 21 per cent of survivors suffered sexual violence both in and outside their family, 22.6 per cent only by the partner, and 56.4 per cent only by men other than their partner. 690,000 of women were estimated to be survivors of repeated violence by partners. 2,077,000 of women were estimated as having been stalked by their partners. Furthermore, 7,134,000 of women are estimated to have experienced psychological violence in forms of: isolation and attempted isolation (46.7 per cent), control (40.7 per cent), financial violence (30.7 per cent) and berating (23.8 per cent), followed by intimidation (7.8 per cent).

Criminal statistics reported by the Police:

Criminal statistics on violence against women are limited in that real numbers are not provided, or problematic in relations to terms and definitions. Data for murder is disaggregated by the crime during which it occurred, but is not gender disaggregated. Data on murders committed by intimate partner is provided, however, the Italian term "Famiglia Passioni amorose" suggests a digression from any emphasis on the crime's gravity. In the year 2006, there were 192 cases of murder reported in the context of intimate partner violence. Between years 1992-2006, a total of 2,225 persons were murdered by their partner. Gender segregated statistics in forms of percentages exist for murders occurring in the context of familial relations. Between the years 2001-2006, 63 per cent of cases of femicide were caused by a spouse, cohabitant or a boyfriend.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines²

There is one national women's helpline in Italy called "Arianna" (1522), set up by the Italian government but operated by "Le Onde di Palermo", an independent women's NGO, in 2006. The helpline provides support to women (and girls) survivors of domestic violence using a gender-specific approach.

The helpline is free of charge and open 24/7 and therefore fulfills the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline for women, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women.

Multi-lingual support is provided.

Funding is 100 per cent from the State.

Table of Women's HELPLINES:



Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls ¹³
1	1	1	1	100 per cent	No data available.

Other National Helplines³

There is also a helpline for survivors of trafficking in Italy, "Green Line" (800290290), established by the Ministry in Rome in 2000.

There are also 113 regional counselling centres/ helplines for women affected by male violence. About 90 of them are run by women's NGOs and the rest of them by municipalities or Caritas. The helplines are not free of charge and are open part-time.

Women's Shelters

There are 54 shelters in Italy run by independent women's NGOs serving women survivors of gender - based, sexual and domestic violence using a gender specific approach. The first shelter was opened in 1989.⁴

An estimated five of the shelters offer access 24/7. Although there is a significant number of a shelter in Italy, the shelters have limited capacities. Shelters provide a total of 500 places for women and their children. This does not fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.⁵

Shelters are usually financed and supported by local governments (Regions or Municipalities) that are responsible for the general organisation of social services' system in their area with other support from private donations.⁶

National statistics on the users of shelters are not available.

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
54	500	5,711	5,211	Approx. 5	0	No data available.

Other Shelters

There is no data available on other shelters in Italy.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There is no data available on gender specific sexual violence centres in Italy for women and girls. However, since the 1990s, 113 feminist women's associations have been set up in Italy that run anti-violence centres. These centres support survivors of all forms of gender-based violence, including survivors of rape and sexual abuse, forced prostitution and violence against children.

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children⁷

Some women's shelters in Italy provide support to women and their children. Anti-violence centres also attempt to find temporary accommodation outside of shelters, if necessary. Although rules vary among shelters, normally children are allowed to live with their mothers in shelters, with a likely limit on boys above the age of 16.⁸

ITALY

General Women's Centres

There are in total 113 feminist women's associations in Italy (including 54 shelters) which run the anti-violence centres, women's shelters and helplines. They cover all forms of gender-based violence as well as forced prostitution and violence against children.

National Networks of Women's Services⁹

There is a national network of women's support services in Italy, the "Rete Dei Centri Antiviolenza a Delle Case Delle Donne". The Network has been running since 1990. There is also a national umbrella organisation, Centre for Women against Violence, of 58 Italian Women's Umbrella organisations, which has been running since 2008.

Recent Changes in service provision

There were no changes in service provision for women survivors of violence noted during 2011.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

Most of social benefits depend on the regional laws. No particular financial aid or housing support is available to women survivors of violence in Italy.

Legal protection from violence

Domestic violence is recognised as a criminal offence in Italy under three acts: 1) Art. 572: "Maltrattamenti in famiglia o verso i fanciulli" (violence in family or against children), 2) Art. 570: "Violazione degli obblighi di assistenza familiare" (violation of family assistance) and 3) Art. 154: "Norme contro la violenza nelle relazioni familiari" (Law from 4 April 2001).

Protective orders were introduced in Italy. Perpetrators are banned from the house/flat and are only allowed access to the place with court permission. Particularly dangerous perpetrators are forbidden to appear at places which are frequented by the survivors such as school, kindergarten, work place or the family's home. The protection order can be carried out by police and by civil court. The court's decision takes on average four to five months and the protection order is valid for six months.¹⁰

No national statistics are available on the use of police barring orders.

Civil protection orders are available to survivors up to one year.

The length of criminal law protection orders varies according to severity of crime and whether there is a danger of repeating criminal behaviour.¹¹

Statistics on Protective Orders

No data is available on the use of protective orders.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Italy has a national strategy to combat violence against women since 2010 (national plan against violence against women and stalking). There is a governmental coordinating body responsible for implementing and coordinating the policies regarding violence against women. In November 2011, the Italian government has officially announced its plans to allocate funding for the national action plan.

CEDAW¹²

In the concluding comments on Italy at the Forty-ninth session, July 2011, CEDAW welcomes the adaption of new Act No. 11/2009, which introduced a crime of stalking and mandatory detention of perpetrators of acts of sexual violence as well as the introduction of the national action plan to combat violence against women and stalking in 2010. The Committee recommends taking actions globally on ending violence against women. Taking into consideration women trafficking and prostitution, the Committee commends efforts undertaken to provide social assistance to identify survivors of trafficking, and to prosecute trafficking offenders.

CEDAW expressed concern at high prevalence of violence against women and girls and the persistence of socio-cultural attitudes condoning domestic violence as well as absence of assistance and support programs for women wishing to leave prostitution and who were not survivors of exploitation.

Endnotes

- ¹ Italian National Statistic Institute (ISTAT), 2006 Available at: <http://webapps01.un.org/vawdatabase/searchDetail.action?measureId=26309&baseHref=country&baseHrefId=675> (20 March 2012).
- ² WAVE Country Report 2010: http://aoef.at/cms/doc/WAVE_COUNTRY%20REPORT%202010_NEU.pdf (20 March 2012).
- ³ WAVE Country Report 2010
- ⁴ WAVE Country Report 2010
- ⁵ WAVE Country Report 2010
- ⁶ WAVE Country Report 2010 and Government of Italy Available at: <http://webapps01.un.org/vawdatabase/searchDetail.action?measureId=26284&baseHref=country&baseHrefId=675> (20 March 2012).
- ⁷ Government of Italy Available at: <http://webapps01.un.org/vawdatabase/searchDetail.action?measureId=26284&baseHref=country&baseHrefId=675> (20 March 2012).
- ⁸ WAVE Country Report 2010
- ⁹ WAVE Country Report 2010
- ¹⁰ WAVE Country Report 2010
- ¹¹ WAVE focal point
- ¹² <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N11/441/76/PDF/N1144176.pdf?OpenElement>

LATVIA

LATVIA

General Country Information

Population: 2,377,383

Female population: 1,282,419

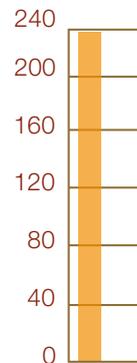
Member of Council of Europe: 1995

Member of European Union: 2004

CEDAW ratified: 1992

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: No

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: No



No. of Shelters:	0
Rec. No. of Shelter Places:	237
No. of Shelter Places:	0

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

There is no prevalence data available on violence against women in Latvia. An online survey in 2006 indicated that 36.7 percent of the participants knew a woman surviving domestic violence.¹ Representative surveys on partner violence have been carried out by the Center of Health Economics Latvia "Traumas and Injuries". Non desegregated data is available from 2007-10. This data indicates that partner violence, (for women and men) was experienced by 249 people in 2007, 284 people in 2008, 186 people in 2009 and 258 people in 2010.²

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

Number of femicides: 2 in 2010³ and 4 in 2011 Number of male violence against women: 632 in 2009 and 546 in 2010.

Number of male violence against women by a partner or ex-partner: 116 in 2009 and 79 in 2010.

Number of cases of male sexual violence against women: 69 rape cases were reported in 2009 and 79 in 2010.

Number of cases of intimate partner violence: 186 in 2010 and 258 in 2010.

Number of cases of family violence: 240 in 2009 and 279 in 2010.⁴

National Criminal Justice Statistics:

Number of convicted cases of male violence against women: 209 in 2009 and 127 in 2010.⁵

Number of convicted cases of male violence against women by a partner or ex-partner: 28 in 2009 and 12 in 2010.⁶

Number of convicted cases of male sexual violence against women: 39 convictions for rape in 2009 and 19 convictions for rape in 2010.

Number of convicted cases of family violence: 370 in 2009 and 314 in 2010.

Criminal law protection orders:

Number of criminal law orders issued: 169 in 2009 and 202 in 2010.⁷

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There is no national helpline for women survivors of violence. Latvia does not meet the Council of Europe required standard of a 24/7 helpline.

Other National Helplines

There is one crisis helpline “Skalbes” run by an association with the support of the city council. The helpline supports all survivors of violence and other crisis situations. It is open 24/7 and provides multilingual support in Latvian, English and Russian. It is not free of charge⁸

There are also two national helplines for children and teenagers.

Women’s Shelters

Latvia does not fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of one family place per 10,000 head of population.

Table of Women’s SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
0	0	237	237	0	0	0

Other Shelters

In Latvia there are two homeless shelters, one for women only and one with a special women’s section. The Riga shelter women’s section is run by the municipality of Riga and was opened in 2002. The other Association “Pins” runs a night shelter for women. It is partly financed by municipality of Riga city and was opened in 2006.

Furthermore, there are six crisis centres that provide over 80 places for women and children requiring crisis support.

There are several shelters for migrants, the Asylum Seekers Reception Centre “Mucenieki”), State Border Guard asylum seekers reception facilities in several Latvian cities, and “Droša māja” asylum centre. While migrant women survivors of violence can use these facilities they do not provide the specialised support women need.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

Latvia does not provide any specialised sexual violence centres for women and girls and therefore does not meet the Council of Europe recommendation of one centre per 10,000 inhabitants.

Women’s Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

There is only one women’s centre that provides support specifically for women, the Association Resource Centre for Women “Marta”, founded.

in 2000. “Marta” uses a gender specific approach. Funding is provided by the State (40 per cent), national private donations (20 per cent), foreign donations (20 per cent) and volunteer work (20 per cent).

There are two other centres that women can access which give support to men and women. Crisis Centre “Skalbes”, which opened in Riga in 1997, provides crisis support and “Shelter Safe House”, which opened in 2007, provides support services to survivors of trafficking. “Skalbes” is funded by a combination of government (50 per cent), national private donations (20 per cent), and volunteer work (30 per cent).⁹

All three centres provide support to women regardless of age, disability or status.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

There is no financial aid or housing support is available to women survivors of violence in Latvia.

Legal protection from violence

There are no laws on protective measures for women survivors of violence in Latvia.

LATVIA

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

The first NAP on combating domestic violence was introduced in Latvia in 2008. The national action plan covers domestic violence, rape and sexual violence from 2008 to 2011 with a limited budget of just over a million euro approximately. An inter-ministerial group was set to coordinate and implement policies lead by the Ministry of Welfare. The NGO Crisis Centre “Skalbes” is a member of the coordinating group.

CEDAW¹⁰

In the concluding comments on Latvia at the Thirty first session, July 2004 CEDAW expressed concern at the lack of prevalence data on violence against women or comprehensive legislation to combat violence against women that there is no provision in the criminal code for marital rape. The Committee called on the government to adopt legislation on domestic violence and ensure the provision of sufficient number of shelters for women survivors of violence.



Endnotes

- ¹ Women Delfi, online survey (2008): <http://women.delfi.lv/reliationsips/couple/article.php?id=19712669> (22 February 2012). Major factors give for women not leaving their violent partners were financial dependence (54 per cent) and lack of their own living place (43 per cent).
- ² Center of Health Economics Latvia "Traumas and Injuries" 2007 – 2010, <http://vec.gov.lv/uploads/files/4d00e5b594cc5.pdf>, p. 21, 22, 23 (22 February 2012). [http://vec.gov.lv/lv/33-statistika/statistikas-dati-par-2010gadu-ieklauts-ari-salidzinajums-ar-leprieksejiem-gadiem:Traumas and Injuries](http://vec.gov.lv/lv/33-statistika/statistikas-dati-par-2010gadu-ieklauts-ari-salidzinajums-ar-leprieksejiem-gadiem:Traumas%20and%20Injuries), p. 29, (22 February 2012).
- ³ Data of the Latvian Ministry of the Interior, provided to the WAVE Focal Point "Crisis Centre Skalbes".
- ⁴ The Latvian Welfare ministry reported higher figures, 282 in 2009 and 418 in 2010. http://www.ic.iem.gov.lv/files/stat/krim_stat_2010.pdf, p. 2, (22 February 2012). http://www.ic.iem.gov.lv/files/stat/krim_stat_2009.pdf (22 February 2012).
- ⁵ Data of the Latvian Ministry of the Interior, provided to the WAVE Focal Point "Crisis Centre Skalbes".
- ⁶ Data of the Latvian Ministry of the Interior, provided to the WAVE Focal Point "Crisis Centre Skalbes".
- ⁷ Data of the Latvian Ministry of the Interior, provided to the WAVE Focal Point "Crisis Centre Skalbes".
- ⁸ Data provided by WAVE Focal Point "Crisis Centre Skalbes".
- ⁹ No information is available on the funding for 2 Shelter Safe House".
- ¹⁰ Concluding Observations, 23 July 2004, CEDAW/C/2004/II/CRP.3/Add.5/Rev.1. <http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/%28Symbol%29/A.59.38%28SUPP%29paras.40-79.En?Opendocument> (22 February 2012).

LIECHTENSTEIN

(PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN)

General Country Information

Population: 33,307

Female population: 16,997

Member of Council of Europe: 1978

Member of European Union: No

CEDAW ratified: 1995

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2001

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: No



No. of Shelters: 1
 Rec. No. of Shelter Places: 3
 No. of Shelter Places: 3

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

There are no data available.

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

Number of femicides: No data available

Number of cases of male violence against women: 2009 21 women were affected by male violence and 3 abusers were evicted by the police in frame of a barring order.

National Criminal Justice Statistics:

No data available

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There is one national women's helpline in Liechtenstein set up by the women's shelter of Liechtenstein, "Frauenhaus Liechtenstein" (00423 380 02 03), an independent women's NGO, in 1991. The helpline provides support to women and girls survivors of all forms of violence against women.

The helpline is not free of charge and callers to the helpline have to pay the cost of a local phone call, it is open 24/7. Therefore Liechtenstein does not fulfill the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women a helpline for women.

Multi-lingual support is provided informally, depending on the language qualifications of staff members.

Funding comes from the State (70 per cent) and private donations (30 per cent). There are three members of paid staff for the week and six at weekends, with no volunteers.

Table of Women's HELPLINES:

Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls ¹³
1	No	Yes	Yes	70 per cent	651 in 2009 and 732 in 2010

Other National Helplines

There is also a helpline for survivors of trafficking, for children survivors of violence and for survivors of family violence, in Liechtenstein called, "Opferhilfestelle", it is run by the State Survivors Assistance Office in the Department of Social Services/ therapeutic services and the crisis intervention team. The helpline is not free of charge and is not open 24/7.

Women's Shelters

There is one shelter in Liechtenstein run by independent women's NGOs serving women survivors of domestic violence. The first shelter was opened in 1991 by the Association for abused Women and Children, which is the only Women's Shelter in Liechtenstein.

The shelter offers access 24/7, free of charge, and provides three family shelter places, each for one woman and three children, (nine places) with an age limit of 12 years for boys and no limit for girls. Women and children can stay at the shelter as long as they need. There are three members of staff during the day and six at night, however there are no staff dedicated to the work with children.

There are no specific shelters for migrant women in the country. However the shelter offers 100 per cent access to migrant women and undocumented migrant women survivors of violence. There is no access for women in wheelchairs.

Liechtenstein fulfils the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.

The shelter is funded primarily by the State (70 per cent), with other support from private donations (30 per cent).

National statistics are collected by the women's shelter on the number of women and children who use the shelters. In 2009 21 women were accommodated in the shelter and 22 children and in 2010 16 women were accommodated and 10 children. This was a total of 439 overnight stays by women and 425 stays by children in 2009, and 227 stays by women and 61 stays by children in 2010. Approximately five women and their children could not be accommodated by the shelter because of lack of available places in 2009, and approximately two women and their children could not be accommodated in 2010.

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
1	3	3	0	1	0	70 per cent

Other Shelters

There are no other shelters in Liechtenstein.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are no gender specific sexual violence centres in Liechtenstein for women and girls. There is a special group for the needs of sexual abused children and young people only. Therefore Liechtenstein does not meet the Council of Europe recommendation of one centre providing services for women and children survivors of sexual violence per 200,000 inhabitants.¹

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children⁷

There are two women's centres run by religious based NGOs and the State in Liechtenstein. The first one was set up in 1986 in Schaan by "Infra" ("Informations- und Kontaktstelle für Frauen"), Information and Contact Centre for Women. The centres offer a range of counselling and free legal advice including for women survivors of violence and their children.

LIECHTENSTEIN

National Networks of Women's Services

There are no national networks or coalitions of service providers in Liechtenstein.

Recent Changes in service provision

There were no changes in service provision for women survivors of violence during 2011. .

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

Social security benefits are available to all citizens with residency rights in Liechtenstein including women survivors of violence and migrant women and minority ethnic women. However there are no specific housing programs available to women survivors of violence. Social security benefits are not available to undocumented women, or asylum seeking women in Liechtenstein.

Legal protection from violence

Protective orders were introduced in Liechtenstein in the Violence Protection Act since 2001. Under the law the police can bar the perpetrator for 10 days. The orders can be issued in cases of physical violence, threats of violence, and stalking and can cover the victims dwelling, the surrounding area and other places such as workplace and schools the victim's children attend.

Civil protection orders are available to survivors in cases of physical and psychological violence, threats of violence and stalking and covering the survivor's house. These orders can be extended up to three months.

Criminal law protection orders are available in cases of physical and psychological violence, threats of violence and stalking. These protective measures can apply to the survivor's dwelling and surrounding areas and workplace and children's schools and prohibit general contact.

Protection orders are available for all family members including women and men, married cohabiting, same-sex and ex-partners partners, children and to migrant women, asylum seeking women and undocumented migrant women.

No data is available on the use of protective orders.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Liechtenstein does not have a NAP to combat violence against women.

CEDAW

In the concluding comments on Liechtenstein at the Forty-eighth session, January – February 2011, CEDAW expressed concern that women survivors of domestic violence from third countries and who have been married to a Liechtenstein national for less than five years may have their residence permit revoked upon dissolution of the marriage, if they are unable to prove their survivor status or other significant personal grounds. The Committee was also concerned about reports that the State party regularly fails to identify survivors of sexual or other forms of gender-based violence during the asylum procedure. The Committee recommended the State introduce ex officio prosecutions for all acts of domestic violence, train of judges, prosecutors and the police on the relevant criminal law provisions, strengthen support to domestic and sexual violence survivors and to accelerate its efforts to adopt the national action plan drafted in 2008.



Endnotes

¹ There is a special group for sexual abuse on children and the young in Schaan.

LITHUANIA

(REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA)



LITHUANIA

General Country Information

Population: 3,286,800¹

Female population: 1,759,300

Member of Council of Europe: 1993

Member of European Union: 2004

CEDAW ratified: 1995

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2004

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: No

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

Prevalence of male violence against women:

According to national survey on violence against women conducted in 1998, 63.3 per cent of women have been survivors of male physical or sexual violence, while 42.4 per cent have experienced intimate partner violence by a present partner.²

According to a survey conducted in 2002³ almost 40 per cent women experience physical/sexual violence every week, almost 60 per cent women experience it once a month. Psychological/economical violence is being experienced every week by more than 40 per cent women and once a month by more than 60 per cent women. The most frequent types of violence were yelling, insulting jokes and phrases, ignoring, shoving, hair twitching, punching, kicking, strangling, and fretting.

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women:

11.39 per cent of women acknowledged that they have experienced sexual violence.

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

Number of femicides: 21 women were murdered by their spouse, partner or cohabitant in 2010.⁴

Number of cases of family violence: 12,031 gender - neutral family violence cases have been investigated by the police in 2010. 8,805 women were survivors of violence where the perpetrators were men. 313 of women reported cases of intimate partner violence, 11 of them have experienced sexual violence.

National Criminal Justice Statistics:

Number of convicted cases of family violence:

614 pre-trial investigations were started in 2010 in relation to convicted cases of gender - neutral family violence.⁵

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There are two national women's helplines in Lithuania. The first helpline was set up by Vilnius Women's House Crisis Center, an independent women's NGO, in 2001 and is called "Specialized Women's Helpline" for women experiencing violence (8-800-22008). The helpline provides support to women survivors of all forms of violence against women, specialising in domestic violence using a gender specific approach.

The second helpline is “The Women’s Line” (8- 800 66366), was set up in 2004 by the State to support women survivors of all forms of violence against women. It is run by Social and Psychological Assistance Centre in Klaipeda. It also provides support on other non violence related issues and is not gender specific.⁶

Both helplines are free of charge, but neither are open 24/7 but only open week days, the Specialized Women’s Helpline from 08.00 – 17.00 and the Women’s Line from 10.00 to 21.00. Therefore Lithuania does not fulfill the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women a helpline for women.

Both national women’s helplines provide multi-lingual support. Specialized Women’s Helpline provides consultations in Lithuanian, Russian, Polish and English.

The Specialized Women’s Helpline is funded primarily by private donations (60 per cent) and from foreign donations (20 per cent), and volunteers (20 per cent). There are three paid staff and eleven volunteers working at the helpline.

The Women’s Line is funded entirely by the State (100 per cent). There are 29 consultants and one supervisor working as volunteers at the helpline.

Table of Women’s HELPLINES:



Number of national helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls ¹⁰
1	Yes	No	1	No	2009: 278 2010: 312 ⁷
1	Yes	No	1	100 per cent	No data available.

Other National Helplines

There are no other national helplines for survivors of violence in Lithuania.

Women’s Shelters

There are no women shelters in Lithuania serving women survivors of domestic violence. This does not fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women’s shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.

Other Shelters

Lithuania also has 18 other shelters which apply a gender specific approach and provide temporary accommodation for women and children in various regions of the country. They are founded either by religious communities or municipalities. There are also 27 family support centers where women and children can go, however none of these shelters are specific to women survivors of violence. Some of them are Municipal Social Care centres that have rooms for “families in crisis”, but they are not often used. Social Care centres also accommodate homeless people, ex convicts and children and young people from dysfunctional families. There 1,900 people were accommodated in the crisis and temporary accommodation centres for women and children in 2009, one fourth more than in 2008.

Women survivors of violence can seek refuge in the Municipal Pension of Mother and Child, which was established in 1998, however only inhabitants of Vilnius city can be accommodated there. The Municipal Pension of Mother and Child has a capacity of 72 places and is accessible 24 hours a day on seven days per week. Counselling is provided in Lithuanian, Russian. Vilnius also has a Caritas care home for Mother and Child which provides accommodation for women experiencing a range of problems. It is run by religious NGOs and part funded by the State. Women can stay there for four to six months.

LITHUANIA

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are no gender specific sexual violence centres in Lithuania for women and girls. Therefore Lithuania does not meet the Council of Europe recommendation of one centre providing services for women and children survivors of sexual violence per 200,000 inhabitants.

General Women's Centres

There are a number of general women's centres in Lithuania, the Vilnius Municipal Pension of Mother and Child, open 24/, The Vilnius Caritas for homeless people, open 24/7; Kaunas Generations House and several NGOs and social help institutions across the country provide temporary rooms/beds for women survivors of violence.

National Networks of Women's Services

There is a national network of women's centres in Lithuania: the women's rights are human rights network. The coalition is made up of women's NGO's working in the field of combating violence against women.

There are no national networks or coalitions of shelter service providers or sexual violence centres in Lithuania.

Recent Changes in service provision

Women's support services are under threat due to lack of funding and inadequate State support.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

No financial aid or housing support is available to women survivors of violence in Lithuania.

Legal protection from violence

Lithuania has met CEDAW recommendations of the year of 2008 and the Protection from Violence Law was introduced in Lithuania in 26 May 2011.

Under the law the police can bar the perpetrator for the duration of the trial. The orders can be issued in cases of physical violence and threats of violence and can cover general contact prohibition. The Law protects all family members including women and men, married cohabiting, same-sex and ex-partners partners, children and to migrant women, asylum seeking women and undocumented migrant women. However, there have been no protective orders introduced.

Civil protection orders are not available and Criminal law protection orders are not available.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Lithuania has a national strategy to combat violence against women for domestic violence initially from 2007 – 2009. It has been prolonged for 2010 - 2012. There is a governmental coordinating body responsible for implementing and coordinating the policies regarding violence against women. NGOs are part of the body.

CEDAW⁸

In the concluding comments on Lithuania at the Forty-first session, June - July 2008, CEDAW welcomed the adoption of the 2007-2009 national strategy to combat violence against women and the implementation of the Programme for the Prevention and Control of Trafficking in Human Beings for 2005-2008.

The Committee expressed concern at the high prevalence of violence against women, particularly domestic violence and at that the number of crisis centres is insufficient due to lack of State financial support. The Committee called upon the State party to allocate sufficient financial resources to ensure the effective implementation of the National Strategy for Combating Violence against Women and to closely monitor its results. The Committee also urged the State party to ensure that all women survivors of domestic violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection, including protection orders, and access to a sufficient number of adequately funded, safe shelters and legal aid.

Endnotes

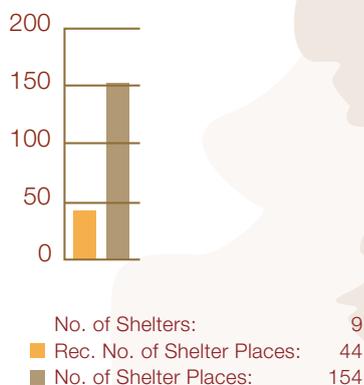
- ¹ Department of Statistics Lithuania [online]: <http://www.stat.gov.lt/en/> (20 January 2012).
- ² Purvaneckienė G. Violence against Women: Survivor Survey Report [online]: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/gender/vaw/surveys/Lithuania/VAW_Report_Lithuania.pdf (20 January 2012).
- ³ Laurinavičius A., Žukauskienė R., (2002), Coercion against women // Mokslo darbai, no. 8 (1), p. 103-111.
- ⁴ Data provided by IT and Communications Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania
- ⁵ Data provided by IT and Communications Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania
- ⁶ Social and Psychological Assistance Centre in Klaipėda [online]: http://www.moteriai.lt/pdf/Ataskaita_2010.pdf Accessed (25 January 2012).
- ⁷ Data from Specialized Women's Helpline only.
- ⁸ <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/docs/co/CEDAW-C-LTU-CO-4.pdf> (28 February 2012)

LUXEMBOURG

(GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG)

General Country Information

Population: 439,539
Female population: 222,998
Member of Council of Europe: 1949
Member of European Union: 1957
CEDAW ratified: 1989
CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2003
Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: May 2011
ratified: No



FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

Prevalence of male violence against women: no data available.

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women: not data available.

Research data available on other forms of violence against women: no data available.

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

Number of femicides: 2 in 2010

Number of cases of family violence: only domestic violence: 547 in 2010 (446 women and 101 men were survivors of domestic violence).

National Criminal Justice Statistics:

Number of convicted cases of family violence: 27 in 2010

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There is one national women's helpline in Luxembourg set up by "Femmes en détresse asbl". The helpline number is 12344. The helpline was established in 1998 and is run by a women's NGO with 100 per cent State funding. The helpline provides support to women and girls survivors of all forms of violence against women and women in distress using a gender-specific approach.

The helpline is not free of charge. It is open weekdays from Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 3:00. Therefore, Luxembourg does not fulfill the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women, a helpline for women.

Multi-lingual support is provided. The languages offered are Luxembourgish, German, French, English and at certain times, Portuguese.

Funding is 100 per cent from the State. There are five paid staff members and no volunteers working at the helpline.

Table of Women's HELPLINES:

Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls ¹³
1	0	0	1	100 per cent	385

Other National Helplines

There are also three other national helplines. One helpline is for children survivors of violence (“Aktion Bobby”) that is operated by the police. One general helpline is for children and young people (“Kannerjugendtelefon”) and is run by an independent NGO. The third helpline is a general one (“SOS Détresse”), run by an NGO connected to the Family Ministry. All of the helplines provide multi-lingual support and one of them (“Kannerjugendtelefon”) is open 24/7.

Women’s Shelters

There are nine shelters in Luxembourg run by NGOs connected to the Family Ministry serving women survivors of violence using a gender specific approach.

The first shelter was opened in Luxembourg in 1980 (“Frauenhaus Letzebuerg”) by “Femmes en détresse asbl” and the most recent, Foyer Sud: “Fraen an Nout” in Esch-sur-Alzette, in 2009 by “Fondation Maison de la Porte Ouverte”.

The shelters offer access 24/7 and provide a total of 154 places for women and their children.

This does fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women’s shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.

The shelter is 100 per cent funded by the State.

National statistics on the users of shelters are collected by the Ministry of Equal Opportunities on the number of women and children who use the shelters. In all shelters in 2009, 446 women and 253 children were accommodated. As of 2010, the numbers are no longer published by the Ministry.

Table of Women’s SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
9	154	44	0	9	9	100 per cent

Other Shelters

Luxembourg also has other shelters (e.g. “Foyer Ulysse” in Luxembourg) serving survivors of family violence. Shelters are also available for women with children (e.g. “Fraenhaus”) and are run by NGOs in cooperation with the State.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are no gender specific sexual violence centres in Luxembourg for women and girls. Therefore Luxembourg does not meet the Council of Europe recommendation of one centre providing services for women and children survivors of sexual violence per 200,000 inhabitants.

Women’s Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children⁷

There are four women’s centres for survivors of violence and their children in Luxembourg. They are run by women’s NGOs in cooperation with the State and at least the one of them (“Femmes en détresse”, called “ViSaVi”) applies a gender-specific approach.

They all offer access to migrant, undocumented, asylum seekers, and Roma women, but very limited access is offered to women with disabilities.

Funding is provided from the State (100 per cent).

General Women’s Centres

There are four women’s centres in Luxembourg (the same as Women’s centres for Survivors of Violence and their children). They are run by women’s NGOs in cooperation with the State.

LUXEMBOURG

National Networks of Women's Services

There are no national networks or coalitions of shelter service providers, sexual violence centres or women's centres, just informal cooperation.

Recent Changes in service provision

There were no changes in service provision for women survivors of violence during 2011.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

Social security benefits are available to all citizens with residency rights in Luxembourg. However, there are no specific social security benefits and housing programs available to women survivors of violence. Social security benefits are available to migrant women and asylum seeking women (under certain conditions), but are not available to undocumented women.

Legal protection from violence

Protective orders were introduced in Luxembourg in the «Loi du 8 septembre 2003 sur la violence domestique». Under the law the police can bar the perpetrator for ten days from the home and this order can be extended once for a further three months. The orders can be issued in cases of physical violence, threats of violence, psychological violence and stalking and can cover the survivor's dwelling, the surrounding area and other places such as workplace and schools the survivor's children attend as well as messages to the survivor and the making of any contact with the survivor.

No national statistics are available on the use of police barring orders.

Civil protection orders are available to survivors in cases of physical and psychological violence, threats of violence and stalking, and cover the survivor's house the surrounding area and other places such as workplace and schools the survivor's children attend.

Criminal law protection orders are not available.

Protection orders are available for all family members including women and men, married, cohabiting, same-sex and ex-partners partners, children and to migrant women as well as asylum seeking women.

Statistics on Protective Orders

302 of police barring orders were issued in 2009 and 264 in 2010. 89 civil protection orders were applied for in 2009 and 71 were granted, 91 were applied for in 2010 and 80 were granted.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Luxembourg has a national action plan for Gender Equality, "Plan d'action national d'égalité des femmes et des homes" (2009 - 2014), covering violence against women, trafficking and prostitution. There is a governmental coordinating body responsible for implementing and coordinating the policies regarding violence against women. It is an inter-ministerial body that serves in an advisory role. One independent women's NGO is a member of the coordinating body, but only its intervention service, not the NGO itself is member ("Femmes en détresse asbl").

CEDAW¹

In the concluding comments on Luxembourg at the Fortieth session, January - February 2008, CEDAW welcomes State party on the legislative developments revision of Article 11 of the Constitution which anchors the principle of equality between women and men, the adoption on 23 December 2005 of the Law on the Naming of Children, the adoption on 3 June 2004 of the Law on Collective Labour Relations which calls for the application of the principle of equal pay for women and men, the adoption of the Domestic Violence Law of 8 September 2003, and the enactment of the Law of 19 May 2003 amending the General Statute of Civil Servants and which introduces measures to promote the reconciliation of family and working life.

The Committee expressed concern at the prevalence of various forms of violence as well as lack of information considering trafficking of women and girls into Luxembourg. It suggests expanding efforts to prevent and address all forms of violence and trafficking and exploitation against women. The Committee calls upon the State party to accelerate the adoption of the anti-trafficking bill as well as strategy to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women.



Endnotes

¹ http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/docs/CEDAW.C.LUX.CO.5_en.pdf (24 March 2012).

FORMER YUGOSLAV

REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

(THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA)

General Country Information

Population: 2,022,547 (census from 2002)

Female population: 1,007,170

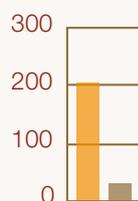
Member of Council of Europe: 1995

Member of European Union: No

CEDAW ratified: 1994

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2003

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: 8 July 2011



No. of Shelters: 6
Rec. No. of Shelter Places: 202
No. of Shelter Places: 30 approx.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

Prevalence of violence against women: In the study “Life in a Shadow”¹ (sample of 1,432 women interviewed in July 2006) conducted by the “Association ESE” in 2007, 10 per cent of women have experienced dominant forms of sexual violence.

Research data available on other forms of violence against women: According to the study “Life in a shadow”, every second woman is affected by some form of psychological violence. 36.5 per cent of the women have experienced control of their movements and unwanted contact by their “partner”. The most common forms of physical violence (17.7 per cent) are slaps (87.5 per cent), threats of use of force (70.1 per cent), grabbing and shoving (63.9 per cent). The most severe forms of physical violence are rarely used – burning or scalding (2.5 per cent) or the use of a knife or a gun (9.9 per cent). Every fourth woman reported having been physically attacked within her family. It is indicated that almost every fifth woman (18.9 per cent) has reported the recurrence of physical violence over 20 times.

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

Number of cases of male violence against women: In 2010, in conjunction with domestic violence, 314 crimes were registered, 770 offenses, and proceedings were started for 3,106 complaints (3,671 in 2008). In comparison with 2009, this shows that criminal acts increased by 20 per cent, as did complaints by 18 per cent, with 5.2 per cent decrease in misdemeanours.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women’s Helplines

There are two national helplines run by independent women’s NGOs using a gender specific approach in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The first helpline was established in 1994, “National SOS Line” (15700/15315) (“Crisis Centre HOPE -Telephone of trust”) by the Organisation of women of city of Skopje for women and girls survivors of domestic violence. The second was set up in 2010, “SOS National Mobile Line” (+38970-141700, +38975-141700, +38977-141700) by National Council for Gender Equality for women and girls survivors of all forms of violence.

Both of the helplines are open 24/7, the National SOS Line is free of charge and two of the three lines of SOS National Mobile Line are also free. The helplines therefore fulfill the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women.

Only the National SOS Line provides multi-lingual support in Albanian and in Roma. The helpline is run by approximately 12 volunteers; there is no paid staff. It is funded primarily by volunteers (50 per cent), with further support from foreign donations (30 per cent) and the State (20 per cent).

SOS National Mobile Line also has no paid staff; it is run by six volunteers. It is funded almost entirely by national private donations (80 per cent) with volunteer support (20 per cent).

Table of Women's HELPLINES:



Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls
2	Yes	Yes	50 per cent	50 per cent	2009: 3,198 2010: 3,524

Women's Shelters

There are six shelters in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia run by independent women's NGOs and the State serving women survivors of domestic violence.²

The first shelter was opened in 2001 by the Macedonian Women Rights Center and the most recent in 2011. Four of the shelters are state run and two are run by independent women's NGO's. Only two of the shelters use a gender specific approach.

The shelters provide a total of approximately 30 places for women and their children. This is significantly less places than the recommendation of the Council of Europe of safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.

All of the shelters are free of charge, however less than 25 per cent offer access 24/7. All the shelters accommodate children with an age limit of 12 years old for boys. Of the six shelters two serve women survivors of trafficking while the other four serve women survivors of domestic violence. There are no specific shelters for migrant women in the country. All of the shelters offer less than 25 per cent access to migrant women, undocumented migrant women, women asylum seekers and women with disabilities. However there is 100 per cent access to Roma women survivors of violence. One state shelter takes migrant women and women survivors of trafficking.

There is an average of one to three staff members for each shelter and less than 25 per cent have staff dedicated to the work with children. In all six of these shelters, women can stay for a period of 7 to 12 months.

The shelters are funded primarily by foreign donations (60 per cent), with other support from the State (20 per cent), and volunteers (20 per cent).

National statistics on the users of shelters are not collected.

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
6	30 approx.	202	172	Less than 25 per cent	No data available.	20 per cent

Other Shelters

There are no other shelters in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are no gender specific sexual violence centres in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for women and girls. Therefore Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia does not meet the Council of Europe recommendation of one centre providing services for women and children survivors of sexual violence per 200,000 inhabitants.

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

There are three women's centres for survivors of violence and their children in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

The first one was open in 1994 in Skopje by the Women's Organisation of the City of Skopje. All three women's centres are run by independent women's NGOs and all apply a gender-specific approach. They offer a range of crisis, advice and counselling support to women and girls survivors of violence.

They all offer access to Roma women. As the women's centres are open to all women who have become survivors of violence migrant women, undocumented women and women asylum seekers are accepted without restriction. Access offered to women with disabilities is up to 25 per cent, as the centres are not equipped to offer access by wheelchair.

The centres are primarily funded from foreign donations (50 per cent), private donations (20 per cent) and volunteers (30 per cent).

General Women's Centres

There are a number of maternal centres for women and children.

National Networks of Women's Services

There is a national network of organisations working on violence against women including domestic violence. There is also a network of 110 independent women's organisations, "The National Council for Gender Equality", made up of mostly local organisations who work on different issues for the empowerment of women.

Recent Changes in service provision

There were some changes in service provision for women survivors of violence during 2011. Some state women's shelters closed during 2010/2011 due to lack of funding. State and NGO's women's support services are in danger of being closed due to financial cuts and the lack of sustainable funding.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

Social security benefits are available to all citizens with residency rights in The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. These are not available for migrant women, undocumented women and women asylum seekers and there are no specific social security benefits and housing programs available to women survivors of violence.

Legal protection from violence

Protective orders were introduced in The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the Family Law, Law for criminal procedure and Law for social protection. Under the law police have the right to bar perpetrators. The orders can be issued in cases of physical violence, threats of violence, psychological violence and stalking and can cover the survivors dwelling, the surrounding area and other places such as workplace and schools the survivor's children attend. However the duration is dependent on each case and this form of protection is rarely used.

Civil protection orders are not available.

Criminal law protection orders are available for up to a year in cases of physical and psychological violence, threats of violence and stalking. These protective measures can apply to the survivor's dwelling and surrounding areas and workplace and children's schools and prohibit general contact.

Protection orders are available to all family members including women and men, married cohabiting, same-sex and ex-partners partners, children and to migrant women, asylum seeking women and undocumented migrant women.

No data is available on the use of protective orders, but it is observed that in practice, the protective orders are hardly ever issued.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has a national strategy to combat domestic violence for the period 2008 to 2011. There is a governmental coordinating body responsible for implementing and coordinating the policies regarding violence against women under the Ministry for Labor and Social Policy. It is an inter-ministerial body with the power to make policy decisions. An independent women's NGO is a member of the coordinating body, the "Macedonian Women's Rights Center" – Shelter Center Skopje.

CEDAW³

In the concluding comments on The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia at the Thirty-fourth session, January to February 2006, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern at about the high prevalence of violence against women, including domestic violence. The Committee called upon the State party to further elaborate and effectively implement legislation on violence against women. The Committee also urged the State party to priorities measures to address violence against women, effectively implement legislation to ensure survivors are protected and supported and perpetrators are prosecuted and punished. The Committee also called for education and awareness raising measures that highlight the unacceptability of all forms of violence against women directed at the public officials, including the police, judiciary and the general public.

Endnotes

¹ Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women in the Republic of Macedonia –ESE, Life in a Shadow, Skopje 2007.

² Two state shelters closed in 2010/11 for financial reasons.

³ CEDAW/C/MKD/Co/3, available on:

<http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/%20per%20cent28Symbol%20per%20cent29/f3b95f78cc6b5f85c1257289004ba19d?Opendocument> (16 March 2012).

MALTA

General Country Information

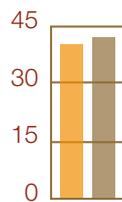
Population: 404,962

Female population: 204,143

Member of Council of Europe: 1965

Member of European Union: 2004

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: No



No. of Shelters:	4
Rec. No. of Shelter Places:	40
No. of Shelter Places:	43

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women¹:

Prevalence of male violence against women: 26.5 per cent of women had experienced DV at sometime in their lifetime, 1 in every 4. All types of violence-physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, and financial.

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women:

Out of 1,154 women interviewed who were ever partnered, 109 (9%), experienced one or more of the sexual abusive behaviours and 32 per cent of the 109 are currently experiencing sexual violence.

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

Number of femicides: 2009 – 2 victims; 2010 – 1 victim

Number of cases of male violence against women: 2009 – 584; 2010 – 682²

National Criminal Justice Statistics:

Male violence against women: 2009 – 51; 2010 – 98³:

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There is a national helpline in Malta set up by Appogg Agency called SPL179 (Support line 179), set up in 1996 and is state run. The helpline provides support primarily to women and girls survivors of all forms of violence including domestic violence though it also provides general support to others.

The helpline is free of charge and is open 24/7. Bi-lingual support is provided in Maltese and English. The helpline is funded by state, with two full time staff and the support of around 80 volunteers. The helpline received 397 calls in relation to domestic violence in 2009 and 465 in 2010.

Therefore Malta fulfills the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women a helpline for women.

Table of Women's HELPLINES:



Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls
1	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 per cent	2009 397 2010 465 on DV

Other National Helplines

There are three other national helplines, emergency 112, crime stop 119 which are open 24/7 and 'Be Smart online' (monitoring internet pornography in liaison with the police, cybercrime) which is open during office hours. The helplines are all state run, bi-lingual and free of charge.

Women's Shelters

There are four shelters in Malta, one run by the state and two by religious organisations and one by an NGO, and all four use a gender specific approach. The first shelter was opened in Merhba Bik in early 1980's by a religious organisation and the most recent shelter was opened in 2000 by Appogg Agency.

Three of the shelters specifically support women survivor's of domestic violence while one supports women survivors of all forms of violence. There are no specific shelters for migrant women in the country.

The shelters are free of charge and over two thirds offer access 24/7. They provide a total of 43 places for women and their children, with over 75% having an age limit of 16 or under for boys. Malta fulfils the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population. However, young adolescent girls aged 15 – 17 years with challenging behaviors have also been placed intermittently in the state run shelter, slightly reducing the number of places available to women survivors of violence.

All four shelters offer access to migrant, undocumented and asylum seeking women survivors of violence and over three quarters of the shelters offer access to women with disabilities. The majority of shelters allow women and children to stay for up to 12 months or more, with only on shelter having a limit of up to 3 months. The shelters have approximately 35 staff members of whom over 76 per cent are dedicated to the work with children as well.

The shelters are funded primarily by the state (25% permanent and 65% temporary), with other support from private donations (10%).

National statistics on the users of shelters are not collected. 69 women were accommodated in the state run shelter in 2009 and 82 in 2010; 70 women were accommodated in Merhba Bik, run by a religious organisation, in 2009 and 89 in 2010.

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
4	43	40	0	3	4	90 per cent

Other Shelters

Malta also has two other shelters one for the homeless and one for people with mental health challenges.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are no gender specific sexual violence centres in Malta for women and girls.⁴ Therefore Malta does not meet the

MALTA

Council of Europe recommendation of one centre providing services for women and children survivors of sexual violence per 200,000 inhabitants.

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

Malta has no women's centres providing support to survivors of violence and their children or general women's centres.

National Networks of Women's Services

There are no national networks or coalitions of shelter service providers, sexual violence centres or women's centres in Malta.

Recent Changes in service provision

There were no changes in service provision for women survivors of violence during 2011.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

Social security benefits are available to all citizens with residency rights in Malta including women survivors of violence. Social security benefits may be available to migrant women, undocumented women, and asylum seeking women depending on their status.

There are also housing programs which give women survivors of violence are given priority. Housing programs are also available to migrant women, undocumented women, and asylum seeking women.

Legal protection from violence

Protective orders were introduced in Malta in The Domestic Act, 2006. Police barring orders can be issued in cases of physical violence, threats of violence, psychological violence and stalking and other acts of violence, including financial, and even verbal. The protection can cover the victims dwelling, the surrounding area and other places such as workplace and schools the victim's children attend and general contact prohibition.

Civil protection orders are available to victims in cases of physical and psychological violence, threats of violence and stalking and other forms of violence. They can cover the victim's house the surrounding area and other places such as workplace and schools the victim's children attend.

Criminal law protection orders are available in cases of physical and psychological violence, threats of violence and stalking. These protective measures can apply to the victim's dwelling and surrounding areas and workplace and children's schools and prohibit general contact.

Protection orders are available for to all family members including women and men, married cohabiting, same-sex and ex-partners partners, children and to migrant women, asylum seeking women and undocumented migrant women.

No data is available on the use of protective orders.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Malta has a national strategy to combat violence against women covering rape and sexual violence, domestic violence, sexual harassment, genital mutilation, so called "honor crimes" and forced marriages. There is a governmental coordinating body responsible for implementing and coordinating the policies regarding violence against women. It is an inter-ministerial body but does not have the power to make policy decisions, just recommendations. Independent women's NGO are not members of the coordinating body.

CEDAW¹⁷

In the concluding comments on Malta at the Forty - seventh session, October 2010, CEDAW expressed concern at the high prevalence of violence against women and the persistence of socio-cultural attitudes still condoning domestic violence and deterring women from reporting cases to the police. It was further concerned that the courts consider they have discretionary powers to stay domestic violence cases when the victim refuses to testify before the court, even when the

perpetrator has admitted the offence and evidence is available. The Committee also expressed concern at the lack of data collection on all forms and manifestations of violence against women. CEDAW urged Malta to strengthen the definition of the crimes of rape and violence to ensure that female victims of violence have immediate protection and access to a shelter, free legal aid and counselling.

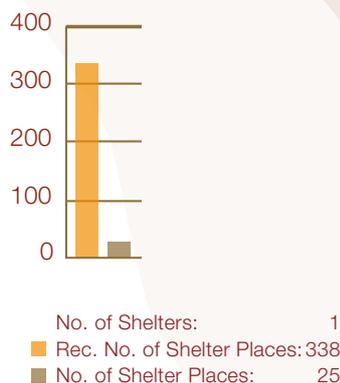
Endnotes

- ¹ Sources: 1.Perceptions of the Maltese Public on Domestic Violence, 2008. 2.'The Prevalence of Domestic Violence against Women in Malta & its impact on their employment prospects'. ESF 3.43 dignity for Domestic Violence Survivors, Published December, 2011 (*note-both are on the DV Commission website)
- ² Overall figure provided by the police of cases including slight injuries, not including grievous injuries.
- ³ A global figure from the police of cases of slight injuries and not grievous bodily harm.
- ⁴ A report recommending the setting up of a rape crises centre was submitted to the relevant Minister in 2011.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

General Country Information

Population: 3,386,673
Female population: 1,756,984
Member of Council of Europe: 1995
Member of European Union: No
CEDAW ratified: 1994
CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2006
Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: No



FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

Prevalence of violence against women: By spouse/intimate partner: 12.3 per cent

Prevalence of male SEXUAL violence against women: By spouse/intimate partner: 18.6 per cent

By others than spouse/intimate partner: 0.1 per cent

Research data available on other forms of violence against women: Prevalence of PSYCHOLOGICAL violence against women: By spouse/intimate partner: 59.4 per cent

Prevalence of PHYSICAL violence against women: By spouse/intimate partner: 39.7 per cent

By others than spouse/intimate partner: 5.9 per cent

Prevalence of ECONOMIC violence against women: By spouse/intimate partner: 10.6 per cent

In 2011, according to the data of the Ministry of Interior of Republic of Moldova:

Crimes related to domestic violence: 369 cases, committed by aggressors: 35 women and 334 men.

No. of survivors of domestic violence: 273 women, including 12 minors, and 96 men.

No. of protection/barring orders issued by courts and observed by police: 222 protection orders.

No. of persons being subject to police prevention activities: 4688 persons who manifest/are violence in family.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There is a national helpline in Moldova, run by an independent women's NGO: "The Street". The helpline for women and girls survivors of domestic violence, is free of charge, but not open full time, but from 8.00 am to 8.00 pm seven days a week.

The helpline therefore does not fulfill the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women.

Multi-lingual support is provided in Russian and Romanian. The helpline is run by approximately four full time staff.

The helpline is funding entirely by foreign donations.

Table of Women's HELPLINES:

Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls
1	Yes	No	Yes	0	2,800 calls between Nov 2009-2011

Women's Shelters

There are seven shelters in Moldavia of which six are run by the state and one by an independent women's NGO. The first shelter was opened by "Refugiul-Casa Marioarei" in 2004 and is a national shelter that also provides non residential services; the other six are regional shelters. All the shelters provide services free of charge to women and children. Six of the shelters support women survivors of all forms of violence and one shelter (Casa Marioarei) supports specifically women survivors of domestic violence. This Shelter offers 25 places for women and their children

This does not fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.

The shelters offer access to all women, there are no specific shelters for migrant, asylum seeking, undocumented or Roma women. Women stay on average for seven months. The shelters have approximately seven to ten staff and under a quarter are dedicated to work with children.

The regional shelters are funded primarily by the state (80 per cent), the national shelter is also supported from foreign donations (10 per cent), private donations (10 per cent) and volunteers.

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
1	25	338	313	1	1	No data

Other Shelters

There are five other shelters in Moldova, women and children's homes.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are no gender specific sexual violence centres for women and girls. Therefore Moldova does not meet the Council of Europe recommendation of one centre providing services for women and children survivors of sexual violence per 200,000 inhabitants.

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

There are 17 women's centres in Moldova providing support for survivors of violence and their children. The first one, Centre for Women's Information opened in 1998 in Chisinau. 13 are run by the State and four by independent women's NGO's. The centers cover a variety of services, one centre specialises in supporting women survivors of domestic violence and their children and one in supporting women survivors of trafficking. The centres offer support to all groups of women in Moldova.

"Casa Marioarei" provided a range of services for 840 women and their children survivors of domestic violence in 2010.

General Women's Centres

There are a number of maternal centres for women and children.

National Networks of Women's Services

There are plans to create a national network of service providers, but this has not yet happened.

Recent Changes in service provision

All the centres that receive international funding are at risk of closing due to the instability of this type of funding, including "Casa Marioarei".

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

No financial aid or housing support is available to women survivors of violence.

Legal protection from violence

In 2007 a law was introduced on preventing and combating family violence. It provides for police barring orders in cases of physical violence, depending on the severity. Protective measures include the survivors dwelling, the surrounding area and other places such as workplace and schools the survivor's children attend, general contact prohibition and the selling of common possessions.

No national statistics are available on the use of police barring orders.

Civil law protection orders are available in cases of psychological violence covering custody, divorce and separation of assets.

Criminal law protection orders are available in cases of physical and psychological violence, threats of violence and stalking. Protective measures include the survivors dwelling, the surrounding area and other places such as workplace and schools the survivor's children attend, general contact prohibition and the selling of common possessions.

The protection orders protect women and men, married partners, cohabiting partners, children, all family members, asylum seeking and undocumented women married partners or cohabiting partners.

No statistics on the use of protective orders are available.

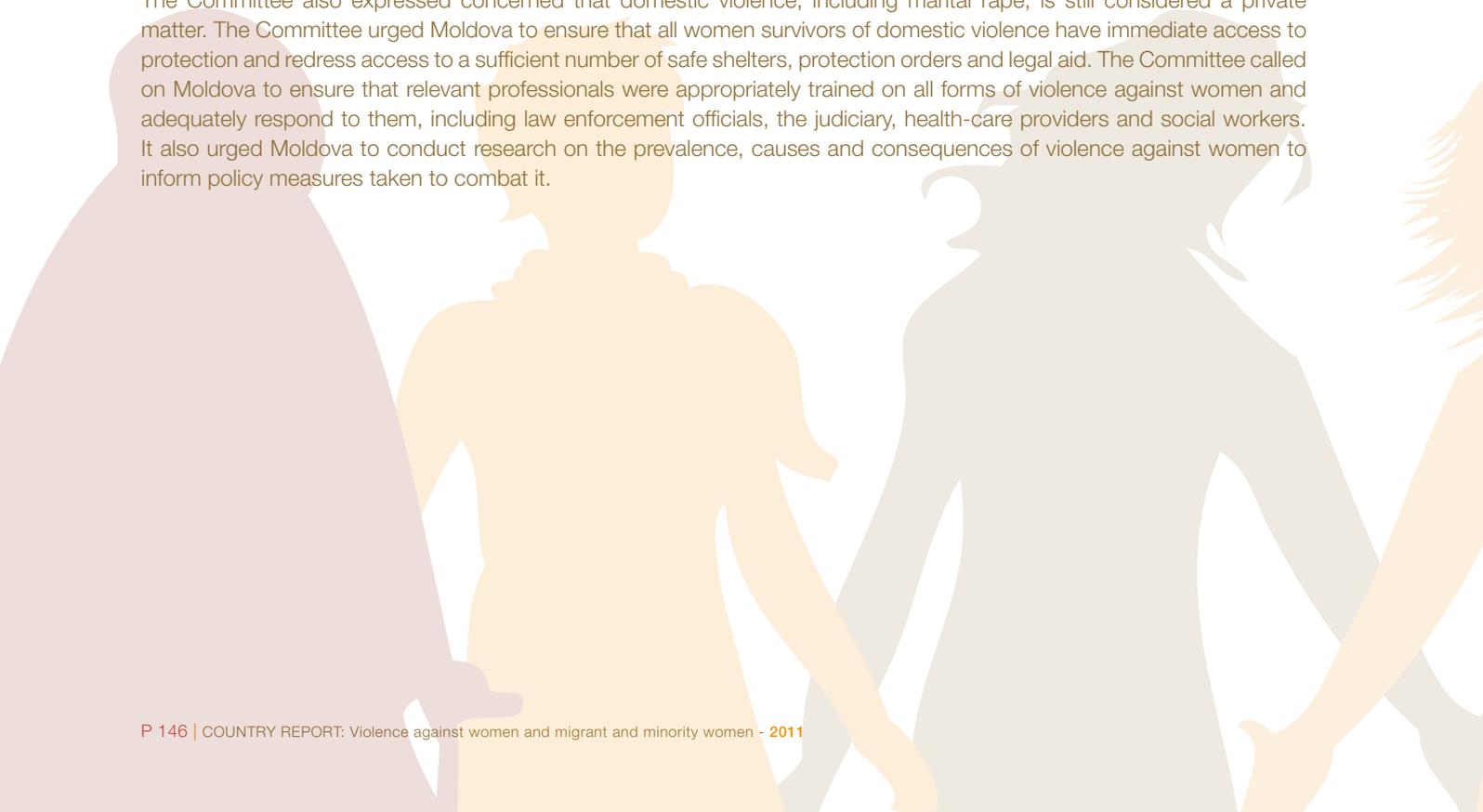
National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Moldova does have a national action plan to combat violence against women. It has a national action plan on domestic violence for the period 2009-2010 but there is no budget allocated to this.

There is a governmental coordinating body responsible for implementing and coordinating the policy regarding violence against women. It is an inter-ministerial body. The independent women's national action plan, "La Strada" is a member of the coordinating body.

CEDAW

In the concluding comments on Moldova at the Thirty Sixth session, in August 2006, CEDAW expressed concern at the prevalence of violence against women and the lack of sex-disaggregated data on all forms of violence against women. The Committee also expressed concerned that domestic violence, including marital rape, is still considered a private matter. The Committee urged Moldova to ensure that all women survivors of domestic violence have immediate access to protection and redress access to a sufficient number of safe shelters, protection orders and legal aid. The Committee called on Moldova to ensure that relevant professionals were appropriately trained on all forms of violence against women and adequately respond to them, including law enforcement officials, the judiciary, health-care providers and social workers. It also urged Moldova to conduct research on the prevalence, causes and consequences of violence against women to inform policy measures taken to combat it.





MONTENEGRO

General Country Information

Population: 620,145

Female population:

314,920 = 50.78% of total population

Member of Council of Europe: 2007

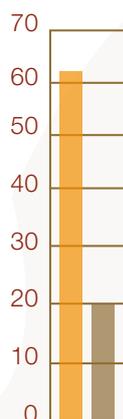
Member of European Union: No

CEDAW ratified: 2006

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2006

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: May 2011

ratified: No



No. of Shelters:	2
Rec. No. of Shelter Places:	62
No. of Shelter Places:	20

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

Prevalence of male violence against women: Research in 2007 noted that 65.8 percent of women in an intimate partner relationship experienced some form of violence .

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

Number of femicides: No data is provided by the police but other sources indicate that seven women were killed in 2009 and six women in 2010 .

Number of cases of male violence against women: 1,090 in 2009

Number of cases of male violence against women by a partner or ex partner: 433 in 2009, 81.2 percent of the total number of domestic violence cases reported to the Police and 327 in 2010, 79.6 percent of the total number of domestic violence cases reported to the Police

Number of cases of male sexual violence against women: Gender desegregated data is not kept, between 2006 and 2010 there were 49 cases of rape, 11 in 2006, 7 in 2007, 17 in 2008, 9 in 2009 and 5 in 2010

Number of cases of intimate partner violence: 533 in 2009 and 416 in 2010

Number of cases of family violence: 507 in 2008, 487 in 2009, 95 percent of the perpetrators were male, 38 percent of which were repeat offenders; 385 in 2010, 94 percent of the perpetrators were male, 31 percent were repeated offenders.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There are two helplines in Montenegro run by independent women's NGOs that provide a national service using a gender specific approach. SOS Hotline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Podgorica, set up in 1997, and SOS Hotline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Niksic set up in 1998 . Neither helpline is free of charge.

Only SOS Hotline Niksic, provides a 24/7 service supporting women, and girls from 14, survivors of all forms of violence against women. It has up to two staff and between seven and 10 volunteers. Multi-lingual support is provided by the helpline's volunteers in Albania, Roma and English. SOS Hotline Niksic is funded primarily by foreign donations(70%), it also receives funding from inter-governmental organisations (15%), volunteer work (14%) and national private donations (1%).

SOS Hotline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Podgorica provides support to all women and girls of any age, survivors of all forms of violence against women. The helpline, which is staffed by seven to 10 volunteers, does not provide multi-lingual support. Funding is from foreign donations (40%) inter-governmental organizations state (30%) and volunteers (30%).



Table of Women's HELPLINES:

Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls
SOS Hotline Niksic	No	Yes	Yes	0	614 calls in 2009, 872 calls in 2010, 481 calls in 2011
SOS Hotline Podgorica	No	No	No	Yes	No data

Other National Helplines

A state run national helpline is available for all victims of trafficking run by the Office of National Coordinator for Fight against Trafficking in Human beings. The helpline is free of charge and is open 24/7. It is funded entirely by the state.

Women's Shelters

There are two women's shelters in Montenegro both run by independent women's NGOs. The Women's Safe House in Podgorica was established in 1999 and the Crisis Help Center for Women and Children Victims of Violence within SOS Hotline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Niksic was set up in 2009.

Both shelters provide support to women survivors of domestic violence and their children using a gender specific approach. They both open 24/7 and there is no limit to the time women can spend at either shelter. Between them the shelters provide a total of 20 places. This is not enough to meet the Council of Europe recommendation of one family place per 10,000 head of population.

Children are accepted by both shelters. Boys are accepted up to the age of 15 years in SOS Niksic Crisis Help Center and up to the age of 14 years in the Women's Safe House in Podgorica. Girls are accepted at any age with their mothers. Only Niksic accepts girls survivors of domestic violence under 18 on their own, and then only from 14 years. The shelters have between seven and ten staff. Less than 25 per cent of staff are dedicated to working with children, this is usually done by volunteers.

Migrant, undocumented and asylum seeking women are accepted in both shelters and Roma women are accommodated by SOS Niksic Crisis Help Center shelter. While there is no specific shelters for women victims of trafficking, several trafficked women who were also survivors of domestic abuse were accommodated in the SOS Niksic Crisis Help Center shelter in 2009. Only the SOS Niksic shelter offers multi-lingual support in Albanian, English and Roma.

Both shelters provide accommodation free of charge. The SOS Niksic Crisis Help Center shelter provides free food and a range of legal, psychological and counseling support services. These included legal representation, accompanying women to court appearances and mediation with institutions to find employment. The Women's Safe House in Podgorica provides free legal and psychological assistance, but due to financial difficulties free food is not provide.

The majority of the funding for the shelters comes from foreign donations (70%) the rest is made up from the state (10% is only temporary funding and 5% public tender funding), private donations (5%) and volunteer work (10%).

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
2	20	62	42	21	1	15%

MONTENEGRO

Other Shelters

There are two other shelters in Montenegro. A state run shelter for all survivors of trafficking run in partnership with Montenegro Women's Lobby where survivors can stay for between four and six months. There is also the Centre for Support to Children and Family, Bijelo Polje, for all survivors of family violence which provides accommodation for two to four weeks.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are no specialized sexual violence centres for women and girls in Montenegro. Therefore the Council of Europe recommendation of one centre per 200,000 inhabitants has not been met.

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

There are three women's centres in Montenegro run by independent women's NGOs. The two women's shelters also provide non residential support and there is also a women's crisis centre that provides help. All three centres support women survivors of domestic violence and their children and girls under 18 years. One centre provides supports to migrant and undocumented women, women seeking asylum and women with disabilities. Two centres give support to Roma women.

Funding for the centres is primarily provided by foreign donation (70%), with support from volunteer work (15%) and state funding by public tender (10%).

Statistics are only available from the women centre run by SOS Hotline Niksic. The centre supported 91 women and girls survivors of violence in 2009 and 109 in 2010.

Recent Changes in service provision

International funding for women's NGOs is being reduced and women's support services are under threat and one, Home of Hope Podgorica, is currently unable to support clients.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

There is no financial aid or housing support available to women survivors of violence in Montenegro.

Legal protection from violence

In 2010 the first specific law on domestic violence was adopted, the Law on Domestic Violence Protection. The law provides for protection measures equivalent to police barring orders for three days in cases of physical violence. The protection covers the home, workplace and the children's school with the removal of the perpetrator from the home and prohibition of harassment and stalking. It also obliges perpetrators to get treatment for addiction and psycho-social treatment.

However these protection orders have not yet been implemented and no protocols or rule of procedure had been put in place to encourage their use.

Criminal law protection orders are also provided for in the law to protect victims of physical violence. Under these orders the perpetrator is required to report to the authorities and their passport and driving license is temporarily confiscated. Criminal law protection orders are available to all family members, regardless of gender, age, or marital status, including ex partners, same sex partners and children.

No criminal law protection orders have yet been issued.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Montenegro does not have a NAP to combat violence against women, though a specific section of the "Action Plan for the Achievement of Gender Equality in Montenegro" (2008-2012) includes violence against women. Forms of violence covered in the section are rape and sexual violence, sexual harassment and domestic violence.

In June 2011 the Government adopted a four year strategy on Protection from Domestic Violence which will come into force in 2012. The strategy was developed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare which will be responsible for reporting on the implementation of the activities. Activities will include analysing and identifying key problems in the field of domestic violence, harmonising existing legislation, developing a program for the prevention of domestic violence and establishing an electronic data base of victims of violence and perpetrators.

A coordinating committee will be set up to implement, monitor and report on activities composed of members of the government from relevant ministries and NGOs. Three NGOs were involved in the drafting of the strategy and NGO

NETHERLANDS

General Country Information

Population: 16,105,285¹

Female population: 8,133,318

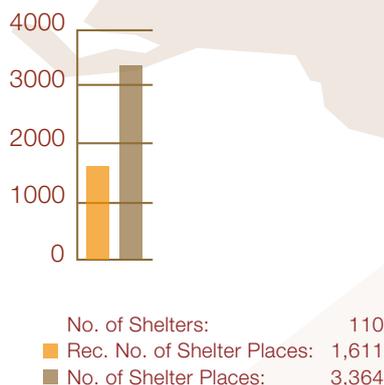
Member of Council of Europe: 1949

Member of European Union: Founding member

CEDAW ratified: 1991

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2002

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: No



FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women¹:

Prevalence of male violence against women: Numbers from a study from 2009: 60 per cent of women were survivors of any sort of domestic violence. The criticism: the harm of domestic violence was not taken in account. The male survivors were often victim of a male perpetrator and the violence was often not very harmful. The female survivors were almost always victim of a male perpetrator and the violence was often very harmful.

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women:

10 per cent (but 40 per cent of all girls have had sex one or more times without their explicit consent).

Research data available on other forms of violence against women:

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

Number of femicides: 20 women were murdered in 2010.

National Criminal Justice Statistics:

No data available.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

Netherlands has not a national women's helpline, but a general helpline for all victims of domestic violence. See next chapter: Other Helplines.

Other National Helplines

There is another national helpline, the Gender Neutral Helpline which was opened in 2003.

“Information and Help on Domestic Violence” (0900 126 26 26), set up by the NGOs National Shelters Organisation, National Health Service and National Organisation for Social Work. The helpline provides support primarily to women and girls survivors of domestic violence but also assists women survivors of other forms of violence using a gender-specific approach.

The helpline is not free of charge and callers to the helpline have to pay a charge. It is open 24/7. Therefore the Netherlands does not fulfill the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline for women, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women.

Multi-lingual support is provided in Arabic and Turkish. Funding is from the state (100 per cent). There is about 180 paid staff working at the helpline.

Table of Women’s HELPLINES:



Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls
1	No	Yes	Yes	100 per cent	No data available.

Women’s Shelters

There are 110 shelters in the Netherlands serving women survivors of all forms of violence using a gender specific approach. Some shelter organisations were founded more than 150 years ago and the most recent opened in 2011. 33 of the shelters are run by NGOs.

Less than 25 per cent of the shelters are free of charge, although over 75 per cent of the shelters offer 24/7 access. All shelters take children, but with an age limit for boys (less than 50 per cent) and girls (less than 25 per cent).

The shelters provide a total of 3,183 places for women and their children, 1,572 places more than the minimum recommended by the Council of Europe. This does fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women’s shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.

There are no specific shelters for migrant women in the country. They all offer access to migrant (100 per cent), undocumented and asylum seeking women (more than 75 per cent), Roma women (100 per cent) and women with disabilities (less than 75 per cent).

Women can stay in the 33 NGO shelters for more than 12 months.

The shelters are funded by the State; permanent (80 per cent) and public tender (20 per cent). The shelters have an average of 55 members of staff, with more than half dedicated to the work with children.

National statistics are collected on the number of women and children who use the shelters. In the 110 shelters 9,185 women and 3,717 children were accommodated in 2009 and 8,347 women and 3,824 of children were accommodated in 2010. Statistics from a census day count show that in one day approximately 127 women and their children (104) could not be accommodated by the shelters because of lack of available places.²

Table of Women’s SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
110	3,364	1,611	0	2,523	2,523	80 per cent

NETHERLANDS

Other Shelters

The Netherlands also has ten other shelters for the homeless and others where people can stay for more than 12 months.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

No data available.

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

No data available.

National Networks of Women's Services

There are no national networks or coalitions of shelter service providers, sexual violence centres or women's centres.

Recent Changes in service provision

There were ten new shelter opened during 2011.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

No data available.

Legal protection from violence

Legislation in force since 2009 in the Netherlands allows mayors to impose a ten day restraining order. In practice, they authorise an executive police officer to use this power, so that the protection can be implemented on the spot. The court can test the order within three days after its commencement date. After the ten days, the mayor may decide to extend the order by another eighteen days. The restraining order on entering a house may also apply for child abuse cases. The people involved will receive professional help during the ten-day restraining order.

Statistics on Protective Orders

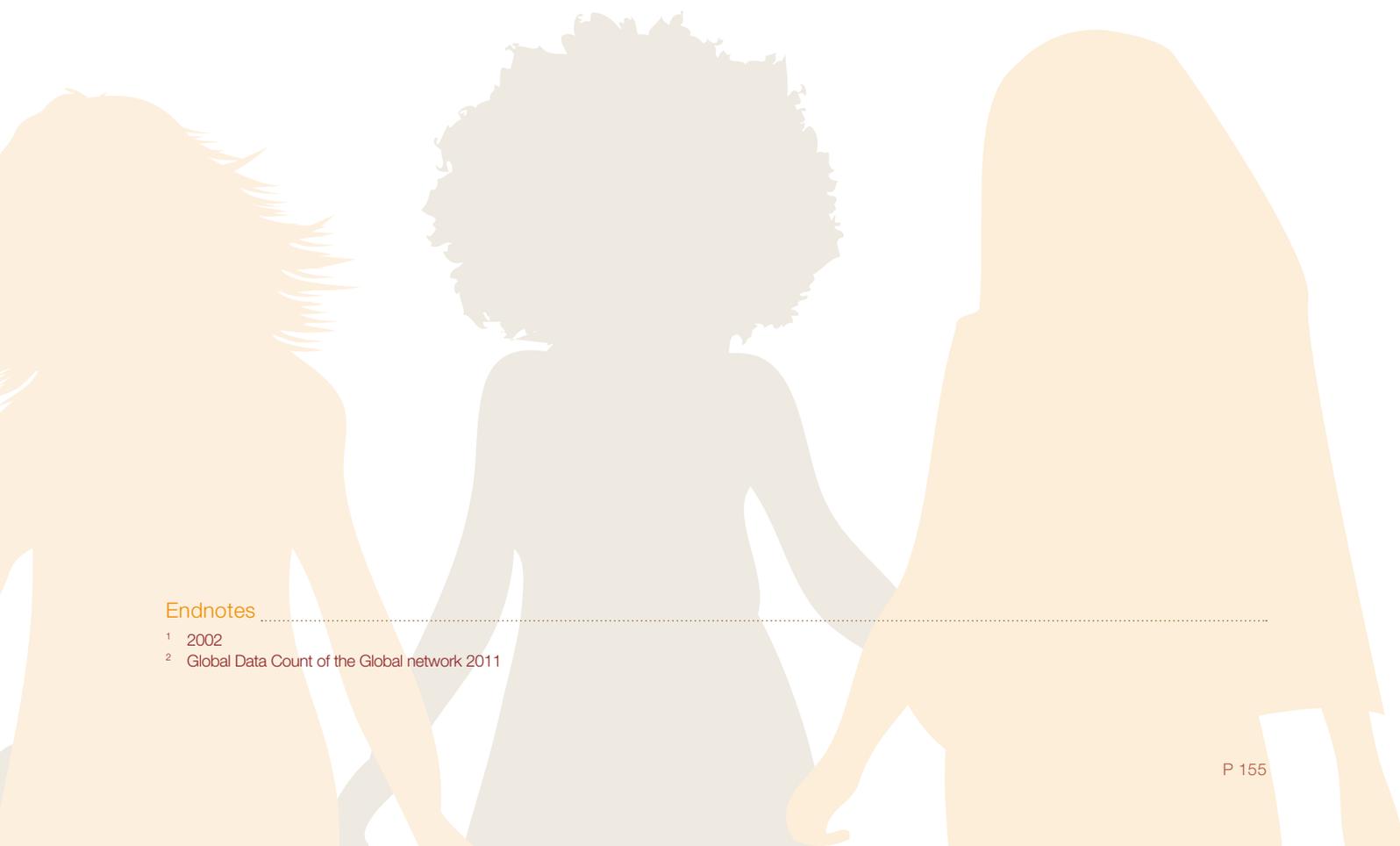
No data available.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

In the Netherlands there is an inter-ministerial working group since 2002 specialised on violence against women.

CEDAW

In the concluding comments on the Netherlands at the Forty-fifth session, January 2010, CEDAW welcomed the creation of systems of data collection on violence against women and the planned adoption of temporary restraining legislation. However the Committee, expressed concern that the national framework being developed to combat domestic violence remains gender-neutral, which undermines the fact that domestic violence is a clear manifestation of discrimination against women. The Committee also expressed concern that despite access to free legal aid, survivors of domestic violence can only obtain it in exceptional circumstances. Further the Committee urged the State not to use the joint plan for parenthood as a legal requirement of couples before divorce proceedings can start and never impose it on women survivors of domestic violence.



Endnotes

¹ 2002

² Global Data Count of the Global network 2011

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General Country Information

Population: 4,520,947 (2001)

Female population:

2,280,666

Member of Council of Europe: 1949

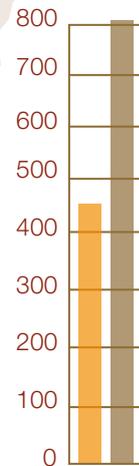
Member of European Union: No

CEDAW ratified: 1981

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2002

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: 07.07.2011

ratified: No



No. of Shelters:	46
Rec. No. of Shelter Places:	452
No. of Shelter Places:	815

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

Prevalence of male violence against women:

Every fourth woman is exposed to violence within a relationship during her life. One out of ten women has experienced severe physical violence including a weapon or head injuries. Almost a third of all women have experienced violence once in their life since the age of 15 years.¹

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women: Almost 20 per cent of all women have experienced an attempt to forced coercion. Ten per cent of all women 15 years and over have been raped once in their life.²

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

6 women were killed by their partners or former partners in 2010, according to the police statistics. This doesn't include «boyfriends». 938 cases of rape were reported to the police, and 106 attempts of rape. (SSB, statistisk sentralbyrå)

National Criminal Justice Statistics:

No data available.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

Norway has one national helpline for victims of crime since 1st September 2008, funded by the state. The helpline is operated between 9am and 3pm and is free of charge from a landline (not from a cell phone).

There are 46 regional helplines in Norway providing support to survivors of violence. The 46 regional helplines are run by the shelters as required under the Municipal Crisis Centre Services (Crisis Centre Act) which calls for the provision of both a crisis centre and a year round 24/7 helpline for survivors of domestic violence.³

The first helpline was opened in 1977, Camilla - hotline for rape victims and abused women to support women and girls survivors of all forms of violence against women. Multi-lingual support is provided.

Table of Women's HELPLINES:

Number of national helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls
1	Yes from landline (not from cell)	No (open from 9am to 3pm)	Yes	No data	No data
Number of regional helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls
46	No	Yes	Yes	Funded by the municipalities	No data

Other National Helplines

There is a helpline for survivors of trafficking; ROSA (Re-establishment, Organising safe places to stay, Security, Assistance), (22 33 11 60), providing guidance and information. A helpline for survivors of forced marriage run by the Norwegian Red Cross (81555201). There is also one helpline that provides support and counselling for women over 62 who are exposed to violence, Protection for elderly, (80030196), another that provides support to young girls, Jentevakta, a telephone, MSN and mail service and an Alarhotline that is a free emergency service for children and young people.

Women's Shelters

Norway has 46 shelters for women survivors of violence and their children.

Camilla, Norway's first shelter for abused and raped women was opened in Oslo on 2nd of May, 1978, the last women's shelter opened in 1992.

The shelters provide a total of 815 places for women and their children. Norway is one of the few European countries to fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of one family place per 10,000 head of population in safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters. However concern has been raised at the closure three of the smaller shelters following the shift in the financing of the shelters. Before, 20% of the total budget of the shelters was financed by the municipalities and the remaining 80 % was financed by the Central government, through the Ministry for Children and Equality. From 2011 the shelters are financed 100 % by the municipalities. This has resulted in budget cuts for many of the shelters. . In 2011 the the shelter in Kongsberg, one of the larger shelters, was threatened with closure, which was widely protested (by the local community and the shelterworkers).

All the shelters are free of charge, open 24/7 and take children. The age limit for boys is 18 years. Women can stay in the shelters for preferably four to six months, and more if needed.

There are no shelters specifically for migrant, minority ethnic, asylum seeking or refugee women; they are accommodated by each of the 46 shelters. All the shelters have to offer access to women with disabilities by law, 27 are accessible for women with reduced mobility.

All 46 shelters are funded the state, through the municipalities (100%). The state provides funding to the municipalities for them to distribute to the shelters. However this funding is not ring fenced and, depending on the municipality, some shelters are well funded and others are not.

National statistics indicate that in 2009 1,878 women were accommodated in the shelters and 2,075 in 2010 with an average stay per woman of 29 nights. 51 per cent of the women came with one or more children.⁴

NORWAY



Table of Women's SHELTERS:

Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
46	815	452	0	815	815	100

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are 23 assault centres in Norway for survivors of sexual violence run by the health service. They all offer access to migrant, minority ethnic, asylum seeking or refugee women and all have wheelchair access.

NO data is available on the approach used in assault centres, their funding or their users.

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

Non-residential counselling support for women survivors of violence and their children is provided by the shelters, there are no separate day centres. Migrant, minority ethnic, asylum seeking and refugee women can access non-residential support from the shelters and wheelchair access is available in over half of the shelters.

Funding is provided by the state (100%) through the municipalities, see shelter funding above. IN 2009 2,096 people visited the shelters day centres made 7,546 visits and in 2010 2,278 people made 8,154 visits.

General Women's Centres

No data is available on general women's centres in Norway.

National Networks of Women's Services

There is a network of shelters and women's centres in Norway, The Secretariat of the Shelter Movement in Norway (Krisesentersekretariatet), and a network for migrant and minority ethnic women, Mira.

Recent Changes in service provision

No new services opened in Norway in 2010/11. Three shelters were closed and two crisis centres were merged to form one larger centre. Two crisis centres are in danger of closing because of budget cuts.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

Women survivors of violence qualify for social security benefits if they are Norwegian citizens, migrant, or asylum seeking women. This support is not available to undocumented. Housing programs are only available to Norwegian citizens and minority ethnic women including Roma women.

Legal protection from violence

- From 1. of January 2006, domestic violence is a specific offence in Norway. Violent attacks in the private sphere come under the provisions of the Penal Code article § 219 .
- In 1988, unconditional prosecution was introduced in cases of domestic violence. A criminal case may be brought before the court, even if the woman withdraws the formal report.
- It has been ruled that the provision regarding free legal aid for abused women, includes women subjected to domestic violence from spouses and cohabitants, as well as prostitutes and pimps.
- Assaulted and sexually abused women are protected against repeated violence from the abuser. In an amendment, January 1 1995 to the Criminal Procedure Act (§ 222a), a person can be prohibited from entering a specific area, following, visiting or otherwise contacting another person (restraining order). This can be done if there is specific reason to believe that the person will commit a criminal act against or otherwise violate the other person's right to be left peacefully alone. If a ban pursuant to section 222a of the Criminal Procedure Act on visiting another person is violated, the person violating the ban, if certain conditions are met, is arrested and remanded in custody.

- The Criminal Procedure Act (§ 22a Chapter 17 a regarding “ban on visits etc” was changed and revised in 2002 and 2003; on 10 January 2003, changes in the rules regulating ban on visits took effect. The changes are meant inter alia to provide better protection for persons exposed to violence from others in their own household.
- Section 222 of the Norwegian Criminal Procedure Act provides clear legal authority for prohibiting a person subject to such a ban from staying in his own home.

“§ 219. Any person who by threats, duress, deprivation of liberty, violence or any other wrong grossly or repeatedly maltreats

- a) his or her former or present spouse,
 - b) his or her former or present spouse’s kin in direct line of descent,
 - c) his or her kin in direct line of ascent,
 - d) any person in his or her household, or
 - e) any person in his or her care
- shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years.

If the maltreatment is gross or the aggrieved person dies or sustains considerable harm to body or health as a result of the treatment, the penalty shall be imprisonment for a term not exceeding six years. In deciding whether the maltreatment is gross, particular importance shall be attached to whether it has endured for a long time and whether such circumstances as are referred to in section 232 are present.

Legal protection for women victims of violence against women was introduced in Norway in 1974.

Criminal law protection orders in cases of physical and psychological violence and threats of violence are available to protect all family members, women and men, married cohabiting, same-sex and ex-partners partners, children and to migrant women, asylum seeking women and undocumented migrant women.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

- National Plan of Action to combat domestic violence
- National Plan of Action against forced marriages
- National Plan of Action against trafficking
- National Plan of Action against female genital mutilation

A new National Action Plan in Norway to combat domestic violence in 2012, came in January 2012. A National Action Plan to combat rape, will come during 2012. A white paper on domestic violence, will come during 2012.

CEDAW⁵

In the concluding comments on Norway at the Thirty-ninth session, July – August 2007, CEDAW welcomed the introduction of domestic violence coordinators in all 27 police districts in Norway to ensure the police understand and deal sensitively with victims and their families and the amendments to the Penal Code (2006) and Police Act (2004). However the Committee remained concerned at the prevalence of violence against women and urged Norway to ensure that comprehensive measures are introduced to address it. CEDAW called on Norway to analyse all cases of violence against women, particularly murders and adopt effective measures to prevent further violence, collect comprehensive disaggregated statistical data and to reconsider enacting a specific law on domestic violence.

Violence against Women

19. While welcoming legal and other measures taken to combat violence against women, including the amendments to the Penal Code (2006) and the Police Act (2004) and the adoption and implementation of the Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence (2004-2007), the Committee remains concerned about the prevalence of violence against women, including domestic violence. While commending the State party on its collection of data on the number of women murdered by their intimate partners, the Committee regrets the limited data and information available with regard to the age and ethnicity of victims, and the lack of any assessment of additional measures needed to prevent such murders.

20. In accordance with its general recommendation No. 19, the Committee urges the State party to ensure that comprehensive measures are in place to address all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, recognizing that such violence is a form of discrimination and constitutes a violation of women’s human rights under the Convention. The Committee calls upon the State party to study and analyse all cases of violence against women, especially those that result

NORWAY

in murders of women, and to ensure the adoption of effective measures to prevent violence against women and protect women from violence. It also calls upon the State party to reconsider its intended position not to enact a specific law on domestic violence. The Committee further calls upon the State party to ensure the collection of comprehensive statistical data disaggregated by sex, age and ethnicity, and by type of violence and the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim.

Trafficking

21. While commending the State party on its legislation and measures taken to address the issue of trafficking, the Committee is concerned about the lack of statistics and data on trafficking in women and girls. It is also concerned about the prevalence of trafficking, despite the measures taken by the State party, and that any increase in trafficking in women may lead to an increase in the exploitation of prostitution of women.

22. The Committee requests the State party to provide in its next report comprehensive information and data from the newly established National

Coordinating Unit for Assistance and Protection for the Victims of Human Trafficking about trafficking in women and information on the impact of measures taken and results achieved under the new Plan of Action against Human Trafficking. The Committee also recommends that the State party continue its bilateral, regional and international cooperation so as to further curb this phenomenon. The Committee calls on the State party to take appropriate measures to suppress the exploitation of prostitution of women and take measures to rehabilitate and support women who want to get out of prostitution, and make a detailed impact study of its plans to criminalize persons who buy sex.



Endnotes

- ¹ (Thomas Haaland, Sten-Erik Clausen and Berit Schei: Couple Violence- different perspectives. Results from the first national survey in Norway. NIBR Report: 2005:3). In 2008, the Ministry of Justice recorded violence in relationships during one week. 1,380 persons were registered who had been exposed to violence within a close relationship; 80% of the victims were women and girls, 82% of the perpetrators were men. 73% of the victims had experienced violence from the perpetrator previously. (Justisdepartementet 2008.)
- ² Ibid, Thomas Haaland et al.
- ³ http://www.krisesenter.com/english/TheAct_relating_MunicipalCrisisCentreServices.pdf
- ⁴ Sentio Research Norge, Ranita Nerslund og Hege Groasmark
- ⁵ http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw25years/content/english/CONCLUDING_COMMENTS/Norway/Norway-CO-7.pdf

POLAND

General Country Information

Population: 38,200,000¹

Female population: 19,756,000²

Member of Council of Europe: 1991

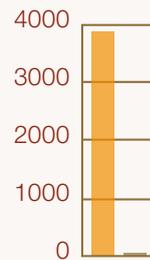
Member of European Union: 2004

CEDAW ratified: 1980

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2003

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: No

POLAND



No. of Shelters:	1
Rec. No. of Shelter Places:	3,820
No. of Shelter Places:	26

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

Prevalence of male violence against women: 19 per cent of women have experienced physical violence, 12 per cent economical violence and 33 per cent psychological violence at least once in their lifetime. Additionally 60 per cent of respondents acknowledged that they know families in which women experienced violence.³

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women: 4 per cent of women have experienced sexual violence from a family member.⁴

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

Number of femicides: According to police statistics, over one-third of homicide cases in 2009 were related to domestic violence.⁵

Number of cases of male violence against women by a partner or ex partner: In 2010 there were 82,102 cases where women were considered as survivors and were recorded in the so called blue cards system by the police

Number of cases of sexual violence: In 2009 1,816 cases and in 2010 1,759 cases of reported rape were prosecuted.⁶ Sexual violence crimes are not disaggregated by gender.

Number of cases of family violence: In 2009 33,267 cases and in 2010 30,534 cases of family violence were prosecuted.⁷

National Criminal Justice Statistics:

Number of convicted cases of male sexual violence against women: In 2010 there were 1759 cases of rape recognised by the police and 761 convicted cases.⁸

Number of convicted cases of family violence: 14,623 cases in total. In 12,669 of the cases women were the survivors and 3,557 children and adolescent were the survivors in 2009.⁹ There were 7,219 cases in the first part of 2010 and in 6,422 cases women were the survivors.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There is no national women's helpline in Poland. The only national helpline on domestic violence is gender neutral and is not 24/7. Therefore Poland does not fulfill the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women.

Other National Helplines

There are two general helplines in Poland. One, the National Emergency Service for Survivors of Family Violence „Blue Line” (22 668 70 000), was set up in 1995. It is run by the State Institute for Psychological Health of the Polish Psychology Association. It is free of charge and open weekdays from 14:00-22:00. Legal counselling is available Mondays and Wednesdays from 18:00-22:00. The helpline is for all survivors of family violence and children who are survivors of violence. Multi-lingual support is not provided.

The second, also called National Emergency Service for Survivors of Family Violence (801 12 00 02), was set up in 2007. It is run by the State Agency for alcohol abuse problems. Callers to the helpline are required to pay a charge and mobile telephones and international callers have difficulty connecting to the line. No data is available on operating times, target groups or language support available.

Women’s Shelters

Poland has one women’s shelter run by the Women’s Rights Centre, which was set up in 1999. The shelter provides gender specific specialised support for women survivors of domestic violence and their children. The shelter is free of charge and available 24/7.

The shelter takes children with an age limit for boys of approximately 15 years. It is open and available for migrant, minority ethnic, undocumented and refugee women or women with disabilities (but not physical one because there is no lift). Women can stay up to three months or longer if necessary.

The shelter provides 26 places for women and their children survivors of domestic violence. This does not fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women’s shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.¹⁰

The shelter has approximately four to six staff including a child psychologist and a number of volunteers who are dedicated to work with children. It is funded primarily by the State (70 per cent), with other support also from foreign donations (10 per cent), private donations (10 per cent) and volunteers (10 per cent).

28 women were accommodated in the shelter in 2009 and 20 children and 33 women and 34 children in 2010. The shelter was forced to turn away at least 70 women in 2010 due to lack of available places.

Table of Women’s SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
1	26	3,820	3,794	1	No data available.	70 per cent

Other Shelters

There are a large number of other shelters in Poland that do not offer gender-specific support to women survivors of violence. These include 35 Specialist Support Centres for all survivors of domestic violence, one shelter for survivors of trafficking, nine houses for single mothers and pregnant women, Crisis Intervention Centres and shelters for homeless people. These provide 3,455 places accommodating 7,387 people.¹¹

No data is available on the services provided, length of possible stays in the shelters, how they are financed or any user statistics.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are no gender specific sexual violence centres for women and girls. Therefore Poland does not meet the Council of Europe recommendation of one centre providing services for women and children survivors of sexual violence per 200,000 inhabitants.

POLAND

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

Poland takes a gender neutral approach to survivors of violence. The majority of centres for survivors of violence are run by the State and provide support to both women and men experiencing violence. These including 785 consultative and information centres run by local government Social Welfare Agencies, 28 Family Violence Centres and 230 Intervention Centres.¹² There are also many centres run by Caritas or other church based NGOs.

Many women's NGOs work with women survivors of domestic violence, but they do not provide specialised support.

Funding for the centers comes from the State (70 per cent), foreign donations (15 per cent), private donations (5 per cent) and volunteers (10 per cent).

There is no national data available on the activities of the centres or what access they offer to migrant, undocumented, asylum seekers, and Roma women or women with disabilities. National statistics are only available on state run centres in Poland from the Ministry of Labour. In 2009 State Centres provided 109,927 places.

General Women's Centres

There are a number of general women's centres in Poland providing legal, psychological, social and other services to women. No data is available on the number, on services they provide or their use.

Recent Changes in service provision

There is no data available on any new services or closures of services in 2011, but several NGOs are currently under threat due to insecure funding.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

There are no specific social security benefits and housing programs available to women survivors of violence. Social security benefits and housing programs are available to Polish women citizens, migrant women and women seeking asylum. There is no support available to undocumented women. Survivors of domestic violence in theory are given priority access to social housing but in practice this reportedly does not happen. Migrant women who are legally residing in Poland, yes, they can apply for social housing.

Legal protection from violence

Protective orders were introduced in Poland in the 1997 Penal Code. Article 207 provides recourse in cases of physical or psychological violence. It applies to violence committed against persons of the same family or in an intimate relationship with the perpetrator, who are dependent on the perpetrator, are minors or disabled.¹³ The 2005 Law on Counteracting Violence in the Family also provides protection providing for the eviction of the perpetrator from the family home and bans any contact by the perpetrator with survivors or witnesses.¹⁴ The law was amended in August 2010.¹⁵

Civil protection orders are available to survivors in cases of physical and psychological violence and threats of violence covering the survivor's house. Criminal law protection orders are available for three months in cases of physical and psychological violence, threats of violence and stalking. These protective measures can cover the survivor's home and surrounding areas, workplace and children's schools and prohibit general contact.

Criminal protection orders are available to all family members, women and men, married, same sex and cohabiting, partners and children, migrant women, asylum seeking women and undocumented women.

Statistics on Protective Orders

In 209 cases in 2010 protective orders were applied, expelling the perpetrator from the house, and 422 cases in the first part of 2011.¹⁶

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Poland has not had a national action plan to combat violence against women since the second national action plan ended in 2005. It has a gender neutral national action plan on domestic violence for the period 2010 to 2011 which is being implemented. Poland is currently working on the new national action plan for Counteracting Domestic Violence.

There is a coordinating body for the national action plan on domestic violence, the Monitoring Committee. It is facilitated by the National Coordinator in the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. The independent women's NGO, the Women's Rights Centre, is a member of the coordinating body.

CEDAW

In the concluding comments on Poland at the Thirty-seventh session, in January 2007, CEDAW welcomed the Law on Combating Domestic Violence of 2005, though it continued to be concerned at the remaining gaps in the law. The Committee expressed concern at a number of issues including the States perception of domestic violence as gender neutral, the lack of services for survivors and the limited number of specialised shelters available and urged the State to give priority attention to preventing and combating all forms of violence against women and girls and provide greater protection.

Endnotes

- ¹ Total population at the end of 2010. Central Statistical Office 2011. Size and Structure of Population and Vital Statistics by Territorial Division in 2010. [PDF]. Warsaw, CSO Demographic Survey Division. Available at: <http://www.stat.gov.pl> (8 March 2012).
- ² *ibid*
- ³ According to the data provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in 2010. SPRAWOZDANIE Z REALIZACJI KRAJOWEGO PROGRAMU PRZECIWDZIAŁANIA PRZEMOCY W RODZINIE od 1 STYCZNIA 2010 r. do 31 GRUDNIA 2010 r. Warszawa, wrzesień 2011
- ⁴ SPRAWOZDANIE Z REALIZACJI KRAJOWEGO PROGRAMU PRZECIWDZIAŁANIA PRZEMOCY W RODZINIE od 1 STYCZNIA 2010 r. do 31 GRUDNIA 2010 r. Warszawa, wrzesień 2011. (Was ist das?? Ein Link, ein paper, ein Buch?? Unklar)
- ⁵ No data on police web site in 2010.
- ⁶ Statistics do not show the reported cases, or the number of cases where a police investigation was not started or the case was dismissed.
- ⁷ Data on crimes, where Article 207 of the criminal code could be applied, this article is used mainly in domestic violence cases; the data is not gender disaggregated Statystyki Ministerstwa Sprawiedliwości <http://www.ms.gov.pl/> (08 March 2012).
- ⁸ Ministry of Justice Statistics.
- ⁹ Statystyki Ministerstwa Sprawiedliwości ci: <http://ms.gov.pl/pl/dzialalnosc/przeciwdzialanie-przemocy-w-rodzinie/przemoc-w-rodzinie--diagnoza-zjawiska-i-reakcja-organow-wymiaru-sprawiedliwosci/statystyki/> (08 March 2012).
- ¹⁰ The number of places given by the Government is 203 places. This includes houses for single mothers and pregnant women, crisis Intervention Centres, specialized centres for Survivors of Domestic Violence and other shelter places. None of these shelter places provide gender- specific support for women survivors of all forms of violence against women.
- ¹¹ Ministerstwo Pracy i Polityki Społecznej: <http://www.mpips.gov.pl/przemoc-w-rodzinie/sprawozdania-z-realizacji-krajowego-programu-przeciwdzialania-przemocy-w-rodzinie/sprawozdanie-z-krajowego-programu-przeciwdz>
- ¹² They are all run on a regional level: 21 county and 209 sub-country levels.
- ¹³ Penal Code (1997) Article 207 Paragraph 1. PDF Available on <http://legislationline.org/documents/section/criminal-codes> (08 March 2012).
- ¹⁴ General Assembly WOM/1591. Progress Made in Mainstreaming Gender Equality into Poland's National Legislation: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/wom1591.doc.htm> (08 March 2012).
- ¹⁵ Law amending the Law on Preventing Domestic Violence and Certain Other Acts (Journal of 13 July 2010, No. 125, item. 842): <http://www.mpips.gov.pl/violence-in-family/acts-legal/or%20orders.%20acts%20and%20legal/>
- ¹⁶ Information provided by the Ministry of Justice on request of the Women's Rights Centre.

PORTUGAL

General Country Information

Population: 10,555,853¹

Female population: 5,503,822

Member of Council of Europe: 1976

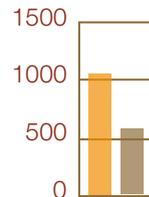
Member of European Union: 1986

CEDAW ratified: 1980

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 1980

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: 2011

ratified: No



No. of Shelters:	38
Rec. No. of Shelter Places:	1,056
No. of Shelter Places:	632

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women: No data available.²

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

Number of femicides: 25 women were killed by partners or former partners in 2009. 43 women were killed in 2010, 40 by their husbands, partners or ex-husbands and ex-partners; and three by others family members.³

Number of cases of male sexual violence against women: In 2010, from the 2,202 reported sexual crimes, 424 were rape cases, 65 child pornography cases, 777 child sexual abuse cases, and the remaining 936 reported cases are presented on a broader category of “crimes against the sexual liberty (in case of adults) and crimes against sexual self-determination (in cases of children)” 84 per cent of the survivors were female and 98 per cent of the perpetrators were male. This data is not gender disaggregated.⁴

Number of cases of intimate partner violence:

Number of cases of intimate partner violence:⁵ 30,543 in 2009, a 10.1 per cent increase from 2008. 31,235 in 2010, cases of domestic violence were reported to the police forces.⁶ 27,255 of the reported cases of domestic violence in 2010 were perpetrated by partners (22,103) or ex-partners (5,152). This data is not gender disaggregated.⁷

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women’s Helplines

Portugal has no national helpline for women survivors of violence. Therefore Portugal does not fulfill the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women a helpline for women.

Other National Helplines

There are a number of other national helplines in Portugal. There is a helpline for all survivors of domestic violence run by the state Comission for Citizenship and Gender Equality. The Information Phone Line for Survivors of Domestic Violence (800 202 148) is free of charge and open 24/7. The majority of clients are women.⁸ The helpline also supports children survivors of violence and others.

There is also a helpline for survivors of crime in general (707 20 00 07) run by Survivors Support Association an NGO operating. It is open part time during working hours and there is a charge for calls.

Portugal also has a state run helpline providing support to migrants and survivors of trafficking, Line SOS Migrant (808 257257), run by the High Commissariat for Migration and Intercultural Dialogue. The helpline provides multi-lingual support. There are also two free of charge helpline for children SOS Children (116 111) run by an NGO, the Institute for the support to Children and SOS Missed Children (116 000) run by ICA. There is also a free of charge helpline providing support to the elderly Helpline for Elderly Citizens, (800 20 35 31) open part time Monday to Friday 09.00 – 17.30pm.

Women’s Shelters

There are 38 women’s shelters in Portugal. The first shelter was opened in 2001 and the most recent in 2011. Eight of the shelters are run by independent women’s NGOs and five of them apply a gender specific approach. 12 are run by a range of foundations, community associations, parents associations and association supporting survivors of crime and 17 by religious NGOs.

Between them the shelters provide 617 places for women and their children. This does not fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women’s shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.

Two of the shelters take women survivors of all forms of violence, 35 provide support to women survivors of violence and their children, one shelter supports women survivors of trafficking. All the shelters are free of charge. Women survivors of other forms of family violence are also accepted in the women’s shelters. One shelter organisation, “Associação de Mulheres Contra a Violência” (AMCV), offers access to their shelters to women and girls survivors of sexual violence, mainly sexual abuse/incest, as there are no specialized services/shelters for sexual violence in Portugal.

There are no specific shelters for migrant, minority ethnic, asylum seeking women and refugee women, all the shelters offer access to them. The shelters have age limits for children this varies depending on the different shelters rules. Women can stay for up to six months by law; this can be extended in exceptional circumstances.

All the shelters are funded by the state through a monthly payment depending on the number of women and children they are accommodating. This does not cover the full cost of running the shelters and some also have to fundraise and apply for temporary project funding.

National statistics are collected by the Ministry of Solidarity, but these are not made public. Information available indicates that 719 women and 814 children were accommodated by the shelters in 2009.

Table of Women’s SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
38	632	1,056	424	No data available.	No data available.	No data available.

Other Shelters

There are also shelters for the homeless and mother and child homes, no details are available on their organisation or use.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are no gender-specific sexual violence centres in Portugal for women and girls. Therefore Portugal does not meet the Council of Europe recommendation of one centre providing services for women and children survivors of sexual violence per 200,000 inhabitants.

Women’s Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

There are a number of women’s centres in Portugal. The first one, the Women Association against Violence opened in 1992. Only two are known to apply a gender-specific approach, the majority supports all survivors of domestic violence, not just women. Some also support survivors of trafficking and other forms of violence.

PORTUGAL

The centres include crisis, counselling, advice and intervention centres, independent domestic violence advisors, family violence centres and women information and support centres. There are also centres specialized for specific groups of survivors including migrant, undocumented, asylum seekers, and Roma women and girls under 18 year.

The centres are funded by a mixture of state, private donations and volunteers.

General Women's Centres

No data is available on general women's centres in Portugal.

National Networks of Women's Services

There is no national network or coalition of women's support services in Portugal.

Recent Changes in service provision

Two new women's shelter opened in 2010/11.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

The domestic violence law in Portugal confers specific rights to survivors in various areas, such as protection, legal and social intervention, but only if there was a complaint made and then only during the legal process.

Social security benefits are open to all women nationals and migrant women. There are no specific housing programmes for women survivors of violence.

Legal protection from violence

Protective orders were introduced in Portugal in the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence and Protection and Assistance for Survivors, 112/2009, of 16th of September that established the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence and the protection and assistance of their survivors. This law integrated previous laws and decrees of the civil and penal code and added some new concepts, namely the "status of Survivor" which confers specific rights to survivors in various areas. These rights include rights to a level of healthcare, legal support and protective measures such as security cell phones or electronic monitoring.

The law provides for civil law protection orders and criminal law protection orders. These are available to married partners, cohabiting partners, children and survivors of stalking.

No statistics on protective orders for women survivors of violence are available.¹¹

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

In 2011 Portugal introduced the Fourth NAP against Domestic Violence and the Second NAP on Human Trafficking for the period 2011-2013. There is no NAP on all forms of violence against women. While the NAPs focus on women, children, elderly people and men and not specifically women both NAPs integrate the concept of gender violence. They both recognise that survivors are mostly women and that gender-based violence results from an imbalance of power between men and women.

The NAP is led by a governmental inter-ministerial coordinating body run by the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality. The coordinating body includes representatives from two women's NGOs with consultative status.

CEDAW

In the concluding comments on Portugal at the Forty second session in April 2009 CEDAW welcomed the adoption of legal and policy measures to advance gender equality and the adoption of the third NAP against domestic violence. However the Committee expressed concern at the continuing prevalence of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence and while welcoming the expansion of shelters concern that they may not be being used solely for women survivors of violence. The Committee called on Portugal to expand its training activities and programmes for the judiciary and public officials to ensure they are sensitized to all forms of violence against women and are aware of all the

measures to protect the survivors. The Committee also recommended that the State party ensure that a sufficient number of adequately funded safe crisis centres and shelters are available to women survivors of violence across Portugal, staffed by expert personnel.

Endnotes

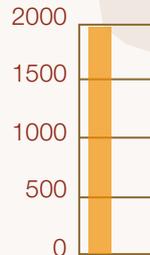
- ¹ In Census 2011
- ² There are no prevalence surveys. National data collected on all forms of violence against women is not available. The National Observatory on Violence and Gender, run by the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, of the New Lisbon University, gathers national and international data on Violence and Gender Issues. However most of the data available is on domestic violence and trafficking and is not gender disaggregated. There is no survey that covers all forms of violence against women. There is a National Observatory on Violence and Gender run by the Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas da Universidade Nova de Lisboa, however, they provide no data on all forms of violence against women. They do have surveys on domestic violence and trafficking, however, these are not gender disaggregated. It is specified that a certain per cent of survivors are women and a certain per cent of perpetrators are men, but does not link survivor and perpetrator relationship by gender.
- ³ Data from the UMAR (NGO) Observatory on Murdered Women:
http://www.umarfeminismos.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=272&Itemid=26 (28 February 2012).
- ⁴ Internal Security Report 2010 from the Ministry of Internal Administration: [http://www.mai.gov.pt/data/documentos/Relatorios per cent20Seguranca per cent20Interna/Relatorio per cent20Annual per cent20de per cent20Seguranca per cent20Interna per cent202010_vf.pdf](http://www.mai.gov.pt/data/documentos/Relatorios%20Seguranca%20per%20Interna/Relatorio%20Annual%20de%20Seguranca%20Interna%202010_vf.pdf) (28 February 2012).
- ⁵ Crime of violence by partner or ex-partner falls under the definition of domestic violence according to Portuguese legislation and is therefore covered in this section. The data is not disaggregated to show perpetrator's relationship to survivor. Percentages are given to assign proportion of male vs. female survivors and perpetrators.
- ⁶ Section 2.6. "Domestic Violence- 2010- Cases reported to police forces":
[http://www.dgai.mai.gov.pt/cms/files/conteudos/VD_Relatorio percent20Annual_2010_2_5_2011.pdf](http://www.dgai.mai.gov.pt/cms/files/conteudos/VD_Relatorio%20Annual_2010_2_5_2011.pdf)
- ⁷ Percentage are segregated into male vs. female of total number of survivors and total number of perpetrators:
http://www.ine.pt/xportal/xmain?xpid=INE&xpgid=ine_indicadores&indOcorrCod=0001680&contexto=pgi&selTab=tab10&xlang=eng (28 February 2012).
- ⁸ http://www.portaldocidadao.pt/PORTAL/entidades/PCM/CIG/pt/SER_linha+telefonica+de+informacao+as+victimas+de+violencia+domestica.htm (28 February 2012).
- ⁹ <http://www.iacrianca.pt/en>. (28 February 2012).
- ¹⁰ The 116000 line is a European missing children helpline which is running in ten EU member states: Portugal, Belgium, Slovakia, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland, and Romania. They are NGOs that operate the number in each country. They have trained staff available to offer support to parents of missing children, to receive significant information from the public about a missing child and make contact with the competent authorities in each case. The NGOs work closely with local police, and the judiciary.
- ¹¹ The data that is available combines all protective orders for everyone who has received one regardless of crime, so there is no way to distinguish if protective orders were issued as a result of domestic violence or intimate partner violence.

ROMANIA



General Country Information

Population: 19,500,000¹
Female population: 9,994,410 (estimated)
Member of Council of Europe: 1993
Member of European Union: 2007
CEDAW ratified: 1982
CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2003
Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: No



No. of Shelters: 37
 Rec. No. of Shelter Places: 1,950
 No. of Shelter Places: No data

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

A prevalence study on domestic violence took place in 2008 in Romania, but it was not gender disaggregated and included a sample of men and women. The main findings showed that ten per cent of the population in Romania suffered some form of domestic abuse.²

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

Number of femicides: There were 101 cases of death resulting from domestic violence reported in 2009; however, this data is not gender desegregated.

Number of cases of male sexual violence against women: 1,007 cases of rape recorded by the police (2009).

Number of cases of intimate partner violence: 12,088 police- recorded crimes of violence in the family (data not segregated by type of violence or gender of survivor).

National Criminal Justice Statistics: No data available.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

Romania has one national women's helpline "Casa Blu" (021 311 46 36) which is run by the "Sensiblu Foundation", a humanitarian NGO set up by AD PHARMA company. Casa Blu is a 24/7 helpline, covering all forms of violence against women and is gender specific. There are five members of paid staff and two volunteers.

However it is not free of charge. Callers of the helpline have to pay a charge and therefore Romania does not fulfill the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline for women, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women. No data is available on the funding of the helpline.

Table of Women's HELPLINES:

Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls
1	No	Yes	No data available.	No data available.	No data available.

Other National Helplines

Romania has another national helpline, Children's Phone (116 111), which is now considered by the Government Department as the national helpline for domestic violence. Children's Phone is not marketed or designed as a national domestic violence helpline.

Children's Phone is run by the Association Children's Phone and is free of charge, open from 08.00-12.00, seven days a week. The helpline is for survivors of violence in the family, but the majority of calls are still from children. The helpline received 44,671 calls in 2010. It is funded primarily from private investors (80 per cent) with less than a quarter of the funding coming from European Structural Funds.

Romania's other national helpline is the helpline for survivors of human trafficking (0800800 678). It is run by the State (by the Ministry of Internal Affairs) and called Agency against Human Trafficking. It is free of charge and runs 24/7 specifically for survivors of trafficking. The helpline also has a number that can be dialed from abroad.

Women's Shelters

Romania has 37 shelters. The first shelter was opened 2002 by "Artemis" in Cluj³ and the most recent shelter opening was in 2011 in Tirgumures. It is run by an NGO together with the Public Authority in a public-private partnership.

The majority of the shelters (17) are state run, with 12 run by independent women's NGO's, five by private local organisations and three by religious based NGOs. All the shelters provide a gender-specific approach free of charge to women and their children with an age limit of 18 years for both boys and girls, however less than half provide a 24/7 service.

There are no specific shelters for migrant women in the country and there is no data available on whether the shelters provide access to these groups of women. All the shelters offer access to women with disabilities. The majority of the shelters allow women and children to stay for a period of one-three months.

There is no data available on the number of shelters places for women and their children in Romania.

No data is available on the funding of shelters in Romania and national statistics on their use are not collected.

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
37	No data available.	1,950	No data available.	27	No data available.	No data available.

Other Shelters

There are a large number of other shelters in Romania, over 23. The majority are for the homeless and mother and child homes and three for survivors of trafficking.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There is no data available on sexual violence centres in Romania for women and girls.

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

There are three women's centres in Romania providing support for survivors of violence and their children. The first one, "Cigisuaara" is run by "Veritas" and the most recent was opened in 2004 in "Sibiu". They are all run by independent women's NGOs and all of them apply a gender-specific approach. While one of them is specialised in sexual violence and trafficking, the other centres are counselling centres and specialised in domestic violence against women.

The majority of funding comes from private donations (90 per cent). There is no national statistics collected due to lack of support from the State.

ROMANIA

General Women's Centres

Romania has one other general women's centre which carries out campaigning and dissemination of information on gender perspective.

National Networks of Women's Services

There is a National Coalition Network of 32 women's support services in Romania.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

No information is available on social and economic rights and housing support to women survivors of violence.⁴

Legal protection from violence

There is a law in Romania on protective measures for women survivors of violence, Law 217 in 2003; however the law is not applied.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Romania does not have a NAP to combat violence against women.

CEDAW

In the concluding comments on Romania at the Thirty-fifth session, May 2006, CEDAW expressed concern at insufficient implementation of measures to prevent and eliminate domestic violence, including protection orders and support services for survivors, particularly in rural areas. The Committee called on Romania to enhance protection and support for survivors of domestic violence and to provide adequate funding for safe shelters and establish a free 24/7 hotline. It also recommended that Romania act on all forms of violence against women in light of CEDAW general recommendation 19.



Endnotes

- ¹ Census 2011
- ² Conducted by the Centre of Urban and Regional Sociology.
- ³ The original shelter has since closed and another shelter has opened in Cluj.
- ⁴ The law on protective measures also stipulates economic rights and housing support to women survivors of violence as well as the provision of legal support, however, the law lacks an implementation mechanism, thus in practice, this support is not available.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

General Country Information

Population: 145,166,731

Female population:

77,561,598

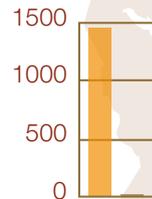
Member of Council of Europe: 1996

Member of European Union: No

CEDAW ratified: 1981

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2004

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: No



No. of Shelters: 25
 Rec. No. of Shelter Places: 14,517
 No. of Shelter Places: 25

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

Prevalence of male violence against women: No data available.¹

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women: Almost 22% of women in Russia are victims of rape. However, only 8% reported the crime to law enforcement agencies.² (2005)

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

Number of femicides: 11,047 reported in 2008.

Number of cases of male violence against women by a partner or ex partner: 28,100 in 2009

Number of cases of male sexual violence against women: 4,790 in 2008, 4790 in 2009³, 4907 in 2010

National Criminal Justice Statistics:

Number of convicted cases of male sexual violence against women: 4429 in 2010

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's helplines

The first national women's helpline the All Russian helpline for women suffering from domestic violence was established in 2011. It is run by the WAVE Focal Point NGO "ANNA" National Centre for the Prevention of Violence, Moscow.

The national helpline is free of charge. It receives no government funding and is supported entirely by private donations. It receives around 600 calls a month which are dealt with by 14 full time staff providing gender specific support. Multilingual support is not available. The helpline is only open 12 hours a day and therefore does not fulfill the Council of Europe standard requiring a 24/7 service.

Table of Women's HELPLINES:

Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls
1	No	No	No	0%	600 per month

Other National Helplines

A state run helpline is also available for children, *the National Helpline for children suffering from violence*, which provides support 24 hours a day free of charge.

Women's Shelters

There are 25 women's shelters in Russia, 23 of which are run by the Government. The first shelter, Crisis Centre for Women, was set up in St Petersburg in 1995. In 2011 the first shelter for women and children opened in Moscow, serving a population of 11,514 million.

The shelters cover all forms of violence against women and provide approximately 250 places for women and their children free of charge. This does not meet the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population. Only the independent privately funded shelter, operated by an NGO in Murmansk, applies a gender specific approach needed to adequately support women and children survivors of violence.

Women can stay for up to six months in a shelter. There are no restrictions on places for girls; boys are accepted up to 14 years. 95 per cent of the funding for state shelters is provided by local government with 5 per cent provided by volunteer work from the two NGO run women's Shelters. The two shelters that are run by NGOs are funded by private donors, international foundations and supported by volunteers work. One of them also receives funding from a local authority.

No information is available on the access to shelters of migrant, asylum seeking, undocumented, minority ethnic or disabled women⁴. There is also no information on staffing levels, the take up of shelter places by women and their children or the numbers of women unable to obtain a shelter place in.

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
25	Approx. 200	14,517	14,317	2	0	95%

Other Shelters

There are eight homeless shelters in Moscow and 12 in St Petersburg that also accommodate women survivors of violence. However homeless shelters provide inadequate support as they do not specifically cater for women survivors of violence.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There is only one rape crisis centre in the Russian Federation, the "Sisters" Independent Charitable Centre for the Assistance to Survivors of Sexual Violence. The Centre, established in 1994, applies a gender-specific approach. It is open to all women and girls regardless of their status, disability or age and to children. The centre, which received 3,000 phone calls in 2010, is funded entirely by foreign donors (70%) and volunteers (30%).

The provision of services for women and children survivors of sexual violence does not meet the Council of Europe recommendation of one centre per 200,000 inhabitants.

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

There are 19 crisis centres providing telephone and face-to-face counseling support and self help groups operated by NGOs supported by "ANNA".

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

General Services

The Russian Federation provides general social services which include support to women survivors of violence however these do not use a gender specific approach.

National Networks of Women's Services

Currently, the ANNA Centre's National Network against Violence includes over a hundred NGOs and governmental organizations from Russia and countries of the former USSR.⁵

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

No financial aid or housing support is available to women survivors of violence.

Legal protection from violence

There are no laws on protective measures for women survivors of violence in the Russian Federation.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

A NAP covering domestic violence, sexual violence, trafficking in women, so called "crimes of honour" is coordinated by the Council on Gender Equality under the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation. Members of the Council include representatives of different ministries and NGOs. The Council was re-established in the fall of 2010. Currently the Council is working on the development of National Action Plan on Gender Equality. The Plan will include the issue of violence against women, particularly domestic violence.

CEDAW⁶

In the concluding comments on the Federation of Russian at the Forty-sixth session, July 2010, CEDAW expressed concern at the increase of violence against women in both private and public spheres and the lack of a holistic approach to address it.



Endnotes

- ¹ In 2008, a representative of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs cited the following figures:
violence, in one form or another, is observed in every fourth family;
two-thirds of homicides are attributable to household / domestic motives;
each year about 14 thousand women die at the hands of husbands or other relatives;
up to 40 percent of all serious violent crimes are committed within families.
Interview with Police Lieutenant General M. Artamoshkin, Acting Head of the Department for the Protection of Public Order under the auspices of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, published on the website of the Ministry of Internal Affairs 01/24/2008, see <http://www.mvd.ru/news/14047/>.
See also ANNA National Centre for the Prevention of Violence, Date? Violence against women in the Russian Federation, (UNFPA), p5.
- ² u.N. Argunova, Problemy latentnosti iznasilovaniy/Nezavisimyy Psikhicheskiy Zhurnal, no. 1, 2005. <http://www.npar.ru/journal/2005/1/rapes.htm>.
The survey conducted in Magnitogorsk in 2004 corroborates these conclusions; according to its findings, 19,7% of the women surveyed experienced sexual violence in their lives. M. Propastina. Sotsiologicheskoye issledovaniye aktualnosti problemy nasiliya zhenshchin g. Magnitogorska (Sociological research into the topicality of the problem of violence against women in the town of Magnitogorsk)/Innovatsiyi v sisteme profilaktiki semeynogo neblagopoluchiya. Ed. by. A. Voronkov, Chelyabinsk, 2007.
- ³ ANNA Opcit, p22.
- ⁴ CEDAW notes that they are mostly restricted to Russian nationals who are local residents. CEDAW Concluding observations, forty-sixth session, 12-30 July 2010, article 22.
- ⁵ ANNA Opcit, p15.
- ⁶ CEDAW Concluding observations Forty-sixth session, 12-30 July 2010, sections 22- 25.
<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N10/485/54/PDF/N1048554.pdf?OpenElement>

SERBIA

(REPUBLIC OF SERBIA)

General Country Information

Population: 7,498,001 (Census from 2002)

Female population: 3,852,071

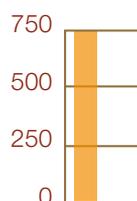
Member of Council of Europe: 2003

Member of European Union: No

CEDAW ratified: 2001

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2003

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: No



No. of Shelters:	8
Rec. No. of Shelter Places:	750
No. of Shelter Places:	/

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

Prevalence of male violence against women: A survey (based on a representative sample of 2500 women between 18 and 75 years old) conducted by the "SeCond Group" for the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies' Development Initiatives and funded by the United Nations indicates that 54.2 per cent of women in Serbia suffer from some form of domestic violence. It also showed that 31.8 per cent of all women in Serbia were subjected to psychological violence and that 10 per cent were suffering from physical violence. In 90 per cent of the cases, the perpetrators were men.¹ According to information provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a total of 6,500 cases of domestic violence were reported in 2011.²

Research data available on other forms of violence against women: According to media monitoring conducted by the Network Women against Violence, "Mreža žene protiv nasilja", 30 women were killed in 2010, while in the first half of 2011 alone 29 women got killed³. According to a statement of the State Secretary of the Ministry of Labour published on the official website of the Serbian Government on 17. November 2011⁴, since the beginning of 2011, 44 women were killed.

The lack of proper official data about the scope and characteristics of violence against women in the family, and the absence of records of cases by public services, such as health care services, keeping track of the kinds and forms of violence, gender of survivors and perpetrators was criticised by the "Alternative Report to the CEDAW Committee", submitted on the behalf of Voice of Difference – Group for Promotion of Women's Political Rights, Autonomous Women's Center, ASTRA, Incest Trauma Center, Women in Black, in March 30, 2007⁵.

Recently, an Observatory on violence against women was set up in Serbia; it is an independent expert body tasked to monitor and assess the effects of policies and measures on combating violence against women. The Observatory was established in 2011 and is funded by the EU.⁶

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

According to information available in 2010 there is no national helpline for women and girls survivors of violence accessible for the whole country.

About 20 regional helplines can be contacted by women and girls survivors of violence, however, only one offers seven days a week 24 hour service. Except for three hotlines specialising in support for Roma women affected by violence, multilingual counselling is not available. Most regional women's helplines are financed by donors from international organisations.

SOS helplines for survivors of gender based violence exist in Belgrade and in most towns. They are often supported by NGOs. There are no national helplines for survivors of trafficking and domestic violence supported by the Government. One national helpline, "ASTRA SOS Hotline and Direct Survivor Assistance"⁷, (+381 11 3347 817), run by an NGO, focuses on survivors of trafficking. It does not provide multilingual support.

Women's Shelters

Currently there are eight women's shelters accommodating women survivors of domestic violence. Multilingual service is not provided to clients.

There are two types of shelters in Serbia. There are shelters which are financed by donors and shelters which operate within social welfare centres and are partially or fully funded by the municipal authorities. The existence of these shelters depends on the funds available and their number varies. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Serbia (UNHCR Serbia) has been financially supporting shelters for migrant and minority women within the projects concerning sexual and gender-based violence. In 2010, there are only two women's shelters specialised for survivors of human trafficking.

Generally, all women have equal access to women's shelters. Based on the experience of practice during the past five years, migrant and minority women regardless of their legal status, had access to the women's shelters. Children of migrant women are also accepted in shelters, yet boys who are older than 13 years of age are not allowed accommodation in the women's shelter in Serbia. No alternative protection is provided for the boys over this age.

Women's organisations and NGOs provide, through their activities, various forms of services and protection to all women survivors of violence, as well as to migrant and minority ethnic women, including women's shelter, SOS phones, psychosocial support, legal counseling and skill training. Specialised workshops targeting migrant and minority women are conducted as part of awareness raising campaigns on the issue of gender based violence.

Shelters in Serbia that are not funded by the government depend on the NGOs' capability to secure financial support and international donors' programme priorities. The extent of psycho-social support provided should be intensified, both in quantity and in quality. Furthermore, accommodation places are limited and free legal assistance is not provided.

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
8	No data available.	750	No data available.	No data available.	0 per cent	No data available.

National Networks of Women's Services

There is one national network on women's services, "Mreža Žene protiv nasilja"⁸.

Recent Changes in service provision

According to the "Situation analysis of SOS services", compiled by member organisations of the Women against Violence Serbia Network for women survivors of male violence, in 2010⁹, it was assumed that four organisations would be forced to end their work by the end of 2011. One organisation – the Centre for Protection of Women and Children – Survivors of Domestic Violence from Uzice ceased to exist, as both the SOS helpline and the Shelter were closed. One organisation, Women in Action from Velika Plana closed down its SOS Helpline, while legal and psychological support counselling services are expected to function until March 2011. The SOS services "Nis" and "Smederevo" ended up working completely.

SERBIA

Legal protection from violence

According to Article 198 of the Family Law (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 18/2005), five preventive measures are taken with regard to the issue of domestic violence:

1. Issuance of an injunction for removing from the family house or apartment, regardless the right of owning or renting the property.
2. Prohibition of approaching family member at a certain distance.
3. Prohibition of access to the place of residence or workplace of a family member at a certain distance.
4. Prohibition of further disturbance of family members.

Domestic violence cases are processed as urgent court cases and civil courts pass preventive measures. Unfortunately, it is often difficult to execute these measures before their validity expires. Police always respond to reports of violence, but the extent and quality of the provided protection varies, depending on the level of training of the police staff.

There is no official data available on how often acts of violence were reported to the authorities and how many of the reported cases ended with a conviction. There is also no information on the measures taken by the police to protect women from violence and the number of protection orders issued by the police or by the courts.

Article 194 of the Criminal Code¹⁰ incriminates domestic violence and provides for prison sentences in a length from three months to eight years, depending on the gravity of the incriminated act, and up to 12 years if the result of the abuse is death of the family member. It provides also for a punishment by imprisonment up to six month of a fine for violations of protection measures against domestic violence prescribed by the Court and based on the law.¹¹

In the “Alternative Report to the CEDAW Committee” submitted in 2007, sanctions pronounced for offences of domestic violence indicate that there is a tendency to pronounce milder sanctions, i.e. paroles and fines. Imprisonment sentences tend to be imposed for the minimum time period requested by the law. Even though the legal framework is satisfying, protection measures are not implemented. The report also criticizes the fact that there are no regulatory guidelines about police behavior, nor agreements on cooperation between the police and other institutions. It states that there is no mechanism enabling the harmonization of attitudes and practices of the police, the prosecution and the court and that centers of social work show a high degree of prejudice in their attitude.¹²

Legal aid

The government does not provide legal assistance to women survivors of violence. Therefore, this service is insecure since it relies on NGOs’ projects and funding from international donors. Some organisations provide only legal counselling but praxis provides migrant and minority women survivors of domestic violence with both free legal counselling and in court representation. Also, praxis assists in initiating the procedures necessary for exercising the right to education, work, health, social welfare and other human rights. However according to information provided by the UN Secretary-General’s database on violence against women, a project on “Creating an Effective and Sustainable System for Providing Free Legal Aid in the Republic of Serbia” is implemented by the Ministry of Justice in cooperation with UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), and activities were undertaken to develop a strategy for establishing a Free Legal Aid System for the period 2008-2011. In total, 33 organisations covering almost the entire territory of Serbia will be involved in the aid network providing legal aid to poor and socially vulnerable groups – among others, domestic violence survivors. Partners of the “Legal Aid Fund” are Bar Associations, NGOs and municipalities, as well as “legal clinics” of Law Schools providing legal assistance.¹³

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

The national strategy for improving the Position of Women and Advancing Gender Equality 2008 - 2014 was adopted on the 13 February 2009 as the main national document containing gender equality commitments.

A “National strategy for prevention and combating violence against women in the family and in partner relations” was adopted in April 2011.¹⁴

The Autonomous Women’s Centre commented on the Draft National Strategy for Combating Domestic Violence in the Republic of Serbia in April 2010 and requested the withdrawal of this document from further procedure and creation of a new document in participative process and in line with the National Strategy for Improving the Position of Women and Promotion of Gender Equality.¹⁵

According to information provided by UNDP, the Serbian Government adopted a “General Protocol on Procedures and Cooperation of Institutions, Agencies and Organisations in Situations of Domestic and Partner Relationship Violence against Women” on 24 November 2011. A main purpose of the General Protocol is to provide long-term and sustainable protection of survivors of domestic violence by ensuring each institution’s compliance with its statutory powers and duties. The protocol also aims at preventing the transmission of domestic violence from generation to generation within families and to ban domestic violence as a socially acceptable form of behavior. It provides for coordination mechanisms of institutions responsible for the protection of survivors of violence.¹⁶

CEDAW¹⁷

In its Concluding Comments at the Thirty-eight session, 14 May – 1 June 2007, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women welcomed the State Party’s measures to combat violence against women, including making domestic violence and marital rape criminal offences under the Criminal Code and the availability of protections and restraining orders. The State party should ensure that women and girls who are survivors of violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection. Accordingly, a sufficient number of shelters funded by the government must be available to all survivors; moreover, the adequate punishment of all perpetrators should be ensured. The Committee also recommends the implementation of training for the judicial and public officials, such as law enforcement personnel and health-service providers. Another area of concern is the lack of systematic and regular data collection, which the State Party is urged to establish. Further awareness-raising campaigns on the unacceptability of violence against women and the establishment of counseling and rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators are also recommended. Finally, the Committee expresses its concern about de facto discrimination against Roma women, who have been excluded from safe houses; the State Party is therefore requested to review and monitor the application of admission criteria used by safe houses.

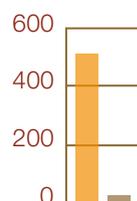
Endnotes

- ¹ <http://www.balkanicaucaso.org/eng/Regions-and-countries/Serbia/Domestic-violence-in-Serbia-the-law-is-not-enough-94265> (16 March 2012). According to a statement of the State Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy published on the official website of the Serbian Government, one third of women in Serbia was a survivor of domestic violence: http://www.srbija.gov.rs/error_page.php (16 March 2012).
- ² UNDP Serbia Official Website: <http://www.undp.org.rs/index.cfm?event=public.newsDetails&revid=31DE88AC-BF96-F91A-8FA3E93800279A9B> (16 March 2012).
- ³ Network “Women against Violence”, media monitoring on femicides in Serbia, see e.g. (in Serbian): http://www.zeneprotivnasilja.net/images/stories/pdf/femicid/FEMICID_Kvantitativno_narativni_izvestaj_2010._godina.pdf; (16 March 2012). http://www.zeneprotivnasilja.net/images/stories/pdf/femicid/FEMICID_Saopstenje_01.januar-30.jun_2011.godine.pdf (16 March 2012); see also: <http://www.srbija.gov.rs/vesti/vest.php?id=77601>; (16 March 2012).
- ⁴ <http://www.srbija.gov.rs/vesti/vest.php?id=81557>
- ⁵ Alternative Report to the CEDAW Committee (Shadow report), see: <http://www.womenngo.org.rs/images/serbiaalternativereport.pdf> (16 March 2012). Executive summary, see: http://www.womenngo.org.rs/images/CEDAW/executive_summary.pdf (16 March 2012).
- ⁶ See Website of the Autonomous Women’s Centre: http://www.womenngo.org.rs/english/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=150 (16 March 2012). see also: <http://www.srbija.gov.rs/vesti/vest.php?id=81557>
- ⁷ <http://www.astra.org.rs> (16 March 2012).
- ⁸ <http://www.zeneprotivnasilja.net/o-mrezi-zene-protiv-nasilja/mreza-zpn> (16 March 2012).
- ⁹ Provided to the WAVE Office in May 2011 by Aleksandra Nestorov i Vedrana Lacmanovi from „Women against violence“ Serbia Network.
- ¹⁰ Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 85/2005
- ¹¹ The UN Secretary General’s database on violence against women, <http://webapps01.un.org/vawdatabase/countryInd.action?countryId=1151> (16 March 2012).
- ¹² Alternative Report to the CEDAW Committee (Shadow report), see: <http://www.womenngo.org.rs/images/serbiaalternativereport.pdf> (16 March 2012), executive summary, see: http://www.womenngo.org.rs/images/CEDAW/executive_summary.pdf (16 March 2012).
- ¹³ The UN Secretary-General’s Database on violence against women, <http://webapps01.un.org/vawdatabase/countryInd.action?countryId=1151> (16 March 2012).
- ¹⁴ Available in Serbian at: http://www.srbija.gov.rs/vesti/dokumenti_sekcija.php?id=45678 (16 March 2012).
- ¹⁵ The Comments to the Draft National Strategy prepared by AWC: http://www.womenngo.org.rs/english/images/stories/pdf/Comments_on_Draft_National_Strategy.pdf (16 March 2012).
- ¹⁶ UNDP Serbia Official Website: <http://www.undp.org.rs/index.cfm?event=public.newsDetails&revid=31DE88AC-BF96-F91A-8FA3E93800279A9B> (16 March 2012).
- ¹⁷ “Concluding comments of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: Serbia”, CEDAW/C/SCG/CO/1, available at: <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N07/375/72/PDF/N0737572.pdf?OpenElement>

SLOVAKIA

General Country Information

Population: 5,193,376 (Census from 2001)
Female population: 2,690,655
Member of Council of Europe: 1961
Member of European Union: 2004
CEDAW ratified: 1993
CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2000
Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: 2011
ratified: No



No. of Shelters:	2
Rec. No. of Shelter Places:	519
No. of Shelter Places:	17

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

Prevalence of male violence against women:

Surveys on violence against women have been carried out in 2003¹ and 2008.² Accordingly, the lifelong prevalence of intimate partner violence against women (of 18-65 age category) was 21.2 per cent by a current partner and 27.9 per cent by an ex partner. In women having ever a partner throughout a life, 39.2 per cent have an experience with violence by a male partner.

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women: At least one incident of sexual violence was experienced by 9 per cent from the current partner and by 25.7 per cent from the ex partner of the women aged 18 to 65.

Research data available on other forms of violence against women:

At least one of the measured violent incidents of each kind was experienced by women aged 8 to 65: physical aggression was experienced by 15 per cent by current partners and 39.5 per cent by ex partners; psychological violence was experienced by 36 per cent by current partners, 64.5 per cent by ex partners; and economical abuse was experienced by 22 per cent by current partners and 53.4 per cent by ex partners.

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

Number of femicides: 2009: 8 and 2010: 8

Number of cases of male violence against women: 2009: 3,692 and 2010: 3,340

Number of cases of male violence against women by a partner or ex partner: 2009: 822 and 2010: 732

Number of cases of male sexual violence against women: 2009: 546 and 2010: 559

Number of cases of intimate partner violence: 2010: 812

National Criminal Justice Statistics:

Number of convicted cases of male violence against women: 2009: 2002

Number of convicted cases of male violence against women by a partner or ex partner: 2009: 970

Number of convicted cases of male sexual violence against women: 174

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There is no national helpline in Slovakia, therefore Slovakia does not fulfill the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline for women, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against.

Women's Shelters

There are two women's shelters in Slovakia run by independent women's NGOs serving women survivors of domestic violence and their children: "Anchor Trebišov" and "Center Slniečko Nitra".³

The shelters offer access 24/7 and provide a total of 17 places for women and their children. This does not fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women’s shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.

There are no specific shelters for migrant or refugee women and there are no data available about the access of these groups to the shelters. Women can stay in the shelters for as long as they need to.

The shelters are funded primarily by the State (70 per cent), with other support from private donations (10 per cent) and volunteers (20 per cent).

National statistics on the users of shelters are not collected.

Table of Women’s SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
2	17	519	502	2	No data available.	70 per cent

Other Shelters

Slovakia also has 19 other shelters that support a range of groups including people in social need, homeless people and survivors of family violence.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are no gender specific sexual violence centres in Slovakia for women and girls. Therefore Slovakia does not meet the Council of Europe recommendation of one centre providing services for women and children survivors of sexual violence per 200,000 inhabitants.

Women’s Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

There are nine women’s centres for survivors of violence and their children in Slovakia. The first one, in Humenné opened in 1993 run by “Pro Familia” and the latest one was opened in Martin in 2006. Five are counselling centres run by independent women’s NGOs and apply a gender-specific approach. Four are state run Family Violence Centres.

They all offer access to migrant, undocumented, asylum seekers, and Roma women. No information is available on access offered to women with disabilities.

Funding is from the State (80 per cent), with support from private donations (10 per cent) and volunteers (10 per cent).

General Women’s Centres

There are a number of women’s centres in Slovakia. No data is available on the range of services they provide or their funding.

National Networks of Women’s Services

There are informal networks of women’s NGOs in Slovakia.

Recent Changes in service provision

Two women’s services closed during 2010/2011, “Pro Familia Counselling Centre” and “Pro Familia Shelter” due to insufficient funding by the State.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

No financial aid or housing support is available to women survivors of violence in Slovakia.

SLOVAKIA

Legal protection from violence

There is no specific law on combating violence against women. The §208 of the Penal Code (2002) on the maltreatment of a kin or person includes measures for protection.

Under the Police Corps Law (2008) the police can bar the perpetrator for 48 hours. The orders can be issued in cases of physical violence, threats of violence and psychological violence and can cover the survivors dwelling and the surrounding area.

Civil law protection orders are available for physical and psychological violence and threats of violence. These protective measures can apply to add area the survivor's dwelling and surrounding areas and workplace and children's schools and prohibit general contact.

Criminal law protection orders are available for physical and psychological violence, stalking and threats of violence, but are very rarely used. These protective measures can apply to add area the survivor's dwelling and surrounding areas and workplace and children's schools and prohibit general contact.

Protection orders are available for all family members including women and men, married cohabiting, same-sex and ex-partners partners, children, survivors of stalking and to migrant women, asylum seeking women and undocumented migrant women.

226 of police barring orders were issued in 2009 to protect 221 women and girls and 228 in 2010 to protect 223 women and girls. 46 civil protection orders were applied for in 2009 and 35 granted, 33 were applied for in 2010 and 27 granted.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Slovakia has a national strategy from 2009 - 2012 to combat rape and sexual violence, domestic violence and sexual harassment for. There is a governmental coordinating body responsible for implementing and coordinating the policies regarding violence against women. It is not an inter-ministerial body.

The coordinating body has the power to make policy decisions. For example, the independent women's NGOs "Alliance of Women in Slovakia", "EsFem", "Fenestra", and "Možnosť voľby" (Pro Choice) are members of the coordinating body.

CEDAW⁴

In the concluding comments on Slovakia at the Forty-first session, June – July 2008, CEDAW expressed concern at the prevalence of violence against women including homicides from domestic violence and that current legislation was not sufficient to address all forms of violence against women. The lack of information on and lack of preventative measures was also of concern. The Committee urged Slovakia to ensure violence against women is prosecuted and punished and that comprehensive measures are introduced to ensure women survivors have immediate access to redress and protection. This includes the provision of a sufficient number of shelters with adequate standards and the sensitizing of public officials, including the police and judiciary on all forms of violence against women.



Endnotes

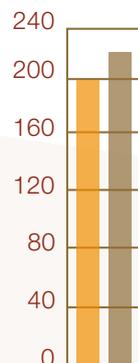
- ¹ Bodnárova,B, Filadelfiová, J., Domestic violence and Violence against Women in the Slovak Republik , Institute for Labour and Family Research, Bratislava 2003.
- ² Bodnarova,B., Filadelfiová,J., Holubová,B., Representative Research on Prevalence and Experience of Women with VAW in Slovakia, Institute for Labour and Family Research, Bratislava 2008.
- ³ One uses a gender specific approach. There are also two NGOs "My Mamy Prešov" and "Hope Bratislava Centre" who provide two apartments for women survivors of violence with capacity for 14 places.
- ⁴ http://www.iwraw-ap.org/committee/pdf/41_concluding_observations/slovakia.pdf (16 March 2012).

SLOVENIA



General Country Information

Population: 1,987,971¹
Female population: 1,016,768
Member of Council of Europe: 1993
Member of European Union: 2004
CEDAW ratified: 1992
CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2004
Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: 8.9.2011
ratified: No



No. of Shelters: 15
Rec. No. of Shelter Places: 199
No. of Shelter Places: 227

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

Prevalence of male violence against women: Every second woman over 15 years has experienced violence (56.6 per cent); of which 49.3 per cent is psychological violence, 23 per cent per cent physical violence, 14.1 percent economic violence, 13.9 percent restrictions of freedom of movement and 6.5 per cent sexual violence. The main form of violence experienced was psychological violence. At least one in five women in Slovenia experience violence, (excluding psychological violence), 92 per cent of the perpetrators are male.²

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women: 6.5 per cent of women reported sexual violence in intimate partner violence since they were 15 years old. 0.9 per cent experienced both physical and sexual violence. 98 per cent of the perpetrators were men, more than half were partners or family members.³

Crime statistics reported by the Police: No data available.

National Criminal Justice Statistics: No data available.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

Slovenia does not have a dedicated national women's helpline, but a joint helpline for women and children. Therefore Slovenia does not fulfil the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women.

Other National Helplines

The only helpline available is the SOS Help Line for Women and Children - Survivors of Violence (080 11 55) set up in 1989 by Association SOS Help Line for Women and Children - Survivors of Violence and independent women's NGO. The helpline supports survivors of all forms of violence against women and children.

The helpline is free of charge and open weekdays from 12.00 till 22.00 and from 18.00 till 22.00 on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Multi-lingual support is not provided.

The helpline is funded by the state (69.5 per cent), foreign donations (19.5 per cent) and private donations (11 per cent). The helpline has two full time and one half time member of staff who are supported by 75 volunteers.

In 2009 the SOS Help Line for Women and Children - Survivors of Violence received 3,417 calls and in 2010 3,123 calls.⁴

Slovenia has three other national helplines: One for survivors of trafficking, run by an NGO, “Society Ključ” – Centre for fight against trafficking with people.⁵ This helpline is free of charge to callers and open weekdays from 9.00 to 13.00.

One helpline for elderly people: an anonymous phone for the elderly survivors of violence, which is run by state community centres for social work.⁶ It is free of charge and open from 8.00 to 14.00 during the week. The helpline does not provide multi-lingual support.

There is also a helpline for survivors of violence in the workplace counselling anonymous phone line for survivors of the trade union of education, science and culture for survivors of violence. It is run by the trade union of education, science and culture, a voluntary association of employees in education, science and culture.⁷ There is a charge to callers who phone the helpline, which is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 16.00 to 18.00. Multi-lingual support is not provided.

Women’s Shelters

Slovenia has 15 shelters for women, 14 providing support for women survivors of violence and their children and one for women drug users experiencing violence. There are also three crisis centres that provide emergency accommodation for women and their children survivors of violence. The first shelter was opened in 1991 by the Center for social work “Krško” and the most recent, a shelter accessible to women and children with disabilities, was opened in 2009 by the Association SOS Help Line for Women and Children - Survivors of Violence.

Three of the shelters and two of the crisis centres are run by the Centre for Social Work, Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, 11 shelters and one crisis centre are run by independent women’s NGO⁸ and one shelter is run by the Samaritan Institute of Charity. All 15 shelters and the crisis centres provide support to women survivors of domestic violence, but only five are known to provide a gender specific approach.

The shelters provide 227 places for women and their children.⁹ This does fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women’s shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population. Approximately a third of the shelters provide accommodation to children, with an age limit only for boys of up to 15 years.

Shelter accommodation is provided free of charge only to women who do not have an income, women who have their own income are required to make a contribution for themselves and their children. Only crisis centres are available 24/7, providing temporary emergency accommodation only for up to three months. The majority of women move from a crisis centre to a shelter where they can obtain counselling and other support and are allowed to stay up to 12 months.

There are no specific shelters for migrant, minority ethnic, asylum seeking and refugee women in Slovenia. Over half of the shelters provide accommodation to them as they accept women regardless of their legal status if they are able to pay for their place. Only one shelter in Slovenia is able to accommodate women or their children with disabilities.

The shelters have approximately three - four staff, with at least one dedicated to work with children.

No detailed information is available on funding for shelters. The majority are funded by the state through yearly public tenders and support from municipalities. This can make up between 60 to 90 per cent of shelter funding; the remainder comes from private donations or volunteer work.

National statistics are collected by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs; however these are not published on a regular basis. Figures available for 2009 indicate that 507 women and their children were accommodated in shelters.¹⁰

Table of Women’s SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
15	227	199	0	3	0	No data available.

Other Shelters

There are approximately 14 other shelters in Slovenia, one for survivors of trafficking, six mother and baby homes and seven for homeless people. Women can stay in the mother and baby homes for up to 12 months with the possibility of an extension. No data is available on the other shelters.

SLOVENIA

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are no gender specific sexual violence centres in Slovenia for women and girls. The only sexual violence centre, Association against Sexual Abuse, provides services for both women and men and for children.

Therefore the provision of services for women and children survivors of sexual violence in Slovenia does not meet the Council of Europe recommendation of one centre per 200,000 inhabitants.

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

Four women's counselling centres provide support for women and their children and girls survivors of domestic violence and sexual violence in Slovenia. The first one, Association SOS Help-line, was opened in Ljubljana in 1989, the last, "Institute Emma", in Ljubljana in 2000. All four are run by independent women's NGOs and three of them apply a gender-specific approach.

All the centres offer access to migrant, undocumented, asylum seekers, and Roma women. Very limited access is offered to women with disabilities.

No data is available on the funding of these centres and no national statistics are collected on their use.

National Networks of Women's Services

There is a national network of shelters, maternity homes, and similar organisations. There is also an alliance of the four largest NGOs in Slovenia providing women's support services.

Recent Changes in service provision

One new service was opened in 2011, a maternity home, by Association Safe house of "Gorenjska". While no service was closed during the year, all the services are in danger because of the economic recession.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

There are no specific social security benefits and housing programs available to women survivors of violence, though they are given priority access for municipal social housing. Benefits are only available to women with a residency permit or citizenship. Migrant, undocumented and asylum seeking women survivors of violence do have access to free legal aid to obtaining a restraining order and for the transfer of accommodation shared with the perpetrator.

Legal protection from violence

Protective orders were introduced in Slovenia in the Family violence Prevention Act, 2008.¹² Under the law the police can bar the perpetrator for 48 hours, orders have to be confirmed or rejected by a judge within 24 hours. Barring orders can be extended by a judge for up to 10 days and at the survivors request for up to 60 days.¹³ Barring orders can be issued in cases of physical violence, threats of violence, psychological violence and stalking and can cover the survivors dwelling, the surrounding area and other places such as workplace and schools the survivor's children attend.

Civil law protection orders are not available. Survivors can apply for criminal law protection orders which are available for up to six months with a possible extension of up to a further six months. Protection orders are issued in cases of physical violence, threats of violence, psychological violence and stalking and can cover the survivors dwelling, the surrounding area and other places such as workplace and schools the survivor's children attend.

Criminal protection orders are available to all family members including women and men, married cohabiting, same-sex and ex-partners partners, children and to migrant women, asylum seeking women and undocumented migrant women. Anyhow they are reportedly not well implemented.

Statistics on Protective Orders

1,120 police barring orders were issued in 2009¹⁴ and 737 in 2010.¹⁵

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Slovenia does not have a national action plan to combat all forms of violence against women. It has a national action plan on domestic violence for the period 2010 to 2011. There is no governmental coordinating body responsible for implementing the national action plan.

CEDAW

In the concluding comments on Slovenia at the Forty-second session, in October and November 2008, CEDAW welcomed the legal and other measure taken to eliminate violence against women. In particular CEDAW welcomed the adoption of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act 2008 and the recognition in the penal code of domestic violence as a specific criminal offence. However the Committee remained concerned at the numbers of women killed by their partners and the absence of a national strategy or action plan on all forms of violence against women.

CEDAW called on Slovenia to develop a comprehensive strategy or action plan to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls with an effective mechanism to coordinate it and monitor the effectiveness of the measures taken. The Committee urged the state to adopt effective measures to protect women from murder by intimate partners and to ensure sufficient safe crisis centres and shelters providing expert care are available to protect women.

Endnotes

- ¹ Data from latest available census, 31 Mar 2002. The mid year estimate (2009 - 2010) for the whole population in Slovenia is 2, 048, 583. Source: United Nations Statistics Division, Population, latest available census and estimates, latest available data, (Last Updated 27 December 2011) <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/vitstats/seratab2.pdf> (21 February 2012).
- ² Leskošek, Vesna; Mojca, Urek; Završne, Darja (2010), "National Survey on violence in the private sphere and in intimate relationships. Final report of the 1st phase of the research project". Ljubljana, Oktober, <http://www.uem.gov.si/fileadmin/uem.gov.si/pageuploads/NasiljeRaziskava2010.pdf> and Poročilo o nacionalni raziskavi o nasilju v zasebni sferi in v partnerskih odnosih ("Report on the National Survey on violence in the private sphere and in intimate relationships"), see: <http://www.uem.gov.si/fileadmin/uem.gov.si/pageuploads/SplosniPodatki.pdf> (21 February 2012).
The survey was conducted in 2009/2010; the survey questionnaire was sent to a representative sample of 3,000 women and was returned by 752 women. The questionnaire included questions on five forms of violence: physical, sexual, psychological, and economic and restrictions of freedom of movement, of personal freedom and of personal relations.
- ³ Ibid.
- ⁴ Statistics of the helpline obtained from the helpline website, http://www.drustvo-sos.si/index.php?page_id=61 (21 February 2012).
- ⁵ See <http://drustvo-kjuc.si/helpline.php> (21 February 2012).
- ⁶ See http://www.gov.si/csd/pre_nas_nad_star.htm.
- ⁷ See <http://sviz.cezarus.si/files/predstavitev/konferenca/iz-sem-10-05/SVIZ-ov-anonimni-svetovalni-telefon-za-zrtve-nasilja.pdf>. (21 February 2012).
- ⁸ Association of a life without violence, Association for Non violent Communication (2 shelters)
- Association regional safe house Celje (3 shelters), Association SOS Help Line for Women and Children - Survivors of Violence, (2 shelters), Safe Shelter Society Pomurje, Society to help women and children violence-Safe House Gorenjska, Association Stigma - safe house for drug users
- ⁹ According to the Government there are 397 shelter places in Slovenia, this includes shelters, crisis centres and maternity homes, the latter are not specifically for survivors of violence and do not provide the required gender-specific support women experiencing violence and their children. See Council of Europe (2010), Protecting women against violence. Analytical study of the results of the third round of monitoring the implementation of Recommendation Rec (2002)5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member, prepared by Carol Hagemann-White, University Osnabrück, on behalf of the Gender Equality, and Anti-Trafficking Division/Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs, Strasbourg. A list of shelters is provided on the government website: http://www.mddsz.gov.si/si/delovna_podrocja/sociala/programi_socialnega_varstva/varne_hise/ (21 February 2012).
- ¹⁰ These figures come from a 2009 independent evaluation of programs, shelters and maternity homes, funded by the Social protection Institute of republic of Slovenia. The evaluation was ordered by Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs.
- ¹¹ Association SOS Help-line, Institute Emma, Women's counseling center, Association for non-violent communication.
- ¹² http://www.mddsz.gov.si/fileadmin/mddsz.gov.si/pageuploads/dokumenti_pdf/zpnd_en.pdf (21 February 2012).
- ¹³ http://www.drustvo-dnk.si/novice/2009_11_PrijaviteNasilje_Brosura.pdf (21 February 2012).
- ¹⁴ <http://www.policija.si/images/stories/Statistika/LetnaPorocila/PDF/LetnoPorocilo2009.pdf> (21 February 2012).
- ¹⁵ <http://www.policija.si/baza/tab20.html> (21 February 2012).

SPAIN

General Country Information

Population: 46,070,971

Female population: 20,834,489

Member of Council of Europe: 1977

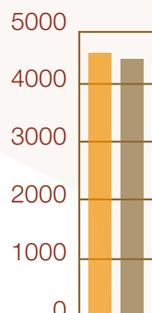
Member of European Union: 1986

CEDAW ratified: 1984

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2001

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: 11 May 2011

ratified: No



No. of Shelters:	148
Rec. No. of Shelter Places:	4,607
No. of Shelter Places:	4,500

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

According to data from the National Survey in 2011, 2,134,938 women have experienced gender - based violence (GBV) during their lifetime. 593,038 of these women have experienced GBV during the last 12 months. 3.2 per cent of women have experienced sexual violence in 2011.

Crime statistics reported by the Police: According to reports on gender - based violence there were 73 women killed in 2010. According to the Annual Report of the State Observatory on Violence Against Women there were 134,105 reported cases of male violence against women.

National Criminal Justice Statistics

Number of convicted cases of male violence against women:

According to the Annual Report of the State Observatory on Violence against Women (2009-2010), there were 32,550 convicted cases of male violence against women in 2009 and 32,741 convicted cases in 2010. This includes cases of domestic violence and gender based violence.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There is one national women's helpline in Spain set up by Ministry of Health, Social Affairs and Equality (016), a state run organisation, in 1997. The helpline provides support to women and girls survivors of all forms of violence against women using a gender-specific approach.

It is important to highlight that staff from helpline connect the survivors of violence to the specific regional service depending on the region in which they live. There are also regional helplines (e.g. 112 in Murcia) that provide intervention services to survivors of gender - based violence in cases of emergency.

The helpline is free of charge and open 24/7 and therefore fulfills the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women a helpline for women.

Multi-lingual support is provided in Spanish, regional languages, French, English, German, Arabic, Bulgarian, Chinese, Portuguese, Russian, Romanian and other 41 languages. The same service is provided to hearing impaired people (900116016). Available 24/7 for free.

Funding is from the state (100 per cent).

Table of Women's HELPLINES:



Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls
1	1	1	1	100	67,696

Other National Helplines

There is also a helpline for children and teenagers involved in risky situations in Spain (Children and Teenagers Helpline) run by State (Ministry of Health, Social Affairs and Equality). The helpline is open 24/7.

Women's Shelters

There are 148 shelters in Spain serving women survivors of domestic violence using a gender specific approach. The shelters are categorised as follows: 59 intervention centres, 89 shelter houses, 105 mentored flats. Shelters serve women survivors of gender based violence regardless of legal status as indicated in the law.

The shelters provide a total of 4,500 places for women and their children. This does not fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.

The shelters are funded generally by the regional governments. National statistics on the users of shelters are not collected.

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
148	4,500	4,607	107	No data	No data	Funded by regional governments

Other Shelters

There is no data available on other shelters providing support to survivors of violence.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

The very first sexual violence centre was opened in Madrid in 1984 by the CAVAS organisation. There are 27 gender specific sexual violence centres for women and girls. They all offer access to migrant and undocumented women. Seven of all centres serve only adult women, while the rest provide help to both women and girls. Limited access is offered to women with disabilities, asylum seekers, and Roma women. More than half of the centres support children of women survivors of sexual violence.

The majority of those centres are run by state agencies, whereas others are run by independent women's NGO's.

Funding is from the state (100 per cent) although 30 per cent is temporary funding and 70 per cent is based on state funded public tender.

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

There is no information on women's centres providing support to survivors of violence and their children. Women's shelters provide support for women and their children.

SPAIN

General Women's Centres

There is no information on general women's centres providing support to women and their children.

National Networks of Women's Services

There is no information on national networks or coalitions of shelter service providers, sexual violence centres or women's centres.

Recent Changes in service provision

On 15 December 2011 the governmental Woman's Institute ("El Instituto de la Mujer") has informed the public about the plans of the authorities in the central Castilla-La Mancha region to close 85 counselling centres and 13 shelters that have room for 96 women survivors of domestic violence.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

The Organic Act 1/2004 of 28 December, recognises an entire catalogue of rights for women who are survivors of gender based violence (such as rights to information, comprehensive social assistance and free legal aid; employment rights and social security benefits; rights for public servants; economic rights). Furthermore, it states "the rights are universal in the sense that women who have suffered any act of violence are guaranteed these rights, regardless of their origin, religion or any other personal or social condition or circumstance".¹ Social security benefits are available to migrant women, undocumented women, or asylum seeking women in Spain.

In terms of housing support „women survivors of gender based violence have priority access to housing, however, undocumented women survivors of gender based violence have greater difficulties in getting access”.²

Legal protection from violence

Protective orders were introduced in Spain in 2004 (Gender Violence Comprehensive Protection Measures Act (Fundamental Law) and Criminal Procedure Act). They provide women with the right to request a court order for legal protection. Women are entitled to report situations of physical and psychological acts of gender violence they suffer. Judicial authorities may constitute a breach of criminal legislation, stipulating a punishment or a prison sentence for the perpetrator.

Both civil and criminal protection orders are issued by the court authority. The duration of civil measures is 30 days. Civil protective measures cover the use and enjoyment of the family home, furnishings and fitments, the award of custody of minor children, the suspension of the exercise of parental rights, the suspension of the regime for fathers to communicate, visit and stay with their children or the way in which these activities are to be carried out, for example through an official meeting point, the establishment of alimony for food, any other measure that may be necessary to protect minors from danger or to avoid harm to them.³

Criminal protective measures can apply to the survivor's dwelling, surrounding areas, workplace, and children's schools, legal protection for survivors at court offices, confiscation of weapons and bans on holding weapons, prohibit general contact and allow for omission of information regarding the address of the survivor.⁴

Civil protection orders are available for married partners, cohabiting partners, ex - partners, children, migrant women, undocumented migrant women. There is no information if the law protects same-sex partners or asylum seeking women.⁵

Statistics on Protective Orders

Data on protective orders is available for two terms in the timeframe of January - June 2011. 8,797 civil protection orders were applied for in the 1st term and 5,984 granted (68 per cent), 8,958 were applied for in the 2nd term and 5,910 granted (66 per cent).⁶

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Spain has a national action plan on Preventing Violence against Women 2006. In 2008, the Ministry of Equality resolved to improve this action plan, however, no deadline has been set so far.⁷

CEDAW⁸

In the concluding comments on Spain at the Forty fourth session, July - August 2009, CEDAW welcomed a wide range of programmes, laws and policies introduced in country towards gender equality and elimination of violence against women, such as the creation of Ministry of Equality and introduction of both Organic Law 1/2004 and Organic Law 3/2007 on integral protection measures against gender violence. Furthermore, the adoption of Strategic Plan for Equality of Opportunities (2008-2011) and the Integral Plan to Combat Human Trafficking for Purposes of Sexual Exploitation (2008-2011) also play an important role in combat women's discrimination and trafficking.

However, CEDAW expressed concern at the prevalence of violence of against women as it hasn't decreased as well as femicides and continuing trafficking in women and girls.

The Committee invites to pay more attention and implement policies for rural women and vulnerable groups of women who suffer discrimination and violence in greater extent.

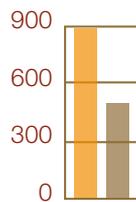
Endnotes

- ¹ Spanish Government Ministry of Equality, Guide to the Rights of Women Survivors of Gender Based Violence (online): http://www.seigualdad.gob.es/violenciaGenero/derechoServicios/pdf/Guia_derechos_mujeres_survivoras_violencia_genero_INGLES.pdf
- ² WAVE Country Report 2010: <http://www.wave-network.org/start.asp?ID=23519&b=15> (28 February 2012).
- ³ Spanish Government Ministry of Equality, Guide to the Rights of Women Survivors of Gender Based Violence (online): http://www.seigualdad.gob.es/violenciaGenero/derechoServicios/pdf/Guia_derechos_mujeres_survivoras_violencia_genero_INGLES.pdf
- ⁴ Spanish Government Ministry of Equality, Guide to the Rights of Women Survivors of Gender Based Violence (online): http://www.seigualdad.gob.es/violenciaGenero/derechoServicios/pdf/Guia_derechos_mujeres_survivoras_violencia_genero_INGLES.pdf
- ⁵ Spanish Government Ministry of Equality, Guide to the Rights of Women Survivors of Gender Based Violence (online): http://www.seigualdad.gob.es/violenciaGenero/derechoServicios/pdf/Guia_derechos_mujeres_survivoras_violencia_genero_INGLES.pdf_survivoras_violencia_genero_INGLES.pdf
- ⁶ Observatorio Contra la Violencia Domestica y de Genero. 2011. Datos de Denuncias, Procedimientos Penales y Civiles Registrados, Ordenes de Proteccion Solididades en Los Juzgados de Violencia sobre la Mujer (JVM) y Sentencias Dictadas por los Organos Jurisdiccionales en Esta Materia en el Segundo Trimestre del Ano 2011.
- ⁷ WAVE Country Report 2010: <http://www.wave-network.org/start.asp?ID=23519&b=15> (28 February 2012).
- ⁸ Available at: <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N09/460/96/PDF/N0946096.pdf?OpenElement>

SWEDEN

General Country Information

Population: 8,975,670 (2003)
Female population: 4,529,014
Member of Council of Europe: 1949
Member of European Union: 1995
CEDAW ratified: 1980
CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2003
Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: 11 May 2011



No. of Shelters:	156
Rec. No. of Shelter Places:	898
No. of Shelter Places:	510

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

Prevalence of male violence against women: 46 per cent of women over 15 have been exposed to violence, 67 per cent of women have experienced violence and/or sexual harassment. More than 20 per cent of women from 18 to 24 years old were exposed to violence during the last year (2000).¹

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women: 56 per cent have been sexually molested. The most common form of violence outside a relationship is sexual violence. Every fourth woman has been exposed to sexual violence without a sexual relationship. 13 per cent of all women stated, they had experienced severe sexual violence such as rape, attempt to rape, sexual force and sexual exploitation by a man without having a sexual relationship with him.²

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

Number of femicides: 20 in 2009 and 20 in 2010

Number of cases of male violence against women: 26,261 in 2009 and 27,312 in 2010.

Number of cases of male violence against women by a partner or ex partner: 11,605 in 2009 and 12,422 in 2010.

Number of cases of male sexual violence against women: there were 2,935 cases of reported rape in 2009 and 3,245 in 2010.

National Criminal Justice Statistics:

Number of convicted cases of male violence against women:

Number of convicted cases of male violence against women by a partner or ex partner: 4,035 in 2009 and 1,259 in 2010

Number of convicted cases of male sexual violence against women: there were 1,285 cases of reported rape in 2009 and 1,259 in 2010.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There are two national women's helplines in Sweden. One was established in 2000/2007 by "Terrafem" (020 52 10 10) an independent women's NGO using a gender specific approach. The helpline is open 24/7 free of charge for women survivors of domestic violence and girls over 14 years old.

The other helpline is called "Kvinnofridslinjen" and available under: 020-21 22 23. It's a state funded 24/7 helpline.

Therefore the helplines in Sweden fulfills the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline for women, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women. Multi-lingual support is provided.

Funding is from the State, permanent (75 per cent) and temporary (25 per cent).

Table of Women's HELPLINES:



Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls
2	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 per cent	No data available.

Other National Helplines

Sweden also has over 100 other regional helplines for all survivors of violence, including the helpline "Crime Survivors" run by "Boj" an independent women's NGO. The helpline is free of charge, but only open 09.00 – 12.00 and 13.00 – 16.00 during the week. Multi-lingual support in 20 languages is provided by volunteers (08-644 00 42).

Women's Shelters

There are 184 women's shelters in Sweden. The first shelter was opened in 1978 by the "All Women's House" in Stockholm and Women in Gothenburg and the most recent, The will Women's Shelter, Ljusdal in 2010.

Six of the shelters are run by the State³, three are run by religious organisations⁴ and a few by independent women's NGOs, members of ROKS and RKS, the national organisation for women's and young women's shelters in Sweden. They all apply a gender specific approach. All the shelters are free of charge, offer access 24/7 and take children. Up to two thirds have an age limit for boys and all have an age limit for girls.

All the shelters offer access to migrant women and up to two thirds offer access to undocumented, asylum seeking and Roma women. There are 11 specific shelters for migrant, minority ethnic and asylum seeking women in Sweden. No information is available on access for women with disabilities.

The shelters provide 510 places for women and their children. This does not fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population. In the national action plan (NAP) there are plans to start women's shelters where they are needed. The County Administrative Board is tasked with coordinating, supporting and following up the equality work in the county. However currently shelters are under threat due to funding shortfalls and threats to their budgets.

Women can stay in the majority of shelters for as long as they need to. The shelters have approximately up to three full time staff half of which are dedicated to support children.

The majority of shelters are funded primarily by the State (75 per cent) though temporary funding from municipalities, with support from volunteers (25 per cent).

National statistics of the shelters run by members of ROKS, the national organisation for women's and young women's shelters in Sweden. 1,754 women were accommodated in ROKs shelters in 2010 and 1,499 children. This was a total of 67,841 overnight stays by women and 49,987 overnight stays by children in 2010. Approximately 1,030 women and their children could not be accommodated by the ROKs shelters in 2010 because of lack of available places.

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
156	510	898	388	510	No data available.	75 per cent

SWEDEN

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are three gender specific sexual violence centres in Sweden for women and girls. The first centre was set up in 1981 in Stockholm by RSCI, the National Society support center against incest and the most recent in 2008 in Östergötland.

One sexual violence centre is run by the State and two by NGOs only one applies a gender specific approach. Therefore Sweden does not meet the Council of Europe recommendation of one centre providing services for women and children survivors of sexual violence per 200,000 inhabitants. One centre also offers support to girls of any age, no data is available on access to the sexual violence centres for migrant, minority ethnic, asylum seeking or undocumented women.

Half of the funding for sexual violence centres comes from the State (50 per cent): nationally for the Rape Centre in Stockholm and from municipal funding for RSCI and Novahuset. The other funding is from volunteers.

No data on the users of sexual violence centres is available.

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

There are about 60 young women's empowerment centres in Sweden providing a range of support for young women including for young women survivors of violence. There are many general women's centres which are not countable.

National Networks of Women's Services

There is a national network of women's support services in Sweden: ROKS, the national organisation for women's and young women's shelters.

Recent Changes in service provision

One service closed in September 2011, Association Simone-free zone in Gothenburg for financial reasons and a shelter is in danger of closing also for financial reasons, Women's Shelter in the Valley. Many other services are in danger of budget cuts because of the short term nature of funding for services.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

Social security benefits and housing programmes are available to women in Sweden, including migrant women and asylum seeking women survivors of violence. This support is not available to undocumented women.

Legal protection from violence

Protective orders were introduced in Sweden. Under the law the police barring orders can be issued in cases of physical violence, threats of violence, psychological violence and stalking and can cover the survivors dwelling, the surrounding area and other places such as workplace, schools the survivor's children attend and prohibit general contact.

The orders protect women and men, married, cohabiting and same-sex partners, children, survivors of stalking and migrant women, asylum seeking women and undocumented migrant women.

No national statistics are available on the use of police barring orders.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Sweden had a national action plan to combat violence against women for the period 2007 -2010 covering domestic violence, female genital mutilation, so called honour crimes, forced marriage and same sex violence. There is currently no governmental coordinating body responsible for implementing and coordinating the policies regarding violence against women.

CEDAW

In the concluding comments on Sweden at the Fortieth session, 14 January – 1 February 2008, CEDAW commended Sweden's efforts to combat violence against women including the 2007 action plan on violence and the new legislations on sexual crimes. However the Committee remained concern at the high level of violence against women, particularly domestic crimes and so called honour crimes and the low prosecution and conviction rates for violent crimes. The

Committee also expressed concerns that not all municipalities were able to provide sheltered accommodation for women survivors of violence, including for women with disabilities. The Committee called on Sweden to ensure comprehensive measures are in place to address all forms of violence against women and allocate sufficient financial resources to ensure effective implementation of the 2007 national action plan. CEDAW also urged Sweden to collect comprehensive gender disaggregated statistical data by sex, age and type of violence and the relationship of the perpetrator to the survivor and to ensure the provision of sufficient, adequately funded shelters across the country equipped to accommodate women with disabilities.

Endnotes

- ¹ Captured Queen - Men's violence against women in „equal“ Sweden - a prevalence study, 2001 <http://webapps01.un.org/vawdatabase/searchDetail.action?measureId=20147&baseHref=country&baseHrefId=1249> (11 March 2012). The consequences of being exposed to threats are serious. Women with experiences of threats report more and more serious physical and psychological symptoms than women without threats. Suicide attempts and suicidal thoughts are higher among women exposed to threats. Violence is committed by men from all societal levels and men with different ethnic backgrounds. Swedish men are responsible for 80 per cent of all violence occurring in a marriage or partnership. 15 per cent of all survivors reported the latest incident to the police.
- ² *ibid*
- ³ Crisis Centre for Women Gothenburg, Malmö Crisis Centre for Women, Women's Crisis Centre Stockholm, Women's Accommodation Siri Uppsala Municipality, Kristina Stockholm, Women's Accommodation Hera Umeå Municipality
- ⁴ Salvation Army Women living Skogsbo, Young Women's Shielding, Ersta Refuge Sheltered housing.

SWITZERLAND

General Country Information

Population: 7,288,010

Female population: 3,720,443

Member of Council of Europe: 1963

Member of European Union: no

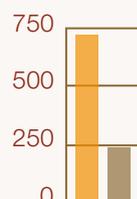
CEDAW ratified: 1997

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2008

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: No

ratified: No

SWITZERLAND



No. of Shelters:	18
Rec. No. of Shelter Places:	729
No. of Shelter Places:	247

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

Prevalence of male violence against women: There are two surveys, one from Gillioz in 19971 and one from Kilias 20052

Datas extracted from Kilias's survey (2005):

39.4% have experienced physical or sexual violence at least once in their adult life.

5.6% of women have been victims of rape at least once in their adult life.

6.8% have been victims of rape attempt.

Data extracted from Gillioz, De Puy & Ducret (1997):

2.7% of women have been victims of physical and/or sexual violence from their partner

4.3% has been victim of partner violence (physical, sexual and/or psychological)

Physical violence is combined with psychological violence in almost 90% of the situations.

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women: Research data available on other forms of violence against women:

No data available.

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

Number of femicides: No data available.

Number of cases of family violence: No data available.

National Criminal Justice Statistics:

Number of convicted cases of male violence against women:

No data available.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There is no national women's helpline in Switzerland. Therefore Switzerland does not fulfill the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women.

Other National Helplines

There are two helplines, the "Helping Hand", serving people in difficult situations and "Pro Juventute", supporting children and young people with problems. Both helplines are run by NGOs, are free of charge and open 24/7 and offer multi-lingual support in French, German and Italian.

There are also several internet platforms offering advice to individuals who have been affected by domestic violence: www.violencequefaire.ch offers information and counselling in French to survivors of partner violence as well as to perpetrators. One of the sections of the website site is designed for teenagers and young adults confronted with partner violence. Another website, www.stopit.ch, provides support to German speaking women survivors of domestic violence.

Women's Shelters

There are 18 shelters in Switzerland run by independent women's NGOs serving women survivors of domestic violence using a gender specific approach. The first shelter was opened in 1979. There is one shelter specifically for migrant women in the country Violetta in Zürich.

Less than 50 per cent of the shelters offer access 24/7 and over 75 per cent offer services free of charge. Over 75 per cent of the shelters take children however there is an age limit for boys of 14-15 years old. There is no official age limit for girls.

The shelters provide a total of 247 places for women and their children. This is not sufficient and therefore Switzerland does not fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.

All the shelters offer access to migrant, undocumented, asylum seekers, and Roma women, however very few offered access to women with disabilities, less than 25 per cent.

Over 50 percent of the staff is dedicated to the work with children. Women can stay as long as they need protection, in 13 shelters women can stay for one-three months and four-six months in five of the shelters. The challenge is finding permanent accommodation to enable the women to leave the shelter; this is particularly difficult in Geneva, Bern and Zurich.

No data is available on the funding of shelters.

National statistics are collected by the network of women's shelters, "Frauenhaus", on the number of women and children who use the shelters. In shelters in 2010 approximately 1,051 women were accommodated and 1,009 children were accommodated. This was a total of 32,360 overnight stays by women and 30,723 stays by children in 2010. Approximately 1,247 women and their children could not be accommodated by the 18 shelters because of lack of available places in 2010.

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
18	247	729	482	7	18	No data available.

Other Shelters

There is no data available on other shelters in Switzerland.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are six gender specific sexual violence centres for women and girls in Switzerland. The first one was opened in 1981 in Zurich by the Helpline for Rape. Information is only available on four of the centres. Two of the centres are run by hospital services and two by independent women's NGO's. Three of the centres only serve adult women and young women from the age of 16 years oldi on and one centre serves women and girls from 14 years old on. All four centres use a gender-specific approach. One centre access especially for the children of women survivors of sexual violence.

They all offer access to migrant, undocumented, asylum seekers, Roma women and access is offered to all women with disabilities.

The two centres run by hospital services are funded entirely by the state. The others are funded primarily by the State (86 per cent) permanent and private donations (16 per cent).

SWITZERLAND

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

There are 20 women's centres for survivors of violence and their children in Switzerland. Eight of them apply a gender-specific approach and eight of the centres are also specialised in the support of girls under 18 years old. The majority of the centres (17) are specialised in supporting women survivors of domestic violence and one in supporting women survivors of trafficking.

The all offer access to migrant, undocumented, asylum seekers, and Roma women. No information is available on the funding of these centres.

National Networks of Women's Services

There is a national network of women's support services in Switzerland: the organisation of women's shelters ("Frauenhäuser") in Switzerland and Lichtenstein; there is also a national network of sexual violence centres, Helpline, ("Nottelefon"). There is also a network of Cantonal Equality offices delegates in charge of domestic violence, who gather to discuss issues related to domestic violence and to exchange information.

Recent Changes in service provision

There were no changes in service provision for women survivors of violence during 2011. All the shelters are finding the current financial situation difficult.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

Social security benefits are available to all citizens with residency rights in Switzerland including women survivors of violence. Social security benefits are available to migrant women, undocumented women, or asylum seeking women, however lengthy dependence on social welfare could result in the loss of a residence permit. There are no housing programs for women survivors of violence.

Legal protection from violence

Protective orders were introduced in Switzerland in the Law for Survivors of Criminal Offences (1993) and The Swiss Civil Code – art. 28b (2007). Police barring orders can be issued in cases of physical violence, threats of violence and stalking and can cover the survivors dwelling, the surrounding area and other places such as workplace and schools the survivor's children attend and prohibit general contact.

Civil protection orders are available to survivors in cases of physical violence, threats of violence and stalking and cover the survivor's house the surrounding area and other places such as workplace and schools the survivor's children attend and prohibit general contact.

Criminal law protection orders are available in cases of physical violence, threats of violence and stalking. These protective measures apply to survivor's dwelling. The survivor is also offered compensation for changing of locks and offered accommodation in a women's shelter.

Protection orders are available for all family members including women and men, married cohabiting, same-sex and ex-partners partners, children and to migrant women, asylum seeking women and undocumented migrant women. However some protection measures offered on a long term basis can only be accessed by undocumented people if declare their status to the immigration office and thus risk expulsion from Switzerland.

Statistics on Protective Orders

No data is available on the use of protective orders.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Switzerland does not have a NAP to combat violence against women.

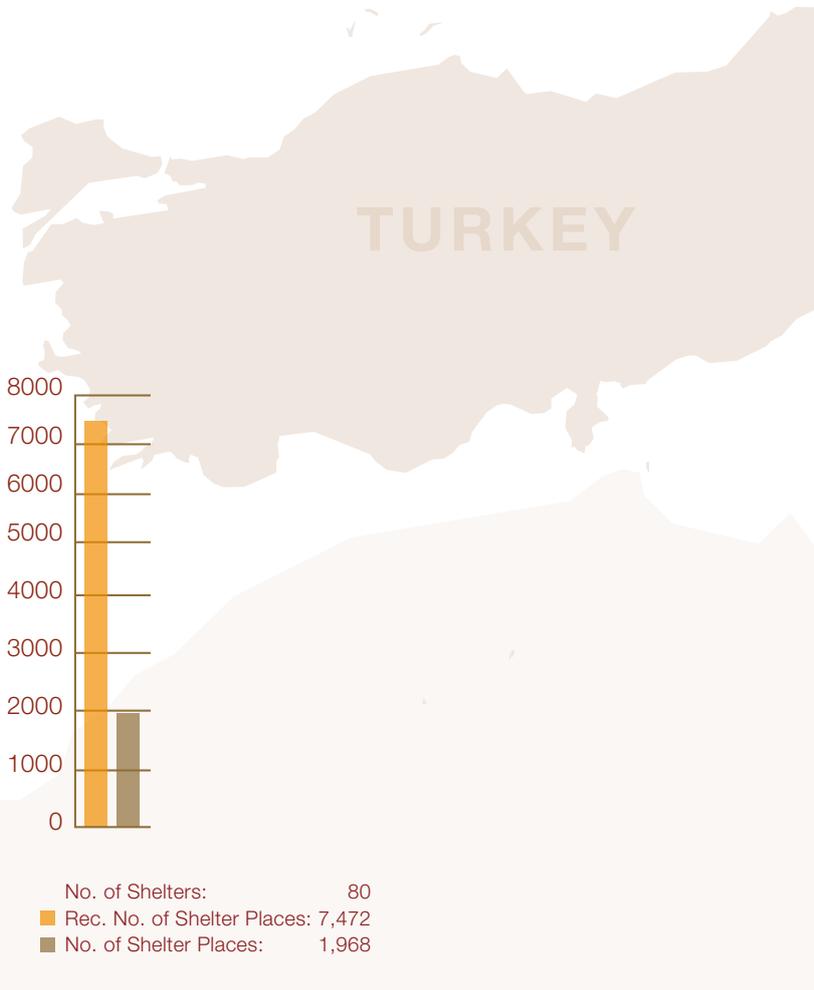
CEDAW

In the concluding comments on Switzerland at the Forty-Fourth session, July- August 2009, CEDAW welcomed the legislative measures Switzerland had taken to combat violence against women, including enabling judges to expel a perpetrator from the home shared with the survivor for a fixed period. However the Committee remained concerned at the continuing prevalence of violence against women and the absence of a comprehensive national law. The Committee also expressed concern at the limited number of shelters and that support for, or the setting up of, shelters was not considered the state party's responsibility or regulated by law. The Committee urged Switzerland to enact comprehensive legislation that sanctions all forms of violence against women and provides survivors with the protection and redress, and provides for additional support services to be set up, including shelters, and to be funded by the state.

Endnotes

- ¹ Gilloz, L., J. De Puy et V. Ducret (1997), *Domination et violence envers la femme dans le couple*. Lausanne: Payot.
- ² Kilius M., M. Simonin and J. De Puy (2005), *Violence experienced by women in Switzerland over their lifespan: Results of the International Violence against Women Survey (IAWS)*, Berne: Stämpfli.
- ³ The age of sexual majority in Switzerland.

TURKEY



General Country Information

Population: 74,724,269

Female population: 37,191,315

Member of Council of Europe: 1949

Member of European Union: Candidate Country

CEDAW ratified: 1985

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2002

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: 11.05.2011

ratified: 21.11.2011

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women: No data available.

Prevalence of male violence against women: No data available.

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women: No data available.

However data are available from Turkish Statistics Agency (TÜİK) - Domestic Violence Statistics:¹

Women facing physical or sexual violence from their partner in lifetime 39.3 per cent, in last 12 months 9.9 per cent.

Women are facing sexual violence from their partner in lifetime 15.3 per cent, in the last 12 months 7 per cent. Women facing physical or sexual violence from non-partner: sexual 3.3 per cent, physical 17.8 per cent.

Crime statistics reported by the Police: No data available.

Number of femicides: since 2005: 4,000 femicides (estimated).

National Criminal Justice Statistics: No data available.

Number of convicted cases of family violence: No data available.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There are two national women's helplines in Turkey. The "Family, Woman, Child, Disabled and Social Service Counseling Line" (Phone number 183) was set up in 2007 by Ministry of Family and Social Policies. The second women's helpline is the "Hürriyet Emergency Domestic Violence Hotline" (Phone number: 0212 656 9696), set up by "Hürriyet Newspaper", Contemporary Education Foundation, CNN Turk TV Channel. Both helplines provide support to women and girls survivors of all forms of violence, though only the Hürriyet Emergency Domestic Violence Hotline uses a gender-specific approach.

Both helplines are free of charge and open 24/7 and therefore Turkey fulfills the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women a helpline for women.

Multi-lingual support is not provided by either helpline.

The Family, Woman, Child, Disabled and Social Service Counseling Line is funded entirely by the State (100 per cent) and has 12 paid staff. The Hürriyet Emergency Domestic Violence Hotline is funded entirely by private donations.

Table of Women's HELPLINES:

Number of national helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls
1 (No.183)	Yes	Yes	No	100 per cent	11,712
1	Yes	Yes	No	None	No data available.

Other National Helplines

There is no other national helpline for survivors of violence in Turkey.

Women's Shelters

There are 80 shelters in Turkey run by independent women's NGOs ("Mor Çatı's shelter", "Ankara Kadın Dayanışma Vakfı", "VAKAD-Van Women's Association for refugee women") (3)¹, other NGOs (1), the State (51) and others (25)², serving women survivors of domestic violence and trafficking.

This is an increase of 18 shelters from 2010 due to a recent change in the Municipalities Law which requires all municipalities with a population above 50,000 to open a shelter.³

Recent Changes in service provision

There were 17 new shelters set up in the municipalities for women survivors of violence during 2011.

The first shelter was opened in 1995 by "Mor Catı" and independent women's NGO. 77 of the shelters serve women survivors of domestic violence, two serve women survivors of trafficking and there is one specific shelter for migrant women "The Refugee Shelter" in Van. Only the three independent women's NGO shelters use a gender specific approach.

The shelters are free of charge however less than 25 per cent offer 24/7 access. Over 75 per cent of the shelters have an age limit for boys ranging from 9 -12 years old, none of them have an age limit for girls.

The shelters provide a total of 1,968 places for women and their children in 2011. This does not fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in special women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.

Less than 25 per cent of the shelters provide access to migrant, undocumented, asylum seekers, Roma women and women with disabilities. In the State run shelters women can stay for 4-6 months, in the other shelters women can stay for more than 12 months, with only one shelter having no time limit. More than 25 per cent of the shelters have staff dedicated to the work with children.

The shelters are funded primarily by the state (95 per cent), with other support from private donations (1 per cent) and volunteers (4 per cent).

National statistics on the users of shelters are not collected on an annual basis.⁴

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
80	1,968	7,472	5,504	No data available.	0	95 per cent

TURKEY

Other Shelters

Turkey also has one other shelter for survivors of trafficking and 79 shelters for survivors of family violence.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are no gender specific sexual violence centers in Turkey for women and girls. Therefore Turkey does not meet the Council of Europe recommendation of one centre providing services for women and children survivors of sexual violence per 200,000 inhabitants.

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

There are approximately 36 women's centres for survivors of violence and their children in Turkey, comprised of Women's Counselling centers. There is also a number of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors. The majority provide specialised support to women survivors of domestic violence, two provide specialised support to trafficked women, one to migrant, minority ethnic and asylum seeking women and one provides specialised support to girls under 18.

Less than 25 per cent of them offer access to migrant, undocumented, asylum seekers, Roma women and women with disabilities. Over 75 per cent however offer help to girls under 18 and children of women seeking help.

Funding comes from the State (60 per cent), foreign donations (3 per cent), private donations (32 per cent) and volunteers (4 per cent).

National statistics on the use of these women's centres are not collected systematically.

General Women's Centres

There are around 146 general women's centres in Turkey. They are run by the State and give mainly family support and training for families, women and children.

National Networks of Women's Services

There is a national coalition of women's support services in Turkey: the Women's Counseling Centers and Shelters Assembly, of mainly independent women NGOs who are running counseling centers and shelters. It is coordinated by "Mor Çati".

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

Social security benefits are available to all citizens with residency rights in Turkey including women survivors of violence however there are no specific housing programmes available to women survivors of violence. Social security benefits are not available to migrant women, undocumented women, or asylum seeking women in Turkey.

Legal protection from violence

Protective measures for women survivors of violence were introduced in Turkey in the Family Protection Law 4320 in 1998. The law provides for police barring orders to be issued for six months in cases of physical violence, threats of violence, psychological violence and stalking.

Civil protection orders and criminal protection orders are also available for six months for survivors in cases of physical and psychological violence, threats of violence and stalking. The protection orders are available for all family members, married partners and children.

No data is available on the use of protective orders.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Turkey has a current national action plan to combat domestic violence for 2007 – 2010, and another national action plan for Gender Equality (2008 – 2013). No information is available on the budget allocated to implement the national action plan. There is a governmental coordinating body responsible for implementing and coordinating the policies regarding violence against women. It is an inter-ministerial body with the power to make policy decisions, Women's NGOs are not members of the coordinating body.

CEDAW⁵

In the concluding comments on Turkey at the Forty-sixth session, January - February 2010, CEDAW welcomed the amendments to the Turkish Penal Code and other measures to combat violence against women including the adoption of a national action plan to combat domestic violence. However the Committee expressed concern at the prevalence of violence against women, including domestic violence, persistence of so called honor killings and the lack of data available on its incidence in rural or remote areas. The committee recommended strengthening laws, protection measures and expanding the training of public officials to ensure women and girls survivors of violence have access to immediate redress and protection. The Committee also recommended expanding the provision of adequately resourced counselling centres and shelters and requested the State enhance its cooperation with NGOs working to combat violence against women.

Endnotes

- ¹ Mor Çatı's shelter for women survivors of domestic violence, Ankara Kadın Dayanışma Vakfı for women survivors trafficking, and VAKAD-Van Women's Association for refugee women.
- ² Information from the website of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, it is not clear how many of them belong to which institution (<http://www.shcek.gov.tr/2011-yili-agustos-ayi.aspx>) (29 February 2012).
- ³ Concern has been raised regarding the quality of some of the services of the new shelters.
- ⁴ Monthly statistics for how many women and children have stayed at the state shelters in 2009-2010 and 2011, are available on the website of Ministry of Family and Social Policies <http://www.shcek.gov.tr/istatistik.aspx> (29 February 2012). But information on the total number of women and children accommodated per year is not available because there are no statistics on the number of women who are accommodated or who leave the shelters each month despite the huge circulation of women and children in state shelters.
- ⁵ http://www.iwraw-ap.org/committee/pdf/46_concluding_observations/turkey.pdf (29 February 2012).

UKRAINE

General Country Information

Population: 48,240,902

Female population: 25,924,585¹

Member of Council of Europe: 1995

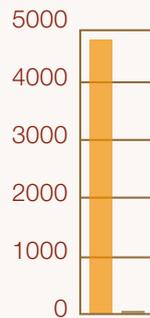
Member of European Union: No

CEDAW ratified: 1981

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2003

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence signed: No

UKRAINE



No. of Shelters: 3

Rec. No. of Shelter Places: 4,824

No. of Shelter Places: 20 approx.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Prevalence survey data on violence against women:

Prevalence of male violence against women: 33 per cent of women over 18 years face domestic violence in their life time.² In 2008 13% of women report being subject to physical violence by their current or former husband, the majority had been subject to at least one incident in the last year.³

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women: 5 percent of women in Ukraine have experienced sexual violence at some time in their life. Younger women age 15-19 years are less likely to report having ever experienced sexual violence (less than 1 %) compared with older women (5-7%). Divorced or separated women are substantially more likely to have experienced sexual violence (13 %) than currently married women (5 percent) and never-married women (2 %).⁴ More than one-third of women (35 %) reported a former husband or partner as the perpetrator of sexual violence. One in six women (16 %) named a current husband or partner as the perpetrator of sexual violence, while one in ten (10 %) identified a friend or acquaintance as the perpetrator.

Crime statistics reported by the Police: No data available.

Number of femicides: Approximately 1,000 in 2009 and 1,000 in 2010⁵

Number of cases of family violence: 93,327 cases in 2009⁶ and 91,913 cases in 2010⁷ and 102,150 cases in the first six months of 2011, 92 per cent of the perpetrators were men.

National Criminal Justice Statistics: No data available.

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

Ukraine does not have a specific national women's helpline, but a joint helpline for women and children. Therefore Ukraine does not fulfill the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women.

Other National Helplines

The only helpline available to women survivors of violence is the Domestic Violence Counteraction and Child Rights Protection. This helpline was set up in 1997 by the International Women's Rights Centre La Strada Ukraine, an independent

women's NGO. The helpline provides calls free of charge. It has eight staff and three volunteers and provides multi-lingual support in Russian, English, German, Italian, Ukrainian and French.

The helpline is open part time from Monday to Saturday 09.00 – 20.00pm and Sunday from 10.00 – 18.00pm. In 2009 it received 3,756 calls and in 2010 6,244 calls, nearly half of all the calls received are from children (48.2%) and a third are from women (35.6%).

Funding is provided by inter-governmental organizations (60%), foreign donations (30%), private donations (5%) and volunteer work (5%).

There are two helplines for survivors of human trafficking. The National Toll Free Hotline on Trafficking in persons, which is also run by the International Women's Rights Centre La Strada Ukraine. Open Monday to Saturday 9.00 to 20.00 pm the helpline is free of charge and provides a multi lingual service in English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Ukrainian to all victims of trafficking.

The second helpline is the National Migrant Advice and Counter-Trafficking Hotline, supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) administered by the Center for Migrant Advice, a local NGO. The helpline is free of charge and open Monday to Friday from 10.00 to 21.00 p.m., Saturdays from 10.00 to 18.00 p.m. The service is provided in Ukrainian and English.

Women's Shelters

There are approximately three shelters in the Ukraine providing around 100 places for women survivors of violence and their children. This falls far short of the number required to fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.

The first shelter was established in 1999 by Kyiv City Municipal Council. No information is available on the approach taken by the shelters, the women they support or the services they provide. The women's shelters do not have permanent financial support.

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
3	20 approx.	4,824	4,804	No data available.	No data available.	No data available.

Other Shelters

Officially, there are 22 centres of social-psychological support that provide shelter to women survivors of violence available in the Ukraine.⁹ However, the information given is controversial. Other sources report of approximately three shelters that are currently open. Furthermore, there is no information about what services they provide or their users. In some centres women can stay overnight, in others they cannot. It depends on the local funding situation. The criteria for accepting women at these services are not clear, though usually it is restricted to women from the respective city or region. Some services only accept women less than 35 years old and no service accepts undocumented women.¹⁰

There is also a Medical Rehabilitation Centre for survivors of trafficking run by the IOM since 2002. Identified survivors of trafficking who have been referred and accepted in to the IOM Reintegration Programme can undergo medical treatment and psychological counselling at the Rehabilitation Center, if needed. They can also stay in the centre. Between 2000 and 2011 the IOM Reintegration Programme assisted close to 8,000 survivors of trafficking; of those almost 2,000 survivors were assisted at the IOM Medical Rehabilitation Centre.¹¹

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are no sexual violence centres for women and girls survivors of violence in the Ukraine. Therefore the Ukraine does not meet the Council of Europe recommendation for the provision of services for women and children survivors of sexual violence of one centre per 200,000 inhabitants.

UKRAINE

General Women's Centres

Some women's organisations provide services to women. However there is no information on the services they provide or the women they support and lack of funding has resulted in insecurity and closures.

National Networks of Women's Services

There is a national network of women's support services in Ukraine, the Stop Violence network, (info@la-strada.org.ua). The network has been running since 2008 without any formal support.

Recent Changes in service provision

A number of women's services closed in 2010/2011 and a number were in danger of closing, particular in Northern Ukraine where there is no executive board for gender equality.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

No financial aid or housing support is available to women survivors of violence in Ukraine.

Legal protection from violence

The Ukrainian law on prevention of domestic violence, 2002 covers three main aspects: law enforcement, social assistance and health. The separate section of the new Criminal Code of Ukraine that entered into force on 1 September 2001 contains articles concerning crimes against sexual freedom and sexual inviolability of the person including: "rape", "violent satisfaction of sexual passion a unnatural way", "compulsion to the introduction into sexual intercourse", "sexual relation with the person, who are not achieved sexual maturity", and "depravity of minors". Punishment for these crimes is directed primarily on the protection of women's rights, as they suffer from them more often.¹²

Police barring orders are available for physical violence, threats of violence and psychological violence and prohibit the perpetrator from further violence. The barring orders protect women and men, married and cohabiting partners, children and all family members. 3,304 barring orders were issued in 2009 and 2,461 in the first eight months of 2010.

There are no civil or criminal Law Protection orders available in Ukraine.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Ukraine does not have a NAP to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women.

CEDAW

In the concluding comments January – February 2010 at the forty-fifth session, CEDAW welcomed the measures undertaken to eliminate violence against women in particular the adoption of the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (in 2001), and the adoption of a comprehensive programme for the prevention of trafficking in persons in Ukraine for the period 2002-2005. However CEDAW expressed continuing concern at the prevalence of the phenomenon and the lack of information on the effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Act. The use of fines for the majority of domestic violence penalties which are largely ineffective was also noted with concern by the Committee. The Committee called on the State party to ensure effective penalties for perpetrators, and improve its research and data collection on violence against women and the implementation of the law on domestic violence.

Endnotes

- ¹ Gfk study in 2009 (n=1,800 women and men, random choice). The survey was administered in November-December 2009 based on a nationally representative sample and covered 1,800 respondents aged 18 and older. Source: Violence in Ukrainian Families. Program of Equal Opportunities and Women's Rights in Ukraine, EU, Sida, UNDP, (online) Available at: <http://www.undp.org.ua/en/media/41-democratic-governance/915-ten-unknown-facts-about-domestic-violence-in-ukraine-a-joint-euundp-project-releases-new-poll-results>.
- ² See Source: Ukrainian Center for Social Reforms (UCSR), State Statistical Committee (SSC) [Ukraine], Ministry of Health (MOH) [Ukraine], and Macro International Inc. 2008. Ukraine Demographic and Health Survey 2007. Calverton, Maryland, USA: UCSR and Macro International, <http://204.12.126.218/dhs/pubs/pdf/FR210/FR210.pdf>.
- ³ Ukrainian Center for Social Reforms (UCSR), State Statistical Committee (SSC) [Ukraine], Ministry of Health (MOH) [Ukraine], and Macro International Inc. 2008. Ukraine Demographic and Health Survey 2007. Calverton, Maryland, USA: UCSR and Macro International, <http://204.12.126.218/dhs/pubs/pdf/FR210/FR210.pdf>
- ⁴ Estimation by the Minister of Family, Youth and sports Ravil Safiullin www.utro.ua/ru/proisshestiya/v_ukrainskih_semyah_protsvetaet_nasilie1290617202.
- ⁵ Ibid. See also CEDAW Pre-session working group, forty-fifth session, 10 November 2010, Responses to the list of issues and questions with regard to the consideration of the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports Ukraine CEDAW/C/UKR/Q/7/Add.1, <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N09/600/82/PDF/N0960082.pdf?OpenElement>. See also Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group, 2011 (online), www.khpg.org/index.php?id=1298361851.
- ⁶ Ministry of Internal Affairs Ukraine, Statistics provided as Excel sheet by WAVE Focal Point: "La Strada Ukraine". The number shows the amount of men on police files for a domestic violence offence registered at the beginning of the reporting period. Data is not collected on the sex of the victim so this figure includes women as well as all other family members. In the first 6 months of 2011, the total number of registered cases of domestic violence by men exceeds the total amount of 2010. 92% of the perpetrators are men. Among the various administrative penalties imposed by the courts, fines are the majority (82%) in 2010. The policy of imposing a fine as the main administrative penalty in cases of domestic violence is largely negative and ineffective, because its impact is on the family as whole, not on the offender; see CEDAW Pre-session working group, forty-fifth session, 10 November 2011, Responses to the list of issues and questions with regard to the consideration of the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports Ukraine CEDAW/C/UKR/Q/7/Add.1 [online] <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N09/600/82/PDF/N0960082.pdf?OpenElement> Accessed [7 September 2011] p.16.
- ⁷ Data provided by WAVE Focal Point: Women's Information Consultative Center Ukraine, www.empedu.org.ua
- ⁸ Government information in: Protecting women against violence. Analytical study of the results of the third round of monitoring the implementation of Recommendation Rec (2002) 5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member states prepared by Prof. Dr. Carol Hagemann-White University of Osnabrück, Germany
- ⁹ Data provided by WAVE Focal Point Women's Information Consultative Center Ukraine, www.empedu.org.ua
- ¹⁰ Information provided by: International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mission in Ukraine
- ¹¹ The Criminal Code was adopted on 5 April 2001 and signed on 17 May 2001; it entered into force on 1 September 2001; Source: Legislation in the Member States of the Council of Europe in the Field of Violence Against Women: Gender Equality Division. Council of Europe Directorate General of Human Rights. Strasbourg 2009, http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/equality/03themes/violence-against-women/EG%282009%293-vol2_en.pdf Accessed [5 September 2011], p. 123.
- ¹² Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women CEDAW/C/UKR/CO/7, 28 January 2010, <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws45.htm>.

UNITED KINGDOM

General Country Information

Population: UK 62,262,000,
England 52,234,000, Northern Ireland 1,799,392
Scotland 5,222,100, Wales 3,006,400

Female population: UK 31,400,000,
England 26,476,400, Northern Ireland 914,998,
Scotland 2,691,785, Wales 1,536,000

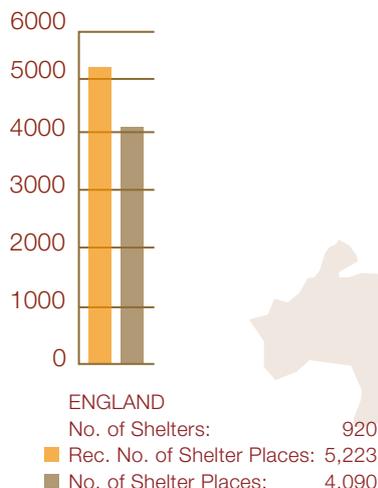
Member of Council of Europe: 1949

Member of European Union: 1973

CEDAW ratified: 1986

CEDAW Optional Protocol ratified: 2004

**Council of Europe Convention on preventing
and combating violence against women and
domestic violence signed:** No



FACTS AND FIGURES ENGLAND AND WALES

*Prevalence survey data on violence against women:*¹

Prevalence of male violence against women: At least one in four women will experience domestic violence from the age of 16 years old, often with years of psychological abuse. 29 – 32 per cent of women between 16- 59 experience partner or family violence in their life time. Every year one million women experience at least one incident of domestic violence – nearly 20,000 women a week.² Domestic violence has the highest rate of repeat instances. 46 per cent will experience domestic violence twice or more, one in four: three times or more.³

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women: 2009: Almost one in five women will experience sexual assault in their lifetime. Every year around 400,000 women are sexually assaulted and 80,000 women raped.⁴

In 2010 and 2011 between two and four per cent of women experienced sexual assault in the past year: partner (50 per cent) and strangers (50 per cent). 23 per cent of women and three per cent of men experience sexual assault as an adult. Five per cent of women and 0.4 per cent of men experience rape.⁵ 3.7 million women in England and Wales have been sexually assaulted at some point since the age of 16.⁶

Research data available on other forms of violence against women:

In 2010 the forced marriage unit received 1,735 reports relating to possible forced marriage, 70 instances involving people with disabilities (50 with learning disabilities, 17 with physical disabilities and three with both), and 36 instances involving survivors who identified themselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transsexual (LGBT). Of the 1,735 instances, 86 per cent were female and 14 per cent male. In 2011 there were 1,468 instances related to a possible forced marriage, 66 involving people with disabilities (56 with learning disabilities, eight with physical disabilities and two with both), and 10 instances involving survivors who identified themselves as LGBT. Of the 1,468 instances, 78 per cent were female and 22 per cent male.⁷ Approximately 66,000 women with female genital mutilation are living in England and Wales.⁸ 20 per cent of women say they have experienced stalking at some point since the age of 16.⁹ There were more than 2,800 incidents of so called “honour” based violence in the United Kingdom in 2010.¹⁰

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

Number of femicides: 101 women were killed by their partner or ex partner and 28 by other family members in 2009 and 94 by their partner or ex partner and 20 by other family members in 2010.¹¹ This makes an average of two women a week.

Number of cases of male violence against women:

Number of cases of male violence against women by a partner or ex partner: Domestic violence accounts for 18 per cent of all violent incidents in England and Wales in 2010/11. Seven per cent of women and five per cent of men reported having experienced any domestic violence in 2010/11. 73 per cent of incidents of domestic violence were experienced by repeat survivors, and of the survivors interviewed, just under half were affected more than once, and nearly a quarter were

affected three or more times.¹²

Number of cases of male sexual violence against women: The police recorded 43,579 most serious sexual offences in 2009/10, a seven per cent increase compared with the 40,748 recorded in 2008/09. Within this total police recorded rapes of a female increased by 15 per cent to 13,991 offences, and sexual assaults on a female increased by one per cent to 19,873 offences.¹³

Number of cases of intimate partner violence:

Number of cases of family violence:

290,000 cases of domestic violence in England and Wales in 2009, data is not gender desegregated.¹⁴

National Criminal Justice Statistics: No data available.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Prevalence survey data on violence against women

Prevalence of male violence against women: One in five women in Northern Ireland has to experience domestic violence in her lifetime.¹⁵

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women: 23 per cent of women experience sexual assault as an adult and about five per cent of women experience rape.¹⁶

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

Number of femicides: Seven murders had a domestic motivation out of a total of 20, (35 per cent) of all murders in Northern Ireland, data not gender disaggregated.

Number of cases of male violence against women:

Number of cases of male violence against women by a partner or ex partner:

Number of cases of male sexual violence against women: In 2008/09 there were 1,943 recorded sexual offences approximately 78 per cent of survivors were female with gender unknown in eight per cent of the cases. Of these, 404 (21 per cent) were rape and attempted rape; 1134 (58 per cent) sexual assault/ sexual activity offences; 270 (14 per cent) exposure offences and 135 (7 per cent) recorded as 'other sexual offences'.

Nearly 55.8 per cent of sexual offences recorded in Northern Ireland were against young people under 18 years of age and 84 per cent of survivors in this age bracket were female. Approximately 440 cases reported to the police in 2009/10 and 525 rapes in 2010/11, more than ten a week.¹⁷

Number of cases of intimate partner violence:

Number of cases of family violence: In 2010/11 9,546 crimes with a domestic motivation were recorded by the Police Service Northern Ireland.¹⁸ This equates to 9.1 per cent of all crimes in 2010/11. Data are not gender disaggregated.

Where the gender and age of the survivor was known, 76 per cent of female domestic abuse survivors aged 18 and over were survivors of violence against the person offences.¹⁹ The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) responded to a domestic incident every 23 minutes of every day of the year in Northern Ireland.

National Criminal Justice Statistics: No data available.

SCOTLAND

Prevalence survey data on violence against women

Prevalence of male violence against women: 428,000 women have experienced partner abuse since the age of 16.²⁰

Prevalence of male sexual violence against women: 144,000 adults have experienced stalking since the age of 16. A further 332,000 have experienced less serious sexual assault and 118,000 have experienced any serious sexual assault.²¹

Crime statistics reported by the Police:

Number of femicides: 13 in 2008-2009

Number of cases of male violence against women: 963 rapes and attempted rapes were reported to the police in 2008-2009.²²

Number of cases of intimate partner violence: 42,745 cases of reported violence against women by men in 2009.

National Criminal Justice Statistics:

Number of convicted cases of male sexual violence against women: 2.9 per cent of rapes recorded by the police currently lead to a conviction

UNITED KINGDOM

COUNTRY: ENGLAND

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There is one national women's helpline in England, 24-hour National Domestic Violence Free phone Helpline (0808 2000 247), set up by two independent women's NGOs, Women's Aid Federation England and Shelter. The helpline provides support to women and girls (those younger than 16 years old are referred to Child line) survivors of domestic violence using a gender-specific approach.

The helpline is free of charge and open 24/7 and therefore fulfills the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women a helpline for women.

Multi-lingual support is provided in any language via language line, a telephone interpretation service.

Funding is from the state (70 per cent) with help from private donations, charities and trusts (60 per cent). There are twenty full time paid staff and twenty five volunteers working at the helplines two centres.

Table of Women's HELPLINES:



Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls
1	Yes	Yes	Yes	70 per cent	2010:110,600

Other National Helplines

There is also a number of other national helplines supporting survivors of violence. Some offer support across the United Kingdom including: Broken Rainbow UK, for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people experiencing domestic violence; Childline, for children dealing with violence across the UK; the National Stalking Helpline and Survivor Support Helpline and Survivors UK, for men who have been raped or sexually abused. There is also Men's advice line, for men in abusive relationships and Respect Phonenumber – help for domestic violence perpetrators that both cover England, Wales and Scotland.

There is also a 24 hour advice line, the Honour Network, Helpline for survivors of so called crimes of honour and forced marriage across the UK.

All the helplines are run by NGOs, a few are open 24/7 and the majority are free of charge.

Women's Shelters

There are 920 shelters in England run by 330 separate organisations half of whom are independent women's NGOs, the rest are religious based NGOs and other NGOs including housing organisations, serving women survivors of violence.²³ They all use a gender specific approach. The first shelters were opened in Cheswick, Lambeth and Kent in 1972.

The majority of the shelters serve women survivors of all forms of violence including so called crimes of honour and sexual violence; however the majority of women in the shelters are survivors of domestic violence. There is one shelter specifically for the women survivors of trafficking called the Poppy Project. 78 of the shelters have specialist services for black, minority, ethnic and refugee (BMER) women, forty six of these are specific BMER refugees.²⁴ There are also sixteen shelters run by independent BMER organisations specifically for BMER women.²⁵

Fewer than 50 percent of the shelters offer access 24/7 however one third (101) of the shelters state that they take emergency and overnight referrals. The shelters charge a rent to cover the running costs of the shelter; this is covered by housing benefit for those who are eligible. Women who are employed are required to pay the rent themselves. Undocumented women do not qualify for housing benefit, are accepted by some shelters, but usually only one or two families at a time because of the cost.²⁶

Up to ninety nine percent of the shelters also take children, age limits tend to vary with the average for boys of 14 (93 per cent) and girls of 17 (25 per cent), though often there is no age limit for girls.

While shelters offer access to migrant and Roma women, the majority receive support from specialist services. There is at least one specialist services for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller women. Over half (65 per cent) of the shelters provide access to undocumented women, at least short term while funding is being secured. However it is difficult for women undocumented women without access to any funding support to secure a place in a refuge and many are supported by BMER specialist services.²⁷ The majority of shelters (approximately 99 per cent) offer access to women asylum seekers. More than half (68 per cent) of the shelters offer access to women with disabilities, 90 shelters have full wheelchair access and a further 110 have limited wheelchair access (e.g. ground floor room). In addition to this 125 shelters offer some other form of support to disabled women, 11 have British sign language (BSL) workers and a further 59 offer access to BSL workers. 15 offer induction loops for the hard of hearing and 38 have flashing lights alarm systems, 23 have information in Braille, a further 24 offer taped information, 23 offer support to women with learning difficulties and 48 can accommodate a carer.

The length of time women and children can stay in these shelters varies, the majority are allowed to stay between three to six months however women are not asked to leave if they have nowhere to go. Thus due to cuts in available housing because of the economic downturn women are staying in the shelters longer. The average number of staff in shelters is 15 but this varies on the size of the shelter. More than 50 percent of the shelters also have staff dedicated to the work with children, though this reduced in 2011 as funding for specialist child workers has been cut because it is no longer a statutory service.²⁸

The shelters provide a total of 4,090 places for women and their children with 2,136 places missing according to the Council of Europe's minimum standard recommendation. Thus England does not fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.

The shelters are funded by the state, half from permanent funding and the other half from temporary state funding, either public tender contracts (1-3 years) or local authority funding.

National statistics are collected by Women's Aid on the number of women and children who use the shelters. In shelters in 2010 18,315 women were accommodated and 19,100 children were accommodated. A one day census in 2011 showed that 320 women and their children could not be accommodated by the shelters because of lack of available places, however 73 percent of were referred elsewhere.²⁹

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
920	4,090	5,223	1,133	No data available.	No data available.	100 per cent

Other Shelters

England also has a number of shelters for the homeless which will also accommodate women survivors of violence; however they do not take children. There are also mother and children homes and shelters for survivors of trafficking. There are also hostels for single women experiencing violence and bed and breakfast accommodation provided by local authorities.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are a number of sexual violence centres for women and girls in England including 46 Rape Crisis Centres run by independent women's NGOs and 30 Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) run by the Health Service. There are also many Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs).³⁰ The first sexual violence centre in England was opened in 1973 by London Rape Crisis. The latest sexual violence centre opened in 2011.

Rape Crisis Centres provide long term specialist support and advocacy free of charge for all women and girls of all ages who have experienced any form of sexual violence.³¹

UNITED KINGDOM

SARCs provide free specialist 24/7 services for people who have been raped or sexually assaulted. They assist primarily in the immediate aftermath of an assault, providing medical care and forensic examination following assault/rape, counselling and sometimes sexual health services. They primarily provide immediate short term support.

ISVAs provide support to survivors through safety planning, risk assessment and enabling them to access other services, working in the voluntary and community sector and in SARCs across England and Wales.³²

They all provide support to BMER women and women with disabilities. Though there are very few specialist services.³³

SARCs are funded by the state; ISVAs are primarily from the state. Rape Crisis Centres get part funding from the state and support from private donations (charities) and volunteers.

No statistics are available on the users of sexual violence centres.

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

There are 280 women's centres for survivors of violence and their children in England run by Women's Aid members, independent women's NGOs and housing associations and all of them apply a gender-specific approach.³⁴ The first ones opened in 1971 in London and Manchester. Support provided includes regional or local helplines and floating and outreach services in the community. Services include crisis and counselling support, advice legal, welfare, housing and financial matters and representation at appeal tribunals.

There are also over a 100 Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and approximately 209 Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) coordinators, who provide support to high-risk survivors of domestic violence.³⁵

All the centres offer access to migrant, minority ethnic and Roma women. The majority of centres offer access to undocumented, asylum seekers women, women with disabilities and girls from 16 to 18 years. There are 56 specialist non shelter centres for BMER women that support women survivors of violence.

Funding is partly from the state, in the form of temporary support and resettlement centres get help from local government, and partly from private donations (trusts and charities).

114,100 women 24,150 children and young people were directly supported by Women's Aid Federation England women's centres in 2010/11, a further 82,700 children got indirect support via the support given to their mothers.

General Women's Centres

There are a range of women's centres in England, including resource centres, rights for women women's legal rights centres. There are also many community-based organisations that signpost and support women.

National Networks of Women's Services

There is a national network of shelter service providers, Women's Aid Federation England. There is a national network of specialist BMER services that address violence against women and girls (VAWG), "Imkaan". There is a national network of sexual violence centres, Rape Crisis England and Wales. There is also a national coalition of organisations campaigning against violence against women: "End Violence Against Women Network".

There is also a partnership of women's organisations, Women's Health and Equality Consortium (WHEC) that share the common goals of improved health and equality for girls and women.

Recent Changes in service provision

Due to funding cuts between 35-40 per cent of a range of services were closed.³⁶ Other services do not know if they will receive future funding when their current contracts come to an end. BMER specific groups have been particularly vulnerable to closure, cuts and mergers.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

Social security benefits are available to all citizens with residency rights in England including women survivors of violence. Access for migrant and asylum seeking women is dependent on their immigration status. Housing programmes are available to women survivors of violence; they are regarded as homeless, and have access to emergency or temporary

accommodation. They may also be regarded as in priority need, and therefore may also be eligible for social housing (council or housing association). They are also entitled to claim housing benefit to pay rent, though not specifically because of the violence. Housing programmes are available to minority ethnic and Roma women but not to undocumented migrant women. Different levels of support are available to asylum-seeking women depending upon what stage the asylum application is at.

Legal protection from violence

The general provisions of English criminal law are used to address offences of violence against women including assault by partners, sexual assault and sexual harassment. Laws include the Family Law Act 1996, the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 and the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. There are several laws in England on protective measures for women survivors of violence, domestic violence, Crime and Survivors Act 2004, this extended provision for injunctions for protection and to exclude abuser from the household, the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 and The Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007.

England has no police barring orders but Domestic Violence Protection Orders are being piloted for one year in three police force areas, West Mercia, Wiltshire and Greater Manchester.

There are two main types of injunctions under the Family Law Act that are available to women survivors of violence under civil law. The first is a non-molestation order which prevents the partner or ex-partner from using or threatening violence, intimidating, harassing or pestering the survivor or their child. The second is an occupation order, this decides who can live in the family home and restricts the perpetrator from entering the surrounding area.

Civil protection orders are available to survivors in cases of physical and psychological violence, threats of violence and stalking and covering the survivor's house the surrounding area and other places such as workplace and schools the survivor's children attend.

There are two laws concerning Criminal law protection orders. The Protection from Harassment Act allows the survivor to take out a restraining order which prohibits the perpetrator from contacting of survivor. Whereas under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Survivors Act courts can make criminal law protection orders when the defendant is charged, pending trial, and sentencing or even if not found guilty if they are still considered a threat.

Injunctions and Civil protection orders are available for all family members including women and men, married cohabiting, same-sex and ex-partners partners, children and to migrant women, asylum seeking women and undocumented migrant women.

No data is available on the use of protective orders.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

England has a national strategy to combat violence against women for all types of violence, covering rape and sexual violence, stalking, genital mutilation, forced marriages, honour crimes, violence in conflict and post-conflict situation and domestic violence.³⁷ The national action plan includes a budget allocated for its implementation, including £28 million from the Home Office for Specialist Services over four years.

There is a governmental coordinating body responsible for implementing and coordinating the policies regarding violence against women, it is an inter-ministerial body, the Inter-Ministerial Group on Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG). It meets quarterly to address issues and monitor progress and NGOs, including Women's Aid attend, but not on a regular basis. There is also a cross- departmental VAWG delivery board managed by the Home Office with responsibility for oversight of actions that individual departments have committed to carry out. It reports to ministerial group and meet with representatives of women's sector.

There is also a Forced Marriage Partnership Board and a Female Genital Mutilation Forum.

UNITED KINGDOM

COUNTRY: NORTHERN IRELAND SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE National Women's Helplines

Northern Ireland has one national helpline, the 24 hour Domestic Violence Helpline (0800 917 1414). It evolved from a helpline set up in 1995 by Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland, an independent women's NGO, which originally only provided support to women and girls survivors of domestic violence using a gender-specific approach. The 24-Hour Domestic Violence Helpline established in February 2005 is open to anyone affected by domestic violence, though the main area of its work is covering support for women.

The Helpline is free of charge from landlines and open 24/7 and therefore fulfills the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge.

Multi-lingual support is provided to those that don't speak English and Mincom are available for those with hearing difficulties. There is also a text phone facility for hearing impaired people.

Funding is from the state (100 per cent). Volunteers working at the helpline in 2010/11 contributed 4,116 hours to the service, an average of 11 hours per day, 365 days of the year. The helpline has the equivalent of 5.5 full-time staff approximately. 38,296 calls were managed by the 24-Hour Domestic Violence Helpline in 2010 and 2011, an increase of 18 per cent on last year.³⁸

Table of Women's HELPLINES:



Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls
1	From landlines	Yes	Yes	100 per cent	32,349 in 2009 38,296 in 2010

Other National Helplines

There is a number of national helplines that offer support across the United Kingdom that survivors of violence in Northern Ireland can also access, see entry on England above.

Women's Shelters

There are 13 shelters, (known as refuges) in Northern Ireland run by local Women's Aid groups, who together form Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland, an independent women's NGOs supporting women and children survivors of all forms of violence, primarily domestic violence, using a gender-specific approach. The first shelter was opened in Belfast in 1975 by Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid.

The shelters provide a total of 390 places for women and their children; this does fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.

The shelters offer access (24/7) and are free of charge. The shelters charge a rent to cover the running costs of the shelter; this is covered by housing benefit for those who are eligible. Women who are employed are required to pay the rent themselves. Undocumented women, who do not qualify for housing benefit, are accepted by the shelters, but this is difficult because the shelters capacity is limited by a lack of funding.

All the shelters offer access to migrant and minority ethnic women, including Traveller women.³⁹ Undocumented women are also accepted. In 2010/11 20 per cent of the women in the shelters were migrant and minority ethnic women.⁴⁰ Some shelters have staff and volunteers from different nationalities who can provide culturally sensitive services. Additionally, some shelters work with interpreters (depending on funding) and Language line and thus offer multilingual support.

There is no limit to the amount of time women and their children can stay in the shelters. The shelters provide special services and support for children and young people in the shelters, with an age limit of 16 years.

The shelters are funded by the state, with additional support from volunteers and private donations.

1,058 women and 754 children stayed in Women's Aid shelters in 2010/11, with on average every day in Northern Ireland another five women and children come to stay in shelters because they are not safe in their own homes.

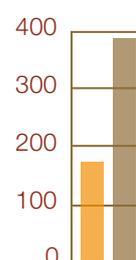
Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
13	390	179	0	All	Yes	No data available.

Other Shelters

There are no specific other shelters available.



No. of Shelters: 13
 Rec. No. of Shelter Places: 179
 No. of Shelter Places: 390

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There is no gender specific sexual violence centre for women and girls (from 14 years old) in Northern Ireland. Previously the Northern Ireland Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre, an independent women's NGO, provided counselling and information services free of charge to survivors of sexual abuse and rape together with a telephone counselling service, however funding has been withdrawn from this service who are now operating a skeleton service.

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

There are a range of women's resource centres for survivors of violence and their children in Northern Ireland, run by local Women's Aid groups who are members of Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland. Support provided by the centres includes, floating and outreach services in the community. The centres provide crisis and counselling support and advice for women on legal, welfare, housing and financial matters and representation at appeal tribunals.

There are also 21 Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) coordinators, funded by the state, providing support to high-risk survivors of domestic violence. To date there are no Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA's) in place to support survivors in the MARAC process.

All the centres offer access to migrant and minority ethnic women and women with disabilities. The majority of women's centres also offer access to undocumented and asylum seeking women.

In 2010, 3,450 women and 3,739 children were directly supported by Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland through outreach programmes and women's resource centres, a 17 per cent increase on 2009/10. Funding is primarily from the state and partly from private donations (Trusts and charities) and volunteers.

General Women's Centres

Northern Ireland has many general women's centres and women's community groups providing support to women and their children. No data is available on the funding, access, or the users of general women's centres.

UNITED KINGDOM

National Networks of Women's Services

There is a national network of women's shelters in Northern Ireland, the Women's Aid Federation network. A Federation of ten local Women's Aid groups delivering a range of support services to women and children who experienced domestic violence.

There is also a coalition of regional general women's centres, the Women's Centres Regional Partnership (WCRP), a partnership of four lead regional women's organisations linking with fourteen frontline women's organisations across Northern Ireland.⁴¹

Recent Changes in service provision

The decision by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister to abolish the Children's Fund from March 2011, has directly resulted in the loss of children's workers from some of Women's Aid local groups. Also the lack of an inflationary increase since 2007 also means that Women's Aid groups are being required to deliver the same services with fewer resources.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

Social security benefits are available to all citizens with residency rights in Northern Ireland including women survivors of violence. However there are no specific social security benefits and housing programmes available to migrant women, undocumented women, or asylum seeking women.

Women who have experienced domestic violence are reporting significant difficulties in accessing benefits and entitlements in Northern Ireland.⁴²

Legal protection from violence

There are several laws on protective measures for women survivors of violence in Northern Ireland, The Protection from Harassment (Northern Ireland) Order 1997, Family Homes and Domestic Violence (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 and Domestic Violence Crime and Survivors' Act November 2004, which extended provision for injunctions for protection and to exclude abuser from the household.

Northern Ireland has no provisions for police barring orders.

The Family Homes and Domestic Violence Order allows survivors of domestic violence to obtain civil protective orders from the court, non-molestation orders and occupation orders. Civil protection orders are available to survivors in cases of physical and psychological violence and threats of violence and cover the survivor's house. The Domestic Violence Crime and Survivors' Act makes the breach of 'non molestation order' a criminal offence, with a maximum penalty of five years.

Criminal law protection orders can be issued when the defendant is charged, pending trial, sentencing or even if not found guilty if still considered a threat.

These orders are available for women and men, married cohabiting, same-sex and ex-partners partners.

No data is available on the use of protective orders.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Northern Ireland has a national action plan on domestic violence, Tackling Violence at Home, October 2010 to March 2012.⁴³ This is the fifth national action plan based on the five year national strategy to combat violence against women, Tackling Violence at Home a Strategy for Addressing Domestic Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland (2005).⁴⁴

Northern Ireland also has strategy on sexual violence, Tackling Sexual Violence and Abuse, A Regional Strategy 2008 – 2013, led by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.⁴⁵

Plans are advanced to merge the domestic violence and sexual violence strategies from 2013, with the first combined annual action plan on the strategies to run from 1 April 2012 before the formal merger.

There is an Inter-Ministerial Group on Domestic and Sexual Violence in Northern Ireland set up in Nov 2007 which coordinates and monitors the strategy made up of Ministers from the Assembly at Stormont, the devolved administration. There is also an inter-agency Tackling Violence at Home Regional Strategic partnership, chaired by Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and Department of Justice and answerable to the Northern Ireland Inter-Ministerial Group on Domestic and Sexual Violence. Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland is a member of this group.

COUNTRY: SCOTLAND

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There are two national women's helplines in Scotland, the Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline (0800 027 1234), which was set up in June 2000 to support women survivors of domestic violence and the Rape Crisis Scotland helpline (08088 01 03 02), which was set up in October 2007 to support women survivors of rape and sexual assault. The Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline also responds to calls from young women and girls but does not offer a specific service to girls. Both help lines are run by independent women's NGOs using a gender-specific approach.⁴⁶

Both of the helplines are free of charge, however only the Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline is a 24/7 helpline. Rape Crisis Scotland is only open from 6pm to midnight seven days a week. Multi-lingual support is not provided by the Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline; however Rape Crisis Scotland helpline does provide Multi-lingual support. Therefore Scotland fulfils the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge.

Rape Crisis Scotland helpline is funded completely by the state (100%) whereas the Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline receives private sponsorship mixed in with state funding. Both helplines are also supported by volunteers.

Table of Women's HELPLINES:

Other National Helplines

Scotland's other free of charge national helplines are Child line and Respect for abused men who live in Scotland. Child line is a 24/7 service run and funded by an NGO, ("NSPCC"), for children survivors of violence. Respect Men's Advice line is run by an NGO and is open part time Monday to Friday 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm for male survivors of family violence. Respect Men's Advice Line Scotland receives short term funding from the Scottish Government.

Women's Shelters

There are 45 women's shelters in Scotland. The first shelter was opened 1973 by Edinburgh Women's Aid. No new shelters have been set up recently and the number of shelters has reduced as they have merged.⁴⁷ This has not reduced the number of shelter spaces as the number of places provided by the shelters has increased. These 45 women's shelters provide places for 509 households are all using a gender specific approach. The shelters are run by independent women's NGO's with 38 affiliated to Scottish Women's Aid.

All the shelters serve women survivors of domestic violence, although several shelters around Glasgow also provide services to women survivors of trafficking organised by "TARA". There are two specific shelters, one in east and one in west Scotland, for ethnic minority women however all shelters offer access to minority ethnic women. The shelters charge a rent to cover the running costs of the shelter, the cost of this is covered by housing benefit for those who are eligible. Women who are employed are required to pay the rent themselves. Undocumented women whose legal status means they do not qualify for housing benefit, are accepted by the shelters, but usually only one or two families at a time because of the cost.

Less than half of the shelters provide 24/7 access, as risk assessment necessary on admission requires two members

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of staff which is usually not available at 3am due to lack of staff. Approximately one third offer access to women with disabilities. All the shelters also take children; however approximately one third has an average age limit for boys of 16 years old. The shelters have between 8-36 staff with a mixture of full and part time.

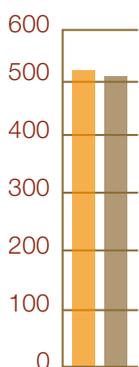
The shelters are funded primarily by the state, with local authority funding (56 per cent), and Scottish Government funding (38 per cent) with other support from private donations primarily from trusts and lottery funds.⁴⁸

National statistics are collected by Scottish Women’s Aid through a census day. In 2009 in one day 100 women contacted the shelters for the first time and 117 in one day in 2010. In one day 374 women and 359 children were living in a Scottish Women’s Aid shelter, 105 women and 49 children contacted Scottish Women’s Aid for the first time and 54 women and 51 children and young people asked for shelter accommodation. On that day Scottish Women’s Aid groups were unable to find suitable places for 20 women and 15 children and young people.

Table of Women’s SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
45	509 households	522	13	Under 1/2	No data available.	94 per cent



No. of Shelters: 45
 Rec. No. of Shelter Places: 522
 No. of Shelter Places: 509

Other Shelters

Scotland also has a range of shelters for the homeless as well as emergency homeless accommodation provided by the State. There are also some State run domestic violence shelters for survivors of family violence.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are 13 Rape Crisis Centres in Scotland catering to survivors of rape and sexual violence. The first centres were opened in 1976 in Glasgow and 1978 in Edinburgh. All the Rape Crisis Centres are run by independent women’s NGOs using a gender –specific approach. The majority of their clients are female (96.8 per cent). Rape crisis centres provide a range of support including counselling.

There are also four Sexual Violence Services and one Sexual Assault Referral Centre (“Archway”) in Glasgow for anyone over 13. Archway is open 24/7 offers various services including forensic examinations; testing for infections; support and counselling.

The Scottish government funds Rape Crisis Centres through Rape Crisis Specific fund and further funding is provided by Local Authorities. Centres also receive funding from grant making trusts.

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

There are a number of women centres for survivors of violence in Scotland offering a range of services from large support to local voluntary support groups.

General Women's Centres

Scotland has many general women's centres and women's community groups providing support to women and their children. No data is available on the funding, access, or the users of general women's centres.

National Networks of Women's Services

There is a national network of women's domestic abuse services in Scotland, the Scottish Women's Aid Network. There is a national network of sexual violence centres, Rape Crisis Scotland. There are also local partnerships of agencies dealing with violence against women including police, social health services, housing units and more and the coordinators of these local partnerships are members of the Violence against Women Network.

Recent Changes in service provision

There were recent changes to four women's support services when they merged with other organisations. One organisation, the Women's Support Project based in Glasgow, which works nationally providing significant support to work on combating violence against women, had all of its funding from Glasgow council cut in 2010.

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

There are no specific financial aid or housing support programmes in Scotland for women survivors of violence. Women with residency rights qualify for social security benefits and some categories of asylum seekers receive benefits but not as much as are given to citizens. Social security benefits are also available to some undocumented migrant women depending on if they are from the EU.

Legal protection from violence

The general provisions of Scottish criminal law are used to address offences of violence against women including assault by partners, sexual assault and sexual harassment. Scotland also has specific laws protecting women from violence, the Matrimonial Homes (Family Protection) Scotland Act 1981, The Protection from Abuse (Scotland) Act 2001 and the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. The first two laws allow women, children and young people to obtain various orders through the civil courts preventing the abuser entering or being in the vicinity of the home, work place or school or carrying out other abusive behaviour. These orders can be strengthened by having what is referred to as a "power of arrest" attached to them, whereby police can arrest the abuser if he breaches the terms of the order. The penalty for breach is dealt with by the civil courts, although the abuser can be prosecuted in the criminal courts.

The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 allows civil and criminal courts to grant a Non Harassment Order which can be used against stalkers or those whose behaviour amounts to harassment. Whether a civil or criminal court granted the Order the penalty is criminal. In 2011 an amendment was added, the Domestic Abuse Scotland Act, which grants power of arrest to civil courts.

There is also the Forced Marriage Scotland Act 2011 which protects women from the threat of forced marriage and means they can't be taken out of the country.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Scotland does not have a NAP to combat violence against women.

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COUNTRY: WALES

SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

National Women's Helplines

There is one national women's helpline in Wales set up by Welsh Women's Aid, an independent women's NGO, in 2001. Up to the end of December 2011 the helpline was solely for survivors of domestic violence, however it expanded in January 2012 to include support for survivors of sexual violence and is now called the Wales Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Helpline (0808 80 10 800).⁴⁹ The helpline provides support to women survivors of domestic and sexual violence using a gender-specific approach.

The helpline is free of charge and open 24/7 and therefore fulfills the Council of Europe standard of providing a national confidential 24/7 helpline, free of charge, covering all forms of violence against women a helpline for women.

Multi-lingual support is provided in English and Welsh. There is also Type Talk for deaf women and a telephone interpreter service, "Language Line". The helpline is funded by the State.

Between April 2009 and March 2010 a total of 26,014 calls, 95 per cent of calls through English line and 5 per cent through Welsh line, were made to the helpline.

In 2011 (April to December) the helpline received 20,204 incoming calls, a 13 per cent increase on the previous year's volume.

Table of Women's HELPLINES:



Number of Helplines	Call free of charge	Helplines with 24/7 service	Helplines with multi-lingual service	State funding per %	Number of calls
1	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 per cent	2009/10: 26,014 2011: 20,204 ⁵⁰

Other National Helplines

There are also two other national helplines in Wales. The "BAWSO" (Black Association of Women Step Out) 24 Hour Helpline (0800 731 8147) set up in 1995. BAWSO helpline offers advice, support and shelter accommodation for black and minority ethnic women and their children who are experiencing domestic abuse, including forced marriage and honour related crime.

The Dyn Wales Helpline to support men experiencing domestic violence, based in Cardiff. It set up in 2006 but closed within a year, it recently reopened with support from Welsh Assembly Government.

There is also a number of national helplines that offer support across the United Kingdom that survivors of violence in Wales can also access, see entry on England above.

Women's Shelters

There are 47 shelters (known as refuges) in Wales run by 36 organisations. 30 are independent women's NGOs members of Women's Aid Wales serving women survivors of domestic violence using a gender specific approach. Five are run by other NGOs and one by a state housing association. The first shelter was opened in the early 1970's.

While the majority of shelters serve women survivors of all forms of violence; most women accommodated are survivors of domestic violence. While all the shelters take migrant and minority ethnic women, there are three specialised shelters for migrant and minority ethnic women in Cardiff, Newport and Swansea run by BWASO.⁵¹

The shelters charge a rent to cover the running costs of the shelter; this is covered by housing benefit for those who are eligible. Women who are employed are required to pay the rent themselves. Undocumented women on spousal visas receive support from the Sojourner Project, (a UK Home Office pilot project). But it is extremely difficult for undocumented women who do not have spousal visas and who are not eligible for the Sojourner Project to secure a place in refuge.

All the shelters take children with an age limit of 16 to 18 years for boys. The majority of the shelters funding comes from the state, but the amount varies between shelters.

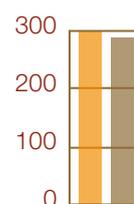
The shelters provide a total of 278 places for women and their children. Therefore Wales does not fulfil the Council of Europe recommendation of safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters, available in every region, with one family place per 10,000 head of population.

Welsh Women's Aid members provided emergency shelter accommodation to 1,716 women and 1,421 children and young people in 2010/11. A one day census on 14 February 2011 showed that 211 women and 167 children were accommodated in shelters. 56 women and 43 children sought accommodation on that day and 44 women were unable to be accommodated because of a lack of places.⁵²

Table of Women's SHELTERS:



Number of Shelters	Shelter Places available	Shelter Places needed	Shelter Places missing	Shelters with 24/7 service	Shelters with multi-lingual service	State funding per %
47	287	300	22	100 per cent	No data available.	No data available.



No. of Shelters: 46
 Rec. No. of Shelter Places: 300
 No. of Shelter Places: 287

Other Shelters

Wales also has shelters for the homeless and two shelters that also serve men survivors of domestic violence.

Sexual Violence Centres for Women (and Girls) Survivors of Violence

There are at least 7 gender specific sexual violence centres for women and girls. There is one Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (North Wales) in Caernarfon, Gwynedd, run by an independent women's NGO. The centre provides long term specialist gender-specific support and advocacy free of charge to all women and girls of all ages who have experienced any form of sexual violence.⁵³

There are five Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) in Wales run by the state, providing immediate free specialist 24/7 services for people who have been raped or sexually assaulted.⁵⁴

The centres all offer access to girls from age 15 to 18 years old, one centre also offers access to girls aged 0 to 14 years old. They all offer access to migrant, undocumented, asylum seekers, Roma women and women with disabilities, there are no specialised services for BME women.

There is also a number of Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) providing support and advocacy to survivors of sexual violence in Wales.⁵⁵

SARCs are fully funded by the state and ISVAs are primarily funded by the state. Rape crisis is funded partly by the state and partly by private donations and volunteer support.

Women's Centres for Survivors of Violence and their Children

Wales has a number of women's centres providing support to survivors of violence and their children run by Welsh Women's Aid. They provide a range of support, including floating and outreach services in the community. Services include crisis and counselling support and advice for women on legal, welfare, housing and financial matters.

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All the centres offer access to migrant and minority ethnic women and women with disabilities. The majority of women's centres also offer access to undocumented and asylum seeking women. "BAWSO" (Black Association of Women Step Out) provides specialised floating, outreach and resettlement support to black and minority ethnic women experiencing domestic violence, force marriage and so called honour crimes throughout Wales.⁵⁶

There are also 20 Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) coordinators in every locality in Wales providing support to high-risk survivors of domestic violence.⁵⁷ They are funded by the State. There are also a number of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs), providing support to survivors of domestic violence. MARACs fully funded by the State, IDVAs are funded by the State, while BAWSO and Welsh Women's Aid are funded primarily by State funding, with some support from private donations.

Welsh Women's aid one day census on 14 February 2010/11 indicated that on that day they supported 1,063 women and 897 children and young people directly, and 30 children and young people indirectly, with a further 152 women and 94 children on waiting lists for community support in 2010/11.⁵⁸

General Women's Centres

Wales has many women's centres and women's community groups providing support to women and their children. No data is available on the number or what kind of services they provide.

National Networks of Women's Services

There is a national network of women's shelters in Wales, Welsh Women's Aid network. There is also a national network of sexual violence centres, Rape Crisis England and Wales. There is also a national coalition of organisations campaigning against violence against women, End Violence against Women Network.

Recent Changes in service provision

There were changes in service provision for women survivors of violence during 2011. Due to the current economic climate women's organisations are experiencing budget cuts. Furthermore since the introduction of the Gender Equality Duty in 2007, Welsh Women's Aid members have had their funding threatened by local authorities who misinterpret the equalities legislation and accused them of discrimination because they provide specialist single-sex services. This problem continued into 2011 with the introduction of the Equality Act (2011) and Public Sector Equality Duties for Wales, despite clear guidance from the Equality and Human Rights Commission and judicial reviews in this area in England.⁵⁹

Social and Economic Rights and Housing

Social security benefits are available to all citizens with residency rights in Wales however there are no specific social security benefits and housing programmes available to women survivors of violence. Social security benefits are available to migrant women, depending on their immigration status. However not for asylum seeking women unless they have been admitted to the United Kingdom with leave as spouses, unmarried partners or civil partners of a British citizen, or of a non-citizen who is settled in the United Kingdom. This allows domestic violence survivors to apply for indefinite leave to remain in their own right, if they have been survivors of domestic violence during the first two years of that relationship.

Legal protection from violence

There are several laws on protective measures for women survivors of violence in Wales including, the Family Law Act 1996, The Protection from Harassment Act 1997, Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Domestic Violence, Crime and Survivors Act 2004 which extended provision for injunctions for protection and to exclude abuser from the household.

The UK government is in charge of the criminal justice system for England and Wales. Under this system there is no provision for police barring orders.⁶⁰

The Family Law Act provides two types of civil protection orders, non-molestation and occupation. Civil protection orders are available to survivors in cases of physical, psychological and threats of violence and cover the survivor's house. There is no limit to the length of a non molestation order however occupation orders are dependent on eligibility. If the survivor has a legal right to occupy the house there is no limit to the order, if they do not the order is only valid for six months with one possible further extension of six months. The possible sentence for the breach of an order under the civil court is a maximum of two years imprisonment or a fine in civil contempt proceedings. Breach of a non-molestation order is a criminal offence punishable by up to five years imprisonment.



There are two laws concerning Criminal law protection orders. The Protection from Harassment Act allows the survivor to take out a restraining order which prohibits the perpetrator from contacting of survivor. Whereas under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Survivors Act courts can make criminal law protection orders when the defendant is charged, pending trial, and sentencing or even if not found guilty if they are still considered a threat.

Protection orders are available for women only, women and men, married cohabiting, same-sex and ex-partners partners.

No data is available on the use of protective orders.

National Action Plans (NAP) and Coordinating Body

Wales has a national strategy to combat violence against women, The Right to be Safe 2010 -16. It covers rape, sexual violence, genital mutilation, forced marriage, honour crimes and domestic violence. The budget allocated to it provides for £2.7 million capital funding for the strategy with an annual domestic abuse revenue and capital allocated of £4.7 million and additional funding from housing, education and health. In 2010 – 11 additional funding to the capital allocation of £700,000 came from the Social Justice and Local Government budget, raising the total allocated for front line violence against women and domestic abuse projects to £2.7million.⁶¹ There is an implementation plan for 2010-12.

There is a coordinating body, The Violence Against women and Domestic Abuse Delivery Group, which monitors the implementation of the action plan and its impact. It is chaired by a civil servant and made up of the violence against women team in Welsh Assembly Government. Service providers and non-governmental organisations, including Welsh Women's Aid are members. It reports to the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government.

CEDAW – United Kingdom

In the concluding comments on the United Kingdom at the Forty-first session, June – July 2008, CEDAW expressed concern at the continuing prevalence of violence against women including domestic violence and sexual violence. While welcoming the actions taken to address violence against women the Committee remained concerned at the lack of a national plan of action to address it. The Committee was concern at the lack of adequate support and services for survivors, including shelters, which is compounded by the funding crisis facing NGOs working in the area of violence against women and the forced closures of a number of such organisations. The committee recommended the expansion of training for relevant government officials including the judiciary and the police to ensure they are sensitized to all forms of violence against women and can provide adequate support to survivors. The Committee also urged the UK to enhance its cooperation with and support, in particular adequate and sustained funding support, for NGOs working in the area of violence against women.

Endnotes

- ¹ Questions on intimate personal violence are asked of both sexes in annual British Crime Survey. These include domestic violence, sexual violence and stalking. The survey stops at the age of 59 and sometimes includes sexual violence and domestic violence separately. Get under reporting in cases where people in a relationship/married. The focus of the survey is on the number of incidents, not nature severity or repetitiveness which under represents the gender disparity of domestic violence. Women are far more likely to experience repeated violence and with far more violence. <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/crime/crime-statistics/british-crime-survey/> (29 February 2012).
- ² British Crime Survey 2009/10, <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/crime/crime-statistics/british-crime-survey/> (29 February 2012).
- ³ Domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking: Findings from the British Crime Survey, Sylvia Walby and Jonathan Allen, Home Office Research Study 276.
- ⁴ British Crime Survey 2009/10 and 2010/1, <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/violence-against-women-girls/strategic-vision/> (29 February 2012).
- ⁵ Cross Government Action Plan on Sexual Violence and Abuse: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/Sexual-violence-action-plan>
- ⁶ Home Office, 2009: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/> (29 February 2012).
- ⁷ Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 2011: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/forced-marriage/> (29 February 2012).
- ⁸ Forward (Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development): <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/violence-against-women-girls/strategic-vision/> (29 February 2012).
- ⁹ Home Office, 2009: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/> (29 February 2012).
- ¹⁰ Research by The Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation, "IKWRO": <http://ikwro.org.uk/2011/12/03/nearly-3000-cases-of-honour-violence-every-year-in-the-uk/> (29 February 2012).
- ¹¹ Home office statistical bulletin 2009 – 10 and 2010/11. The final data for 2010/11 may be higher as the perpetrator is not always identified until convicted. Of these figures in 2010 five were femicides in Wales related to domestic violence.
- ¹² Ibid British Crime Survey 2010/11 BCS: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/crime/crime-statistics/british-crime-survey/>
- ¹³ <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218135832/http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1210.pdf> (29 February 2012).
- ¹⁴ British Crime Survey, Flatley et al, 2010: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/crime/crime-statistics/british-crime-survey/> (29 February 2012).

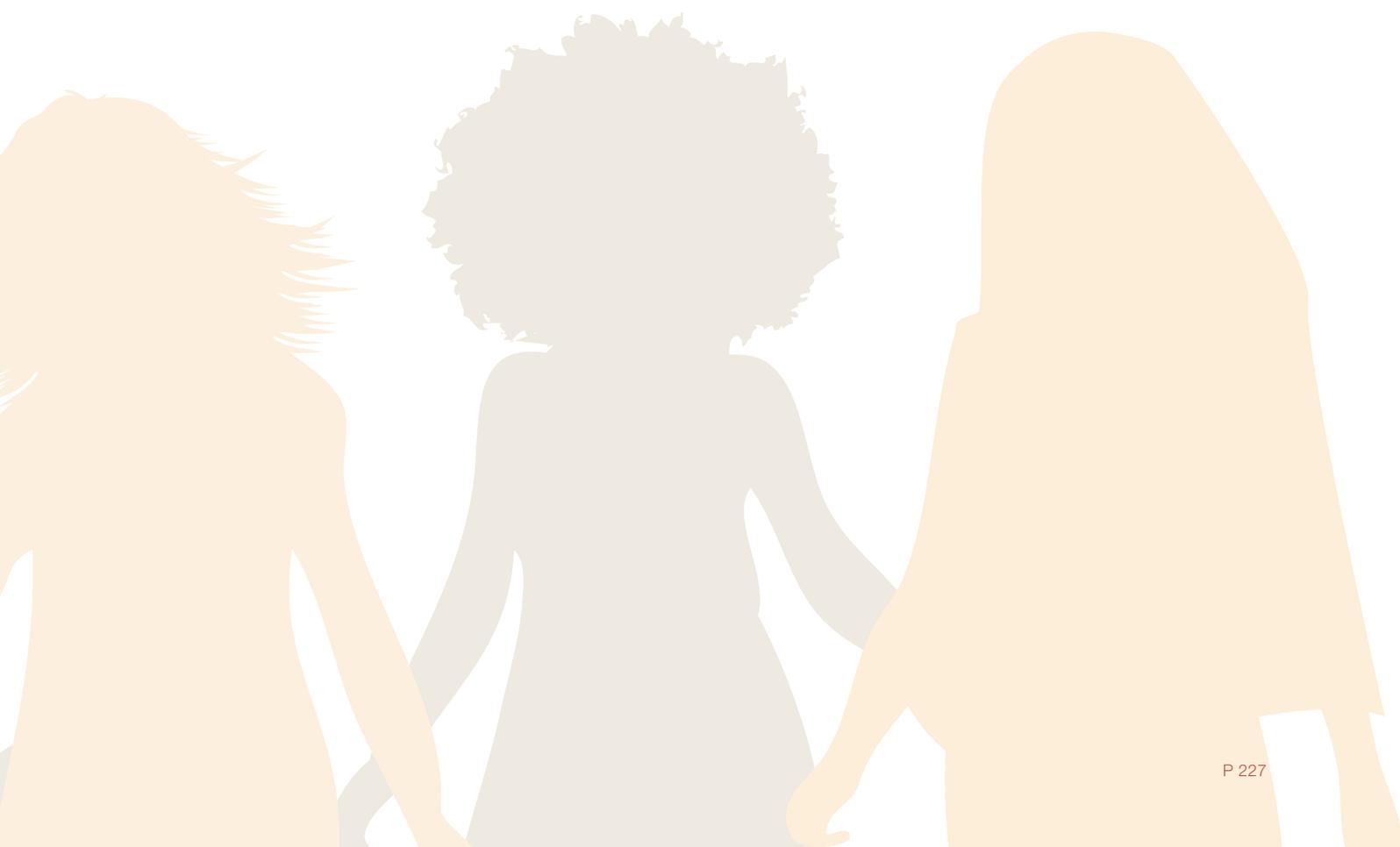
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Endnotes

- ¹⁵ Walby, S and Allen, J (2004), Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking: Findings from the British Crime Survey, London, Home Office. Northern Ireland Office & Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Tackling Violence at Home: A Strategy for Addressing Domestic Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland, 2005.
- ¹⁶ Tackling Sexual Violence and Abuse A Regional Strategy 2008 – 2013, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety 2008. http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/tackling_sexual_violence_and_abuse_strategy.pdf.
- ¹⁷ <http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/index/media-centre/news-departments/news-dhssps/news-dhssps-april-2010/news-dhssps-01042010-ministers-join-force.htm> and http://www.psnipolice.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics/update_crime_statistics.htm (29 February 2012).
- ¹⁸ Less than half (46 per cent) resulted in someone being charged, summonsed, receiving a caution or other sanction. The crimes included violence against the person and breaches of non-molestation orders PSNI annual statistical record gives incidents and offences with domestic motivation. The Annual statistics report gives gender of survivor, but not the gender of perpetrator or relationship of survivor to perpetrator. Thus it is impossible to fully assess the scale of the problem. http://www.psnipolice.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics/update_crime_statistics.htm (29 February 2012).
- ¹⁹ Based on findings from the Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI) Annual Recorded Crime Statistics Report 2010/11 and on the PSNI Report, "Trends in Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes in Northern Ireland 2004/05 – 2010/11)
- ²⁰ 2000-09 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS): Table A1.3.
- ²¹ 2000-09 SCJS Sexual Victimization and Stalking, Table A2.1. Data not disaggregated by sex, majority of cases are female.
- ²² Rape crisis Scotland.
- ²³ Competitive tendering for specialised services has resulted in tenders increasingly going to large housing organisations with considerable resources and experience in tendering contracts. Thus general services, by providing specialised services with all women staff within them, have been able to take over services previously delivered by small specialised independent women's NGOs.
- ²⁴ The majority of these are managed by larger mainstream violence against women services or housing associations not exclusively led or delivered by BMER women. Only 19 refuges in the UK, (16 in England) of the BMER services are specialist refuges specifically developed by BMER women to provide support to BMER women. Such organisations include a staff team and governing body with expertise/ extensive knowledge of the dynamics and impact of violence against BMER women, and provide service responses framed within an analysis of gender, race and culture. Information provided by Imkaan, <http://www.imkaan.org.uk/> (29 February 2012).
- ²⁵ All of the staffing including frontline and management and service delivery of the organisation is focused on BMER issues, information provided by Imkaan, <http://www.imkaan.org.uk/> (29 February 2012). See also UK Gold Book 2011/11, a directory of shelter and domestic abuse services provided by Women's Aid, <http://www.womensaid.org.uk/page.asp?section=0001000100140009§ionTitle=UK+Gold+Book> (29 February 2012).
- ²⁶ Undocumented women in the UK are called women without recourse to public funds. The Home Office is currently funding a project, the SOJOURNER project, to short term funding while women are applying for indefinitely to remain under domestic violence rule for those with spousal visa which is fast tracked. This project does not help women on student or other visas. <http://www.eaves4women.co.uk/Sojourner/Sojourner.php>
- ²⁷ An Imkaan survey women with NO Recourse to Public Funds (NRPf) presenting to 14 BMER services (including 2 non-independent services) between 24 October and 18 November 2011 found that, 42 women with NRPf contacted BMER services for accommodation and support. 23 women were provided with accommodation and support, and two were provided with support only. Imkaan research has shown that over 25 per cent of women accessing BMER specialist services have no recourse to public funds (Vital Statistics, Imkaan, 2010). <http://www.imkaan.org.uk/> (29 February 2012). 17 women were provided with neither accommodation, or support.
- ²⁸ Research by Women's Aid Federation England indicated that by June 2011, 7 member organisations had lost funding for these workers and other members had had to cut the hours of their specialist staff.
- ²⁹ The 30 per cent of women and children not accommodated amounts to 24,000 women and children unable to find shelter accommodation over the year.
- ³⁰ The UK Government is currently providing funding of up to £20,000 for 86 ISVA posts working in the voluntary and community sector and Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) across England and Wales up to 2015. <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/violence-against-women-girls/sexual-violence/isva/> (29 February 2012).
- ³¹ See <http://www.rapecrisis.org.uk> (29 February 2012).
- ³² The Stern Review, an independent review into the treatment of rape complaints by the public authorities. Baroness Stern, 2010, p103 http://beneaththewig.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Stern_Review_acc_FINAL4.pdf (29 February 2012).
- ³³ Unless organisations provide a BMER specialist service or dedicated post, BMER women are under-represented within sexual services. Information provided by Imkaan, <http://www.imkaan.org.uk/> (29 February 2012).
- ³⁴ Out of the total 280 organisations providing non-shelter-based services, approximately 185 offer floating support, 125 offer resettlement services, 190+ provide specialist children/young people's services; 160+ provide support groups for women, 100 provide other specialist services. All provide advocacy and support. Information provided by Women's Aid Federation England.
- ³⁵ The MARAC is a multi-agency meeting that focuses on the safety of high-risk domestic violence survivors. MARAC coordinators oversee this process.
- ³⁶ Cuts of 31 percent between 2010/11 and 2011/12 to services supporting women survivors of domestic and sexual violence were identified in a study on the impact of cuts, see Measuring the impact of cuts in public expenditure on the provision of services to prevent violence against women and girls, Jude Towers and Sylvia Walby UNESCO Chair in Gender Research Group Lancaster University, Report for Northern Rock Foundation and Trust for London, 1 February 2012, <http://www.trustforlondon.org.uk/VAWG%20Full%20Report.pdf> (8 March 2012).
- ³⁷ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/call-end-violence-women-girls/vawg-action-plan?view=Binary> (29 February 2012).
- ³⁸ Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland Annual Report 2010 – 11, p34, <http://www.womensaidni.org/> (29 February 2012).
- ³⁹ 194 women from black, minority and minority ethnic communities, 63 from the travelling community, were accommodated in 2010/11, *ibid*, p45.
- ⁴⁰ 72 undocumented women were accepted in the shelters in 2010/11. Undocumented women in the UK are called women without recourse to public funds. Without specific funds for their support many women have to remain in an abusive relationship, *ibid*, p46.
- ⁴¹ The Women's Support Network, Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network, The Women's Centre, Derry and the Women's Resource and Development Agency, <http://www.wcrp.org.uk/> (29 February 2012).
- ⁴² Problems reported by Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland include, "Lengthy delays for women making their first claim, eligibility for crisis loans, difficulties in obtaining Child Benefit payments, problems with the assessment of Employment and Support Allowance, Disability Living Allowance and Community Care Grants". Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland Annual Report 2010 – 11, p14, <http://www.womensaidni.org/> (29 February 2012).
- ⁴³ <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/dv-actionplan2010.pdf> (29 February 2012).
- ⁴⁴ http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/tackling_violence_strategy.pdf (29 February 2012).
- ⁴⁵ <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk> (29 February 2012).
- ⁴⁶ The helplines are required by law to provide a service to male survivors but this number is very small and they both operate from a gendered understanding.
- ⁴⁷ There has been no increase in the number of shelters as women's NGOs are increasingly focusing on how to prevent women becoming homeless in first place.
- ⁴⁸ Funding for Women's Aid services in Scotland, Scottish Women's Aid Funding Survey 2011: http://www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk/assets/files/publications/research_reports/SWA_per_cent20Funding_per_cent20Survey_per_cent20Report_per_cent202011.pdf.

Endnotes

- ⁴⁹ <http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dsllg/publications/commsafety/110713trtbsannrep1011env1.pdf> (8 March 2012). The helpline also provides information to men and children, though the overwhelming majority of callers are women. The helpline refers women experiencing other forms of violence to other specialist services.
- ⁵⁰ April to December only.
- ⁵¹ www.bawso.org.uk/ (29 February 2012).
- ⁵² <http://www.welshwomensaid.org/statistics/index.html>.
- ⁵³ <http://www.rapecrisis.org.uk> (29 February 2012).
- ⁵⁴ In Gwent, Merthyr Tydfil, Swansea, Carmarthen (West Wales) and Cardiff.
- ⁵⁵ The UK Government is currently providing funding of up to £20,000 for 86 ISVA posts working in the voluntary and community sector and Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) across England and Wales up to 2015. <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/violence-against-women-girls/sexual-violence/isva/> (29 February 2012).
- ⁵⁶ <http://www.bawso.org.uk/> (29 February 2012).
- ⁵⁷ The MARAC is a multi-agency meeting that focuses on the safety of high-risk domestic violence survivors. MARAC coordinators oversee this process.
- ⁵⁸ 97 of these children and young people were, or had previously been, on the Child Protection Register, Domestic Abuse how to get help, Welsh Women's Aid leaflet 2011 <http://www.welshwomensaid.org/publications/index.html?cat=20494>
- ⁵⁹ The Right to Be Safe One Year ON, Women's Aid Briefing for Assembly members 12.07.11 <http://www.welshwomensaid.org/index.html>.
- ⁶⁰ Though they are currently being piloted in three areas in England, see England above.
- ⁶¹ <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/safety/domesticabuse/publications/besafe/?lang=en> (29 February 2012).



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