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**Vienna, June 15, 2018**

**Subject:** 15 June - International Day Against Violence against the elderly. Information about the EU project: WHOSEFVA **Working with Healthcare Organizations to Support Elderly Female Victims of Abuse"**

Dear Sir / Madam Director / Primarius ...

We take the liberty to write to you on the occasion of the International Day Against Violence against the elderly to inform you about our work in this area, in particular on the WHOSEFVA project, which deals with working with health and care facilities to support older women affected by violence..

Violence against the elderly is a global problem that is directly connected to human rights violations, gender inequality, domestic violence, institutional structural conditions and a large increase in aging among the elderly.

The Austrian Women's Shelters (AÖF) Network has been working together with women's shelters for several decades to end violence against women. Violence knows no age and violence runs through all walks of life. The WHOSEFVA project is to support elderly women affected by violence in health and care facilities. Older women experience specific and complex disadvantages because they are exposed to a threefold risk: they are old, affected by violence and female. In addition, older women often find themselves in a network of complex dependencies and are affected by health problems and economic uncertainties. In supporting these women, health facilities play a crucial role as they have the opportunity to identify suspected violence.

For this reason, we offer hospitals training seminars (half-day or full-day) on this topic to inform, educate, sensitize, overcome barriers and educate doctors and nurses, health care professionals and victims' protection staff to identify gaps in health facilities and strengthen multi-institutional cooperation to meet the needs of older women affected by violence.

The content of the seminars cover the following topics:

- challenges within an increasingly aging society, especially for the healthcare system and its services;
- special forms of violence in old age;

- gender-based violence against women;
- domestic violence;
- sexuality in old age and sexual violence;
- statistics and data collection;
- risk factors of older women affected by violence;
- detection of violence;
- documentation of violence;
- assistance to older elderly women affected by violence;
- multi-institutional cooperation; and
- strengthening and support of health and nursing staff.

We are pleased to receive interest and request you to register with Ms. Mag.a Maria Rösslhumer, maria.roesslhumer@aoef.at Tel: 0664 793 0789. Further information about the association AÖF and WHOSEFVA can be found at: [www.aoef.at](http://www.aoef.at) and <http://www.aoef.at/index.php/aktuelle/eu-projekt-whosefva> or <http://www.whosefva-gbv.eu/de-de/>

Best Regards