

Bringing Security Home: Combating Violence Against Women in the OSCE Region. A Compilation of Good Practices

OSCE Gender Section

The Gender Section manages the OSCE Gender Issues Program and is part of the Office of the Secretary General. It assists OSCE actors, among them the OSCE Secretariat, Institutions and Field Operations in 19 host countries to achieve gender equality in their organizational units and working environment and to integrate a gender perspective into OSCE's policies, programs, projects and activities.

The Gender Section advises the political and operational OSCE structures on the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the OSCE's overall gender mainstreaming strategy as stipulated in the 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality.

The Gender Section provides technical expertise, capacity building and tools for the achievement of gender equality in the OSCE structures and work.

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Bringing Security Home:
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Women in the OSCE Region.

A Compilation of Good Practices

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Foreword

“The OSCE participating States have ... condemned violence against women through the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality. What we need now is concrete action to turn those obligations and commitments into real terms.”

Elisabeth Rehn, former Finnish Minister of Equality and of Defence, addressing the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna, 15 December 2008.

Violence against women is not a new problem. The deep suffering and harm caused by this pervasive human rights abuse have changed little across the centuries. To a large degree, the same inequalities and power imbalances that always have fostered violence against women persist today. What has changed, however, is the landscape, the context, in which violence against women occurs. Violence against women is no longer seen as an inevitable part of family life, of social relations, of the workplace or of war. Violence against women cannot be justified.

Following the growth of the women’s movement, women activists demanded that violence, a fundamental negation of equal rights, be addressed. The past decades have seen significant changes, at the global level, in the articulation of States’ obligations to combat violence against women, whether committed by private individuals or by the State, as acts of war or during peacetime.

If the last decades of the 20th century can be characterized by intense activism to address violence against women, calls for action to redress wrongs and attempts to respond at the international, national and local levels, the first years of the 21st century include a measure of introspection. Much more attention has been focused in recent years on stocktaking exercises and attempts to catalogue interventions that actually result in less incidents of violence against women, greater protection of and assistance to survivors of violence and an end to impunity for those who commit such violence.

The interest in distinguishing good practices to address violence against women stems very much from a recognition that despite a tremendous amount of work in this field, violence against women continues in every country of the world, and in some cases, such as armed conflicts and post-conflict reconstruction, even gets more intensive.

The OSCE recognizes the interconnections between ensuring gender equality, eliminating violence against women and achieving real and sustainable security for all citizens. When violence against women is allowed to persist, it perpetuates discrimination, results in instability and impedes the development of any nation. Addressing violence against women is at the heart of the OSCE mandate.

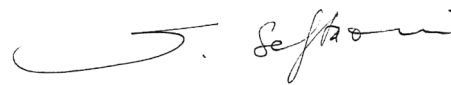
OSCE participating States have confirmed the importance of addressing violence against women, through the adoption of an Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality (2004), which includes directives to the Secretariat to develop activities for the prevention of violence against women. OSCE Ministerial Council Decision on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women (2005) issues recommendations to participating States for measures to improve prevention of violence and the protection of and assistance to victims. In addition, OSCE Decision on Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation (2005) integrates UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security into all OSCE activities and calls on participating States to ensure women’s full participation in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

It is in this context that the Gender Section in the Office of the Secretary General started an initiative that resulted in the present compilation. Bringing Security Home: Combating Violence Against Women in the OSCE Region. A Compilation of Good Practices was launched during an Experts' Seminar on Innovative Approaches to Combating Violence against Women, held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in October 2008. The seminar brought together 89 international experts, policy makers, NGO activists and representatives of international organizations from 21 countries to share information about good practices and effective approaches on the prevention of violence against women, protection for survivors and prosecution of perpetrators. Special attention was given to a fourth topic – participation, referring to efforts to engage young people and men in combating violence against women. The seminar was not a forum for discovering wholly new strategies or approaches, but rather participants shared their expertise and experiences. The participants found common ground across countries and discussed the innovations and novel practices that are key to effective interventions.

An important aim of the present compilation, therefore, has been to expand upon the Experts' Seminar and to demonstrate some of the good practices that have emerged from OSCE-supported initiatives as well as projects supported by other organizations that may provide useful inspiration for future work in the OSCE region. This compilation should be useful to gender focal points, but also to a great many other personnel across the OSCE, working on such issues as human rights, democratization, anti-trafficking, rule of law, policing or military reform, for example. Violence against women is a complex problem that requires a cross-sector approach, and this compilation provides a considerable number of examples of diverse initiatives aimed at prevention, protection and prosecution.

Of course, this compilation targets a much wider audience than the OSCE structures alone – an audience that includes policy makers, law enforcement bodies, legal professionals, social service agencies, educators, journalists, unions, the private sector, donors and, critically, civil society organizations in all of the participating States.

This compilation serves as a starting point for adapting effective and tested practices, since real change must take place at the State level. It is hoped that this resource will inspire further communication about the characteristics of practices that have proven effective and will lead to joint implementation of concrete new initiatives. These initiatives will ideally be carried out through partnerships, for example between State bodies and civil society groups, among States and between participating States and OSCE Secretariat, Institutions and Missions.



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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ABA	American Bar Association
AI	Amnesty International
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEE	Central and Eastern Europe
CoE	Council of Europe
DAW	UN Division for the Advancement of Women
DCAF	Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
DPKO	UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations
DV	Domestic violence
ECHR	European Court of Human Rights
ECLAC	UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EU	European Union
GBV	Gender-based violence
GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit – German Technical Co-operation
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HIV/AIDS	Human immunodeficiency virus/ Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
IACHR	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ILO	International Labor Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NRM	National referral mechanism
ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OSI	Open Society Institute
UN	United Nations
UN-INSTRAW	UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
UNDP	UN Development Program
UNECE	UN Economic Commission for Europe
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
UNICEF	UN Children’s Fund
UNIFEM	UN Development Fund for Women
UNMIK	UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
UNODC	UN Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSCR 1325	UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAW	Violence against Women
WHO	World Health Organization

1 Introduction

Violence against women (VAW) is one of the most widespread and persistent human rights abuses in the world, stemming from deep-rooted notions of women's unequal status. As a leading, yet preventable, cause of poor health and death in women, it is also a public health problem. Violence against women has no less of a devastating effect on society as a whole, impacting women's productivity and resulting in overall economic losses. Combating violence against women, especially in post-conflict and transitional settings, has important implications for human security. Indeed, left unaddressed, violence against women impedes a country's development causing severe disruptions of family, community and social structures and, ultimately, harming far more than the immediate victims.¹

While there are no universal statistics on prevalence, global, regional and national studies suggest that violence against women is distressingly common. At least one woman in three has experienced some form of physical, sexual or psychological violence in her lifetime, most often by an intimate partner.² According to a World Health Organization (WHO) multi-country study, prevalence rates for physical and/or sexual violence range from between 29% and 62% of women surveyed.³ The Council of Europe (CoE) suggest that among Member States, one-fifth to one-quarter of all women have suffered physical violence at least once in their adult lives, and more than a tenth have been victims of sexual violence with force.⁴

It should be noted that surveys estimating the prevalence of violence against women are conducted precisely because the problem is latent and official statistics are frequently imprecise. Some forms of VAW, such as sexual violence, are chronically underreported.⁵ Other types of violence may be not recognized as such, for example sexual harassment or violence directed at women during conflict, and are therefore never recorded in national statistics. Even without precise data, however, we know that violence against women affects all socio-economic and educational classes and has a global impact on the lives of millions of women and girls.

Significant developments in the past fifteen years demand that such deplorable statistics be viewed neither as inevitable nor unalterable. In the early 1990's, the elimination of violence against women became a focus of United Nations' activities and the obligation of States to protect against such human rights abuses and to respond when they occur was established. General Recommendation 19 to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1992, makes explicit that VAW is a form of discrimination that impedes women's realization of full equality. The 1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women articulates a woman's right to be free from violence. Significantly, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against

¹ There are different views on the use of the term 'victim' in the context of VAW. Many prefer the term 'survivor' as it carries with it the idea that a woman has overcome an abusive situation. Still others use the joint term 'victim/survivor.' This compilation uses both the words 'victim' (generally in the context of prosecution efforts) and 'survivor' (in the context of protection and services).

² *How Widespread is Violence Against Women?*, Fact Sheet, UN Secretary-General's Campaign Unite to End Violence Against Women, February 2008.

³ *WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women*, (WHO, 2005), p. 5.

⁴ Fact Sheet, Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence, at http://www.coe.int/t/dg2/equality/domesticviolencecampaign/Fact_Sheet_en.asp

⁵ For example, a study of the prevalence of VAW in several countries found that only between 4% and 13% of sexual assaults by non-partners were ever reported. *Eliminating rape and other forms of sexual violence in all their manifestations, including in conflict and related situations*, (UN Secretary-General, 2008), A/63/216, para. 22.

Women confirms the notion of due diligence – the concept that States have an obligation to take positive steps to prevent and protect women from violence, to respond to acts of violence against women committed either by State or private actors, and to punish perpetrators and compensate victims. The due diligence standard is often referred to in shorthand as a States’ obligation to carry out the “three P’s” – *prevention* of violence against women, *protection* of victims and *prosecution* of perpetrators of violence against women.

As the world’s largest regional security organization, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) promotes comprehensive security through conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. The OSCE conducts a wide range of activities related to all three dimensions of security – the human, the politico-military and the economic-environmental. The persistence of violence against women represents a significant security challenge for all OSCE participating States, and addressing this challenge is at the heart of the OSCE mandate. Violence against women is a result of gender disparities in women’s ability to realize their rights, including equal access to education and employment opportunities, to resources and to decision-making. Therefore, the OSCE addresses VAW as a serious obstacle to the realization of gender equality. Both the recent Finnish Chairmanship and current Greek Chairmanship of the OSCE have focused on gender equality as a cross-dimensional priority that implicates all the pillars of OSCE work. Preventing and combating violence against women is an OSCE priority area within broader work on promoting gender equality and addressing women’s issues in security.

In 2004, the 56 OSCE participating States indicated their concern for advancing equality between women and men and reducing discriminations by adopting an Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality. The Action Plan directs the OSCE executive structures, in particular the Secretariat, to develop programming and monitor progress on the prevention of VAW and to support OSCE executive structures and participating States to implement the relevant commitments on promoting gender equality.⁶ A 2005 Ministerial Decision on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women issues recommendations to participating States on the types of measures that should be taken to improve prevention of violence and the protection of and assistance to victims.⁷ Another OSCE resolution⁸ in 2005 focuses on Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation and integrates much of the content of the United Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) into OSCE’s work. UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1820 urge all parties to armed conflicts to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly against rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and any violence in situations of armed conflicts.

The recent years have also seen increased stocktaking of progress toward eliminating VAW. Tremendous advances have clearly been made, from mere articulation of violence against women as a human rights violation to development and testing of theories of causation and impact of VAW. Numerous governments have adopted laws, instituted policies and expanded social service networks to better assist survivors of violence. Civil society organizations, especially women’s organizations, have perhaps been the most instrumental in pushing for change. Women’s non-governmental organizations (NGOs) around the world have worked alone and in coalitions to bring awareness of the problem, to protect victims and to demand redress. Yet despite more than a decade of activity, it is also clear that women do not appear to be significantly more free from violence than they were in the past. Rather, as UNIFEM observes, the situation is paradoxical. The

⁶ See para. 44(c), OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, adopted by Decision No. 14/04, MC.DEC/14/04 (2004).

⁷ OSCE MC.Decision No. 15/05, Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women, (2005).

⁸ OSCE MC.Decision No.14/05, Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation (2005).

“landscape of gender-based violence has been transformed ... [but] rather than there being a dramatic reduction in violence against women, ... the challenges have become more complex, the resistance to change deeper, the backlash against the empowerment of women more blatant and the methods used to uphold the status quo more sophisticated and insidious.”⁹ It is in this climate that an assessment of effective practices and the ability to adapt promising strategies to changing circumstances are vital to continued efforts to end violence against women.

1.1 Forms of Violence against Women

Violence against women manifests itself as *physical, sexual and/or psychological* harm.¹⁰ These categories of violence are not mutually exclusive, and forms of VAW should be understood broadly to encompass a range of behaviors designed to exert power and control over women.

The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women classifies three primary forms of VAW based on where the acts occur and the relationship between victim and perpetrator: (1) violence in the family; (2) violence in the community; and (3) violence perpetrated or condoned by the State.¹¹ Violence perpetrated in the family includes domestic violence, also referred to as intimate-partner violence or spousal abuse to clarify that the perpetrator and victim have a long-term relationship. Marital rape and child sexual abuse are also types of VAW occurring in the home. Community-based violence includes rape and sexual assault, sexual harassment in the workplace and in educational institutions, as well as the exploitation of women and girls through human trafficking and prostitution. Violence perpetrated by the State includes the use of rape during war or by law enforcement, security or military forces both during armed conflict and in peacetime or by peacekeeping personnel in non-conflict settings as well as abuse of women in State custody or under State control. These categories serve as guidance to understand the scope of VAW, but they should not be adhered to rigidly. Service-providers and advocates who work with VAW survivors often encounter forms of VAW that are not yet well-recognized by law enforcement and legal systems, such as stalking or the use of new technologies, the Internet and electronic mail, to perpetrate cyber violence against women.¹²

This compilation sometimes makes use of the term *gender-based violence*. Gender-based violence (GBV) refers to harm that is perpetrated against a person (female or male) as a result of power inequalities that are themselves based on gender roles. Gender-based violence is not a synonym for violence against women, but it is often used as one since women are the primary targets of GBV. Due to gender discrimination, which places women in vulnerable and disempowered positions, female victims “suffer exacerbated consequences as compared with what men endure.”¹³

Violence perpetrated against women and girls during armed conflict and post-conflict reconstruction has emerged as one of the most shocking forms of VAW. In fact, VAW in conflict settings is not a specific form of violence but a change in the intensity and scale of violence. VAW during and post conflict exhibits specific

⁹ *Not A Minute More: Ending Violence Against Women*, (UNIFEM, 2003), p. 12.

¹⁰ Some VAW and gender experts also speak about economic violence. This term can refer to violations of women’s economic rights by the State (e.g. non-payments of benefits) or by private actors (e.g. a spouse who controls the family budget).

¹¹ UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, 20 December 1993, A/RES/48/104.

¹² See e.g., *Finding a difficult balance: Human rights, law enforcement and cyber violence against women*, genderIT.org, 19 August 2008, available at <http://www.genderit.org/en/index.shtml?w=a&x=96169>

¹³ UNFPA Strategy and Framework for Action to Addressing Gender-based Violence 2008-2011.

shifts from the private to the public sphere. Violence against women is “frequently rooted in pre-conflict conditions, but it increases and often becomes an accepted practice during conflict and in the post-conflict phase. ... with the transition from conflict to peace, a shift in [gender-based violence] seems to take place from the public to the private domain through an increase in domestic violence.”¹⁴ Recent conflicts have demonstrated this phenomenon. Rape and sexual violence have been used as deliberate tactics of war, and women forced to leave their homes, as refugees or living in camps for displaced persons, are especially vulnerable to VAW. Unfortunately, in some cases, peacekeeping operations have been implicated in sexual exploitation. Post-conflict instability leads to increasing numbers of women being exploited through prostitution and to a rise in trafficking of women and girls. Increasing rates of domestic violence often follow the formal cessation of hostilities when violence is transferred to the family sphere.

Conflict and emergency settings clearly exacerbate women’s vulnerabilities to and risk for specific types of VAW. Conflict destroys infrastructure, leads to economic instability, creates deep trauma and greatly increases the numbers of light weapons that are readily available. Conflict, in which men are the primary combatants, also has less visible impacts, such as causing significant alterations in traditional gender roles. It is critical that VAW in conflict settings not be divorced from lessons learned or good practices applied to other manifestations of VAW. Violence against women in conflict settings is intricately linked with the levels of and tolerance for such violence in a non-conflict environment. Violence against women “does not appear suddenly during a conflict. [Gender-based violence] is a long term and endemic problem worldwide, which often comes dramatically to the surface during emergencies.”¹⁵

The international community has taken steps to affirmatively address women’s unique experiences of conflict and the role they can play in peace and security initiatives. UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2000) (UNSCR 1325) calls for full and equal participation by women in peace processes and for the mainstreaming of gender issues in security work. Protecting women and girls from gender-based violence in armed conflict is highlighted as an area that should be given particular attention. OSCE Decision No. 14/05 on Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation (2005) integrates UNSCR 1325 into OSCE activities and encourages participating States to take active steps to ensure women’s full participation in “all levels of conflict prevention, crisis management and resolution, and post-conflict rehabilitation.” UN Security Council Resolution 1820 (2008) reaffirms obligations to protect women from violence, emphasizing that “despite ... repeated condemnation of violence against women and children in situations of armed conflict ... and ... calls addressed to all parties to armed conflict for the cessation of such acts with immediate effect, such acts continue to occur, and in some situations have become systematic and widespread, reaching appalling levels of brutality.” Resolution 1820 calls for a cessation of all sexual violence used in conflict, the development of zero tolerance policies and training programs and the strengthening of national-level institutions to assist victims.

1.2 Purpose of the Compilation

OSCE participating States recognize that the prevention of violence against women is a priority, and to facilitate work in this sphere the OSCE has developed guidance on the types of measures to be taken to improve the protection of and assistance

¹⁴ Tsjeard Bouta, Georg Frerks and Ian Bannon, *Gender, Conflict and Development*, (World Bank, 2005), p. 33.

¹⁵ *Enhancing Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Populations Affected by Armed Conflict*, Workshop Report, (UNIFEM and UNICEF, 2005), p. 20.

to women victims of violence. This compilation is not intended as a reiteration of such OSCE recommendations and guidelines. Rather, it is a catalogue of specific good practices that are already being used in countries of the OSCE region and elsewhere that can be adapted to and replicated in other countries. The overall purpose of this compilation is to provide guidance on effective initiatives to *prevent* violence against women, to *protect* victims and to *prosecute* perpetrators of violence. The compilation is not a template for the development of new projects but rather a starting point for adapting effective and tested approaches.

Although a great number of projects and programs devoted to eliminating VAW have been undertaken around the world, there are few compilations of practical responses and only rare accounts of specific approaches, concrete activities, that have worked and the results or successes they have achieved. Many reports catalogue “lessons learned” with general recommendations and descriptions of overall effective strategies for addressing VAW. Other compilations describe only the essence of a particular project and rarely provide detail sufficient to understand the context in which the initiative was developed and executed. An important objective of the present compilation, therefore, is to describe a number of innovative initiatives in an understandable and accessible way, providing information about the overall approach, how a specific project was implemented, about the implementing organization and the concrete outcomes that resulted from the project.

In developing this compilation, the efforts of other organizations to collect examples of good practices on VAW were reviewed. These initiatives are noteworthy as the present compilation is intended to compliment and not duplicate these efforts. Several such compilations are described below.

In 2006, the UN Secretary-General launched an in-depth study on VAW. The resulting report, *Ending Violence Against Women: From Words to Action*, includes an analysis of promising practices in three areas: the law and justice system, the provision of services and in prevention.¹⁶

Sample Compilations of Good Practices in VAW

The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) has published a two-volume report of case studies on VAW from their work around the globe: *Programming to Address Violence Against Women*. Together the reports contain detailed descriptions of 18 projects, the partners involved, the implementation process, lessons learned and practices that proved effective in each case.¹⁷

In 2005, the UN Division for the Advancement of Women with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime convened an expert group meeting to identify the factors which make a specific initiative a good practice and to identify legislation, plans, policies and other approaches that have been effective in combating violence against women.¹⁸ The resulting meeting report records some of the challenges in trying to determine the common elements of good practices and sets forth general principles behind good practices in the law, in the provision of services and in prevention.¹⁹

In 2002, the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) carried out a series of regional scans to survey the extent and nature of violence against women and

¹⁶ The report is available at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/v-sg-study.htm>.

¹⁷ *Programming to Address Violence Against Women, 10 Case Studies* (UNFPA, 2007), available at <http://www.unfpa.org/public/publications/pid/386>. *Programming to Address Violence Against Women, 8 Case Studies, Volume 2* (UNFPA, 2009), available at <http://www.unfpa.org/public/publications/pid/1913>.

¹⁸ *Good Practices in Combating and Eliminating Violence Against Women*, Report of the Expert Group Meeting, (DAW and UNODC, 17-20 May 2005).

¹⁹ Expert papers and the final meeting report available at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/v-egms-goodp2005.htm>

to catalogue efforts made to combat this problem. The results of the scans are highlighted in the report *Not a Minute More: Ending Violence Against Women (2003)*, which reviews the common elements of promising strategies from around the world.²⁰

Within the scope of its 2005-2007 campaign against domestic violence, the Council of Europe surveyed progress made by Member States. While the primary goal was not to uncover innovations, the resulting stocktaking studies nevertheless reveal useful information on developments of good practices in Europe.²¹

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Europe and Eurasia Bureau periodically conducts research into various aspects of VAW, with a view toward improving the responsiveness of USAID programming, sharing information about effective practices and generating recommendations from experts for further work. Recent reports have focused on best practices in programming to prevent trafficking in persons, to protect and assist trafficked persons, and methods for combining services for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking.²²

In 2007, the NGO Changemakers, sponsored a collaborative competition on the topic of domestic violence – *No Private Matter! Ending Abuse in Intimate and Family Relations*. The Changemakers' collaborative competition model is used to source promising solutions to the problem of domestic violence and to support discussion of innovative approaches. Within the competition, Changemakers created a matrix of "the most promising and innovative principles transposed against the underlying factors which drive a particular social problem," known as a Mosaic of Solutions. The mosaic summarizes 42 specific projects that examine the intersections between proven principles and barriers that remain to addressing intimate partner violence.²³ Information about 31 projects from 13 countries is available through the organization website.²⁴

Addressing VAW requires comprehensive and coordinated efforts of a number of actors, primarily government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and it is hoped that this compilation will serve as a useful resource for a broad range stakeholders, such as policy makers, law enforcement bodies, legal professionals, social service agencies, educators, journalists, unions, international organizations, donors and others. Recognizing the contributions of civil society organizations to combating violence against women, this compilation should serve as a particularly useful guide for women's and human rights organizations, but it should be noted that it is governments that have the primary role to play in eliminating VAW. Where possible, the compilation highlights effective partnerships between the government and NGO sectors.

²⁰ The report is available at: http://www.unifem.org/resources/item_detail.php?ProductID=7.

²¹ See, e.g., *Protecting women against violence: Analytical Study of the Results of the Second Round of Monitoring the Implementation of Recommendation Rec (2002) 5*, (Council of Europe/ CDEG, 2008) 2 rev (2008), available at: http://www.coe.int/T/E/Human_Rights/Equality/05_Violence_against_women/.

²² See, e.g., *Best Practices for Programming to Protect and Assist Victims of Trafficking in Europe and Eurasia*, (USAID, 2008) (Doc ID: PN-ADN-295); *Best Practices in Trafficking Prevention in Europe and Eurasia*, (USAID, 2009) (Doc ID: PN-ADN-296); *Methods and Models for Mixing Services for Victims of Domestic Violence and Trafficking in Persons in Europe and Eurasia*, (USAID, 2008) (Doc ID: PN-ADN-297). All reports are available at <http://dec.usaid.gov>, using the Document ID numbers as reference.

²³ The Mosaic of Solutions can be accessed from: <http://www.changemakers.net/en-us/competition/endabuse/mosaic>.

²⁴ Entries submitted to the *No Private Matter! Ending Abuse in Intimate and Family Relations competition* can be accessed from: <http://www.changemakers.net/en-us/competition/endabuse>.

Under the banner of corporate responsibility, the private sector has become increasingly active in addressing violence against women. Private sector actors not only support anti-violence programming by contributing financially to foundations as well as directly to women's organizations,²⁵ but they also independently develop positive initiatives, such as adopting employment-based codes of conduct and zero tolerance policies, distributing awareness raising materials to employees, clients and customers and providing technical assistance to other organizations. This compilation includes several examples of private sector initiatives with the aim of encouraging greater public-private partnerships to address VAW.

1.3 Scope of the Compilation

The scope of this compilation is not restricted to any one form of VAW. However, in compiling information on good practices, it was noted that significantly more information is available on activities that address domestic violence, or violence in the family sphere, than other forms of violence. Recent studies bear out the notion that domestic violence is common form of VAW. For example, monitoring of Council of Europe Member States suggests that of women who encounter violence, the perpetrator is most often a partner or ex-partner. From 12% to 15% of all women in the CoE region have been in a relationship with domestic abuse.²⁶ Global studies suggest that half of all women victims of homicide are killed by current or former husbands or partners; in some countries this rate is as high as 70%.²⁷ The present compilation aims both to catalogue some of the best practices on domestic violence and also to uncover good practices and innovations that target other forms of VAW.

A great deal of work has been undertaken on the problem of trafficking in women and girls, much of which has been well-catalogued in country or topic-specific publications. For this reason, present compilation includes positive initiatives to address both trafficking and the sexual exploitation of women and girls but this is not a primary focus.

A particularly significant goal of this compilation is to highlight projects that address VAW in the context of conflict and post-conflict reconstruction. As described above, VAW in a conflict setting is not a unique form of violence but encompasses other acts, such as rape, trafficking in women and domestic violence. Few State agencies or organizations, however, have devoted significant attention to prevention, protection and prosecution efforts in the context of conflict. While this presents a particular challenge for the current compilation, the OSCE is, by the imperative of its mandate of comprehensive security and by its geographic reach, naturally well-placed to take the lead on the development of a compilation of good practices on VAW that makes note of the specific nature of conflict and post-conflict situations and to benefit from it. This compilation endeavors to include practices that address VAW developed in post-conflict settings, but it should still be noted

²⁵ For example, in 2008 Avon Products, Inc. announced a public-private partnership with UNIFEM and committed \$1 million USD to the UNIFEM-managed UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. *UNIFEM and Avon Announce Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Advance Women's Empowerment: Company Contribution Benefits UN Trust Fund*, Press Release, 4 March 2008. In 2009, Avon committed an additional \$250,000 USD to the Trust Fund. Avon Commits Over \$1.75 million for New Partnerships to End Violence Against Women, available at <http://responsibility.avoncompany.com/page-127-avon-commits>. The Body Shop is currently running an international campaigns on domestic violence, *Stop Violence in the Home*, *http://www.thebodyshop.co.uk/_en/_gb/values-campaigns/stop-violence.aspx?

²⁶ See Fact Sheet, Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence, available at http://www.coe.int/t/dg2/equality/domesticviolence-campaign/Fact_Sheet_en.asp

²⁷ *How Widespread is Violence Against Women?*, Fact Sheet, UN Secretary-General's Campaign Unite to End Violence Against Women, February 2008.

that the majority of these projects address a specific form of VAW, for example domestic violence or sexual assault, and implementers are not always explicit about how the approach was tailored to a post-conflict setting.

Some of the good practices in the compilation originated in countries that have been addressing VAW for decades while others were developed in States that are only now devoting attention to this problem; as there are examples of promising projects and innovations at both ends of the spectrum. Even in the most “developed” countries, there is still a need for “routine” or “basic” work in such areas as awareness raising and service provision. At the same time, practitioners in countries that are developing basic programs can make use of information about new theories, emerging types of VAW and cutting-edge programs and also avoid some of the unintended consequences that others have encountered in testing new approaches.

It is well known that children are often co-victims of violence against women, whether or not they are the direct targets of such violence. While effective anti-violence programs address the problem holistically, violence against children also implicates its own specific set of responses. This compilation deliberately does not examine programs directed at assisting children. However, many good practices do, in fact, also provide for children’s needs by addressing the women who are most often their caretakers. This compilation speaks of violence against women, but this term should be understood as a synonym for violence directed towards females of any age, and thus the compilation includes good practices that also address violence against girls.

Lastly, the compilation makes also reference to practices and projects which have as a goal the elimination of gender based violence, as a violence that is perpetrated against a person (female or male) as a result of power inequalities based on gender roles.

1.4 Structure and Methodology

There are several specifics about how this compilation addresses violence against women. Good practices are not grouped according to the type of violence they address as it was found that many of the best approaches target the root causes that underlie all forms of violence against women, and so such a classification was considered unhelpful. Nevertheless, efforts were made to distinguish the type of VAW when a specific practice had a very narrow focus, such as may be the case, for example, in reducing demand among men for the exploitation of prostitutes or trafficking victims.

The compilation classifies good practices and approaches based on whether they address prevention, prosecution or protection. It should be noted, however, that even this categorization could prove imprecise. Violence against women requires a multi-faced and multi-level approach, and many good practices rely on and implicate others. For example, awareness raising or legal literacy campaigns that target women who may be experiencing violence will inevitably result in more women seeking assistance. Therefore such an advocacy campaign (prevention) must take into consideration whether services are sufficient to respond to women’s raised consciousness and meet their demands (protection).²⁸

The structure of the present compilation is designed to present information in a way that will be of foremost help to practitioners who are developing programming and intend to learn from and replicate established good practices. The compilation is thus organized around a framework of the types of practices for which there appears to be consensus that they are, in fact, “good.” Within this framework, which describes general approaches, specific examples are given of

²⁸ *Not a Minute More: Ending Violence Against Women*, (UNIFEM, 2003), p. 35.

1 Introduction

promising and innovative projects and activities. Several notable resources, guides and toolkits, are noted when they are considered especially helpful in developing good practices. Whenever possible, links are provided for further information.

The information in this compilation was collected primarily through publicly accessible sources, mainly on the Internet. Materials published by international and interregional bodies, the UN, CoE, European Union and OSCE, for example, was a crucial starting-point for this project. These organizations have compiled extensive guidance on how human rights standards on VAW are to be implemented at the national level. This guidance forms a framework for determining best practices. In addition to setting standards, the UN, CoE, EU and OSCE also fund a great deal of diverse organizations to carry out varied projects on VAW. Therefore, information from these groups, as well as other agencies (both governmental and private), about approaches and projects that they consider noteworthy was given special consideration in this compilation. It bears mentioning that project evaluation and information on a standard measurable impact is severely lacking. Even when donors do evaluate the projects they have funded this raises questions of impartiality and also how to compare programs without a common set of indicators to measure success. This topic is discussed in greater detail below, but nevertheless it is important to qualify that many examples of innovative and positive approaches to violence against women might have been inevitably overlooked using the methodology described above.

The creation of the compilation was greatly facilitated by the Experts' Seminar on Innovative Approaches to Combating Violence Against Women, organized by the OSCE's Gender Section from October 20-22, 2008 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, at which international experts from more than 21 countries described initiatives which have proven successful and discussed the common features of innovative approaches in the areas of prevention, protection and prosecution.²⁹

²⁹ Materials from the Experts' Seminar on Innovative Approaches to Combating Violence Against Women, organized by the Gender Section, OSCE Secretariat October 2008 available at http://www.osce.org/gender/item_6_32383.html. Information gathered from a consultation of NGOs from CIS countries with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, held in St. Petersburg, Russia in September 2008, is also included in this compilation.

2 Identifying Good Practices and Approaches

2.1 What are Good Practices and How Do We Evaluate Them?

“Best practices” in addressing violence against women have been discussed a great deal internationally, nationally and locally, but how do we know that an approach is, in fact, the “best”? What can we say in general about the most promising, innovative and successful approaches to combating violence against women? Despite attempts to identify best practices so that they can be studied and replicated, there are no agreed-upon principles or criteria of what constitutes such practices. Moreover, there is increasing reluctance to even use the term “best” and a tendency towards caution in proclaiming certain practices better than others. Therefore, this compilation, like other stocktaking studies of responses to VAW, qualifies practices as “good,” “promising,” or even “effective.”³⁰ Even so, caution should be exercised when characterizing a practice as “good” or “promising.” Whether an approach is effective depends greatly on the standards by which it is evaluated as well as the specific local context in which it was used.

As the UN Secretary-General notes, “[w]hat works well is influenced by the form of the State, its commitment to women’s equality, its relationship with NGOs and civil society and the resources it has to draw on.”³¹ Furthermore, the variety of contexts in which violence against women takes place, as well the numerous and varied responses, make it difficult to generalize about practices that may be effective globally. Indeed, practices that appear to be successful in helping some women may be ineffective in regard to individuals who face multiple disadvantages or discrimination, such as female refugees or disabled women. Lastly, the fact that there has been very little evaluation or long-term assessment of specific programs or approaches further limits the usefulness of characterizing some practices as “good.”

In order to articulate at least some hallmarks of good practices, this compilation relies on several basic criteria. A “good” practice is innovative (it presents creative solutions to a common problem), sustainable (it is based on multisectoral partnerships) and effective (it has a demonstrable effect on reducing VAW or lessening its impact). Good practices are “socially, culturally, economically and environmentally sustainable,” they have the potential for replication and can serve as inspiration for new initiatives in other contexts.³²

2.2 Common Principles that Guide Good Practices

Despite a lack of consensus over what constitutes best or good practices, there is agreement over the key features and characteristics that underlie effective interventions. These characteristics are found in some combination in good practices

³⁰ See *Ending Violence against Women: From Words to Action*, (UN Secretary-General, 2006), p. 101; *Good Practices in Combating and Eliminating Violence Against Women*, Report of the Expert Group Meeting, (DAW and UNODC, 17-20 May 2005).

³¹ *Ending Violence against Women: From Words to Action*, p. 286.

³² This articulation is a synthesis of criteria suggested by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. See *Gender Justice Best Practices* (2007) and UNESCO website on *What is a Best Practice?*, available at <http://www.unesco.org/migration>.

on violence against women and can be considered standards or prerequisites for addressing VAW. These prerequisites, for example “women’s empowerment”, are generally not stand-alone goals but higher-level strategies that inform a particular program or project. The UN Secretary General’s study on violence against women³³ also identifies guiding principles in the areas of law and justice provision, provision of services and prevention. The list below is not exhaustive but is an attempt to provide a framework of guiding principles that have been synthesized from recommendations of international bodies on how to implement obligations to combat violence against women or have been identified by practitioners

Women’s rights as human rights: A critical strategy for all advocacy work is to clearly demonstrate that violence against women is linked to other human rights violations and therefore States have commitments to exercise due diligence. An important related principle behind all good practices is that they address the *root causes* of violence against women,³⁴ such as structural inequalities between men and women, issues of power and control and gender discrimination.

Women themselves at the center: Essential characteristics of all good practices is that they empower women, economically, politically or in other ways, to make changes in their lives and in society. Women survivors, particularly service users, should be participants in program design, implementation and evaluation. Effective interventions are those that are based on understanding the needs articulated by women themselves and not on behalf of women.

Men are responsible and also engaged: A guiding principle of practices addressing violence against women is that they target men. Programs that address men range from those that acknowledge men’s responsibility as perpetrators of violence and establish appropriate prosecution and treatment measures, to others that engage non-violent men as positive role models, as activists in preventing violence against women and as advocates for gender equality in all spheres.

Political commitment and leadership: Good practices are those that are based on and supported by a clear political will from national authorities. Leaders at all levels, in political office, representing religious authorities, from the local community and even recognized sports figures or celebrities, can influence how violence against women is perceived and can play a role in changing societal tolerance for this problem.

Evidence-based approaches: All effective interventions are underpinned by accurate empirical data about the scope of violence against women, its causes and its consequences for individual women survivors but also for family members and society at large.³⁵

³³ In-depth study on all forms of violence against women. Report of the UN Secretary General (2006), A/61/122/Add.1.

³⁴ Many interventions may have some positive effect on alleviating violence in general (e.g. limiting the depiction of violent acts on television or in film), but an essential strategy to address violence against women is acknowledgment and awareness raising of the specific and underlying causes of this form of violence.

³⁵ Activists working on ending VAW note that it is not uncommon for officials and others to diffuse the issue by citing the prevalence of other forms of violence, numbers of men who are victims of violence or other “more pressing” social issues. The UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences, emphasizes the importance of relying on real evidence of the structure of violence against women and how women experience such violence is a way to challenge the notion that VAW is not a distinct problem requiring a distinct approach. See, e.g., Statement by Yakin Ertürk at the SIDA Conference on Gender Based Violence, 12 September 2008, Stockholm.

2 Identifying Good Practices and Approaches

Coordination, co-operation and partnerships: A multisectoral approach that coordinates and integrates a wide range of actors is a principle that guides any work on improving overall response to violence against women. The specific actors or stakeholders involved may vary depending on the type of VAW addressed, but the strategy is the same – to work with a broad range of professionals and services from the national to the community and grass-roots level and to forge partnerships across sectors.

Sharing of knowledge, skill building and training: The use of knowledge-exchange and educational programs is a tactic, rather than a strategy. Nevertheless, it is included here to illustrate the guiding principle that practitioners who are working on VAW should regularly and routinely share information and participate in skill building. As a corollary, training for service providers, law enforcement, the legal and health sectors, policy makers and any other key stakeholders should be integrated into routine staff development and be informed by agreed-upon standards and guidelines.

Monitoring and evaluation: Any strategy, approach or project should include in its design a plan to monitor and evaluate to show the progress and impact achieved.

2.3 Strategies that Underlie Good Practices

Real change toward ending violence against women requires “a coordinated and sustained effort on many levels.”³⁶ Good practices are supported by various strategies that determine on which level a project operates and how it interacts with other programming.

Interventions can be viewed along a spectrum from “micro level,” those that provide for the needs of victims, change societal attitudes, build awareness of women and men, to “meso level,” those that target local institutions, and lastly “macro-level,” those that address higher-level policy or legislative change.³⁷ Put another way, some interventions can be characterized as short-term, those that aim for immediate improvement of the situation and others take a long-term approach; they strive for system change. Determining how short-term and long-term advocacy interact is an important part of strategy development that underpins good practices.

Although violence against women is a distinct social problem that should be addressed through targeted initiatives, it also has important links to other issues of women’s human rights, health and development. Therefore, an effective strategy behind good practices is to approach violence against women not as an isolated problem. It is an effective practice overall to integrate anti-VAW messages into programs where there are significant intersections, for example on HIV/AIDS prevention, reproductive health, family planning, law reform, micro-enterprise development or land access and use programs.

The primary aim of this compilation is to present information on good practices, specific *projects* that appear to be innovative and effective. The compilation places these good practices in a framework of guiding principles and *approaches*. Finally, the examples contained here should illustrate how to address VAW strategically – at the micro and macro level as well as a cross-sectoral issue.

³⁶ *Not a Minute More: Ending Violence Against Women*, (UNIFEM, 2003), p. 12.

³⁷ *Ending Violence against Women and Girls – Protecting Human Rights: Good Practices for Development Co-operation*, (GTZ, 2005), p. 57.

3 Understanding Violence Against Women: Research and Evaluation

The lack of data about the nature of violence against women, imprecise statistics about its incidence, compounded by the hidden nature of the problem itself or, as may be the case in conflict settings, data is lost or destroyed, all constrain policy efforts and mean that services may be nonexistent, insufficient or not responsive to real needs. As mentioned above, effective interventions are founded on accurate data about the specific type of violence against women being addressed and the specific context. While an evidence-based approach is a guiding principle to anti-violence against women work, it bears mentioning here, as there has been considerable recent work to articulate good practices in measuring violence against women. At the same time, conducting research itself can be a good practice when used (1) preliminarily, to fully understand the problem of violence against women at the level at which the work will be done – to create a targeted strategy and also to establish a baseline against which progress can be measured; and (2) later, in the form of program evaluation in order to study successes, to gather lessons learned and to improve future activities.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) webpage on gender-based violence statistics includes a multi-media presentation created by UNECE and the World Bank Institute on developing gender statistics specific to VAW as well as guidance on developing indicators, statistics and surveys. For more information: <http://www.unece.org/stats//gender/vaw/resources.html>.

Resources
on Gender-Based
Violence
Statistics

3.1 Data Collection

Collecting accurate data about the prevalence or scope of a particular form of violence against women, its causes and its consequences is the starting point for developing accurate and targeted interventions and should not be viewed as an end in itself. Indeed, States have been urged to develop surveys on the nature of violence against women³⁸ and are increasingly encouraged to ensure that their policies are informed by a stronger knowledge base.

The UN Secretary-General is supporting the creation of a global and coordinated database “on the extent, nature and consequences of all forms of violence against women, and on the impact and effectiveness of policies and programs for, including best practices in, combating such violence.”³⁹ The database will be publically accessible and will contain information on measures taken in the following spheres: law and policy; institutional mechanisms; domestic, regional and international coordination; services for women victims/survivors of violence; awareness raising and capacity-building; research and evaluations; data and statistics. Member States have been asked to provide data through a questionnaire and are encouraged to appoint national-level focal points to update the database in the future. The

Violence Against
Women Database

³⁸ *Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*, 12 December 1997, GA Res. 52/86.

³⁹ *Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women*, 30 January 2007 GA Res. 61/143.

database, launched in March 2009, is expected to greatly facilitate the comparison on data across nations as well as information exchange on effective practices. To access the database: <http://webapps01.un.org/vaw/home.action>

A number of States have also taken the positive measure of collecting information through national-level surveys and assessments.⁴⁰ Mexico is currently drafting a “National Assessment on the Status of Gender Violence” which will be used to determine the magnitude, forms and setting of gender-based violence to inform government policies; the data will also be included in a national database. France has conducted several national-level surveys on various aspects of violence against women, which formed the basis of subsequent campaigns and the development of services.

NGOs have also conducted large-scale surveys to gather information that informs advocacy work. For example, in 2007-2008 the Turpanjian Center for Policy Analysis and the American University of Armenia worked closely with the Women’s Rights Center to conduct a national survey of domestic violence in Armenia. The survey was conducted through interviews and self-response questionnaires in order to obtain reliable information on the types and causes of VAW and attitudes of women toward domestic violence. The survey data has been used by the Women’s Rights Center as the basis of awareness raising strategies and to develop draft legislation.⁴¹

Population-based prevalence studies, undertaken in a number of countries, have been mostly limited to intimate partner, or domestic violence.⁴² There have been far fewer prevalence studies, particularly lifetime studies, of rape and sexual violence, of sexual harassment in employment or education, or of trafficking in women.⁴³

In addition to prevalence studies, some States are also effectively compiling “service-based data” on violence against women from a number of sources, such as healthcare facilities, police stations, courts, housing and social welfare services, hotlines and shelters.⁴⁴ The coordination of data across agencies and services helps to give a clearer picture of the problem of VAW and also how effectively it is being addressed. For example, Canada has recently compiled previously-gathered data from surveys, police, courts and social services to review trends in violence against women.⁴⁵ In Tajikistan a coalition of NGOs, From Legal Equality to Factual Equality, works with the 25 crisis centers and one temporary shelter for women in the country to improve how these institutions function, specifically focusing on their ability to gather data and to monitor and evaluate their work. The coalition has developed a unified database system, using Microsoft Access, which is available to both State-supported and NGO-based centers. The system is user-friendly and information from client in-take can be easily uploaded into the database. The database is also used to generate reports that are transmitted to the relevant

⁴⁰ *Intensification of efforts to elimination all forms of violence against women*, (UN Secretary-General, 2008), A/63/214 at para. 58.

⁴¹ The survey project was funded by the Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation, OSCE Office in Yerevan and Catholic Relief Services Armenia. Ani Dallakyan, Narine Hakobyan and Lucig H. Danielian *Report on Nationwide Survey Findings: Domestic Violence and Abuse of Women in Armenia*, (2007).

⁴² Addendum on Developing Transnational Indicators on Violence Against Women to Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, 25 February 2008, A/HRC/7/6/Add.5, para. 155.

⁴³ Indeed, a study of VAW conducted in Germany found rates of sexual harassment four times higher than for physical or sexual violence by a partner and higher rates of intimate partner violence among specific populations of women, such as migrants, refugees, prisoners and prostitutes. *Ibid.*, para. 183.

⁴⁴ *Intensification of efforts to elimination all forms of violence against women*, (UN Secretary-General, 2008), A/63/214 at para. 61.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

government bodies in order to monitor trends and evaluate the provision of services. At present, the coalition is working with the Tajik State Statistics Committee and the Information Board of the Ministry of the Interior to improve the gathering of statistical data for both the government and NGOs.⁴⁶

3.2 Indicators for Measuring Violence against Women

Indicators “provide a simple summary of a complex picture, abstracting and presenting in a clear manner the most important features needed to support informed decision-making.”⁴⁷ Indicators measure and monitor progress. They play a key role in providing policy guidance but they are not “substitutes for in depth research ... [as they] offer relatively little with respect to processes and explanations.”⁴⁸ Instead, indicators should compliment more complex gender analysis. These indicators would assist in summarizing complex data in a meaningful form both to enhance policy development and for the general public.⁴⁹

At the international level, there are several initiatives to define and develop common indicators to measure the magnitude of violence against women and State response. In brief, the UN Division for the Advancement of Women and the UN Statistical Committee are focusing on the development of global indicators to measure the extent of violence against women. Working with a group of experts and other UN agencies, the Division developed a set of indicators in 2007, which have been submitted to the Statistical Committee for review.⁵⁰ Several regional bodies and national governments have developed insightful indicators to measure VAW. For example, the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has developed a *Technical Assistance Guide for the Production and Use of Gender Indicators* which proposes measuring rates of physical, psychological and sexual violence as well as unreported violence against women.⁵¹ The European Union has also developed indicators that address both domestic violence and sexual harassment that can be used to assess individual States and to compare progress across nations in such areas as support services for women, the existence of laws and policies and budgetary allocations.⁵²

The Special Rapporteur on violence against women is concentrating on the development of indicators to measure State progress in combating VAW.⁵³ She has reviewed current proposals to develop common indicators on violence against women at the UN level as well as explored how such indicators could be used for

⁴⁶ Tatiana Bozrikova, *The Development of Mechanisms for Co-operation between NGOs of Tajikistan in Preventing Violence Against Women*, Presentation at Experts' Seminar on Innovative Approaches to Combating Violence Against Women, organized by the Gender Section, OSCE Secretariat, October 2008 (Seminar materials available at http://www.osce.org/gender/item_6_32383.html).

⁴⁷ *Indicators to Measure Violence Against Women*, Report of the Expert Group Meeting, (DAW, 2007), p. 4.

⁴⁸ Addendum on Developing Transnational Indicators on Violence Against Women to Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, *supra*, para. 79.

⁴⁹ Gemma Connell, *The Work of the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women on Violence Against Women*, Presentation at Experts' Seminar on Innovative Approaches to Combating Violence Against Women, organized by the Gender Section, OSCE Secretariat, October 2008 (Seminar materials available at http://www.osce.org/gender/item_6_32383.html). See also <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/v-issues-focus.htm>

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

⁵¹ *Not a Minute More: Ending Violence Against Women*, (UNIFEM, 2003), p. 96; *Indicators to Measure Violence Against Women, Report of the Expert Group Meeting*, (DAW, 2007), p. 12.

⁵² *Ibid.*, p. 17.

⁵³ See, generally, *Indicators on violence against women and State response*, (Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, 2008), A/HRC/7/6.

measurement and catalogued indicators at the outcome, structural and process levels.⁵⁴

3.3 Analysis of Victims' Experiences and Needs

Within research and data-collection, conducting in-depth analysis of the experiences of women who have experienced violence is a good practice. In general, it is the responsibility of governmental structures to gather statistical data,⁵⁵ but NGOs can play a key role in ensuring that the voices of victims are integrated into policy decisions. Experiences of individual victims on such topics as the consequences of violence, the impact of violence on their children and other family members, obstacles they encounter in healthcare or legal systems when trying to leave situations of violence, where they receive assistance etc. can inform the design of appropriate programs on prevention, prosecution and protection.

Victims' Voices

In 2007, the International Centre for Migration Policy and Development (ICMPD) published *Listening to Victims: experiences of identification, return and assistance in South-East Europe*. This study was conducted through interviews with 80 trafficked persons. It maps how victims experienced the process of identification, referrals, return, assistance and protection and presents good practices and gaps as articulated by trafficked persons themselves.⁵⁶

In Thailand, the NGO Self Empowerment Program for Migrant Women (SEPOM) conducted a study of the experiences of women who were trafficked to Japan. The innovative aspect of this project is that formerly trafficked women themselves conducted the survey. The women received training and support to develop their research skills. By using this method, the women themselves were supported and empowered, and the study uncovered detailed information about the situation for the children of trafficked women, insights that would probably not be available to a more "neutral" researcher.⁵⁷

Research on violence against women, particularly that which includes victim experiences, raises ethical considerations for both participants and researchers. It is of the utmost importance that when any victims are included in research projects, their safety, both physical and psychological, confidentiality and human rights be a constant focus. Likewise, researchers and interviewers should have skills and training, not only to ensure the wellbeing of the interviewee, but also to protect themselves from harm.

⁵⁴ See, generally, Addendum on Developing Transnational Indicators on Violence Against Women to Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, *supra*.

⁵⁵ While State structures are necessarily the bodies to regularly collect statistics on incidence of VAW, NGOs have also been successful in using surveys, data collection from client in-take forms and other methodologies to demonstrate the existence of VAW and to advocate for increased attention to this problem.

⁵⁶ The study is available at <http://www.icmpd.org>.

⁵⁷ *Ending Violence against Women and Girls – Protecting Human Rights: Good Practices for Development Co-operation*, (GTZ, 2005), pp. 34-35.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has developed guides on ethical and safety recommendations for research on violence against women in several specific contexts, which can be accessed on the WHO website: <http://www.who.int/gender/documents/en/>.

Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Researching, Documenting and Monitoring Sexual Violence in Emergencies (2007).

Putting Women First: Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Research on Domestic Violence Against Women (2003).

Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Interviewing Trafficked Women (2003).

**Ethical
and Safety
Recommendation
for Research
on VAW**

3.4 Monitoring and Tracking

Monitoring the implementation of laws, the accessibility and responsiveness of services for victims and changes in societal attitudes towards violence against women are just some examples of a process that aids in understanding the dimension of the problem. Monitoring and tracking implicate some of the good practices already described above, such as using standard indicators, undertaking regular data-collection and involving women in analyzing their concrete needs. This type of monitoring is distinct from program monitoring and evaluation, a subject that is also of great importance but one that is beyond the scope of this compilation.

There are a number of good examples of both governments and NGO-led monitoring programs to improve the response to violence against women. In 2008, the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities issued recommendations that measures to prevent and respond to interpersonal and domestic violence be integrated into the municipal welfare strategy. Specifically, municipalities are urged to adopt “a cross-sectoral and multiprofessional approach.”⁵⁸ In 2011, the Finnish government will conduct a national assessment of how these recommendations have been implemented. The monitoring component of this ministerial initiative is an important inducement to municipal governments to take responsibility for developing prevention programs and coordinated services.⁵⁹

Type of VAW addressed: Rape

Approach and major goals: The project, a study, explores how the South African criminal justice system processes rape complaints in order to hold the criminal justice system accountable and to provide insights into why the system may be ineffective at deterring sexual violence. The study examined the processing of rape complaints, their outcomes and the length of time from reporting until such cases were disposed of by police or courts, and also compiled information about the characteristics of reported rape and of the perpetrators.

**Tracking Justice:
A Study of the
Attrition of Rape
Cases through
the Criminal
Justice System**

⁵⁸ *Prevention of interpersonal and domestic violence to be integrated into municipal welfare and security planning*, Press Release, 12 May 2008, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, available at <http://www.stm.fi/en/pressreleases/pressrelease/view/1200671#en>

⁵⁹ Helena Ewalds, *Multi-professional Coordination and Co-operation in Combating Violence Against Women: Practical Experiences from Finland*, Presentation at Experts' Seminar on Innovative Approaches to Combating Violence Against Women, organized by the Gender Section, OSCE Secretariat October 2008 (Seminar materials available at http://www.osce.org/gender/item_6_32383.html).

Activities undertaken how the project works: Several organizations, governmental and non-governmental, collaborated on this project to track rape cases through the justice system in one South African province – the Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Centre to End Violence Against Women, the South African Medical Research Council and the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, working with the South African Police Service and the National Department of Justice and Constitutional Development. The researchers used sampling techniques to select over 2,000 cases for study, out of almost 12,000 reported rape cases in one year. Records from 70 police stations as well as Family Violence Child Protection and Sexual Offences Units and magistrates' courts were examined. Among the key findings, the study revealed that approximately half the reported cases resulted in arrests, trials commenced in less than one in five cases, convictions resulted in less than one in 20 cases, and 15% of perpetrators received less than the mandatory sentence. The study also presents important information on the collection of medical-legal evidence and how the survivors engaged with the criminal justice system. For example, over a third of survivors opted out of criminal justice processes for various reasons.

Geographic focus: The Gauteng Province of South Africa

Materials, products, outcomes: The study results are contained in the report

Tracking Justice: *The Attrition of Rape Cases through the Criminal Justice System in Gauteng* (2008). The report includes a number of detailed recommendations for improving prevention efforts, protection of diverse survivors and how the justice system responds to rape cases. Of note, the study was conducted before the enactment of a new law on sexual violence, so it may also be used as a baseline to measure the law's impact.

Funding information: Funded by the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, the Open Society Foundation, the Ford Foundation and the Medical Research Council.

Implementing organizations:

Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Centre to End Violence Against Women (TLAC)
Tel.: +27 (11) 403-8230/4267
Fax: +27 (11) 403-4275
www.tlac.org.za

South African Medical Research Council (MRC)
Gender & Health Research Unit
Tel.: +27 (12) 339-8526
Fax: +27 (12) 339-8582
www.mrc.ac.za

Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR)
Tel.: +27 (11) 403-5650
Fax: +27 (11) 339-6785
www.csvr.org.za

For more information: The report can be downloaded from the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation website: www.csvr.org.za under "Publications."

In Russia, ANNA – the National Center for the Prevention of Violence, an NGO, has established the Independent National Women's Human Rights Commission on Violence Against Women to undertake monitoring the extent to which women in Russia are protected from violence. Responding to the current political situation,

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it was considered more constructive to found a commission made up of Russian independent experts that would offer critique based on expertise and knowledge of the situation at the local level. The Commission has gathered statistical data, carried out assessments and research by region on existing legislation, types and extent of services available to victims, made note of obstacles that victims face in obtaining protection and evaluated both harmful cultural practices and good practices being used in Russia. The Commission is expected to publish a report on an annual basis.⁶⁰

3.4.1 Monitoring the Legal System

Regular monitoring of the implementation of laws and of criminal justice professionals' action generally is an important tool for ensuring that the legal system functions properly to ensure consistent and fair prosecution of perpetrators and full protection for victims. Tracking how VAW cases are dealt with provides important information about possible weaknesses in the system. In Russia, the police in Sverdlovsk region collect data on the numbers of specific domestic violence cases that come to their office,⁶¹ are reviewed in court and how many actually receive a judgment.⁶² In this way, they are able to demonstrate that over half such cases are never reviewed by a judge, and in the vast majority of those that are sent to court, some form of reconciliation between the partners is encouraged and cases are dropped.

The scope of such monitoring needs not be large in order to support significant conclusions about the effectiveness of the legal system in addressing violence against women. For example, the City Controller for Los Angeles, California recently undertook an audit of how the Los Angeles Police Department has used a federal grant of \$4 million USD-funds that were specifically dedicated to improve the testing of evidence in rape kits. The federal money was intended to decrease a large backlog in the testing of physical evidence gathered after sexual assaults. The Controller's audit, however, found that despite increased funding, the backlog in testing has increased, there are over 7,000 unprocessed kits and that the police department is failing to comply with state law requiring that rape victims be notified if their kits have not been processed within two years of the incident. An NGO, Human Rights Watch, is conducting advocacy around the recent audit, pointing out that the backlog has a serious impact on victims' right to justice; their cases are not being processed in a timely manner and delays in the testing of evidence trigger a ten-year statute of limitations on bringing such cases to court.⁶³

When monitoring is undertaken by NGOs, it is used for advocacy purposes, for example to highlight the need for more targeted laws and procedures, to draw the public's attention to miscarriages of justice and to make regular checks of the justice system that can inform training programs.

⁶⁰ Andrei Sinelnikov, *Women's Human Rights and Violence against Women: Monitoring as a Tool for Promoting Changes in the Response to Gender-based violence*, Presentation at Experts' Seminar on Innovative Approaches to Combating Violence Against Women, organized by the Gender Section, OSCE Secretariat, October 2008) (Seminar materials available: http://www.osce.org/gender/item_6_32383.html).

⁶¹ Cases classified as "light injury" under the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation.

⁶² *CEDAW Assessment Tool Report for the Russian Federation*, (ABA, 2006), p. 122.

⁶³ *USA: Los Angeles Police Fail to Use Funds to Test Rape Kits*, Press Release, October 20, 2008, Human Rights Watch, available at <http://www.hrw.org/en/category/topic/women%E2%80%99s-rights>

Type of VAW addressed: Domestic and sexual violence against women and children.

Approach and major goals: WATCH is a court monitoring program that holds the criminal justice system accountable for its actions and makes recommendations to increase safety for women and children. The program identifies problem areas in the court system and, through a non-confrontational process, works with the courts and social services agencies to make systematic improvements. WATCH publishes the results of special monitoring and research projects in a quarterly newsletter that serves public awareness and advocacy functions.

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: WATCH trains volunteers to monitor courtroom proceedings in criminal and civil cases on domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse/neglect. The volunteers provide a public presence in the courtroom and objectively note observable behaviors of court personnel using standardized materials and checklists created by WATCH. The volunteers track individual cases and monitor trends in the justice system. In addition, WATCH staff investigate areas of special concern and publish their findings. These activities form the basis for work with the system to make the necessary improvements.

Geographic focus: The program works in courts of Hennepin County, Minnesota, U.S.A. but other court monitoring programs, with different areas of focus, have been replicated elsewhere.

Materials, products, outcomes: WATCH offers web-based training as well as technical assistance and a manual on creating a court monitoring program (for purchase).

Funding information: Individual contributions and foundation grants; reliance on volunteer observers which the organization recruits and trains several times a year. A \$25 USD training fee is requested of volunteers.

Implementing organization:

WATCH
608 Second Avenue South
Northstar East Suite 465
Minneapolis, MN 55402
U.S.A.
Tel.: +1 612-341-2747
Fax: +1 612-339-1171
E-mail: watch@watchmn.org

For more information: <http://www.watchmn.org/home.html>

3.4.2 Monitoring the Media

Monitoring how the media responds to and addresses violence against women can provide important information on the kinds of messages that society is regularly receiving about this issue and can provide useful insights into areas for potential sensitization and training for media professionals, a topic which is discussed in more detail elsewhere in this compilation. In 2006, the West Ukrainian Centre "Women's Perspectives" undertook a four-month monitoring of press coverage of domestic violence, analyzing a total of 276 issues of ten regional and nationwide

newspapers.⁶⁴ Even this relatively small-scale project revealed some important data. For example, the press reports tended to present sensationalized content rather than preventative or educational information. Domestic violence was largely described as an “event” and not a crime. The majority of the cases reported were those that ended in homicide, which is not reflective of the overall death rate from domestic violence in Ukraine. While journalists were choosing to report on the most extreme cases, they did not provide comments by experts or information about where domestic violence victims can find assistance.

3.4.3 Budget Analysis

How a government allocates resources reflects that government’s policy priorities. Gender-sensitive budget analysis can, therefore, be used to expose how much support a government is concretely allocating to combat violence against women. As the author of a study examining budget allocations toward implementing a law on domestic violence in South Africa puts it, “[b]ecause no country has access to unlimited funds with which to finance its workings and must work within particular constraints, choices need to be made about what programs to prioritize. These are not merely neutral technical decisions but political choices ...”⁶⁵ Budget analysis can be conducted by examining such factors as expenditures for prevention (for example, public awareness campaigns), on social services, on legal assistance, on policing or even related to municipal planning of safe public spaces.

The Mexican NGO Consorcio para el Diálogo Parlamentario y la Equidad (Consortium for Dialogue and Equality) conducts regular monitoring of national budget allocations on women’s issues, specifically to determine if the government is effectively allocating funds that were set aside to address violence against women. The funder of this project notes that the Consortium is the first feminist group in the world to have taken on this watchdog role, which is a particular challenge in Mexico where it is generally men, even at the national level, who manage financial issues. The Consortium now works closely with the parliamentary commission on gender and equality of Mexico, and the government considers them an official negotiating partner. The monitoring methodology and strategies employed in this project, which was initiated with a small grant of €10,000, have been successfully adopted by other women’s groups in Latin America.⁶⁶

Gender-sensitive budget analysis has become a well-developed field, and there are many examples of methodologies that have been used successfully to examine local and national expenditures on VAW. Both UNIFEM and UNFPA have supported initiatives worldwide to build the capacity of women’s NGO to carry out budget analysis. UNIFEM offers several resources on monitoring budgets and budget policy-making processes, for example: *Budgeting for Women’s Rights: Monitoring Government Budgets for Compliance with CEDAW* (2006) and *Gender Responsive Budgeting in practice: A Training Manual* (2006). Materials can be accessed from: <http://unifem.org/resources/>.

The Polish NGO, Network of East-West Women (NEWW-Polska) is carrying out the *Gdansk-Gender Budget Initiative*. This project, an outgrowth of several NEWW-Polska activities, undertakes local budget analysis in several areas, including

Gender-Sensitive Budgeting

⁶⁴ H. Fedkovych, I Trokhym and M Chumalo, *Combating Domestic Violence: Ukrainian and International Experience*, (West Ukrainian Centre -Women’s Perspectives, 2007).

⁶⁵ Lisa Vetten, “Show Me the Money”: *A review of budgets allocated towards the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act (no. 116 of 1998)*, *Politikon*, Vol. 32, No. 2, November 2005, pp. 277-295, available at <http://www.csvr.org.za>

⁶⁶ See *Women Keep an Eye on the Treasury*, available at <http://www.mamacash.org/page.php?id=1710>. Information in Spanish can also be found on the website of the Consorcio para el Diálogo Parlamentario y la Equidad: <http://www.consorcio.org.mx>

domestic violence, and intends to make comparisons with other countries in the CIS/CEE and/or EU regions. Background information on gender-responsive budgeting, tools for analysis, information kits and reports can be accessed on the NEWWW website: <http://www.newww.org/en/achievements/budzet/0.html>.

3.5 Research as Advocacy

Research can be a powerful advocacy tool. The World Health Organization and Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH) have published *Researching Violence Against Women: A Practical Guide for Researchers and Activists*,⁶⁷ a comprehensive manual that outlines how to develop a research strategy, approaches to quantitative and qualitative research, analyzing data and using the research findings for advocacy.

In some cases, it is only through research and documentation that women's groups have been able to establish that some forms of violence against women exist. For example, the Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling (WCLAC) in the Occupied Palestinian Territory recognized that "honor killings" were occurring regularly but that there was no reliable data; police or courts were reporting such cases as suicide or accidents. The Women's Centre began to comprehensively document these cases and also conducted extensive interviews of the police, community leaders and religious leaders. Ultimately, the research formed the basis of further projects, such as awareness raising and training and resulted in greater acknowledgement of "honor killings" in society.⁶⁸ The Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation, working under a joint project with Kvinnoforum, Sweden, undertook a pilot study of honor related violence, largely among minority populations in Bulgaria, in order to introduce a hidden problem to both NGOs and to society at large. The study, which consisted of mapping this specific form of violence, led to several findings, for instance that honor related violence is generally conflated with domestic violence, that understanding of different risk groups should be improved and further research and awareness raising are required in order to improve prevention and protection efforts.⁶⁹

Human rights fact-finding or documentation can be used to highlight areas in which States are not fulfilling obligations under international law. This type of research uses international treaties as a framework and usually includes analysis of both legal protections from violence against women, what is formally written in the law, as well as any barriers that women face in redressing human rights violations in reality, such as lack of policies, widespread stereotypes among professionals, inadequate funding etc. The manual, *Documenting Women's Rights Violations by Non-State Actors: Activist Strategies from Muslim Countries*,⁷⁰ describes the relevant treaties and treaty-monitoring mechanisms at the UN level and includes information on advocacy strategies.

Economic analysis can also be applied to violence against women as a tool for advocacy. Measuring the economic costs of violence against women is a related form of analysis that illustrates the economic impact on the State, on businesses,

⁶⁷ Lori Heise and Mary Ellsberg. *Researching Violence Against Women: A Practical Guide for Researchers and Activists*, (World Health Organization, PATH, 2005).

⁶⁸ *A Life Free of Violence Is Our Right! UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women. 10 Years of Investment*, (UNIFEM, 2007), p. 11.

⁶⁹ *Pilot study on HRV/honour related violence in Bulgaria: The challenge for intervention institutions*. (Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation with Kvinnoforum, 2004), available at <http://www.bgrf.org/en/?publications&article=3>

⁷⁰ Jan Bauer and Anissa Hélie, *Documenting Women's Rights Violations by Non-State Actors: Activist Strategies from Muslim Countries*, (Rights & Democracy and Women Living Under Muslim Laws, 2006).

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on communities and individuals. This type of analysis can also inform budget decisions by outlining the tremendous costs that result when violence against women is not addressed.⁷¹ There are a number of methodologies to calculate the economic costs of violence against women and they vary depending on the extent to which they analyze direct costs of services related to violence against women, the indirect costs of lost employment and productivity, and the value that is placed on human suffering. Even when examining different factors, studies from such varied countries as Canada, Chile, France, New Zealand and Spain estimate the costs of violence against women to measure in the hundreds of millions of Euros.⁷²

⁷¹ *Ending Violence against Women: From Words to Action*, (UN Secretary-General, 2006), p. 61.

⁷² *Ibid.* Annex 2, Costs of violence against women: selected studies generating a monetary estimate of costs, p. 179.

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The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that the prevention of violence against women be considered a high priority for national health, social and legal agendas of both industrialized and developing countries.⁷³ The WHO also defines prevention activities at three levels: primary prevention (stopping violence from occurring); secondary (immediate responses after violence has occurred to limit its consequences) and tertiary (longer-term treatment and support for victims of violence to prevent further adverse effects).⁷⁴ Despite the recognized value of primary prevention, experts note that there is a significant lack of sustained and long-term investment in such efforts. Primary prevention can take a number of forms but at their core they focus on changing gender-related attitudes and stereotypes at the individual level, among both men and women, and at the societal level.

4.1 Awareness Raising Campaigns

Awareness raising is at the core of prevention efforts and can include working with the general public to change societal attitudes and tolerance of violence against women, to expose the public to the magnitude of this problem, to end secrecy about VAW and to send a clear message that it should not be tolerated. Awareness raising activities can also target specific groups with narrow messages.

Picturing a Life Free of Violence: This publication from UNIFEM and the Media Materials Clearinghouse of the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs compiles a variety of media and communications strategies and materials used around the world to end VAW. Included in this resource are examples of innovative communication methods specific to domestic violence, sexual assault and harassment, harmful traditional practices, trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, mainly in the form of posters and video clips. The compilation can be accessed from: http://www.unifem.org/resources/item_detail.php?ProductID=8.

Making a Difference: Strategic Communications to End Violence against Women: This toolkit from UNIFEM aims to share the lessons learned from women's organizations working to end VAW around the world. The kit is intended to offer technical support to other advocates on developing messages, working with the media and designing strategic communications. It can be used for training as well. This resource also includes a number of sample communications strategies, practical advice and tips from activists and descriptions of actual campaigns. The toolkit can be accessed in English and Russian from: http://www.unifem.org/resources/item_detail.php?ProductID=6.

Ending Violence Against Women. The UNFPA has developed an internet-based multimedia exhibit for advocacy and programming. The website includes information about how to develop awareness raising and advocacy campaigns, studies of projects from 10 countries and tips from activists. The exhibit can be accessed from: <http://www.unfpa.org/endingviolence/html/index.html>

Awareness Raising and Communications Tools

⁷³ WHO *Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women*, (WHO, 2005), p. 91.

⁷⁴ *World Report on Violence and Health*, (WHO, 2002), p. 15.

4.1.1 Public Awareness

Public awareness raising campaigns can be used to initiate public debate about violence against women and challenge social norms. Indeed, some of the more promising awareness campaigns are those that use mainstream media and common technology to promote seldom-heard or thought-provoking messages about violence against women. For example, NGOs have partnered with mobile phone providers to send anti-violence text messages to their customers.⁷⁵ The term “social marketing” describes the use of techniques from the advertising world used to promote messages of social significance.

At the same time, popular culture has also been used to spread messages widely. Campaigns directed to the general public may influence general perceptions by using information gathered through research, such as prevalence rates or the economic costs of violence, as described above. Public awareness campaigns can use a variety of media (television, radio, film, theater, dance, internet etc.) as well as tools to spread messages (posters, brochures, calendars, t-shirts etc.). Lastly, some national governments have carried out widespread awareness campaigns but in many countries NGOs have run publicity efforts. As mentioned above, sustained efforts require significant funds, but at the same time it is critical that NGOs be involved in the design and distribution of messages to the public.

Global Campaigns

UN Campaigns on Violence Against Women

The UN is currently running several global campaigns to raise awareness of specific aspects of violence against women and to call for further action.

UNiTE to End Violence Against Women (2008-2015) focuses on global advocacy; strengthened efforts and partnerships at the national and regional levels; and UN leadership by example. States are urged to enact or strengthen laws and enforce such laws to end impunity. The Secretary-General will form a global network of male leaders to assist in mobilizing men and boys to become involved in the struggle to end violence against women, and he will convene a high-level event in 2010.⁷⁶ For more information: <http://endviolence.un.org/> and <http://www.un.org/russian/women/endviolence/>.

The *Say No to Violence Against Women* campaign is a global Internet-based advocacy effort that UNiFEM launched in 2007. This campaign initiative to demonstrate the growing movement to make ending violence against women a priority for all governments is led by UNiFEM Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman. On November 25, 2008, the International Day to Eliminate Violence against Women, over 300,000 individual signatures were presented to the UN Secretary-General.

⁷⁵ The Russian women’s organization Women’s Alliance, in Barnaul, reported that a mobile phone company agreed to send text messages on November 25 to mark the UN-sponsored International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (Personal notes from domestic violence conference, 18 November 2004, Moscow). As part of Amnesty International’s international campaign *Stop Violence Against Women* participants of the Norwegian Section sent messages from mobile phones to Amnesty’s network. (Press release, March 2004, available at <http://www.amnesty.org.ru/pages/vestnik29-03-rus.>)

⁷⁶ Gemma Connell, *The Work of the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women on Violence Against Women*, Presentation at Experts’ Seminar on Innovative Approaches to Combating Violence Against Women, organized by the Gender Section, OSCE Secretariat, October 2008 (Seminar materials available at http://www.osce.org/gender/item_6_32383.html).

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To date, more than 5 million people have supported the campaign.⁷⁷ For more information: <http://www.saynotoviolence.org/>.

The *Stop Rape Now: UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict* campaign, a joint effort of 12 UN entities, is an initiative to “improve coordination and accountability, amplify programming and advocacy and support national efforts to prevent sexual violence and respond effectively to the needs of survivors.” UN Action has three focal areas: to build capacity in GBV programming and coordination at the country level, to raise public awareness and generate political will to address sexual violence; to consolidate knowledge and effective practices on sexual violence in conflict. The campaign website offers tools for taking part in the campaign as well as further advocacy resources. For more information: <http://www.stoprapienow.org/>.

Type of VAW addressed: All forms of VAW

Approach and major goals: The campaign was started in 1991 by the Center for Women’s Global Leadership (CWLG) to raise awareness about VAW and to coordinate NGOs globally around specific campaign dates, an agreed-upon format and unified messages.

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: The campaign runs from November 25 to December 10. Each year, the CWLG initiates the campaign by suggesting a theme and sample actions. Campaign participants from around the world can use any number of tools to run their own campaigns at the region, national or community level. The CWLG serve a coordinating function through their website where NGOs can learn of each others actions, download campaign materials in a variety of languages.

Geographic focus: Global

Materials, products, outcomes: The website includes downloadable campaign materials as well as links to information about campaigns throughout the world

Funding information: Individual campaigns are all funded themselves.

Implementing organization:

Center for Women’s Global Leadership
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
160 Ryders Lane
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8555 USA
Tel.: +1-732-932-8782
Fax: +1-732-932-1180
E-mail: cwgl@igc.org

For more information: <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days/home.html>

The 16 Days Against Gender- Based Violence Campaign/CWLG

⁷⁷ Nargis Azizova, *Prevention and Response to Violence against Women in Tajikistan: UN Actions*, Presentation at Experts’ Seminar on Innovative Approaches to Combating Violence Against Women, *Ibid*.

Stop Violence Against Women Campaign/ Amnesty International

Type of VAW addressed: In theory, all forms of violence against women, but the campaign has focused on violence in the home (domestic violence) and in conflict settings as well as underlying discrimination against women.

Approach and major goals: In 2004, Amnesty International (AI) launched its Stop Violence Against Women campaign to achieve several long-term goals: abolish laws that discriminate against women or support impunity for VAW; enact and implement effective laws and practices to protect women survivors; hold States accountable; and secure effective action to prevent VAW.

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: The campaign is run by individual sections of Amnesty International, with support from the Secretariat Office, and in partnership with women's organization and other human rights groups. The campaign uses a wide range of tools (including strategic lobbying, research, media work, letter-writing and Internet campaigns) as well as diverse actions developed by nation-level sections.

Geographic focus: Global

Materials, products, outcomes: Individual activities within the broader campaign are varied and information on materials can be accessed by finding AI section sites. Amnesty International has also published a toolkit for activists working on to stop VAW with step-by-step guidance on developing a campaign. The activist toolkit, *Making Rights a Reality: Campaigning to Stop Violence Against Women*, can be downloaded from the website.

Funding information: Not available

Implementing organization:

Amnesty International
International Secretariat
1 Easton Street
London
WC1X 0DW, UK
Tel.: +44-20-74135500, Fax: +44-20-79561157

For more information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/campaigns/stop-violence-against-women>. AI Canada has online campaign tools: www.amnesty.ca/stoptheviolence

Regional-Level Campaigns

Stop Domestic Violence Against Women Campaign/ Council of Europe

In 2005, the Council of Europe (CoE) adopted an action plan that called for the creation of a task force of independent experts (the Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence) and the development of a European-wide campaign to address domestic violence. The campaign, *Stop Domestic Violence Against Women*, was launched in November 2006 and over its 18-month duration it involved all 47 Member States. The aims of the campaign were to improve the implementation of CoE recommendations on the protection of women from violence, to promote criminalization of domestic violence and to foster new attitudes towards VAW so that it would no longer be tolerated. During the campaign, Member States were urged to make significant progress in several areas: legal and policy measures; support and protection for victims; data collection and awareness raising. Members States were also encouraged to designate

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Parliamentary contacts, a national focal point and to install national task forces to prioritize steps to be taken to address domestic violence. Contact information for these national-level officials can be found on the campaign website.

At the campaign's conclusion, the CoE catalogued the activities of Member States, the majority of which reported that they either conducted specific activities as part of the campaign or that the campaign hastened progress in areas where work was already being done. Most countries conducted local awareness raising activities, such as photo exhibitions and poster campaigns that presented a unified set of messages. Some developed national action plans and some undertook amendments to improve legal protections for victims of domestic violence. On the whole, there were fewer improvements in the area of service provision. In reviewing the entire campaign, the Task Force has developed specific recommendations for further work of the CoE in the area of VAW. These recommendations include: the development of a legally binding instrument on the elimination of all forms of violence against women in Europe; the establishment of a mechanism to monitor implementation of such a convention; the development of a comprehensive system of legal protection; the development of comprehensive services for all survivors of violence; and the commitment of adequate resources and funding to support NGOs to provide services.⁷⁸ For more information: <http://www.coe.int/stopviolence>

National-Level Campaigns

Type of VAW addressed: All forms of VAW as well as campaigns targeting domestic violence, rape, violence at work, forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

Approach and major goals: The French government has taken significant steps to address violence against women, a problem that has been relatively hidden in French society. The Ministry of Employment, Social Cohesion and Housing, working with regional-level Offices of Women's Rights and Equality, have developed and conducted four major awareness raising campaigns at the national and regional level, *Break the Silence* (2001); *Stop the Violence: Acting is Speaking About It* (2006); *Speak Before It Is Too Late* (2007) and *Don't Let Violence Settle In. React.* (2008).

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: Between 2001 and 2006, the French government carried out five large-scale studies into violence against women, the data from which were used to inform the campaigns. Research from 2001 on VAW revealed that as many as one in ten women are victims of domestic violence. The first campaign, *Break the Silence*, targeted women with messages that their situation was not shameful but that in order to find help, they must speak about the problem. Studies in 2006 of intimate partner violence looked specifically at homicide rates and perpetrator behavior. The resulting campaign, *Stop the Violence: Acting is Speaking About It*, emphasized prevention with leaflets, posters and public service advertising on television that all contained national telephone hotlines, information about organizations that can help and advice on the law and seeking assistance. In 2007, a single national toll-free telephone line was dedicated, and a third campaign, *Speak Before It Is Too Late*, was used to widely promote this service. Printed materials about the telephone line also include messages that

France's Awareness Raising Campaigns

⁷⁸ Rosa Logar, *Overview of Goals, Strategies and Results of the Council of Europe Campaign*, Presentation at Experts' Seminar on Innovative Approaches to Combating Violence Against Women, organized by the Gender Section, OSCE Secretariat, October 2008 (Seminar materials available at http://www.osce.org/gender/item_6_32383.html).

all forms of VAW are punishable by the law and information about legal remedies and other professionals that can offer assistance. This campaign also made use of a short film, distributed through the Internet, showing the potentially lethal consequences of not talking about violence. The most recent campaign, *Don't Let Violence Settle In. React*, is based on 2007 survey data on others forms of VAW, such as forced marriage and violence at work. This campaign deliberately presents less dramatic messages. It targets a broader audience, including men and the criminal justice system, and looks at the impact of violence on children.

Geographic focus: France

Materials, products, outcomes: Numerous printed materials, in the form of brochures, cards and posters, were created. Videos and printed advertisement have been used in the mainstream media, such as on television, the Internet and in popular magazines. The French government supports a website where the campaign materials can be found and users can find assistance as well as more detailed information about types of violence against women. The site includes video clips, testimonies and the possibility to express one's own opinion.

Funding information: Not available

Implementing organization:

The Ministry of Employment, Social Cohesion and Housing
Offices of Women's Rights and Equality

For more information:⁷⁹

French National Stop Violence website: www.stop-violences-femmes.gouv.fr

Zero Tolerance Campaign

Type of VAW addressed: All forms of VAW

Approach and major goals: The Zero Tolerance campaign is run by a charitable trust of the same name. The campaign aims to prevent male violence against women and children by challenging societal attitudes and values that sustain inequalities and violence itself. The project raises awareness about VAW, its nature and prevalence, by targeting the general public. Zero Tolerance links VAW with the wider agenda of equality and human rights for all. All campaigns have taken the approach that public education alone is insufficient and have promoted a comprehensive response that addresses the "3 P's"— prevention, provision of support services (protection) and legal protection (prosecution).

Activities undertaken/how the project works: In 1992, after it conducted a survey on VAW locally, the Edinburgh District Council's Women's Committee launched the first Zero Tolerance campaign, focusing on prevention of male violence against women, the first of its kind in Britain. The campaign lasted for 6 months and used 4 stark black and white posters to challenge prevailing attitudes about VAW. Following a similar model of first conducting research, the Zero Tolerance Trust has run a number of highly-visible campaigns that address specific problem areas, for example: lack of knowledge of the prevalence of VAW (Prevalence), justifications men use for committing violence (Excuses), lack of justice system response

⁷⁹ Marie-Christine Crespy, *France's Awareness raising Campaigns*, Presentation at Experts' Seminar on Innovative Approaches to Combating Violence Against Women, organized by the Gender Section, OSCE Secretariat, October 2008 (Seminar materials available at http://www.osce.org/gender/item_6_32383.html).

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(Justice). Other educational work targets youth with lessons on gender discrimination and abuse as well as the promotion of non-violent relationships based on equality and the teaching of skills in communication.

Geographic focus: The first Zero Tolerance campaign was launched in Edinburgh, Scotland. Since then, the campaign has served as a model for many other organizations, for example, the CoE campaign to combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence.

Materials, products, outcomes: Campaign packs, training materials, posters and merchandise can be purchased through the website. Research can be downloaded from the site.

Funding information: Not available

Implementing organization:

The Zero Tolerance Charitable Trust
11 Maritime Street
Edinburgh EH6 6SB
United Kingdom
Tel.: +44 (0)131 624 8955
Fax: +44 (0)131 624 8959
E-mail: info@zerotolerance.org.uk

For more information: <http://www.zerotolerance.org.uk/index.php>

Type of VAW addressed: All forms of VAW as a type of gender discrimination.

Approach and major goals: The goal of this project was to bring issues of women's rights to the mainstream by using professional media projects such as music and videos. Breakthrough, an international NGO, aimed to transform society's attitudes toward women and girls.

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: Breakthrough worked with media professionals to create an album of popular music about women's rights, several of which addressed VAW specifically. They also created music videos that were shown on mainstream television in numerous countries. The videos proved so popular that they have been nominated for awards. The NGO has also developed training materials and short guides about dealing with specific types of VAW, such as domestic violence and sexual harassment.

Geographic focus: The album and videos targeted an Indian audience but they gained popularity in a large number of other countries.

Materials, products, outcomes: Album, videos, an educational curriculum and a scholarship program for women and girls.

Funding information: The organization leveraged support from UNIFEM and other international agencies.

Women's Rights
Are Human
Rights

Implementing organization:

Breakthrough India:
#104, Blue Apartments,
Safdarjung Ring Road,
New Delhi 110029, India
Tel.: +91-11-2617-6181
Fax: +91-11-2617-6185

Breakthrough USA:
4 West 37th Street, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10018 USA
Tel.: +1-212-868-6500
Fax: +1-212-868-6501

For more information: <http://www.breakthrough.tv>

Naked Facts

Type of VAW addressed: Trafficking in women and children

Approach and major goals: *Naked Facts* is the fifth anti-trafficking campaign of the Serbian NGO ASTRA. This campaign, launched in June 2008, approaches the problem that society is increasingly indifferent about and tolerant to human rights abuses and violence. Therefore, the campaign targets the general public, specifically children and youth, with messages that human trafficking persists in Serbia. The campaign also encourages people to be cautious and aware and to report trafficking cases.

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: The heart of the *Naked Facts* campaign is a public service announcement and radio jingles consisting of facts about the problem of trafficking in women and children. Seven men well-respected Serbian men (directors, journalists, editors, actors, politicians) who are known for insisting on the truth present the facts. The announcement is particularly eye-catching as the presenters are naked themselves – a way to draw attention to the issue and to challenge the notion that naked women are acceptable marketing tools. The announcement promotes the ASTRA telephone hotline and concludes with the slogan: “Women are not meat. Children are not slaves. People are not a commodity.” The campaign makes use of two types of leaflets: one about ASTRA intended for institutions and potential partners and another for young people in risk groups with advice about work and educational opportunities abroad and ways to protect oneself from traffickers. In fact, several activities within the campaign target young people, for instance, the campaign was most active in June and September, when students are either looking for work or returning to school and leaving their families.

Geographic focus: Serbia

Materials, products, outcomes: The campaign used a number of different materials to relay its message: television and radio spots, posters, calendars, notebooks, mugs, car air fresheners. Billboards were placed in 22 locations around Serbia, and campaign posters were displayed in buses in Belgrade. The public service announcement can be viewed from the ASTRA website: http://www.astra.org.yu/novi/eng/?page_id=112.

The campaign has garnered a great deal of attention beyond the framework of the project, including a social marketing award for the television spots and invitations to ASTRA to participate in television and radio talk shows. The NGO reports that during the most intensive months of the campaign, the number of calls to

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their hotline increased by 20%-25%. Previous awareness campaigns have led to increased calls and greater identification and assistance of trafficking victims.

Funding information: The *Naked Facts* campaign was supported by OSCE Mission to Serbia and the Austrian Development Co-operation (ADA), as well as a number of local media sponsors. For example, local media provided free air time for both television spots and radio jingles, and advertising space on buses was given for free.

Implementing organization:

ASTRA

[Address protected]

SOS telephone number: +381 11 3347 817 [weekdays, 14:00-20:00]

E-mail: astrasos@sezampro.rs

For more information: http://www.astra.org.yu/novi/eng/?page_id=112,
<http://www.osce.org/item/31830.html>

Local-Level and Localized Campaigns

Type of VAW addressed: All forms of VAW, specifically focusing on the connections between male violence against women in peacetime and during conflict.

Approach and major goals: Women in Black is a worldwide network of women who are committed to peace with justice and actively opposed to injustice, war, militarism and other forms of violence. Women in Black groups are self-organized and use non-violent and non-aggressive tactics to oppose any manifestation of violence, militarism or war and to challenge the militarist practices of governments. The group's work is informed by its feminist perspective – that male violence against women in the home and the community and violence used against women in conflict are interrelated. The movement demonstrates that women generally experience war differently from men; they fear rape and are much more likely to become displaced. Women in Black, therefore, aims to ensure that women's perspectives on security and war are heard.

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: Women in Black is a world-wide movement, but they primarily organize local-level public displays and vigils. Such actions are generally women-only and often take the form of women wearing black, standing in a public place in silent, non-violent vigils at regular times and intervals, carrying placards and handing out leaflets. Vigils are usually organized at regular times, around clear and precise messages, and are often silent or at least do not involve chanting. Any group of women anywhere in the world may organize such a vigil. While Women in Black is women-only peace activism, in some regions, men support their work and Women in Black support men who are opposed to violence.

Geographic focus: Women in Black began in 1988 in Israel when Israeli Jewish women began to stand in weekly vigils in public places to protest against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and to demand peace between Israel and the Palestinians. Italian women who supported Women in Black brought the idea to Italy where they held vigils of their own. When war broke out between former Yugoslav republics, contacts between Italian women and feminist activists in Serbia led to the creation of Women in Black (Žene u Crnom) in Belgrade in 1991. The Serbian Women in Black is one of the most active and visible groups, holding

Women in Black

weekly vigils, and also undertaking further work such as organizing educational workshops, conferences and issuing public statements. Today, the Women in Black movement has been replicated around the world and includes women from many ethnic and national backgrounds. The Spanish Mujeres de Negro have taken significant steps to link Women in Black groups and to set up a system of “country coordinators” that has made Women in Black a worldwide network.

Materials, products, outcomes: Links to individual Women in Black groups are made through an extensive website with links to other Women in Black web-pages.

Funding information: Not available

Implementing organization:

Women in Black

Contact information for Women in Black vigils and country-specific contact information can be accessed from: <http://www.womeninblack.org/vigils/vigils.html>

For more information: <http://www.womeninblack.org/>

The Clothesline Project

Type of VAW addressed: All forms of VAW, with a focus on intimate personal violence such as rape, battering, incest and child sexual abuse.

Approach and major goals: In 1990, a coalition of women’s organizations in the U.S. state of Massachusetts came together to develop an awareness tool that would help to break the silence and bear witness to the high incidence of VAW. The Clothesline Project is a visual display that serves as an educational tool to raise awareness of the prevalence of VAW and its devastating effects. Creating the displays for the project also helps the healing process for survivors of VAW and those who have lost family members or friends.

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: The Clothesline Project consists of shirts hanging from a washing line. Family members, friends and activists design or decorate shirts that represent the personal experiences of a woman or child with VAW. Different colored shirts represent different forms of abuse and whether or not the victim survived the abuse. The shirts are hung together on a “clothesline” which is displayed in public places, at conferences, rallies, etc.

Geographic focus: The Clothesline Project started in the U.S. and has been replicated as many as 500 times in the U.S. and other countries. The organizers estimate that there are 50,000 to 60,000 shirts in total on all the clotheslines. As an example, the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women also has a Clothesline project that is dedicated to the memory of women and children murdered as a result of domestic violence and child abuse.

Materials, products, outcomes: The website offers suggestions and steps for starting a Clothesline Project and an informational brochure can be downloaded from http://www.clotheslineproject.org/How_to_Start_a_CLP.htm

Funding information: The project is generally low cost as volunteers create the shirts. The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women requests a donation of \$100 USD from organizations wishing to display the Clothesline.

Implementing organization:

The Clothesline Project

National Contact Person: Carol Chichetto

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P.O. Box 654
Brewster, MA 02631
U.S.A.

E-mail: ClotheslineProject@verizon.net

For more information:

The Clothesline Project: <http://www.clotheslineproject.org/>
Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women: <http://www.mcbw.org/>

Type of VAW addressed: Child sex trade (not exclusively addressing VAW but with a focus on girls exploited through sex tourism).

Approach and major goals: In 2006, Air France joined a campaign launched by ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) to increase public awareness of the problem of sex tourism. Air France created posters and brochures, used at their ticket offices and airport counters, and supported the creation of a 90-minute film that is shown on all its long-haul flights.

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: Air France collaborated with ECPAT on this specific campaign, and the airline secured the services of their corporate advertising agency to produce the campaign materials at no charge. The film, which is screened on nearly 100 long-haul flights, depicts the reality of sexual exploitation of children, with a focus on girls, and highlights the existence of laws against sex tourism involving children.

Geographic focus: Related to Air France travel routes. It is estimated that around 46,000 travelers a day view the film.

Materials, products, outcomes: Copies of the posters, brochures, the film clip and an information booklet for professionals in the tourism industry can be viewed or downloaded in French on the website of ECPAT France.

Recently, the Dutch airline KLM sent a message to all its travelers informing them about child sex tourism and urging them to report any activities that seem related to child prostitution to the appropriate hotel, tour or air operator, national embassy or local police.

Funding information: Minimal, since the campaign materials were donated by an advertising agency.

Implementing organization:

ECPAT France
c/o Groupe Developpement
BAT 106 – BP 07
93352 LE BOURGET CEDEX
Tel.: +33 (0)1.49.34.83.13
Fax: +33 (0)1.49.34.83.10

E-mail: contact@ecpat-france.org

For more information: <http://www.ecpat-france.org/> under “campagnes précédentes.”

Airlines
Combating
Sex Tourism
Involving
Children

Corporate Alliance To End Partner Violence

Type of VAW addressed: Domestic violence

Approach and major goals: The Corporate Alliance To End Partner Violence (CAEPV) is a U.S.-based organization that was founded in 1995 by business leaders to aid in the prevention of domestic violence using resources of the corporate sphere. The CAEPV works to raise awareness of domestic violence with the goal of reducing the impact and costs of DV on the workplace. While most of the projects of the Corporate Alliance concentrate on the workplace, the organization also undertakes efforts to educate the general public, with a focus on young people, about the risks of domestic violence and characteristics of healthy relationships. The workplace is not only an avenue for providing practical support and advice to employees who may be experiencing violence, but business can also play a role in preventing DV through raising awareness generally at the workplace and in the community as well as supporting local organizations that work directly with survivors of DV.

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: The Corporate Alliance To End Partner Violence is made up of over 50 progressive companies and estimates that it reaches more than 1 million employees in the U.S. Members are primarily U.S.-based but some are multinational. The member companies and organizations represent diverse sectors of the business and professional community. Through its Advisory Board, made up of experts in the field of domestic violence, and annual membership, the CAEPV develops awareness-raising initiatives that primarily target the workplace. Such activities can be easily modified and re-branded by the members for their own use or can be shared with local service organizations. For example, the *SafeWork 2010* project is a national initiative that challenges corporate leaders to recognize the impact of domestic violence on the workplace and take action to address it. CAEPV Survey data revealed that 90% of senior executives believe that domestic violence affects both the private and working lives of their employees but they vastly underestimate the actual numbers of employees who are victims of DV in the U.S. A national survey found that 1 in 5 employed adults are victims and 64% of such employees report that domestic violence impacts their work, in contrast to the estimate of 6% given by top executives. *SafeWork 2010* aims to secure the commitment of 200 Chief Executive Officers from leading companies to take action. Other projects aim to educate the public about domestic violence. For example, *It's Time to Talk Day*, a national campaign led by CAEPV member Liz Claiborne Inc., works through talk radio programs, articles in popular magazines, school-based programs and specially-created print resources to develop a public dialog about DV.

Geographic focus: Mainly, the U.S., but several of the business represented in the Corporate Alliance are multinational. One CAEPV member, the Turkish private media company Hürriyet Gazetecilik ve Matbaacılık A.Ş. launched the *No to Domestic Violence campaign in 2004, partnering with other media outlets and the Turkish government, as well as joining efforts with the UNFPA.*⁸⁰

Materials, products, outcomes: The CAEPV promotes best practices in workplace domestic violence programs and resources developed by its members through its website. Many materials, from conferences and specific projects, such as sample logos, posters, leaflets and booklets, can be accessed through the website directly, from <http://www.caepv.org/about/programs.php>. Best practice information is compiled by CAEPV members and is available at <http://www.caepv.org/getinfo/best-prac.php> Guidance on creating and implementing company policies against DV can be accessed from: <http://www.caepv.org/action/program.php> Other materials can

⁸⁰ See Section 4.2 Working with Men and Boys, below, for more information about the Hürriyet and UNIFEM *Stop Violence Against Women! Advocacy Campaign* in Turkey.

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be purchased from the Corporate Alliance. CAEPA membership includes access to all materials.

Funding information: Members of the CAEPA pay annual dues, assessed on the size of the organization. Member corporations may underwrite the anti-DV projects they develop and carry out. The CAEPA is a non-profit organization and so it is also able to receive donations.

Implementing organization:

Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence
2416 East Washington Street, Suite E
Bloomington, IL 61704
U.S.A.
Tel.: +1 309 664-0667
Fax: +1 309 664-0747
E-mail: caepv@caepv.org

For more information: <http://www.caepv.org/>

4.1.2 Outreach to Women/Legal Literacy/ Empowering Women

Women themselves are a critical focus of any initiative to eliminate violence against women. While there are, of course myriad projects directed to women specifically, many, such as self-help groups or telephone hotlines, these are services to assist women who have already in some way identified themselves as experiencing or having survived violence. Activists against VAW point to the fact that some women lack awareness that gender-based violence is not simply an inevitable part of being female but is a human rights violation and mechanisms exist for redress. Thus, awareness raising that targets women may have some of the features of awareness raising for the general public, such as promoting the unacceptability of violence against women. Most often, however, awareness raising for women takes the form of outreach which can be directed to women in risk groups, such as women who are preparing to travel abroad for work or commercial sex workers, or to specific groups who may have limited access to information, such as rural women, women who lack education, women with disabilities, migrant or refugee women. Legal literacy is a specific form of outreach to provide women with information about local laws with an aim to improve their understanding of how to access the legal system to protect one's rights. An important principle behind all awareness raising materials for women is that they contain messages of empowerment and give women concrete alternatives to either avoid violence or escape it if it has already occurred.⁸¹ Economic empowerment programs are often characterized as prevention work, but because they are also effective components of assistance services for women survivors of violence, they are discussed in more detail in the section on Protection below.

Type of VAW addressed: Sexual harassment in the workplace

Approach and major goals: After a public opinion survey revealed that sexual

How to Say 'No'
to the Boss

⁸¹ In this way, awareness raising is closely connected to programs that focus on protection, such as working with women to develop safety plans which is discussed in the Protection section of this compilation.

harassment toward women was widely tolerated in Slovenia and Croatia and that most victims were unaware of their legal rights, the Women's Forum of the United List of Social Democrats developed a project in co-operation with a coalition of trade unions, women's NGOs, universities, media outlets and the private sector (the Chamber of Commerce). The *How to say 'No' to the Boss* campaign (1997-1999) had several interrelated goals: to provide women with specific information, to engage the media in order to raise public awareness of sexual harassment and to change societal attitudes, and to amend existing laws.

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: The project worked in two main directions, outreach to women and engaging the media. Through the project's training of trainer component, female employees learned how to "say no to the boss" in cases of sexual harassment. Special materials developed during the campaign were used in the trainings, namely, a video introducing the problem, manuals on developing company policies to prevent and eradicate sexual harassment and several samples of seminars that can be held in workplaces and a model of a women-friendly firm. The coalition also launched nation-wide media campaigns using leaflets, posters and booklets that were widely distributed in public places (banks, post offices, railway stations, healthcare centers) and by trade union activists.

Geographic focus: Slovenia and Croatia

Materials, products, outcomes: Leaflets, posters, manual, video and other training materials. Through media events, making women leaders available to the media for interviews and disseminating awareness raising materials, the project resulted in the publication and broadcasting of large numbers of articles, print and radio spots on the issue of sexual harassment in both countries.

Significant policy changes followed the campaigns in both countries, for example State-supported telephone lines offering assistance to victims of harassment, the adoption of a law against workplace sexual harassment (Slovenia) and policies adopted by trade unions (Croatia).

Funding information: Funded by the UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women.

Implementing organization: How to Say No to the Boss Project Coalition Slovenia

For more information:

Picturing a Life Free of Violence: Media and Communications Strategies to End Violence Against Women, Chapter 2: Sexual Assault and Coercion (UNIFEM): http://www.unifem.org/resources/item_detail.php?ProductID=8

'Mission Possible': A Gender and Media Advocacy Toolkit, Module 9: How To Get the Issue on the Media's Agenda (WACC): http://www.whomakesthenews.org/get_involved/advocacy_training_modules

CUT IT OUT

Type of VAW addressed: Domestic violence

Approach and major goals: CUT IT OUT is a program of the Salons Against Domestic Abuse Fund that mobilizes professional hairdressers to fight domestic violence. Recognizing that many battered women never go to the police or a shelter but that they talk to people in an environment in which they feel safe, such as a hair salon, the program aims to educate these professionals to recognize warning signs

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and to provide safe referrals to their clients. The program also builds awareness of DV through materials that are displayed in salons.

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: The program includes training for service providers who conduct seminars with hairdressing professionals in their communities. During the training, the hairdressers learn to recognize warning signs of domestic violence, what services are available locally and how to safely refer clients to services. The project includes a seminar kit with safety cards and posters as well as information about where to display such materials in a secure environment.

Geographic focus: The program started as a statewide initiative in Alabama, U.S.A., but has since been adopted in other states.

Materials, products, outcomes: Materials can be ordered and a sample poster can be downloaded through the project website.

Funding information: The project accepts individual donations and is also supported by private businesses and works in partnership with a national association of cosmetology.

Implementing organization:

Salons Against Domestic Abuse Fund

To contact the organizers, complete an online form:

<http://www.cutitout.org/contactus.aspx> or call

Tel.: +1 312 527-6765 for more information.

For more information: <http://www.cutitout.org/index.html>

4.1.3 Working with Policy Makers

Training for policy makers, referring to elected leaders, Ministerial staff, members of parliament, is classified here as awareness raising or capacity-building and distinguished from training for professionals, such as social workers, law enforcement or healthcare staff, who interact more directly with survivors of violence. This type of training is described in the Prosecution and Protection sections below. The goal of working with policy makers is generally part of a lobbying strategy, for example to increase gender parity in decision-making bodies, to enhance the capacity of leaders to work on co-operation with communities and NGOs on problems that impact women or to put violence against women on the agenda of discussions about public health, public safety or budgeting.

Type of VAW addressed: Potentially all forms of VAW by promoting gender equality

Approach and major goals: In 2006, the Kazakh Parliament adopted for discussion a draft law on Gender Equality. The Feminist League, an NGO in Kazakhstan, has taken the approach that in order to improve the government response to VAW, it will first work with parliamentarians to change their attitudes about gender issues and demonstrate the importance of gender equality. The NGO strategically used the opportunity of reviewing the draft law to educate parliamentarians about gender equality and to actively lobby for the law's passage.

Gender
Equality?!

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: The Feminist League created 3 short cartoons, *Gender Equality?!*, *Equal Rights and Opportunities and Unpaid Housework*, that introduce the viewer to different aspects of gender equality. The films are based on empirical evidence but demonstrate in simple terms that a society in which women and men are unequal cannot function and that women's domestic work should not be considered "free." In 2006, the Feminist League held round tables on the topic of equal rights in Kazakhstan where the films were shown. In addition, the NGO undertook a "cartoon attack," sending copies of the films on CD to each parliamentarian. The organization also held training and discussion sessions with the Parliament. Significantly, the organization is planning an additional film that will address domestic violence, specifically the issue of private prosecution.

Geographic focus: Kazakhstan, but the films have also been used in Kyrgyzstan. The films are almost wordless and so could be easily adapted for use in other countries.

Materials, products, outcomes: Short cartoons on CDs that have been distributed widely. Feminist League reports that the parliamentarians responded favorably to the cartoons, noting that gender equality was not "as frightening" a concept as they had anticipated. Ultimately, the Parliament passed the law, but the process has since been halted.

Funding information: Funded by the Open Society Institute, Mama Cash and the OSCE.

Implementing organization:

Feminist League
P.O. Box 521
Almaty 480091
Kazakhstan
Tel./ Fax: +7 (3272) 610 241
feminist@women.kz

For more information:⁸² <http://www.women.kz/>

**Combating
Violence in
the Family by
Strengthening
Public
Mechanisms
and the
Legislative
Framework at
the National
Level**

Type of VAW addressed: All forms of VAW, but with a focus on domestic violence

Approach and major goals: In 2005, the Association of NGOs for Gender Equality and the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the Republic of Tajikistan, a coalition of five NGOs, initiated a project to develop a partnership with the Tajik government, donor organizations, international organizations and NGOs in order to jointly address issues of gender equality and VAW. The *Combating Violence in the Family by Strengthening Public Mechanisms and the Legislative Framework at the National Level* project aimed to work with the government to implement the State Policy on Gender Equality for 2001-2010, specifically the section that addresses elimination of VAW.

⁸² Additional information from presentation of Yevgeniya Kozyreva, Feminist League, Eastern European and Central Asian NGO Regional Consultation with the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences, 18-19 September 2008, St. Petersburg and *Kruglyi stol: Ravnye prava i vozmozhnosti v Kazakhstanie*, 16 June 2006, available at: <http://www.owl.ru/content/news/worldwide-2006/p60694.shtml>.

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Activities undertaken/ how the project works: Within the project, the Association worked to enhance specific mechanisms for co-operation in addressing VAW, such as an inter-agency Coordinating Council on preventing VAW, and lobbied for legislative change to address VAW, such as a law on domestic violence. The Association also provided training on Tajikistan's gender equality law for representatives of law enforcement, medical institutions, social services and local government leaders and also worked with the media to publicize information about the problem of VAW in the country. The project also included a component on data-collection on the services provided by crisis centers and analysis of how Kazakhstan's specialized police departments on VAW function.

Geographic focus: Tajikistan

Materials, products, outcomes: In 2006, a Coordinating Council on the Prevention of VAW was created, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister of Tajikistan and with representation from government ministries and NGOs. The Coordinating Council met directly with the media on several occasions, the Association organized a competition for young journalists to highlight the problem of VAW, and a number of newspaper articles, television and radio programs were dedicated to the topic of preventing of family violence. The Association conducted 83 seminars across the country for almost 2000 participants, including police, judges, healthcare workers, local leaders, educators, journalists, university students and women's organizations. During the project, the Association facilitated a process by which 16 ministries and departments of the Tajikistan government reviewed and finalized a draft DV law, and amendments to existing laws were also drafted.⁸³ Data collected from crisis centers was included in a shadow report to the CEDAW Committee (2006).

Funding information: Funded by the UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women

Implementing organization:

Association of NGOs for Gender Equality and the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the Republic of Tajikistan
Aini 53 St, f.3, Dushanbe, Tajikistan,
Tel.: +992-372 221-13-33, 221-21-49,
E-mail: lw1_toj@rambler.ru

For more information: *Shadow Report on the Realization of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, prepared by Non-governmental Organizations of Tajikistan: <http://www.iwraw-ap.org/resources/pdf/Tajikistan%20final%20report%20English.pdf>

Type of VAW addressed: Potentially all forms of VAW by enhancing women's leadership on gender issues

Approach and major goals: The Women Mayors Link project (2002-2004) was an initiative of the Stability Pact Gender Task Force, developed in 12 countries/territories of the Stability Pact region. The Romanian NGO, Fundatia Sanse Egale pentru Femei (Equal Opportunities for Women Foundation, SEF) was the lead organization. The purpose of the project was improving the leadership skills of women mayors to build regional and international partnership and co-operation on projects to improve the quality of life for women and children in local communities.

⁸³ The law has not yet been adopted.

**Women Mayors
Link**

While anti-VAW work was not an explicit goal, several of the project's partners did address women's rights and social protections for women.

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: About 50 women mayors from Stability Pact countries and territories participated in the project, which was divided into two phases. The first phase focused on developing co-operation between the women mayors, local administrations and local women's networks to undertake small projects to improve the lives of women and children. In Romania and Bulgaria, improving services for women victims of violence was among the areas targeted by the mayors. The second phase of the project was devoted to creating national and regional-level networking opportunities for women mayors. The project made extensive use of Information and Communications Technologies (ITCs), such as email and internet sites, and was therefore relatively low cost.

Geographic focus: 12 Stability Pact countries/territories, at the time – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Slovenia.

Materials, products, outcomes: The Women Mayors Link project has been recognized as a good practice in the effective use of ITCs, to promote gender equality issues.

Funding information: The project was funded by the German and Austrian governments, with a total budget (both phases) of € 157,000.

Implementing organization:

Fundatia Sanse Egale pentru Femei (SEF)
19, Impacarii/Petre Tutea str., bl. 913, tr. 1, et. 1, ap. 3
Iasi, 700731, Romania
Tel.: +40 232 211713
+40 332 425455
Fax: +40 332 401005
E-mail: sef@sef.ro
<http://www.sef.ro/>

For more information: http://www.sef.ro/?lang=en&page=proiecte_si_campanii.proiecte_anterioare&id=24

4.1.4 Training for Media Professionals

Much like training for government officials, programs for media professionals are aimed at improving their awareness and understanding of violence against women. The goal of this type of awareness raising is that these professionals will use this information in their work to produce media reports that do not perpetuate stereotypes, such as victim-blaming, do not sensationalize the topic, as sometimes occurs in cases of trafficking in women and girls, that they protect the identity and confidentiality of the victim if she wishes and that they include information about victim services in reports of incidents of violence.

Tools for Media on Reporting Domestic Violence

Type of VAW addressed: Domestic violence

Approach and major goals: The Albanian Gender Alliance for Development Center has carried out media monitoring since 2000 and has determined that the Albanian media portrays women in a demeaning manner, which reinforces unequal gen-

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der roles and promotes gender-based discrimination. The Center has conducted several projects that focus on promoting gender-sensitive media coverage of VAW, with a focus on domestic violence.

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: The Gender Alliance for Development Center organizes trainings for media professionals on domestic violence and, in 2005, published its own guidebook for media representatives entitled “Violence threatens us all...” The Center’s current project with the media has two components: training on gender-sensitive reporting of domestic violence and the publication of a handbook on accurate reporting of domestic violence and other crimes in the family as well as a booklet that compiles the 10 best articles on domestic violence, selected from those written by the journalists who take part in the trainings.

Geographic focus: Albania

Materials, products, outcomes: Handbooks and compilation of best articles

Funding information: Currently a Democracy Commission grant through the U.S. Embassy/Albania as well as general funding through OSI International Women’s Program.

Implementing organization:

Gender Alliance for Development Center
Street Rr. “Abdyl Frashëri”, P.10/1
Ap. 3 Tiranë, Albania 2418
Tel.: +355 255514/15
Fax: +355 255515
E-mail: qdi@gadc-al.org

For more information: <http://www.gadc-al.org/>

Type of VAW addressed: VAW occurring in conflict situations

Approach and major goals: A core area of activity of the women’s NGO Saathi is awareness raising about VAW as a human rights violation. Saathi also carries out specific projects to raise media awareness of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) with a particular focus on the relevance of the resolution to women of Nepal who have experienced conflict. Saathi’s work not only educates media professionals about the existence of UNSCR 1325 but also provides them with tools for reporting on women, peace and security issues.

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: Saathi has published a media kit and comic book on UNSCR 1325 for journalists and media activists. The media kit, *Facts About United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325*, provides extensive background information on the role of women in the peace process, transition justice and reconciliation and draws attention to VAW used both during and after conflict. The media kit includes many examples of how the key commitments contained in UNSCR 1325 apply to the specific experiences of women in Nepal. A large part of the media kit is devoted to the role of the media with sample story ideas on women, peace and security as well as international advocacy events to which media coverage can be connected. The materials have been used in conjunction with orientation programs for journalists across Nepal. Additionally, Saathi has held a number of round tables and conferences on women in conflict and post-conflict situations that have had considerable media participation and coverage.

**Media Kit:
Facts About
United Nations
Security Council
Resolution 1325**

Geographic focus: Nepal

Materials, products, outcomes: The 20-page media kit can be downloaded in English and Nepali from the Saathi website:
<http://saathi.org.np/index.php?page=publication>

Funding information: Not available

Implementing organization:

SAATHI Nepal
Ekantakuna, Lalitpur
P.O. Box 7770
Kathmandu
Nepal
Tel.: +977 (1) 5554560, Fax: +977 (1) 5554543
E-mail: saathi.ktm@gmail.com

For more information: <http://www.saathi.org.np/>

4.2 Working with Men and Boys

Where once interventions to combat violence against women focused almost exclusively on women through prevention efforts and victims services, in recent years governments, development organizations and activists have turned greater attention to men's attitudes and behaviors. Prevention work that focuses on men and boys recognizes the role that men play in perpetuating violence and that such violent behavior and acceptance of violence are the result of socialization, cultural norms, definition of masculinities and historical gender roles. An equally important part of working with men is acknowledging that not all men are violent, a great many men condemn violent behavior and that violence against women also causes harm to men. Boys who witness male violence suffer greatly, and while they face an increased risk of becoming perpetrators themselves, not all do. Non-violent men and boys can play a critical role as "agents for changing attitudes, behavior and the wider power relations which sustain gender-based violence. ... Men have merits, capacities and attitudes that can be utilized to positively influence gender power relations and end gender-based violence. Men also play critical roles as protectors, supporters, and partners."⁸⁴

Engaging men and boys in efforts to prevent violence against women can take a number of forms. There are several examples of successful campaigns led by men who serve as role models for non-violent behavior. Other projects seek to build partnerships with men and boys. Another successful strategy has been to target male-dominated institutions, such as the armed forces and police, or to deliver messages about violence against women through "male spaces," such as sporting events. Messages may also target potential perpetrators of violence against women, such as public campaigns designed to decrease demand for the sexual services of trafficked women and girls. Additionally, in a number of countries dedicated hotlines and crisis centers for men have been developed and their services promoted publicly.

Programs for perpetrators have also increased and this has become a well-developed field of study. In this compilation, programs that work directly with perpetrators of violence are addressed in the context of Protection, below.

⁸⁴ *The Role of Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality*, Report of the Expert Group Meeting, (DAW, 2004), p. 32, para 89.

MenEngage is a global alliance of NGOs working to engage men and boys in efforts to end gender inequalities. Membership information as well as links to regional and country-level networks can be found on their website. The site also offers a number of resources, such as manuals, toolkits and information on men's campaigns.

MenEngage
Alliance and
Promundo

For more information: <http://www.menengage.org/>.

Promundo is a Brazilian organization that works to promote gender equality and prevent violence against women and children worldwide. Resources, including training materials, research and films, on working with men and boys can be accessed on the Promundo website: <http://www.promundo.org.br/>.

Type of VAW addressed: All forms of VAW

Approach and major goals: In 1991, a group of men in Canada joined together to urge men to speak out about violence against women. Their premise was that men are not inherently violent but that they all have roles and responsibilities in ending VAW. The major goal of the campaign is to educate men and boys by using a white ribbon as a symbol of men's oppression of women. The campaign urges men and boys to pledge never to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and girls.

The White
Ribbon Campaign

Activities undertaken/how the project works: The White Ribbon Campaign (WRC) in Canada runs its campaign annually from November 25 (the International Day for the Eradication of Violence Against Women) to December 6 (Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women). Campaigners in other countries often use the 16 Days of Action as a platform, and many carry out campaigns at other times of the year. In Canada, WRC's work is organized by a volunteer Board of Directors and a small staff, but the WRC as a whole is a decentralized program. Different organizations and individuals from around the world can start a campaign that suits the local community conditions and takes into consideration the best way to reach men and boys, while working in line with the goals and philosophy of the WRC.

Geographic focus: Today, the White Ribbon Campaign is the largest effort by men working to end VAW in the world. Campaigners in over 55 countries regularly take part in anti-VAW activities. The WRC website includes information about and links to campaigns from around the world.

Materials, products, outcomes: Campaigners use small white ribbons or pins with the white ribbon logo, printed t-shirts, hats or wristbands, or incorporate the logo into posters, pamphlets or in advertising. The Campaign has produced an Education and Action Kit for use with young people. The Kit combines in-class lessons with projects that can be led school-wide to raise awareness of violence against women and to promote gender equality and healthy relationships. A number of WRC materials can be viewed and ordered from the campaign website.

The Campaign has also produced an Education and Action Kit for use with young people. The Kit combines in-class lessons with projects that can be led school-wide to raise awareness of violence against women and to promote gender equality and healthy relationships.

Funding information: The Campaign itself receives no core government support, but relies on individual and corporate fundraising and project-specific funds from governmental sources. The organizers note that State funding for intervention and support services for women who experience violence remains insufficient, and

therefore they do not seek to further limit available funding. For this reason, the WRC does not use government funds for their core work.

Implementing organization:

The White Ribbon Campaign
365 Bloor St. East
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M4W 3L4
Tel.: +1 416 920-6684; Toll Free: 1-800-328-2228; Fax: +1 416 920-1678
E-mail: info@whiteribbon.ca

For more information: <http://www.whiteribbon.ca/>

The WRC runs discussion forums and a blog for people who are working to end VAW that can be accessed through the website.

Coaching Boys Into Men and Founding Fathers Campaigns

Type of VAW addressed: All forms of VAW

Approach and major goals: The Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPPF) works to prevent VAW through a number of public education programs, several of which strategically target men and boys. In 2002, the FVPPF launched a large and very successful public service campaign, called *Coaching Boys into Men*, which “inspires men to teach boys that violence does not equal strength.” This campaign centers on encouraging men to start at an early age to provide boys with positive messages about what it means “to be a man” – to express oneself without violence and to treat people with fairness and respect. Men are encouraged to be role models, demonstrating how to deal with other people with respect in daily life. A second campaign, *Founding Fathers*, was launched in 2003, coinciding with the U.S. Father’s Day holiday. The campaign urges men (and women who want to honor men) to make a public commitment to end VAW and to increase funding for anti-VAW programs. The focus on fathers reminds men of their role in raising children, particularly boys, and their positive influence.

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: *The Coaching Boys into Men* campaign was run using several public service television announcements and posters as well as brochures on what men can do to model non-violent and respectful behavior for boys. Community-specific brochures were designed to target African-American and American Indian men. *The Founding Fathers* campaign was launched by 350 men from a wide variety of backgrounds. They jointly issued a public statement (published as an advertisement in the New York Times) calling for an end to VAW. This document became known as the Father’s Day Declaration and new members are invited to sign it. A number of influential male public figures have become founding fathers and have recorded public service messages about the campaign.

Geographic focus: The U.S. but many of the core principles could be replicated elsewhere.

Materials, products, outcomes: Posters, brochures and public service announcements can be viewed on the campaign websites. The FVPPF has also developed the *Coaches Corner*, a resource site that provides men with tools for teaching boys, using the language of sports. Several coaches of U.S. sport teams contributed advice and messages to the materials on the site. The *Coaches Corner* includes the *Coaching Boys into Men Playbook* – a manual with information on VAW, tips for communicating with boys and young men and planning for and recognizing moments that can be used for teaching. Like the website, the manual uses language and images from coaching sporting events.

Funding information: Not available

Implementing organization:

<i>Family Violence Prevention Fund</i>	<i>Washington, DC Office</i>	<i>Boston Office</i>
383 Rhode Island St. Suite #304 San Francisco, CA 94103-5133 U.S.A. Tel.: +1 415 252-8900 Fax: +1 415 252-8991	1101 14th Street NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20005 U.S.A. Tel.: +1 202 682-1212 Fax: +1 202 682-4662	67 Newbury Street, Mezzanine Level Boston, MA 02116 U.S.A. Tel.: +1 617 262-5900 Fax: +1 617 262-5901 E-mail: info@endabuse.org

For more information:

Family Violence Prevention Fund: <http://endabuse.org/>
Coaching Boys into Men: <http://endabuse.org/cbim/>
Founding Fathers: <http://founding-fathers.org/>
Coaches Corner: <http://www.coaches-corner.org/>

Type of VAW addressed: All forms of VAW and HIV/AIDS

Approach and major goals: The regional African Women's Development and Communications Network (FEMNET) is a pan-African organization that includes 25 organizations. FEMNET works in strongly patriarchal contexts. In 2001 after learning through research that a number of men's groups were interested in participating in anti-VAW activities but had limited capacity, FEMNET initiated the Men for Justice Program. FEMNET's approach was to create and support a regional network of men who are linked by their activism around the issues of preventing VAW and HIV/AIDS.

Activities undertaken/how the project works: FEMNET first brought male activists together for a regional training where they discussed strategies that men could take to address VAW. The organization provides men's groups with logistical support to become involved in initiatives to raise awareness among men from various age groups, professions and religions. The activists engage other men in discussions about negative male stereotypes and harmful practices. A sample initiative is the Men's Traveling Conference that took place in 2003 during the 16 Days campaign.⁸⁵ Over 100 men from 6 countries traveled from Kenya to Malawi in a bus decorated with anti-VAW messages, stopping along the way to engage people in discussions through music, dance and theater.

Geographic focus: By creating a Regional Network of Men Against Gender-based Violence, FEMNET works with men's groups in a number of African Francophone and Anglophone countries to become active against VAW.

Materials, products, outcomes: FEMNET has developed media materials in a number of local languages. The project has also led to the development of greater services for men.

Funding information: The project was originally funded through the UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women and has now attracted other international donors. (Heinrich Böll Foundation and UN High Commissioner for Refugees)

⁸⁵ See above for more information on the 16 Days Against Gender-based violence campaign.

**Men for Justice
Program,
Regional Network
of Men Against
Gender-Based
Violence**

Implementing organization:

African Women's Development & Communication Network FEMNET
KUSCCO Center
Kilimanjaro Road off Mara Road in Upper Hill
P.O. Box 54562, 00200 Nairobi, Kenya
Tel.: +254 20 3741301/20; +254 20 2341516/7
Fax: +254 20 3742927
E-mail: admin@femnet.or.ke

For more information: <http://www.femnet.or.ke>

Count to Three: You, She, Your Family. Bring Out What's Best in You. Stop the Violence Campaign

Type of VAW addressed: Domestic violence

Approach and major goals: In September 2007, the first-ever prevention campaign targeting men and boys to be produced entirely in Venezuela was launched. The overarching goal of the campaign was to overcome stereotypes that legitimize VAW in relationships. The campaign, *Count to Three*, differs from previous campaigns that focused on women and encouraged them to report domestic violence. This campaign addresses males, urging them to "count to three" and to reflect upon their violent behavior, without judging or blaming them.

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: A joint project of women's NGOs, the State Institute for Women, as well as other agencies of the government, UN agencies and a private bank, the campaign ran from September 21 (International Day of Peace) to November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women). Campaign materials were displayed in print media, in movie theaters, on the radio and television and on public transportation. Monitoring of attitudinal changes was built into the project. Before the campaign began, a survey of 1,200 men, aged 13-55, from all socioeconomic backgrounds was conducted to learn about their perceptions and attitudes towards VAW. A second survey was conducted after the campaign's conclusion to gauge its impact.

Geographic focus: Venezuela

Materials, products, outcomes: Campaign materials, for example posters, a short film and radio spots that can be downloaded from the UNDP-Venezuela site: http://www.pnud.org.ve/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=77&Itemid=81

Funding information: A private bank, working through its foundation on corporate giving, provided the initial funding of \$300,000 USD. In addition, the Information Ministry, by law, sets aside advertising space on public and private television and radio stations, which ran the campaign messages without cost.

Implementing organization:

Fundamujer-
Fundación para la Prevención de la Violencia Doméstica hacia la Mujer
fundamujer@fundamujer.org.ve

For more information: <http://www.fundamujer.org.ve/>
http://www.pnud.org.ve/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=47
(Spanish only)

Type of VAW addressed: Honor-related violence

Honor Heroes

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Approach and major goals: Elektra is a Swedish NGO that addresses honor-based violence, as well as other forms of VAW, through the promotion of human rights, gender equality and democratic values. Elektra's main focus has been assisting women, but within the organization, a group of young men from the organization has formed a new project – Honor Heroes (Sharaf Hjältar) that aims to provide role models for other men and boys who reject the “honor culture”. The organizers point out that while women and girls suffer the greatest oppression, men too feel the negative impact of living in a culture that limits women's freedom. Honor Heroes works among immigrant populations, and the “heroes” themselves represent diverse immigrant backgrounds. They point out that using “honor” to justify women's oppression and violence is not unique to Muslim culture.

Activities undertaken/how the project works: Elektra has several “heroes” who work closely with males, both boys and young fathers primarily aged 15-22. They network with various organizations in an effort to make contact with young men from immigrant backgrounds. The project promotes dialog with diverse groups about co-operation and methods to foster a change in attitudes about women's rights and to campaign against honor-related violence. The Honor Heroes also work through informal school-based meetings and discussions with both young men and women.

Geographic focus: Honor Heroes began in Stockholm and now runs projects in five sites in Sweden.

Materials, products, outcomes: Not available

Funding information: Honor Heroes offers lectures and training courses for which they charge a fee.

Implementing organization:

Elektra
Fryshuset: Box 920 22
120 06 Stockholm
Sweden
Tel.: +46 (0)8-4622206; +46 (0)8-4622298
E-mail: elektra@fryshuset.se

For more information: <http://www.elektra.nu/index2.htm> (information in Swedish, Arabic, Persian, Somali, Kurdish, Turkish)
<http://www.norden.org/webb/news/news.asp?lang=6&id=6904> (information in English)

In 2004, UNFPA initiated an extensive advocacy campaign in Turkey to draw public attention to and create a national dialogue about VAW. The campaign involved a large number of stakeholders: policy-makers, NGOs, the private sector and Turkish celebrities, but one of its key successes was the involvement of men in the campaign. The Turkish Football Federation played an active role in the campaign by ensuring that all players of the Super League wore shirts with the campaign logo and carried banners with the campaign slogan during several football matches. A Turkish sports channel also broadcast information about the campaign during matches and at half time.⁸⁶ At the time, the Turkish media company and publisher of the largest-circulation newspaper in Turkey, Hürriyet, was also running an

**Stop Violence
Against Women!
Advocacy
Campaign**

⁸⁶ See UNFPA-Turkey website, http://www.unfpa.org.tr/turkey/Turkey_Advocacy.htm.

anti-domestic violence campaign. The campaigns remained separate, but through close co-operation, they developed complementarily. The Hürriyet campaign took a public stance against VAW and reached a broad audience. The company itself took measures to train journalists and adopt standards for reporting on VAW in its publications.⁸⁷

Another important feature of the campaign was that it addressed honor-related murders and used evidence-based advocacy. UNFPA supported a study of the incidence of honor killings and publicized the findings during the campaign to the Parliament and media. The UNFPA also developed the institutional capacity of the Turkish General Directorate on the Status of Women to develop a nation-wide project on eliminating VAW.⁸⁸ Indeed, in 2007, the Turkish Minister of Women and Family launched a government-led project on prevention of domestic violence, with a focus on honor killing and elimination of discrimination against women. The project, implemented by the General Directorate on the Status of Women, includes a component on awareness raising and improving protection for women, for example by establishing shelters.⁸⁹

Euro 08 Campaign Against Trafficking in Women

Type of VAW addressed: Trafficking in women and sexual exploitation

Approach and major goals: In preparation for the 2008 UEFA European Football Championship (Euro 2008), a coalition of more than 25 women's and men's organization, human rights organizations, counseling centers, faith organizations and trade unions jointly launched the *Euro 08 Campaign* against Trafficking in Women in Switzerland. The main goals of the campaign were to raise awareness of trafficking in women and to mobilize the population to take action both prior to and during the Euro cup. The campaign was designed both to raise awareness generally of the problem of trafficking in women to Europe for the purposes of prostitution, to mobilize people to support increased services for and protection of trafficked women and to raise the awareness of males, potential clients of prostitutes, and to encourage them to act responsibly.

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: The campaign was launched in March 2008 and continued through the championship in June 2008. The campaign included a number of initiatives and awareness raising tools, for example, a brochure and postcards, a short film and website banner. The campaign produced fact sheets and an educational manual on the problem of trafficking of women to Europe. The Euro 08 Campaign includes a website site with tips for clients of sex workers, to recognize trafficked women, how they can help and what not to do in such a situation. As part of the campaign, a petition was launched to call for changes at the federal and local levels in the legal protections of trafficked women, in the prosecution of trafficking cases and for prevention work. In September 2008, the petition with over 70,000 signatures was presented to authorities.

Geographic focus: Switzerland, the site of the Euro 2008, as well as other countries in Europe.

⁸⁷ Programming to Address Violence Against Women: 10 Case Studies, (UNFPA, 2007), pp. 60-61.

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 57.

⁸⁹ The project received technical support from UNFPA and financial support from the European Commission. Turkey Firm in Fighting Violence Against Women, Women's UN Report Network, 23 February 2007, available at http://www.wunrn.com/news/2007/02_07/02_19_07/022607_turkey2.htm.

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Materials, products, outcomes: Materials, such as postcards, brochures and a film clip, can be viewed in the website. Most materials exist in four languages (English, French, German and Italian) but not all are in each language.

Funding information: The campaign was supported by funds from private and public sources, including a number of Swiss cities and through funds generated through local lotteries.

Implementing organization:

Euro 08 Campaign against Trafficking in Women
c/o FIZ – Women’s Information Center for women from Africa, Asia,
Latin America and Eastern Europe
Badenerstrasse 134
8004 Zürich, Switzerland
Tel.: +41 079 598 80 51, Fax: +41 044 240 44 23
E-mail: kampagne-em08@fiz-info.ch

For more information: <http://www.frauenhandeleuro08.ch/en/home/>

4.3 Working with Youth

Because violence against women is learned behavior and the product of socialization, programs that engage young people are particularly powerful prevention tools as youth play a pivotal role in societal change. Work with young people on violence against women can refer to several types of projects, which generally address prevention efforts: educational programs that aim to discourage violent behavior and model alternatives; specialized projects for youth who have experienced violence or are at risk for violence; and participatory projects that engage youth as activists. These categories are, of course, not mutually exclusive.

From a young age, boys and girls can be taught about violence and non-violent behavior as well as given messages about equality and the value of mutual respect. Programs specifically for girls may focus on empowerment, raising their self-confidence and providing them with negotiation skills. Boys can be taught that violence is not acceptable and given communication skills as an alternative to violence.⁹⁰ Some programs are based in schools and focus on sensitizing teachers and providing them with the tools to teach young people about violence against women, gender roles, issues of power and control and communication. Other projects work with families, both young people and their parents. Coursework on gender issues or violence against women can be incorporated into the professional training at universities and institutes, in departments of law, medicine, social work or journalism, for example.

Aside from specialized classes, educational institutions, particularly universities and colleges, can be settings for anti-violence awareness work and campaigning for improved responses to VAW. In the U.S. for example, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking are serious problems on college and university campuses. More than half of all stalking victims are between 18 and 29 years old, the highest rates of intimate partner violence are among women ages 16 to 24, and sexual assault is the second most common crime committed on university campuses.⁹¹ For this reason, the U.S. National Advisory Council on Violence Against Women

⁹⁰ *Domestic Violence in Europe and Eurasia: Final Report*, (USAID, 2006), p. 6.

⁹¹ *Promoting Safety and Nonviolence on College and University Campuses, from Toolkit To End Violence Against Women*, (National Advisory Council on Violence Against Women), available at <http://toolkit.ncjrs.org/>.

has developed several recommendations for working in university settings and with young people, for example to develop policies on how to respond to cases of VAW, to create an interdisciplinary task force to ensure a comprehensive approach to addressing violence, to provide accessible services for victims as well as to publicize information for female and male students.⁹²

Gender Matters: Manual on Gender-Based Violence Affecting Young People

The Council of Europe Directorate of Youth and Sport has developed an on-line manual for working with young people on the issue of gender-based violence, as part of its *Compass* program to provide practitioners with specific tools for a gender-sensitive approach to human rights education. The manual, *Gender Matters*, is intended for people who work with youth and provides both background information on gender-based violence but also methodological information and resources for training young people. The manual includes information on how to mobilize against gender-based violence, exercises that are aimed toward youth, guided questions for discussion, case studies and examples of good practices in fighting and preventing gender-based violence. The manual can be accessed, in English, French and Russian, from the following website: <http://www.eycb.coe.int/gendermatters/default.htm>

The Right to Live Without Violence and You've Got 100% Right to Nonviolence

Type of VAW addressed: Dating violence

Approach and major goals: Research conducted by the Center for Education, Counseling and Research (CESI) of 600 Croatian students, ages 16-19, revealed that 60% had experienced some form of violence in an intimate relationship and that many young people held views that forced sex is not a form of violence. Using this data, CESI has developed programs that address prevention of violence in adolescent relationships. CESI created curricula for use in schools and also works with educators to implement lessons on dating violence.

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: Within the *Right to Live Without Violence* campaign, CESI created an 11-hour school-based prevention program to be used with adolescents. The program includes a manual for educators (*Better Safe than Sorry*) and materials for students. Students receive a small hardcover booklet (*The Dark Side of Love – Story of Tanja and Mario*) designed to look like a chocolate bar. The booklet uses fictional teens to depict an abusive relationship, which leads students to a discussion of gender inequality and power imbalances. After creating the program and curriculum, CESI trained teachers and school psychologists who have conducted the program in over 22 cities. Teachers and students themselves have carried out numerous local initiatives on the basis of the dating violence prevention program. CESI's most recent campaign, *You've got 100% right to nonviolence*, is a 3-year project that focuses on conducting workshops for university lecturers and teachers in secondary schools to improve their understanding of dating violence and to work directly with young people to prevent VAW.

CESI also operates SeZaM, a youth-friendly internet site that provides clear information on issues of sexuality, relationships and dating violence. The site offers on-line counselling and is accessible to people with visual disabilities.

Geographic focus: The program began in Zagreb, Croatia but has now expanded across Croatia and to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia.

⁹² *Ibid.*

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Materials, products, outcomes: CESI has produced a curriculum and materials for students and hosts a website that addresses adolescent sexuality. CESI is working toward including information about dating violence into the standard curriculum for Croatian schools. Research can be accessed from the organization website.

Funding information: The project was originally funded through the UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women and has now attracted funds from the local government and other international donors who are supporting the work in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. The organization has also attracted funding from a range of private and public donors.

Implementing organization:

CESI – Center for Education, Counselling and Research
Nova cesta 4
10 000 Zagreb
Croatia
Tel.: +385 (0)1 24 22 800
Fax: +385 (0)1 24 22 801
E-mail: cesi@zamir.net

For more information: <http://www.cesi.hr/eng/index.php>
Sexual Education for Youth Internet portal – SeZaM (in Croatian):
<http://www.sezamweb.net/>

Type of VAW addressed: Date rape and sexual assault

Approach and major goals: The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) in Cyprus is coordinating this transnational project to measure the prevalence and incidence of date rape among young women (university students, ages 18-20) in five partner countries. The project is assessing the attitudes, behaviors and levels of awareness of young men and women and will promote awareness of date rape among the beneficiaries (young women) and target groups (governmental authorities, NGOs, policy makers and the police). Another goal of the project is to develop policy recommendations for the prevention of date rape and provide support for victims.

Activities undertaken/how the project works: The MIGS is working with four partners organizations: the University of Malta (Malta), the Institute for Equality (Greece), the Coalition for Gender Equality in Latvia (Latvia), and the Women's Issues Information Center (Lithuania). To date, each of the partners has carried out research into the problem of date rape and has developed leaflets for young women with information about date rape and sexual assault and contact information for support services in each country. Further work includes the development of a training manual (for government, NGOs and police to improve their support for victims and implementation of measures to prevent date rape); training workshops (one course will focus on the professionals mentioned above and a second will target educators, school counselors and psychologists, university students and the general public); and the development of a resource book about the project as a whole.

Geographic focus: The five partner countries: Cyprus, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania and Malta. The information and materials produced could be adapted for use in other countries.

Materials, products, outcomes: Brochures and country reports which can be downloaded from the website.

Date Rape Cases Among Young Women and the Development of Good Practices for Support and Prevention

Funding information: Funding from the European Commission, through the Daphne Program.

Implementing organization:

Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies
46 Makedonitissas Avenue
Box 24005, Nicosia 1703
Cyprus
Tel.: + 357 22 351274/76 (ext. 115)
Fax: + 357 22 353682
E-mail: info@medinstgenderstudies.org

For more information: Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies:

<http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org>
University of Malta: www.um.edu.mt
Coalition for Gender Equality (Latvia) www.apvieniba.lv/eng
Women's Issues Information Center (Lithuania) www.lygus.lt

Programs that work directly with older youth can successfully engage them as partners and advocates among their peers. Moreover, young people have a great deal to offer the movement generally as activists for reform.

Listen Louder Campaign

Type of VAW addressed: Domestic violence

Approach and major goals: In 2002, the NGO Scottish Women's Aid launched the three-year Listen Louder campaign, an initiative that aimed to give a voice to children and young people and to encourage policy makers to listen to what they had to say about domestic violence. This national campaign targeting government policy makers and service providers gave young people a platform to present their unique insights, to describe the types of support they need as well as what services were actually helpful in their cases.

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: Scottish Women's Aid worked closely with young people to submit a petition to the Scottish Parliament asking that gaps in services for victims of domestic violence, women and children, be addressed. Young people also wrote newsletters and created multi-media presentations. During a second phase of the campaign, Scottish Women's Aid distributed postcards, posters and educational materials to every secondary school in Scotland. Other activities included a "textathon" in which young people sent texts and emails to show their support. In a final event, children and young people directly addressed politicians and practitioners, through a variety of media, to express their unique experiences of violence and the specific improvements that children and youth in situations of family violence would like to see. Young people have also been active participants in designing, developing and overseeing research projects with Scottish Women's Aid, which shed light on the specialized support that children require.

Geographic focus: Scotland

Materials, products, outcomes: The campaign itself used a number of materials, such as postcards, posters and advocacy materials created by young people. The Listen Louder DVD, was produced, scripted and directed by 44 children and young people during the campaign. In the film, young people describe their experiences and the type of support that they found helpful. The DVD can be ordered from the Scottish Women's Aid website. Scottish Women's Aid has also published the

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report Children & Young People as Partners in the Design and Commissioning of Research (2008) that describes how the organization has involved children and young people in its work. The report can be downloaded from the website.

As a result of the active involvement of children and youth, the Scottish government created a high-level working group to develop policies for assisting young people and children. In June 2008, Scotland adopted a National Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan for Children and Young People with £10 million in dedicated funds for its implementation. Young people also play a role in the implementation and monitoring of the plan.⁹³ The Scottish government has produced a report that described young people's priorities in situations of domestic violence and also their role as participants in government planning.

Funding information: Not available

Implementing organization:

Scottish Women's Aid

2nd Floor

132 Rose Street

Edinburgh EH2 3JD

Scotland

Tel.: +44 (0)131 226 6606

Fax: +44 (0)131 226 2996

E-mail: contact@scottishwomensaid.org.uk

For more information: <http://www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk/index>

Listen Louder DVD: <http://www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk/publications/other-resources>

Children & Young People as Partners in the Design and Commissioning of Research:

http://www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk/assets/files/publications/research_reports/SWA_Children_As_Partners_In_Research.pdf

Making A Difference – Young People Speak to Scottish Ministers:

<http://openscotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/17120134/9>

Type of VAW addressed: Human trafficking

Approach and major goals: The Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA) is a key partner in the Georgian government's development of a comprehensive response to the problem of human trafficking. In 2006, GYLA initiated its 3-year *No to Trafficking in Persons* project, which it conducted in close coordination with government ministries, the Prosecutor's Office, international organizations and other NGOs. GYLA is a professional association that focuses on human rights work through the law. GYLA's activities include raising legal awareness, providing legal aid and law training as well as expertise in legal drafting.

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: The *No to Trafficking in Persons* project had several directions. A significant component of the program was to conduct widespread awareness raising activities. GYLA found that many pre-existing anti-trafficking materials were not accessible to the Georgian population; most were perceived as irrelevant. GYLA developed a series of posters and radio and television spots that centered on family portraits and real stories of Georgian

**No to Trafficking
in Persons Project**

⁹³ Heather Coady and Scott Cameron, *Strategies for Youth Involvement in Combating Violence*, Presentation at Experts' Seminar on Innovative Approaches to Combating Violence Against Women, organized by the Gender Section, OSCE Secretariat, October 2008 (Seminar materials available at http://www.osce.org/gender/item_6_32383.html).

citizens. The campaign made use of varied materials such as brochures, calendars, postcards and pens. A particular innovation was the use of a passport-sized booklet with information in Georgian and Russian about the risks of trafficking, consular information and agencies that provide assistance. The booklet also included a tear-away card with GYLA's contact information that travelers could keep with them. The booklet was distributed widely, through Civil Registry Offices with all new passports, at the Georgian-Turkish border, in airports, through local consular offices and NGOs. GYLA's prevention efforts had a significant focus on and involvement of youth. Young lawyers visited schools, presented information on local talk shows and hosted a pop concert against trafficking, at which between 25,000 and 30,000 young people attended.

In addition to prevention work, GYLA undertook activities to improve the legal response to human trafficking, such as legislative drafting, providing legal aid to victims and conducting training programs for judges, as well as for the Office of the Ombudsperson, border guards, travel agencies, advertising firms and NGOs. GYLA also assisted in the founding of shelters for trafficked persons. GYLA is a member of the Permanent Interagency Coordination Council for Combating Trafficking in Persons, convened by the government.

Geographic focus: Georgia. GYLA has representation across the country through a head office in Tbilisi and seven regional offices.

Materials, products, outcomes: Materials include brochures distributed with visas/ passports, posters, radio and television spots. GYLA remains an important NGO partner for the Georgian government but also serves a watchdog function in monitoring the implementation of anti-trafficking policies.

Funding information: Funding of approximately \$200,000 USD from USAID for the 3-year *No to Trafficking in Persons project*.

Implementing organization:

Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA)
(central office)
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Tbilisi
Georgia
Tel.: +995 32 936101 / 952353
Fax: +995 32 923211
E-mail: gyla@gyla.ge

For more information: <http://www.gyla.ge/>

In working with young people it is, of course, vital that messages and materials are age-appropriate and, when necessary, adapted for boys or girls. Special efforts have been made to create "youth-friendly" materials that are appealing to young people yet carry consistent messages.

4.4 Community Mobilization

To effectively combat violence against women, it is clear that a broad cross-section of society must be involved. Much of community-level work involves identifying gaps in local services and improving how different sectors coordinate their work to maximize protection for women. These initiatives, to develop a coordinated community response, are discussed in the Protection section below. Here, community mobilization refers to prevention work that is more targeted than awareness raising messages for the general public. Community mobilization can refer to work with non-elected community leaders, religious leaders and faith-based groups, neighborhood associations, teachers, local businesses and others at the local level to build “communities of support” and increase safety for women and girls at the local level.

Type of VAW addressed: Domestic violence and human trafficking

Approach and major goals: Winrock International implemented the *Community Responses to Domestic Violence and Trafficking in Women program* (1999-2002) in 4 OSCE countries, Armenia, Moldova, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. The program aimed to improve community-oriented approaches to protection, prosecution and prevention. Winrock, working in partnership with local women’s NGOs, targeted community leaders to enhance their sensitivity to victims and their ability to use coordinated community approaches to prevention efforts. The project also worked to increase access to and dissemination of information about VAW, to coordinate efforts at the local level and to improve protection services for women.

Activities undertaken/how the project works: Each of the projects began with country-specific research to determine the prevalence and patterns of domestic violence and trafficking, as well as identify legislation and weak points in the response system. In some of the countries, this research was the first of its kind in scale and subject matter. The next phase of the project was the development of community-based training programs and to build the capacities of local women’s organizations to train multi-disciplinary audiences. The community stakeholders were specific to each country, and in Uzbekistan leaders of local mahallahs, informal decision-making groups made up of elders, were among those that received training on prevention of DV and human trafficking. Other activities under the program included running public awareness campaigns, using a variety of media, and establishing Advisory Boards to promote continued co-operation and coalition building between law enforcement, the legal and medical systems, community leaders and women’s NGOs.

Geographic focus: Armenia, Moldova, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan

Materials, products, outcomes: The research reports were distributed widely in English, Russian and local languages. Winrock developed and published the *Prevention of Domestic Violence and Trafficking in Humans: Training Manual* and conducted 165 training seminars for over 3,000 community leaders. As a result of the project’s efforts, several law enforcement institutions adapted the training materials to use in their own courses.

The manual is available from:
http://www.winrock.org/leadership/files/Dos_manual.pdf

Funding information: Funding was provided by the US Department of State Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement.

Community Responses to Domestic Violence and Trafficking in Women

Implementing organization:

Winrock International (working through local partners)
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Arlington, VA 22209
U.S.A.
Tel.: +1 703-525-9430
Fax: +1 703-525-1744
E-mail: information@winrock.org
Contact: Sarah Tweed
Tel.: +1 703-860-1061
E-mail: stweed@winrock.org

For more information: <http://www.winrock.org/fact/facts.asp?CC=5114&bu=>

Community mobilization can also refer to actions taken at the local level to improve the safety of public spaces. Similar to urban planning, efforts can be taken to ensure the safety of women in camps for refugees and displaced persons, such as the organization of community policing or physical restructuring of the sites.

Safe Cities: Violence against Women and Public Policies

Type of VAW addressed: All forms of VAW occurring in the community sphere.

Approach and major goals: Within a 2004 regional program, Safe Cities: Violence against Women and Public Policies, organizations in Peru and Argentina undertook several initiatives to improve women's safety from violence in public spaces by addressing city planning.

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: A first step in the project was to carry out studies of public violence against women. The Argentine NGO Centro de Intercambios y Servicios Cono Sur-Argentina (CISCSA) conducted such research and then assisted women's groups to brief city planners on recommendations to improve safety in urban areas. CISCSA then produced a guide on gender-sensitive municipal planning, *Tools for the Promotion of Safe Cities from a Gender Perspective*. The guide consists of five modules and includes an overview of how VAW manifests itself in public spaces, why VAW is not generally addressed in municipal public policies and some of the traditional approaches to urban safety and security. The final modules are devoted to methods for including a gender perspective in urban safety and tools for interventions with specific examples of good practices. The guide emphasizes the critical nature of including women as participants in discussion of and decision-making around urban safety policies.

Geographic focus: The project was implemented in two Latin American countries, but the guidebook includes examples of good practices in urban safety from other countries.

Materials, products, outcomes: As a result of the overall project, several cities took relatively simple actions, such as installing bus shelters that are visible to others, increasing lighting on streets and closing off empty properties.⁹⁴ The guide itself can be accessed from the website in Spanish, Portuguese and English.

Funding information: UNIFEM – Office for Brazil and the Southern Cone and the Spanish Agency for International Co-operation (AECI)

⁹⁴ *A Life Free of Violence Is Our Right! UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women. 10 Years of Investment*, (UNIFEM, 2007), p. 9.

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Implementing organization:

CISCSA – Centro de Intercambio y Servicios Cono Sur, Argentina
9 de Julio 2482. X 5003 CQR
Córdoba – Argentina
Tel./Fax: +54 351-4891313
E-mail: gem@agora.com.ar / cisca@arnet.com.ar
For more information: www.redmujer.org.ar
<http://www.redmujer.org.ar/publicaciones.html>

As civil society groups usually have the clearest understanding of the types of strategies that will be effective in their communities,⁹⁵ they should be included as key partners and stakeholders in such projects.

⁹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 21.

5 Protection and Assistance

Protection and assistance refer to providing for the many needs of survivors of violence against women. Support services should at minimum include emergency assistance for the victim, as well as her children, but will ideally address the more complex and long-term needs of victims and families, which can include medical care, psycho-social support, housing, security, legal assistance, financial support and employment services.⁹⁶ Just as types of VAW differ, so do the needs of survivors and there is no “one size fits all” approach to protection. Services should take into consideration such factors as the type of violence (meaning, physical, psychological or sexual), the form of the violence, the context in which the violence occurred and the relationship to the perpetrator (for example, was the abuser a husband or an employer?), whether the abuse was repeated or a single incident, whether the victim is in immediate danger or reporting abuse from the past. It is important to recognize areas of intersection (for example, a woman’s race, ethnicity, legal status, age and whether she has a disability, will have an impact on the types of services she needs).⁹⁷

Perhaps one of the most fundamental elements of protection for survivors is “restoring a women’s sense of self worth... since women commonly share a sense of shame and guilt after violent abuse.”⁹⁸ It is, therefore, critical that all initiatives and services for victims of violence operate on the principle that protection measures should respect women’s rights, dignity and privacy and confirm their strengths as survivors.⁹⁹ Women who are in need of assistance should be empowered through programs that offer support, advice and options. These elements place women in the best position to make choices and change their own lives. Protection should not be offered in a paternalistic manner but should be viewed as a means to afford women safety so that they can develop their own strengths and strategies for coping with violence.

5.1 Victim Identification

Perhaps the most fundamental step to providing protection in cases of VAW is to properly identify the victim herself. Women themselves are often unsure of their legal rights and, like other members of society, may simply view VAW as the norm. Thus, one aspect of victim identification is to provide women and girls with awareness of VAW as a human rights abuse and tools to address their situation. This type of working with victims, or potential victims, is largely addressed under the section 4.1.2. of this compilation on empowering women.

A second critical aspect of identification is education for professionals who have contact with victims to improve their ability to recognize VAW and to give them the skills to properly assess the situation and make appropriate and safe referrals. There are many situations in which it may not be apparent that a woman is in fact a victim of VAW. For example, trafficked women are often caught up in police raids and then prosecuted for violations of the law or deported when law enforcement are not trained to look for signs of exploitation or abuse. Rape

⁹⁶ *State Response to Domestic Violence: Current Status and Needed Improvements*, (Women, Law & Development International, 1996), pp. 104-105.

⁹⁷ *Good Practices in Combating and Eliminating Violence Against Women*, Report of the Expert Group Meeting, (DAW and UNODC, 17-20 May 2005), p. 23.

⁹⁸ *Ending Violence Against Women: Programming for Prevention, Protection and Care*, (UNFPA, 2007), p. 48.

⁹⁹ *Good Practices in Combating and Eliminating Violence Against Women*, Report of the Expert Group Meeting, (DAW and UNODC, 17-20 May 2005), p. 24.

victims may conceal information, out of a feeling of shame, and the extent of the violence may not be readily apparent to healthcare professionals, social workers or psychologists. At the moment of conflict in domestic violence situations, it may not be apparent to the intervener who is the victim and who is the perpetrator. These difficulties in victim identification can be addressed through training programs that sensitize criminal justice professionals to the dynamics of VAW and how to recognize signs of abuse, and are addressed in the section of this compilation on Prosecution below.

Capacity-building for other actors, such as social service providers, health-care workers, dentists, teachers, religious leaders, co-workers, employers, is also connected to engagement of the community overall in addressing VAW.

Finally, victim identification also depends greatly on how the law itself formulates who is eligible for protection from the legal system. It is considered a good practice for laws on family violence, for example, to be written broadly to provide spouses, former spouses, intimate partners as well as others who share a family relationship or a common home the right to invoke the protection of the law (for example, protective orders). In cases of human trafficking, international standards require that all trafficked persons, irrespective of their formal classification as a victim or witness in a criminal prosecution, be afforded protection and services.

5.2 Direct Assistance and Service Provision

Victim's needs are complex and often interrelated. Some should be addressed simultaneously, such as the need for physical safety, shelter, immediate medical assistance and trauma counseling. While it is somewhat artificial to separate direct assistance from the operation of shelters as in this compilation, this section refers to overall good practices in developing and running programs that are responsive to the needs of victims of specific forms of VAW. The section below, on crisis centers and shelters, gives examples of specific successful models of these institutions.

States have a positive obligation to respond to the needs of victims of VAW and to make the necessary services available, but it should be pointed out that this does not necessarily mean that the State is the best provider of such services. A better model is one in which the State provides adequate funding for social services as well as support for the training of specialists.¹⁰⁰ Very often, the most successful models of direct assistance to victims are collaborations between specialized civil society organizations with State support. As described below, women to women centers or women's support groups are generally accepted as a positive model for providing support.

Direct assistance generally encompasses comprehensive programs that include psychological support, counseling, advocacy, medical and legal help as well as shelter. These services should be available free of charge to any woman who needs them. This means that special care should be taken to ensure that minority women also have equal access.

Many survivors of VAW also find assistance through telephone hotlines and helplines. Such hotlines are ways to provide information, support and crisis counseling to victims as well as others who are concerned. At minimum, the State should support at least one such hotline working 24 hours a day that can provide emergency assistance. It goes without saying that such telephone lines should ensure the confidentiality of the caller and be run by professionally-trained staff. There are examples of both State ministries and private telecommunications companies supporting such hotlines so that they can operate on a toll-free basis.

Increasingly, the Internet has become a resource for survivors of violence against women, and many women's organizations and service providers include

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid.*

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links with information and references to specific sources of assistance on the web. Unlike telephone calls, however, it is much easier for an abuser to track Internet use. It has become a good practice on such websites to include specific information about website safety such as using public, rather than home, computers and to delete a history of sites visited. These sites also generally include an “escape” link that lets the user leave the site quickly.¹⁰¹

Type of VAW addressed: Violence in commercial sex work

Approach and major goals: In response to increasing numbers of women and girls trafficked to Italy and forced into prostitution, the NGO Associazione On the Road developed a project with the goal to offer concrete help to women and girls to escape prostitution and integrate into European society.

Activities undertaken/how the project works: The NGO developed small “street units” (generally, two staff and a doctor) who made contact with women on the street and offered them medical aid and contraception and invited them to come to a drop-in center that provided further support. The units also distributed informational pamphlets in several languages. When the units encounter girls that they suspect are minors, they are sensitive about how to best approach them and also involve the local police. The project also supported the creation of a shelter where women can live for up to 5 months and receive support, counseling, legal assistance and training. The center offers a means by which women can regain their self-esteem and are empowered to escape violence.

Geographic focus: Italy but the organization also established cross-border cooperation with partners in Albania, Belgium, France and Portugal.

Materials, products, outcomes: The website of Associazione On the Road offers a number of publications, most in Italian, including references on social interventions in street prostitution.

Funding information: Funding from the European Commission, through the Daphne Program.

Implementing organization:

Associazione On the Road
Via delle Lancette, 27 – 27/A
64014 Martinsicuro (TE)
Italy
Tel.: +39.0861.796666 – 762327
Fax: +39.0861.765112
E-mail: mail@ontheroadonlus.it

For more information: <http://www.ontheroadonlus.it/> (Italian only)

Building a new life, Daphne illustrative case # 15 available at http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/daphnetoolkit/html/illustrative_projects/dpt_illustrative_projects_en.html

¹⁰¹ For more information about computer and Internet safety, and for example escape buttons, see the National Network to End Domestic Violence (<http://www.nnedv.org/internetsafety.html>) or Violence Against Women Online Resources (<http://www.vaw.umn.edu/>).

Escape Route:
From the Street
to Autonomy

5.2.1 Comprehensive and Specialized Services

Survivors of VAW most likely have experienced physical, sexual or psychological violence, and thus require comprehensive care, both short-term and long-term. There is a great deal of overlap in the types of services that victims require, but specialized services and specific approaches to distinct forms of VAW should also be developed. In particular, it has been found that it is not possible to simply transfer good models of VAW service-provision to post-conflict settings without addressing the specific psychosocial needs of this group of survivors.

Counseling services can include legal assistance as well as advice about health issues, but generally counseling refers a form of therapy that addresses a survivor's psychological needs. Counseling and self-help groups, both used widely by women's NGOs in addressing VAW, are recognized as promising practices as they "provide support for women while respecting their autonomy and encouraging their independent decision-making."¹⁰² Psychological and trauma counseling is particularly critical for survivors of sexual violence and has been used extensively in post-conflict settings, often in parallel with justice initiatives. Counseling should be offered by trained professionals to individual survivors, and it is important that the counselor use non-directive strategies and be aware of the need to empower women,¹⁰³ not instruct them. Self-help or support groups, in contrast, are made up of women who provide support to each other. These groups have been highly successful in helping women to regain confidence and to mitigate feelings of shame and isolation. Such self-support groups are typically low cost and can be formed on an *ad hoc* basis at the most grass-roots level.

Rural Women of Kyrgyzstan Against Violence

Type of VAW addressed: Domestic violence

Approach and major goals: This program focused on increasing the access of rural women and girls to protection from violence by raising their awareness of the Kyrgyz Law on Domestic Violence and through the creation of self-support groups.

Activities undertaken/how the project works: The OSCE Field Office in Osh implemented this project, working in co-operation with a partner NGO organization Ensan-Diamond. Ensen-Diamond established women's self-support groups, peer-led groups that provide assistance to domestic violence victims. In creating the support groups, the NGO first identified "external agents," women with communication skills, good reputations and authority locally, who received in-depth training. Care was also given to the selection of the villages and settlements in which support groups were created; they were required to at minimum have educational institutions, basic healthcare facilities, a women's committee in the local government, a police department and NGOs or other civil society groups. The women's support groups are also trained in such topics as the dynamics and forms of DV, self-organization, guiding principles (such as confidentiality, equality and democracy) and how to analyze locally available services. The primary goal of each self-support group is to provide assistance to survivors in changing their lives, to help them develop personal safety plans and to assess the resources that are available to them, such as the DV law and local institutions. Another important aspect of developing women's groups was to assist them to interact with local government authorities, law enforcement agents and other community-based groups to help ensure appropriate responses in DV cases.

¹⁰² *Ending Violence against Women: From Words to Action*, (UN Secretary-General, 2006), p. 118.

¹⁰³ Lori Heise, Mary Ellsberg, Megan Gottemoeller, *Population Reports: Ending Violence Against Women*, (Center for Health and Gender Equity – CHANGE, 1999), p. 33.

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For this reason, the project targeted the Aksakal Courts (Aksakal Courts are informal bodies consisting mainly of respected elderly men and to some extent women) to sensitize them generally about gender and domestic violence issues and to increase their involvement in DV cases. Work was also carried out with law enforcement bodies focusing on community police inspectors that are most likely to deal with DV cases. This part of the project was coordinated with the Police Reform Program of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek and consisted of a series of regional trainings to raise police awareness of the DV law and how to apply it.

Geographic focus: The project focused on rural areas of Kyrgyzstan, specifically Osh Province and its major villages.

Materials, products, outcomes: An important outcome of the project was the creation of over 20 women's self-support groups that assist women DV victims. The self-help groups themselves use mini-libraries, booklets and posters about DV as an additional resource.

Funding information: Funding from the French Government for the project as a whole. Because lack of resources in rural areas is a typical problem, self-help groups have been encouraged to make use of local schools for meetings, to use home telephones or to ask local authorities to provide space for group meetings.

Implementing organization:

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Fax: +996 3222 235 73
E-mail: diamond_osh@yahoo.com

OSCE Centre in Bishkek/
Field Office in Osh
139 St. Toktogula
720001 Bishkek
Kyrgyzstan
Tel.: +996 312 66 50 15
Fax: +996 312 66 31 69
E-mail can be sent via the website:
<http://www.osce.org/bishkek/contacts.html>

For more information: http://www.osce.org/bishkek/item_1_22196.html

Very often in cases of VAW, particularly with domestic violence, children are also in need of these types of counseling and support services, whether they witnessed the violence or were victims themselves. Specialized programs for children should be developed.

Home Truths

Type of VAW addressed: Domestic violence

Approach and major goals: This project addresses the impact of domestic violence on child witnesses and survivors and aims to present facts about the problem in a clear and honest way to counteract the feelings of secrecy and shame around this subject. The project encourages children to speak about their fears and to find support from peers and adults.

Activities undertaken/how the project works: This project was undertaken by seven partner organizations. After research into how young people think and feel about domestic violence, an animated film was developed by the Leeds Animation Workshop for a target age group of 8-13 year olds. The film tells the story of five young people who have experienced domestic violence in different ways. The characters of the film describe how the violence affects them, their family and their friends and also reiterate their right to live in a safe environment and the kinds of positive actions they can take, such as talking with friends, an adult or service agencies. The film does not depict any violence but conveys the message using tricks of animation. The film is accompanied by a booklet that guides teachers on using the film in the classroom or in after-school activities.

Geographic focus: United Kingdom, Ireland, Austria and Germany and the potential to distribute it in other European countries.

Materials, products, outcomes: The film and booklet can be ordered through the website.

Funding information: Funding from the European Commission, through the Daphne Program.

Implementing organization:

Leeds Animation Workshop
45 Bayswater Row
Leeds LS8 5LF
United Kingdom
Tel. and Fax: +44 (0) 113 248 4997
E-mail: info@leedsanimation.org.uk

For more information: <http://www.leedsanimation.org.uk/>

Comprehensive care for rape survivors in health centers

Type of VAW addressed: Sexual violence in post-conflict settings

Approach and major goals: Despite the end of a 14-year civil war, rates of sexual violence in Liberia remain high. The government launched in 2006 a national action plan on violence against women, but the level of implementation was low. Doctors without borders (MSF) decided to support two of the objectives of the plan: strengthening the justice system and facilitating health care for survivors of sexual violence. The project focuses on ensuring that survivors get medical help within the 72 hours, as a vital factor to limit the serious long-term consequences of rape.

Activities undertaken/how the project works: To raise awareness about rape and the need for emergency medical treatment, a drama group performs plays in the health facilities and in the communities, such as in street markets. Billboards and T-shirts also help to spread the message.

Besides the care provided by a medical practitioner in the health facilities run by

5 Protection and Assistance

MSF, a social worker provides psychosocial support accompanying raped survivors to the consultations. After the examination, another session is conducted to find out if the patient or the family needs further protection and refers to other services. Despite the very low number of women that decide to pursue legal action, medical-legal certificates are issued for every rape survivor who visits the health facilities.

Geographic focus: Liberia

Materials, products, outcomes: Thanks to effective lobby, the medical-legal certificate has become part of the national policy and courts in Liberia do officially recognize it both as a legal certificate and an examination record for the prosecution of the rape.

Funding information: Not available

Implementing organization:

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES - Rue de Lausanne 78 - CP 116 - 1211 - Geneva
21 - SWITZERLAND
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webmaster@msf.org

For more information: <http://www.azg.be/shatteredlives/index.html>

5.2.2 Safety Planning and Reintegration Assistance

The dynamics of VAW are such that even those victims who have sought help through specialized services may not yet be in a position to leave a violent relationship (in the case of domestic violence) or to seek new employment (in the case of sexual harassment) or may be considering traveling abroad for work and are seeking advice (in the case of human trafficking). Counselors or other service providers can play a vital role in working closely with the individual woman to provide information about risks and to help develop a plan of action should further violence occur. Providing survivors with concrete assistance to develop plans for their own personal safety and that of their children or dependents is also closely linked to reintegration programs and the transition from living in a shelter to an independent life.

Following a best practice workshop on reintegration programs for trafficked persons, the Moldovan NGO LaStrada compiled sample reintegration plans from organizations operating in Moldova, UNDP, Terre des Hommes, IOM and the Center for Prevention of Trafficking in Women. The resulting report, *Reintegration Plan for Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings: Good Practice and Recommendations* (2008) offers side-by-side comparisons of four reintegration plans with details on the needs assessment, methodology used, sample forms and information about monitoring. The report concludes with recommendations for the minimal necessary steps in ensuring successful reintegration after violence, and can be accessed on the LaStrada website: <http://www.lastrada.md/en.html>.

**Reintegration
Plan for Victims
of Trafficking
in Human
Beings: Good
Practice and
Recommendations**

5.2.3 Capacity-Building for Service Providers

As is the case with any professionals who come into contact with victims of VAW, service providers require specialized training and sensitization to the issue. There are several initiatives to specifically improve the response of the healthcare sector to VAW. It is not uncommon for medical professionals to see victims in their practice, but many hold the view that violence against women is “a law enforcement matter” and it is not their place to become involved in such cases, beyond treating injuries. When they are educated about violence against women, general practitioners, nurses, emergency care and even dentists can carry out screening procedures and also provide competent referrals to specialized services. In countries where the disposition of a criminal case depends on how injuries are classified by a medical professional, it is crucial that attending physicians understand how VAW manifests itself and how evidence should be documented in a criminal case.

Another aspect of capacity-building for service providers deals with those professionals who staff crisis centers and shelters for women. As mentioned above, government funding should not only address the operation of services but should also ensure that those who provide services can access regular training programs for professional development and skill-building in good practices. Such service providers are also at risk for professional “burn-out” and so measures should be in place to allow for healthy ways to deal with feelings of stress, frustration and hopelessness.

ProTrain

Type of VAW addressed: Interpersonal and domestic violence

Approach and major goals: The ProTrain project (2007–2009) aims to improve multi-professional and health care training in Europe, building upon good practices in the prevention of violence. Although international guidance on responding to domestic violence calls for a comprehensive and multisectoral approach, most capacity-building training programs address each professional group separately. This project aims to develop a multisectoral and coordinated training program that will strengthen co-operation among professions and contribute to a mutual understanding of domestic violence prevention. The training program will be based on promising practices for working with key professional groups. The ProTrain project focuses on the training of healthcare providers, having identified them as an underserved group.

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: Experts from several countries (Austria, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary and Italy) are developing criteria to assess good training and train-the-trainer programs. Further activities under this project include developing a module for health care professionals and multi-sector training that incorporates relevant cultural and socio-economic factors and to pilot test the program in the seven countries mentioned.

Geographic focus: At present, Austria, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary and Italy but expansion may be possible in future.

Materials, products, outcomes: The project will produce a good practice criteria catalogue of European training programs on domestic violence, an inventory of existing training materials and programs and a new framework for a multi-professional training programme, including a specific module for health care professionals. These materials will be included on a CD and available via internet through several networks that address VAW in Europe.

Funding information: Funding from the European Commission, through the Daphne Program.

Implementing organization:

Partner organizations:

- University of Osnabrück, Germany (Coordinator)
- University of Helsinki, Finland
- S.I.G.N.A.L. e.V., Germany
- NANE Women's Right Association, Hungary
- INSTITUT DE L'HUMANITAIRE, France
- Associazione GOAP, Italy
- Emergency Medical Services of Central Bohemian Region, Czech Republic
- Austrian Women's Shelter Network/WAVE, Austria
- Gesine – Frauen helfen Frauen e.V., Germany

For more information: <http://www.wave-network.org/start.asp?ID=23023>

Type of VAW addressed: Rape and sexual violence in conflict settings

Approach and major goals: In the Great Lakes region of Africa, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is assisting women victims of rape and sexual violence perpetrated both during armed conflict and in its aftermath. Many such women are widows or displaced persons who require comprehensive assistance, such as medical care, pre- and post-natal care for those who are pregnant, trauma counseling and overall sensitive and confidential treatment. Recognizing the barriers that women face in accessing health facilities and the great difficulty women have in speaking about their experiences of sexual violence, the ICRC has adopted an approach of building the capacity of traditional midwives in affected areas. The midwives, who work at the community level, provide medical, psychological and social support to victims of sexual violence.

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: The ICRC has taken varied approaches to the issue of rape and sexual assault depending on the country conditions. For example, in Burundi, the ICRC conducted a broad survey of existing medical facilities in the affected regions and interviewed groups that were the most concerned over the problem of sexual violence (for example, women and young people). Working in co-operation with local organizations, public medical services and the Ministry of Health, the ICRC then developed a training program for traditional midwives. In Uganda, the ICRC works in several camps for internally displaced persons, where traditional midwives receive training and work alongside ICRC midwives. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the ICRC not only trains traditional practitioners but has also worked with local activists on broader awareness raising projects, such as a play denouncing rape and its consequences, such as stigmatization and rejection.

Overall, the training programs give the midwives authority and recognition in their communities as well as skills in recognizing signs of sexual violence and the ability to provide psychological support. The midwives now play a key role in outreach to women who would not otherwise receive the necessary medical and psychological care, whether due to a sense of shame, lack of resources or lack of information. The midwives are people that a woman can trust and confide in, and they also provide referrals to medical centers for more comprehensive care.

Geographic focus: Great Lakes region, specifically Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda.

Materials, products, outcomes: The ICRC reports that in areas in which traditional midwives have received training, there has been an increase in referrals of women to health facilities.

Midwives Assist Victims

Funding information: ICRC operations are funded generally by States, international organizations, national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and by public and private sources.

Implementing organization:

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) – Headquarters in Geneva
19 avenue de la Paix
CH 1202 Geneva
Tel.: + 41 (22) 734 60 01
ICRC general Fax: + 41 (22) 733 20 57
<http://www.icrc.org> (Contacts page)

For more information:¹⁰⁴ ICRC site on Women and War:

<http://www.icrc.org/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/women?OpenDocument>

Women in an Insecure World, Violence Against Women, Facts, Figures and Analysis, M. Vlachova and L. Biason, eds, DCAF (2005) at 121.

5.3 Crisis Centers, Shelters and “One-Stop” Centers

Crisis centers, shelters and safe houses are at the core of protection for women, allowing survivors a chance to escape violence. A shadow report by an Irish NGO articulates the crucial role that shelters play in assisting women to leave violent situations, noting that violence against women in Ireland remains a serious problem and specifically “88% of women do not leave their violent partners because they have nowhere to go.”¹⁰⁵

More Than a Roof Over Your Head and Away From Violence

The Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) network has published two resources of good practices and approaches to establishing and running shelters for women. *More Than a Roof Over Your Head* is a study that assesses the degree to which women’s shelters in the EU and candidate countries have complied with the 11 minimum standards defined by experts. WAVE gathered data through questionnaires distributed by its network partners both to countries where there are experienced shelters and those where such services do not exist. The survey also documents the important role that shelters play in preventing violence against women and protecting victims. The report provides information about how to understand and implement the minimum standards that may be useful in countries that are currently developing shelters. The study can be accessed on the WAVE website: <http://www.wave-network.org/start.asp?ID=19>.

Away from Violence is a manual that addresses the practical issues and challenges of establishing and running a shelter for women experiencing violence. The manual includes theoretical information about VAW but consists mainly of information on planning and operational steps to open a shelter. A number of experts contributed to the manual, so it includes a range of experiences and is relevant throughout Europe and neighboring countries. *Away from Violence* can be accessed on the WAVE website: <http://www.wave-network.org/start.asp?ID=18&b=15>.

¹⁰⁴ See also *Burundi: Traditional midwives assist women victims of violence*, available at <http://www.icrc.org/web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/5kddnf?opendocument>; *Congo-Kinshasa: The ICRC provides support for victims of sexual violence*, available at <http://www.icrc.org/web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/congo-kin-women-060306?opendocument>; and *Uganda: A lesson in courage given by women*, available at <http://www.icrc.org/web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/uganda-stories-270207?opendocument>

¹⁰⁵ *Shadow Report Ireland*, (Women’s Human Rights Alliance, 2004), p. 2.

In September 2008, the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters organized the first World Conference on Women's Shelters. The conference brought together professionals in family violence prevention from Canada and around the world to network and exchange information on best practices. One day of the conference was devoted specifically to learning about creative and effective practices that shelters have devised to provide services when resources are limited and for increasingly diverse populations of women. All conference materials can be accessed in English, French and Spanish from: http://www.womensshelter.ca/home_en.php.

World Conference of Women's Shelters

There are a number of models for centers that offer women protection in crisis. Such centers all share some common features in that they offer women immediate assistance, often a place to live temporarily away from violence, and provide the comprehensive services that have been discussed above. There is also considerable debate about the form that such centers should take. For example, most developed countries run shelters for victims of violence, but these are costly to maintain and require women and their children to leave the family home, often necessitating a change of schools and leaving behind other connections with the community.¹⁰⁶ In some former Soviet countries where government support for shelters has been lacking, NGOs have created crisis centers where victims can come to receive comprehensive help in the day but they generally cannot offer shelter services. Nevertheless, some have been very creative in using informal safe home networks to house women temporarily in private apartments. In other countries, there are similar experiments with lower cost methods to increase women's safety, such as using sanctuary churches or, in industrial countries, providing victims with cellular phones or alarms.¹⁰⁷ Among some cultures, it is not socially acceptable for women to leave the family home and live elsewhere. In such situations, women's groups have responded creatively and organized centers or shelters within medical institutions, offering women a "cover" that they are seeking treatment for a health problem rather than protection from violence.¹⁰⁸

Medica Zenica, an NGO-based women's organization, is one of the leading NGOs addressing VAW during conflict and the post-war effects of violence. In 1993, the founders of Medica Zenica saw that international aid organizations were largely not addressing the effect of systematic rape used against Bosnia women during the war. Medica Zenica was created as a therapy center to provide assistance to women and girls who had experienced violence. Although the primary goal of the organization was to provide shelter, psychosocial support and therapeutic counseling to women survivors of war rape and trauma, Medica Zenica has played an important role in documenting the existence of varied forms of VAW, such as domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking and sexual harassment. In particular, the organization was one of the first NGOs to study domestic violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a problem that existed both during the war and in peace, and to analyze the lack of appropriate services for victims. The core of Medica Zenica's work remains its client-based and holistic support for women and girls. The center offers a number of services to women and girls, such as primary medical care,

Medica Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina

¹⁰⁶ Lori Heise, Mary Ellsberg, Megan Gottemoeller, *Population Reports: Ending Violence Against Women*, (Center for Health and Gender Equity – CHANGE, 1999), p3. 33-34.

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 34.

¹⁰⁸ For example, shelters and centers for women victims of domestic violence have been created in health centers in Russia (the League for the Protection for Mothers and Children in Makhachkala, Dagestan, and International Medical Corp-supported clinics in Chechnya) and in Uzbekistan. Additionally, in the U.S., there are several shelters called My Sister's Place – a name that addresses the concern that some women do not want to reveal that they were living in a shelter.

as well as medical outreach to remote areas of the country, shelter for survivors, psychological therapy and counseling, legal assistance, and assistance through an emergency telephone line. The entire staff of the organization receives specialized training in how to provide trauma-sensitive care. The organization also offers women professional training and vocational courses.

Medica Zenica has also worked to improve service-provision generally in the country. In a project with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in 1999, Medica Zenica worked with a number of international organizations and government agencies to pilot a community-based program on prevention and prosecution. A key feature of this program was the creation of a community-level network of services for survivors of VAW in the Zenica region and establishing case management protocols across sectors.

The organization continues to carry out educational programs for other service providers, law enforcement and criminal justice professionals and offers training in non-violent conflict transformation and reconciliation. Medica Zenica also undertakes research and advocacy work, promoting women's right to live free from violence and for policies that protect the rights of women survivors of war rape.¹⁰⁹

For more information: <http://www.medica.org.ba/>.

Umid Center, Uzbekistan

The Umid (Hope) Center is an NGO-based service center in Uzbekistan for women who are fleeing their homes, many due to abuse, or are survivors of suicide attempts, often through self-immolation. Dr. Bibisora Oripova, a burn specialist, founded the Umid center in 1998, the first shelter in Uzbekistan to provide psychological, medical and social assistance. Many of the women who are driven to suicide are, in fact, also the victims of family violence (from husbands, in-laws and other family members). The Umid center offers such women a place to live and recover from their injuries since many are rejected by their families after a suicide attempt. Women are assisted in rebuilding their lives through psychological counseling and job skills training. In some cases, the Umid center offers legal services to assist in criminal cases as well as with civil issues arising from divorce. Originally only accommodating 6 women, the center today can house 48 women and their children. The center also conducts seminars in rural areas as a form of outreach to women who may be facing crisis and are at risk for suicide.¹¹⁰

Recently, a number of countries have adopted the model of a “one stop” center, designed to reduce the number of institutions a victim must visit and to coordinate the assistance process in one institution. Such centers also result in more effective work by the law enforcement structure as they have access to the victim for the purpose of evidence gathering, but the victim herself is in a safe

¹⁰⁹ *Bosnia: War is not Over – The Forgotten Suffering of Bosnian Women*, available at <http://www.medicamondiale.org/en/projekte-themen/projekte/bosnien-herzegowina/>; *The Impact of Armed Conflict on Women and Girls: A Consultative Meeting on Mainstreaming Gender in Areas of Conflict and Reconstruction*, (UNFPA, 2001) p. 11, 67; Tsjeard Bouta, Georg Frerks and Ian Bannon, *Gender, Conflict and Development*, (World Bank, 2005), p. 39.

¹¹⁰ Alfred Kueppers, *NGO Helps Turn Around Lives of Suicidal Women in Uzbekistan, Eurasia Insight, 28 May 2003 and The Umid Interregional Rehabilitation Center, Reconstruction of Shelter Building, Samarqand, Republic of Uzbekistan, Counterpart*, available at <http://www.counterpart.org/Default.aspx?tabid=428>

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and supportive environment, making it more likely she will co-operate with the justice system.

The U.K. has created a system of Sexual Assault Referral Centers, safe locations where victims of sexual assault can receive immediate and longer-term medical care and counseling. The referral centers bring together all of the relevant legal and medical agencies and departments in a single center, which provides better assistance for the victim and aids criminal investigation. The system is modeled after the St. Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre in Manchester, which has been recognized as a model of good practice in providing immediate and "one-stop" services. The St. Mary's Center opened in 1986 and was the first such center in the U.K. to provide comprehensive and coordinated forensic, counseling and medical services to adults who had experienced rape or sexual assault. For victims the referral centers system reduces the stress of having to deal with multiple service providers and criminal investigators. Furthermore, practice has shown that victims who receive immediate care and counseling recover more steadily and are less likely to need long-term care. From the perspective of law enforcement, the centers assist the police by providing a centralized facility where they can meet with the victim and gather evidence.

Sexual Assault Referral Centers, U.K.

At present, there are 19 Sexual Assault Referral Centers operating in England and Wales.

For more information: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime-victims/reducing-crime/sexual-offences/sexual-assault-referral-centres/?version=2>.

The President's Family Justice Center Initiative, a \$20 million USD federal program to create specialized "one stop shop" multi-disciplinary service centers for victims of family violence and their children, was launched in 2003. The centers are modeled after the San Diego Family Justice Center, which is considered a good practice in the field of victim services. The San Diego Family Justice Center model reduces the number of institutions that a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault and elder abuse must go to receive assistance. The family justice center model has several effective features. For example, all relevant partners to a multi-disciplinary approach are co-located at the center (law enforcement, prosecutors, probation officers, victim advocates, attorneys, healthcare professionals as well as staff representing other community organizations and faith groups). The communities in which these centers are located have policies that emphasize arrest and prosecution of offenders – as well as a history of collaboration among law enforcement, government agencies and civil society. Victim safety, advocacy and confidentiality are the highest priorities under the family justice center model. The family justice centers are located in communities with well-developed specialized services for domestic violence victims and also receive local support from policymakers and the community at large.¹¹¹

Family Justice Centers, U.S.

At present, there are 31 Family Justice Centers in the U.S. (16 received funding under the President's Initiative) and five International Family Justice Centers (in Canada, England and Mexico).

For more information: <http://www.familyjusticecenter.org/>.

¹¹¹ *The President's Family Justice Center Initiative Best Practices*, (U.S. Department of Justice, 2007).

Finally, the issue of specialized centers that address the different forms of VAW as opposed to more generalized centers for women has been much debated. While it is recommended that States develop centers that respond to the specific needs of victims of all types of VAW, in countries where there is little political will to address VAW in general, it is not realistic to lobby for the creation of several specialized centers at once. Most importantly in establishing any kind of shelter, priority should be given to protection and safety of women and their children, and the center should foster women's self-determination and empowerment.

5.4 Coordinated Community Response/ Referral Mechanisms

It has become accepted wisdom that coordination of institutional and individual responses is at the core of effective programs that protect women from violence. In order to meet the needs of VAW survivors, collaboration and information sharing should regularly take place across a large number of agencies, at minimum law enforcement, health care, child welfare and social services agencies.

In general, the term Coordinated Community Response is used to describe a system for responding to domestic violence. The Duluth model, an intervention strategy developed by the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project in Duluth, Minnesota, is one of the best-known and earliest examples of a coordinated community response that has been modified and replicated in many countries. A key feature of the Duluth model is that it requires all sectors involved to agree to core principles of intervention that make victim protection a paramount concern. In practice coordination is generally governed by agreements and policies between agencies.¹¹²

Referral Mechanisms refer to coordinated systems for identifying and protecting victims of human trafficking. While these two systems differ in that they are responding to quite different forms of violence, they also share essential principles and components.

National and local action plans can lay the groundwork for coordinating various agencies, but training programs and advocacy efforts are also needed to ensure that real coordination take place. In addition, community and religious leaders, media, the educational system, businesses and parents all have a role to play as part of the larger community that can organize against VAW. Initiatives that target these groups are discussed elsewhere in this compilation, primarily as prevention efforts.

Toolkit To End Violence Against Women

The U.S. National Advisory Council on Violence Against Women has developed an on-line *Toolkit To End Violence Against Women* which includes recommendations and strategies for working in various settings and engaging a variety of stakeholders, for example, with community-based services, healthcare professionals, the justice system, the media, faith-based groups, sports figures, colleges and universities, the military and the workplace. Each chapter of the toolkit describes an approach to working with the particular audience and includes recommendations for strengthening prevention efforts and improving services and advocacy for victims. While the interventions as described may not be applicable to all settings, the toolkit provides useful instruction for strategies to improve coordinated response and may inspire work with a broad range of community members. The Toolkit can be accessed from: <http://toolkit.ncjrs.org/>.

¹¹² For more information, see http://www.stopvaw.org/Coordinated_Community_Response.html

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) developed *National Referral Mechanisms – Joining Efforts to Protect the Rights of Trafficked Persons: A Practical Handbook* to assist governments of OSCE participating States in developing frameworks for the promotion and protection of the rights of trafficked persons. A national referral mechanism (NRM) is a co-operative framework through which State actors fulfil their obligations to protect and promote the human rights of trafficked persons, co-ordinating their efforts in a strategic partnership with civil society.

The handbook provides guidance on how to design and implement sustainable structures at the national level, the components of an NRM that provide support for victims and the prosecution of traffickers. It also draws on the grass-roots experience of NGOs and OSCE field operations in fostering the creation of successful NRMs. ODIHR has supported assessments of how NRMs are being implemented in Belarus, France, Russia, Turkey and the United Kingdom. These NRM country assessments are forthcoming and will be posted on the ODIHR website.

The NRM handbook can be accessed in 8 languages (Albanian, English, French, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, Uzbek, Serbian/Bosnian/Croatian) from: http://www.osce.org/odihr/item_11_13591.html.

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Task Force on Gender and Humanitarian Assistance issued *Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Emergencies: Focusing on Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence*. The purpose of the guidelines is to establish an integrated interagency approach to preventing and responding to gender-based violence (GBV) in humanitarian emergencies. The guidelines enable communities, governments and humanitarian organizations (such as UN agencies, NGOs and community-based organizations) to establish and coordinate multisectoral interventions that address GBV in the early phases of an emergency. The guidelines include a matrix of key interventions to be used for aid planning and coordination. The guidelines also set forth minimum interventions for prevention and response to sexual violence through 25 action sheets that cover ten sectors (for example, protection, food security and nutrition, shelter and site planning and information and communication). The Guidelines can be accessed in several languages from: http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/pageloader.aspx?page=content-subsidi-tf_gender-gbv

Type of VAW addressed: Domestic violence

Approach and major goals: “Full to the brim” is an expression used in Finland to express the idea of being fed up with something. This phrase served as the starting point for a 4-year campaign carried out by the city of Porvoo to develop a model of multi-professional coordination and co-operation to combat VAW. In 1998, the Finnish government adopted a national five-year project on the prevention of violence against women and prostitution. This plan brought a problem that was generally considered a private matter to light. After analyzing existing social services for victims of VAW and finding them to be inadequate, the local family counseling center of Porvoo initiated the *Full to the Brim* program. The central aims of the program were to enhance the capacities of municipal authorities to prevent, recognize and intervene in DV cases; to provide better support to victims and their children; to refer perpetrators to programs that could help them to end their violent behavior; to establish a network of organizations involved in this work; and to create an open discussion of VAW in the community.

National Referral Mechanisms: Joining Efforts to Protect the Rights of Trafficked Persons

Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings

Full to the Brim

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: The project began in 1999 when the family counseling center called together a wide range of agencies that could play a key role in preventing violence against women, from social services, to law enforcement, to healthcare services and educational institutions, and solicited their agreement to be involved in the project. The project was implemented in part through training programs, which were crucial in establishing a common language among professionals on DV. The authorities involved in the project each developed agency-specific models to detect and intervene in DV cases. This exercise helped to enhance the agencies' understanding of each other's functions in order to better coordinate their work. Support groups for female survivors of violence, for perpetrators and for child witnesses were initiated. In order to work with the population, the project organizers developed a pamphlet on VAW and where to seek help, worked with the media to publicize the ongoing work and developed a course for young couples to counsel them about risks for violence.

Geographic focus: The city of Porvoo, Finland and as a model for other Finnish municipalities.

Materials, products, outcomes: Through the program, a variety of professional training and public awareness materials were developed. Significant outcomes of the project include the development of a referral system between law enforcement and service providers; improved services for victims and the establishment of groups for women, children and perpetrators; and the development of informational materials both in print and in the media. A significant legacy of the project is a multi-agency task force created by the city to prevent domestic violence. The task force is the body responsible for developing a prevention program, monitoring its implementation, providing training for professionals, developing targeted services and coordinating the exchange of good practices across organizations.

The *Full to the Brim* program has been recognized as a good practice in Finland. In 2008 when the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health developed a program to support municipalities in developing coordinated responses to domestic violence, it gave specific recommendations on adopting a strategic approach and determining the needs of a range of vulnerable women and children (including elderly women, women with disabilities and from ethnic minorities), and cited the work carried out in Porvoo as a model.

Funding information: The program incurred no additional cost, as it was carried out as part of the regular work of all agencies involved.

Implementing organization:

Interdepartmental working group in Porvoo municipality.

Chair of the city board:

Kaj Bärlund, kaj.barlund@pp.inet.fi

Chair of the interdepartmental working group:

Marjukka Tao, s.marjukka.taos@porvoo.fi

For more information:¹¹³ Information on the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health recommendations on integration of prevention of interpersonal and domestic violence in municipal activities:

<http://www.stm.fi/en/pressreleases/pressrelease/view/1200671>

¹¹³ Helena Ewalds, *Multi-professional Coordination and Co-operation in Combating Violence Against Women: Practical Experiences from Finland*, Presentation at Experts' Seminar on Innovative Approaches to Combating Violence Against Women, organized by the Gender Section, OSCE Secretariat, October 2008 (Seminar materials available at: http://www.osce.org/gender/item_6_32383.html).

Type of VAW addressed: Trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation

Approach and major goals: The aim of this project was to develop a set of standard operating procedures to ensure coordination of all service providers working with victims of both internal and external trafficking.

Activities undertaken/how the project works: The project was initiated with the creation of a working group formed by the OSCE, Kosovo's Department of Justice, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, police, International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNICEF and NGOs (shelter providers). Over a one-year period, the group agreed upon the best methods to assist victims of trafficking, covering issues ranging from victim identification and return to their countries of origin, the responsibilities of each organization and a plan for coordination across agencies in the treatment of each case. The working group began by developing operating procedures for the assistance of foreign victims of trafficking, but the project was eventually expanded to cover citizen victims who require different services. The resulting standard operating procedures each address a specific victim group, specifically minors, adults, local residents and foreign citizens. In addition to developing the operating procedures, the OSCE has provided training in the content of the new agreements.

Geographic focus: Kosovo

Materials, products, outcomes: By the end of the project, all parties signed an agreement on co-operation. Overall, the project led to improvements not only in the coordination among service providers but also in the quality of the services provided. For example, the number of times that a victim was interviewed about her experience was significantly reduced as agencies became better at sharing information. The working group developed a form for proper referral and confidential filing of the cases.

Funding information: No financial resources were required.

Implementing organization:

OSCE Mission in Kosovo

Tel.: +381 38 500 162; +381 38 240 100

Fax: +381 38 240 711

E-mail can be sent via the website: <http://www.osce.org/kosovo/contacts.html>

For more information: <http://www.osce.org/kosovo/13215.html>

http://www.osce.org/kosovo/item_2_35554.html

5.5 Economic Empowerment

Women's unequal economic status plays a significant role in reinforcing gender-based violence. A woman's economic dependence on a partner creates obstacles to leaving a violent relationship. Discrimination in the labor sphere limits women's choices and may make them reluctant to report sexual harassment in the workplace for fear of losing a job. Likewise, women's unemployment, low wages and own perceptions of economic pressures are push factors for human trafficking. In post-conflict settings, the disarmament process generally results in men receiving compensation in the form of cash for surrendering weapons and ammunition while women are not usually able to participate in such programs. "Often ex-combatants will not return to their village for a variety of reasons and, therefore migrate or remain in urban areas, fueling prostitution and other forms

of vulnerability of women. This resultant flourishing underworld and high level of criminality is partly a consequence of gender blind [disarmament, demobilization and reintegration] policies, where women rarely receive adequate support in comparison to men.”¹¹⁴

Providing women with the means to become financially independent, through economic empowerment strategies, is a well-developed field. Economic empowerment is often addressed as a program in itself or as a means to further broader development goals, as is the case with microfinance projects that target women. Programs to improve women’s economic status and work opportunities are often characterized as prevention work to reduce women’s risk of becoming victims of violence. Such strategies have been used in countries where women are at risk for being trafficked by giving them alternative means of support without going abroad. For the most part, these programs center on vocational training and job placement, teaching job search strategies, résumé writing and interviewing techniques and frequently also include an empowerment component to improve self-confidence and self-esteem.¹¹⁵

Providing women with economic and employment assistance are also important aspects of protection services that help women who have survived violence to become financially independent, to reintegrate, if they have been living in a shelter, and to live independently. For this reason, shelters and other centers that provide women with housing while dealing with violence often run jobs skills programs or offer career guidance. Similarly, it is a good practice within reintegration programs for trafficked women and girls to provide opportunities for income generation. Most often, these programs take the form of entrepreneurship development and employment programs. It is not uncommon for economic empowerment programs that aim at preventing violence to operate in close connection with programs for survivors. Of course, when working with survivors of any form of VAW, as opposed to at-risk groups, more comprehensive services are required and there may also be a need for long-term assistance and follow-up.

Moldova Anti-Trafficking Initiative and New Perspectives for Women

Type of VAW addressed: Human trafficking

Approach and major goals: Winrock International, a U.S. NGO, is currently implementing a multi-year project in Moldova that address the economic roots of trafficking in women and to seeks to improve employment opportunities for women, primarily those aged 16 to 25 who are at the greatest risk. The Moldova Anti-Trafficking Initiative/ New Perspectives for Women program recognizes that limited economic prospects for women in Moldova, particularly in rural areas, are push factors for trafficking. The program addresses the economic causes of trafficking and provides crisis intervention to return trafficked women and girls and those who are at risk. The program aims to reach particularly vulnerable young women and girls, those in rural areas, with poor job skills, living in poverty or in abusive situations.

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: Through a system of 4 Regional Support Centers in Moldova, the program provides walk-in consultations, training in trafficking prevention, skills courses, short and long term employment and entrepreneurship training, internship programs, and assists in the development of peer support groups. Some of the specific activities include individual consultations, on such topics as resume writing and interviewing and business planning, leadership training, vocational skills courses and an internship program. A related program,

¹¹⁴ *Report on Involving Men in the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security*, (Gender Action for Peace and Security-GAPS, 2007).

¹¹⁵ *Best Practices in Trafficking Prevention in Europe and Eurasia*, (USAID, 2009).

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Aiding Women Entrepreneurs in Moldova, assists potential female entrepreneurs to start their own businesses through a small grants program.

Geographic focus: Moldova

Materials, products, outcomes: The program newsletter, audio-visual materials, publications and success stories are available through the program website, many available in Romanian, Russian and English.

Funding information: Funding was provided by USAID.

Implementing organization:

New Perspectives for Women
65, Stefan cel Mare blvd., office 603
Chisinau, MD-2001,
Moldova
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For more information:

<http://www.winrock.org/fact/facts.asp?CC=5536&bu=9056>

Type of VAW addressed: Using microfinance as a platform to address all forms of VAW.

Approach and major goals: In 2001, the Small Enterprise Foundation (SEF), the Microfinance Institution (MFI) and the Rural AIDS and Development Action Research (RADAR) Programme in South Africa formed a collaboration to implement the IMAGE project (Intervention with Microfinance for AIDS and Gender Equity). This project approaches economic empowerment of poor women as a platform for greater social change. IMAGE combines poverty-focused, group-based microfinance with structured training and discussion of gender-based violence, HIV/AIDS and other social issues.

Activities undertaken/how the project works: Generally, in microfinance programs, women are offered small loans and as a condition are expected to meet every two-weeks to repay the loans and participate in training on business planning. The IMAGE project expanded this program to also include compulsory “Sisters of Life” workshops. The workshops are 10 one-hour participatory training courses that are held over 6 months. Women from the local community who have been trained in facilitating open-ended discussions lead the Sisters for Life sessions. The sessions are structured to strengthen the confidence of the participants, to give them communication and leadership skills and to enhance their critical thinking. The training topics include gender roles and culture, sexuality and GBV, communication and relationships and HIV transmission and prevention.

Geographic focus: Primarily rural areas of South Africa

Materials, products, outcomes: The IMAGE project overall reports impressive achievements, not only in women's increased self-confidence and engagement in the community, but decreasing experiences of physical and sexual abuse. Women who participated in the IMAGE project were half as likely to have experienced domestic violence as compared to those who did not participate. Divorce and separation rates among the women participants did not change, but women's status improved, and they reported being treated more respectfully by their partners.

**IMAGE –
Intervention with
Microfinance for
AIDS and Gender
Equity**

A curriculum and training materials used in the Sisters for Life component of the program are available from the website: <http://www.sef.co.za/content/image-study>

The University of the Witwatersrand (Johannesburg) is currently monitoring the IMAGE project through the IMAGE Study, and a website devoted to this study hosts a large number of materials, such as the study protocol, evaluation materials, questionnaires and preliminary study findings.

Funding information: The IMAGE project is relatively cost effective. The on-going costs per client (after staff training) are around \$5 USD. A cost-effectiveness study assessed the overall cost of the project as approximately \$600 USD per case of intimate partner violence prevented.

Implementing organization:

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E-mail can be sent via the website: <http://www.sef.co.za/contacts>

For more information¹¹⁶: <http://www.sef.co.za/node/31>

<http://web.wits.ac.za/Academic/Health/PublicHealth/Radar/SocialInterventions/InterventionwithMicrofinanceforAIDSGenderEquity.htm>

5.6 Legal Protections

Legal protections for women who have experienced violence are diverse and are generally connected to legal proceedings. A description of such protection measures is nevertheless included here since they have more in common with other protections for women than in facilitating prosecution.

Witness protection is essential for survivors of VAW involved in any legal proceeding and should be offered before, during and after trial. Protection is especially critical in cases of violence associated with war crimes, armed conflict or human trafficking. Protection for witness should include physical/ medical and psychological support. Protection orders, as described below, can serve this critical function in cases of domestic violence.

Several legal innovations have expanded the protection available to victims/ witness of human trafficking, such as special visas and residency permits that allow a victim to remain in the country and to work. Asylum law has also been used successfully to offer women fleeing violence protection in a third country.

The field of compensation and restitution for survivors of VAW is also rapidly developing, based on an understanding that legal proceedings against a perpetrator are not adequate reparations for harm suffered. Assets seized from convicted criminals, particularly in cases of human trafficking, can be put towards victims' compensation funds. The International Criminal Court manages a Trust Fund for Victims to assist the most vulnerable victims of any crimes that fall within the Court's jurisdiction.

Reparations can be given to recognize or acknowledge that women have suffered human rights violations during conflict or repression. Reparations can be

¹¹⁶ http://www.wunrn.com/news/2007/02_07/02_19_07/022607_turkey2.htm.

“compensatory, restitutionary, rehabilitative and/or symbolic in nature, and can be individual ... or collective ...”, monetary or non-monetary.¹¹⁷ The distribution of reparations requires sensitivity to the potential harm such a program can cause and also an understanding of the women’s specific experiences of conflict. The “actual implementation of reparations programmes must be accompanied by a concerted commitment and effort on the part of the state to addressing the structural causes of human rights violations. Communities and individuals need to see that, rather than just paying lip service to their suffering, concrete measures are being undertaken by the state to redress the harms done to them in the past ...”¹¹⁸

5.7 Programs for Perpetrators

While there is agreement that programs that work with perpetrators of VAW are a good practice, there are several philosophies and approaches behind this work. Some models view programs for perpetrators as “treatment,” others as “education” or “training.” In several countries, perpetrator programs are court-ordered, and therefore, while not intended as punishment (in the U.S., in fact, men may be required to attend treatment in place of punishment) they can have a coercive element. A great number of programs also recognize that even violent men are in need of support, often in the form of psychological counseling. Men who use violence may suffer from low self-esteem, anger management problems and issues with expressing emotions and forming interpersonal relationships.

The dynamic of abuse is complex and studies have revealed close correlations between men who are abusive and those who experienced violence in childhood. This understanding, however, should never be used as an excuse for violence, and an essential part of all perpetrator programs, whether seen as therapeutic or educational, is that the abuser takes personal responsibility for his actions.

It is a good practice for perpetrator programs to be developed and implemented in close coordination with services for survivors. This ensures that women’s safety remains a central focus and also that scarce resources are allocated equitably. Perpetrator programs can also inform prevention work with men and boys, to help question accepted notions of masculinity and engage men as positive agents for change.

Service providers who work with survivors of violence also point out that not an insignificant number of perpetrators of VAW are members of law enforcement, the military, security or peacekeeping forces. Interventions have been designed to reach precisely these groups, but because they take the form of in-service training and codes of conduct, they are discussed below in the section on Prosecution.

Shedding Abuse is a manual for designing a 12-session workshop for men who are perpetrators of domestic violence. The program targets men who are responsible for domestic violence and who are seeking to change their interpersonal relationships. The manual is designed for use in various cultural settings. It starts with the development of a steering committee at the community level, describes the selection of trainers and facilitators and how to present the course in a group setting as well as how to convince men to attend. The manual goes through the steps of how to set up the course and provides specific teaching tools, such as role-play exercises and homework assignments, as well as assessment forms and a timetable for the course. *Shedding Abuse* was developed by networklearning.org, a network providing NGOs with materials for improving knowledge and training, and is based on the work of Chris Laming from the organization SHED

**Shedding Abuse:
A Course for Men
who use
Domestic Violence**

¹¹⁷ Romi Sigdworth, *Gender-Based Violence in Transition*, (Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, 2008), p.18.

¹¹⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 20.

(Self Help Ending Domestic) in Eastern Australia. The manual can be accessed on the networklearning.org website or directly from:
http://www.networklearning.org/library/task_cat_view/gid,51/.

Respect: A National Association for Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programs and Associated Support Services

Type of VAW addressed: Domestic violence

Approach and major goals: Respect is a UK-based membership association of domestic violence perpetrator programs and support services. The focus of Respect is to increase the safety of domestic violence victims by promoting effective interventions with perpetrators. The organization supports policy work on improving programs for perpetrators of domestic violence and ensuring safety for victims.

Respect's program for perpetrators is based on four central objectives: to enable the man to understand and acknowledge the extent, frequency and seriousness of his violence and to see how damaging it is; to promote the acceptance of responsibility (Respect's program is not couples counseling but a program to show perpetrators that violent behavior is a choice and that they are agents of this choice). A third goal is to encourage men to question their sense of gender-based entitlement, and the final goal is the development of respectful behavior.¹¹⁹

Activities undertaken/ how the project works: Respect operates two national information and advice lines: the Respect Phonenumber (for abusers who are seeking help to change) and the Men's Advice Line (for male victims of domestic violence). The Respect Phonenumber annually receives calls from 7,000 men in the UK and assists callers to understand the situation they have created and to see the negative impacts on their partners, children and selves. Men can also receive referrals to outlets where they can receive help. Respect's programs for perpetrators are underlined by concern for the safety of the survivors of violence. The programs themselves validate the women's experiences by taking a clear stance that the men are responsible for their behavior, but it is also understood that the fact that a perpetrator is participating in such a program may give a partner unrealistic expectations about her own safety. For this reason, Respect co-operates closely with services for women and children to keep them informed about the progress made by the partner in counseling. Such an approach aims to empower the woman by providing her with information about the perpetrator programs so that she can focus on her safety and the safety of her children and make informed decisions.

Other projects undertaken by Respect include the Young People's Services Project to develop a toolkit for professionals who work with 13-19 year olds addressing violence in relationships; policy research on the effectiveness of programs for domestic violence perpetrators; and the development of an Accreditation Standard for evaluating diverse service delivery programs and highlighting those that are high-quality and safety-focused. Respect offers tenders for research projects and networking opportunities for members.

Geographic focus: The United Kingdom, specifically England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Materials, products, outcomes: Respect is currently engaged in a large-scale evaluation project to examine the outcomes of men's participation in programs

¹¹⁹ Neil Blacklock, *Strategies for Engaging with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence*, Presentation at Experts' Seminar on Innovative Approaches to Combating Violence Against Women, organized by the Gender Section, OSCE Secretariat, October 2008 (Seminar materials available at http://www.osce.org/gender/item_6_32383.html).

5 Protection and Assistance

for perpetrators. Respect is also working with practitioners to create a client information management system that will be available to all organization members once it has been piloted.

Past interim evaluations of domestic violence intervention projects conducted in London and Scotland have found that the combination of DV prevention programs for men and integrated support services for women have a significant effect on the safety of women and children. In both studies, the majority of men who completed the programs stopped using violence or other abusive behaviors. The Respect website includes links to several research projects and a library of information.

Funding information: Respect's work is supported by government funding, foundation grants and, to a lesser extent, private donations. The phone lines are funded directly by the government (for England, Wales, Northern Ireland) at approximately £130,000 per year.

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6 Prosecution

States' obligations to apply a due diligence standard to violence against women has focused a great deal on responding to such violence after it has occurred, in large part by improving laws and women's access to justice. Many countries have taken steps to adopt or modify legislation and ensure that the legal system, particularly law enforcement, prosecutors and judges, have the capacity to fully investigate and prosecute cases of violence against women.

The UN has issued clear recommendations to States to undertake crime prevention and criminal justice measures to eliminate violence against women.¹²⁰ Violence against women should be raised in programs on legal reform and security sector reform. For example, improving respect for the rule of law means that the law is applied equitably and consistently to all citizens. When domestic violence cases are treated as "private matters" and different from other forms of violence, the rule of law is not upheld. Security sector reform aims to strengthen the capacity of police, the justice sector and others to understand and better respond to security and safety needs of all citizens. Security threats to women and girls largely center on violence, occurring both in the home and the community. UNSCR 1325 also emphasizes that it is the responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity and to prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes including those relating to sexual and other violence against women and girls.

There is a wealth of information about incorporating gender considerations, including on VAW, into law and security sector reform, and it is not the intention of this compilation to reiterate such information here. Instead, important lessons from this sector, in making the law more responsive to issues of violence against women and how to work within such structures as the police, security forces, the judiciary are distilled here. While other guides and compilations focus on the sector to be reformed, the present compilation is organized around types of effective interventions, such as the development of specialized laws, internal protocols or training programs, with specific information about the sector to be targeted when relevant.

Several guides and toolkits offer information on addressing gender issues within criminal justice and security sector reform:

Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (1999) is a compendium of promising practices, programs, policies and legislation, developed by the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy. The compendium takes the form of a database, cataloguing examples of global good practices in the field of criminal justice and VAW, categorized according to the model strategies articulated by the UN Secretary-General. The compendium can be accessed from: <http://www.icclr.law.ubc.ca/Site%20Map/Publications%20Page/Elimination.htm>

The Gender and Security Sector Reform Toolkit (2008) (DCAF, OSCE/ODIHR and UN-INSTRAW) provides a practical introduction to gender issues for security sector reform practitioners and policy makers. The Toolkit includes 12 Tools and corresponding Practice Notes on such topics as Police Reform and Gender and Justice Reform, as well as specific information on addressing VAW. The Toolkit can be

**Improving
Criminal Justice
and Security
Sector Reform**

¹²⁰ *Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*, 12 December 1997, GA Res. 52/86.

accessed from: <http://www.dcaf.ch/gender-security-sector-reform/gssr-toolkit.cfm?navsub1=37&navsub2=3&nav1=3>.

Gender Sensitive Police Reform in Post Conflict Societies (2007) is a UNIFEM and UNDP policy briefing paper that describes lessons learned from gender-sensitive police reform in Kosovo, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The paper summarizes key components for effective police reform used in settings with high rates of sexual and gender-based violence and can be accessed from:

http://www.unifem.org/resources/item_detail.php?ProductID=105.

As noted elsewhere in this report, community-based groups of elders in some countries may serve quasi-legal functions in deciding community problems, which can include forms of violence against women, such as rape or domestic violence. These groups may serve as gatekeepers in whether or not incidents of VAW are prosecuted through the formal legal system. Additionally, they can have important influence over the community as a whole, in particular where perpetrators can be pressured by community censure and public shaming to change their violent behavior. However, while such community institutions are important partners in combating VAW and should be the targets of specialized outreach programs, they should not be seen to take the place of a formal legal system.¹²¹

The role for civil society groups may appear less significant under prosecution efforts than in the areas of prevention and protection. In fact, NGOs have an important role to play in policy work around legal reform, in advocating for legal mechanisms that properly address victims' needs, providing sensitization and capacity-building for a range of legal professionals and for monitoring the implementation of laws and the effectiveness of the legal system.

6.1 Laws and Policies

Legal reform has been a critical area of work for both governments and civil society organizations. National and local laws are mechanisms for translating international treaty obligations at the State level. The legal system can address violence against women through various forms of law and policy, and there are many examples from around the world where countries have taken different yet equally effective approaches to legislating against VAW.

It is well understood that mere criminalization of violence is not adequate, and effective responses require comprehensive legislation that includes provisions on protection and prevention and addresses root causes of violence against women, such as discrimination against women. Understood broadly, "laws" can also include plans of action, adopted by national legislatures, or codes of conduct for how specific professionals must respond to cases of violence against women, adopted at the agency level. It also goes without saying that laws themselves have very little power, and so good laws should not be evaluated by what is written on paper but in how that law is implemented in practice. A law can be considered effective if its passage is followed by awareness raising among legal professionals, capacity-building in implementing the law and in the development of clear procedures and guidelines on how the law is to be enforced.

¹²¹ Examples of projects that included components addressing such community groups as Aksakal courts in Kyrgyzstan and the mahallah in Uzbekistan are described in the section on Prevention, above.

In May 2008, the UN Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDAW/DESA) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) convened an expert group meeting on good practices and lessons learned in regard to legislation on violence against women. The objectives of the meeting included analyzing various approaches in the law to addressing VAW, evaluating lessons learned in implementing such laws and identifying good practices and strategies in developing legislation. The meeting resulted in a number of expert papers and presentations on legal developments and law reform in a number of countries.

For more information: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/vaw_legislation_2008/vaw_legislation_2008.htm

6.1.1 Gender Equality Laws

Because violence against women is a severe form of discrimination and is rooted in structural inequalities, measures to ensure gender equality are important starting points for providing a legal basis to combat VAW. Several former Soviet countries address violence against women as an impediment to equality between men and women. For example, Tajikistan adopted the Law “On State Guarantees of Equality between Men and Women and Equal Opportunities for their Realization” and in creating the State program on gender equality, dedicated a section on concrete measures to address violence against women, with the understanding that the law guarantees both legal and de facto equality.¹²²

6.1.2 Strengthening the Law and Adopting Specialized Legislation

Reviewing existing laws with a view to strengthening how they protect survivors of violence and prosecute perpetrators is the starting point for legal reform on VAW. For example, any definitions of violence against women can be expanded so that all forms of such violence are actionable. The definition of rape should include rape within marriage. Legal procedures that require a victim of violence to initiate prosecution should be repealed and the responsibility for prosecuting all crimes given clearly to the State. In Canada, amendments to the Criminal Code in 1992 established rape shield laws that provide strict guidance on the type of evidence that can be introduced in trials for rape and sexual assault. Specifically, rape shield laws protect the witness/ victim from having to testify about previous sexual conduct. Criminal penalties for repeated offenses of domestic violence can be increased.

Revising existing law is, however, a minimalistic approach to addressing violence against women, and many countries have gone further and enacted stand-alone laws that criminalize VAW generally, or specific types of violence, such as domestic violence, human trafficking or sexual harassment. Countries in the former Soviet region, for example, have generally found that adopting specific laws against family violence has been necessary to develop a legal understanding of the problem so that it can be addressed by the proper agencies and included in national statistics. The passage of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (2003) in the U.S.

¹²² Hairiniso Yusufi, *Primary Activities of the Committee on Women and Family Affairs of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan to Prevent Violence Against Women*, Presentation at Experts’ Seminar on Innovative Approaches to Combating Violence Against Women, organized by the Gender Section, OSCE Secretariat, October 2008 (Seminar materials available at: http://www.osce.org/gender/item_6_32383.html).

drew increased attention to a problem that was not well known. The Act initiated prevention and prosecution measures specifically for custodial violence against women, created a federal body to combat rape in prisons and jails and authorized reductions in funding for those facilities that do not meet minimum standards.¹²³ The Statute for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia was the first to articulate rape as a crime against humanity. Subsequently, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court expanded the definition to include “rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity” and established that such acts also violate the Geneva Conventions.¹²⁴ The Rome Statute has arguably changed the global understanding of the specific impacts of conflict and war on women.

A comprehensive approach to legal reform on VAW should include revision of existing laws, adoption of specialized legislation and development of policies and procedures to implement the laws. Overviews of good practices on developing legislation to address violence against women can be found in several guides on model legislation.

Model Laws for Addressing VAW

Guidance on model laws exists for several types of violence, for example:

A Framework for Model Legislation on Domestic Violence (Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences),¹²⁵ which can be accessed from:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/women/rapporteur/issues.htm>

Sexual Harassment at Work: National and International Responses (ILO),¹²⁶ which can be accessed from: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/condtrav/pdf/2cws.pdf>

Reference Guide for Anti-Trafficking Legislative Review (OSCE/ODIHR),¹²⁷ which can be accessed from http://www.osce.org/odihr/item_11_13596.html.

By reviewing such models, it is possible to summarize several good approaches that are common to all effective laws on VAW. The type of violence should be defined clearly, and physical, sexual and psychological harm should be punished. The definition of who constitutes a victim and who is a perpetrator should be broad enough to include various relationships. Both criminal and civil remedies, including compensation, should be available to victims of VAW. Prosecution efforts should follow the creation of legal mechanisms that ensure effective protection for victims/survivors. A range of flexible laws and remedies, designed specifically with the needs of survivors in mind, including emergency procedures, are most effective in addressing VAW. Penalties for perpetrators should be commensurate.

¹²³ *Women in an Insecure World, Violence Against Women, Facts, Figures and Analysis*, (DCAF, 2005), p. 97.

¹²⁴ UN Doc. A/CONF.183/9.

¹²⁵ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, E/CN.4/1996/53/Add.2, (1996).

¹²⁶ Deirdre McCann, *Sexual Harassment at Work: National and International Responses*, (ILO, 2005).

¹²⁷ Angelika Kartusch, *Reference Guide for Anti-Trafficking Legislative Review*, (OSCE/ODIHR, 2001).

6.1.3 Case Studies of Good Practices in Legislation

Model laws provide an outline for the elements that should be included in effective legislation and can serve as starting points for drafting anti-violence legislation, but no governments have actually enacted such model laws wholesale. It is more useful, therefore, to examine case studies to identify how several countries have recently undergone extensive legal reform around VAW. Even in these countries, however, activists still point to areas where further reform is needed, indicating the continued and complex approach that is required to address VAW.

The Austrian experience serves as a model of a comprehensive system that prioritizes support services in order to make it possible for survivors to seek redress through the justice system. The Austrian government supports a number of services for women survivors of violence and their children that ensure their rights to information, to safe housing and to empowering support.¹²⁸ The adoption of strong laws is, therefore, an essential part of the system but is only one component.

Austria

Several important changes in Austrian law have contributed to increased protection for survivors and more effective prosecution of VAW cases. For instance, the Security Police Act (1991) regulates the duties of police in protecting citizens from violence, but most significantly here, it extended police protection to women victims of violence in the home. The Domestic Violence Act (1997) consists of three elements that work in combination with each other: a provision allowing the police to expel a violent person from the home for a period of 10 or 20 days; the right of the survivor to apply for a longer-term protection order through a civil process; and immediate support for victims after police intervention. Concurrent with the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act, the Austrian government established a system of Intervention Centers in each province of the country for the purpose of coordinating police and social service activities and to take a proactive approach to assisting victims. The centers are funded by the Federal Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry for Women but are operated by women's NGOs. One of the Intervention Centers' key tasks is to assess the danger in a domestic violence situation. For this reason, when the police remove a perpetrator from the home, the removal is documented in a report that the police are required to transmit to a local Intervention Center. At this point, the center takes steps to contact the survivor to offer further support and assistance in planning for the safety of the survivor and any dependents.

Other important legal developments include reform of the Penal Code that has resulted in *ex-officio* prosecution of all violent acts, even misdemeanors, the development of anti-stalking legislation, and the criminalization of marital rape, female genital mutilation and forced marriage. A law also exists, in draft form, to increase sentences for repeated acts of violence. These individual legal and policy changes have proven effective since they mandate coordination between police, courts and Intervention Centers and they include proactive measures for the support of survivors.¹²⁹

¹²⁸ For example, the Ministry for Women funds a national toll-free hotline that is operated by the non-governmental Women's Shelter Network. There are 30 women's shelters throughout the country that are funded by the national and municipal government but operated as independent women's organizations as well as 40 local and regional counseling centers that support women and girls who have survived violence.

¹²⁹ Rosa Logar, *Good Laws are Not Enough. Experiences from Austria in Developing a Comprehensive Intervention System to Prevent Violence Against Women and Support Survivors*, Presentation at Experts' Seminar on Innovative Approaches to Combating Violence Against Women, organized by the Gender Section, OSCE Secretariat, October 2008 (Seminar materials available at http://www.osce.org/gender/item_6_32383.html).

Rwanda

In 2006, the *Draft Law on the Prevention, Protection and Punishment of Any Gender Based Violence* was adopted by general consensus in the Rwandan Parliament. While the law has not yet passed the final stage of adoption, the process by which it was prepared and submitted to Parliament represents a good practice in developing comprehensive legislation on VAW in post-conflict setting. The success of the Rwandan law depends greatly on women's leadership. Indeed, the draft law is the first piece of legislation not to have been introduced by the executive. In 2005, with support from UNIFEM and UNDP, the Forum for Rwandan Women Parliamentarians (FFRP) launched a series of national consultations under the "Enhancing Protection from Gender Based Violence" project. After holding a national conference to discuss gender-based violence (GBV) and good practices in international law, the women parliamentarians created a highly participatory process to "gather information, solicit input, and sensitize citizens as well as other lawmakers to the problem of gender-based violence." FFRP met with stakeholders such as ministerial representatives, the national police and office of the prosecutors to gain their commitment to combating GBV. Members of Parliament worked in their home districts and through field trips to speak directly with local populations and to solicit opinions about the law at the grass-roots level. They also worked closely with the National Women's Council to convene larger groups of women to participate in information gathering sessions. The result of such work was a report that documented that more than 50% of Rwandan women had experienced violence by male partners and a similarly large number had been raped during the 1994 genocide. The report also listed recommendations from the population and formed the basis of a strategic policy document, which in turn was used by the FFRP to form a consultative committee. It was this committee, working with technical advisors, that formulates the *Draft Law on the Prevention, Protection and Punishment of Any Gender Based Violence*. The FFRP also worked closely with male counterparts to find co-sponsors for the legislation. In 2006, the draft law entered committee without objection. At present, the draft law is awaiting amendments and adoption by the full Parliament.

The draft law is a significant piece of legislation also in its approach to GBV. The law is wide-ranging and addresses both violence and other aspects of gender inequality, such as women's unpaid work and dowry issues. Significantly, an opening note to the bill explains the impetus of the drafting process as arising from both the current situation globally, in Rwanda and the experience of the Rwandan genocide. The law consists of five sections: (1) the objectives of the law and definition of terms; (2) fundamental principles for the prevention of GBV; (3) obligations of various stakeholders in preventing GBV; (4) penalties for GBV-related crimes; and (5) areas of intersection between the draft law and other penal laws.¹³⁰

Spain

In 2004, Spain passed the *Act on Integrated Protection Measures Against Gender Violence*, which dramatically changed how the legal system dealt with cases of violence against women. Significantly, the Act defines gender-based violence for the first time in Spanish law. While using the term "gender violence," the law addresses violence against women committed by former or current intimate partners. An important aspect of the law is its focus on awareness raising, prevention and early detection of acts of violence. The Act establishes comprehensive and multi-disciplinary measures for law enforcement and the judiciary and creates a government delegation on gender violence. The Act establishes

¹³⁰ E. Pearson, *Demonstrating Legislative Leadership: The Introduction of Rwanda's Gender-Based Violence Bill*, (The Initiative for Inclusive Security, 2008) and *Gender-Based Violence Bill Passes in Rwandan Parliament*, (UNIFEM, 2006), available at: http://www.unifem.org/news_events/story_detail.php?StoryID=502.

6 Prosecution

the responsibility for awareness raising initiatives in schools, by the media and in the healthcare system. The rights of women survivors are defined comprehensively, and the law guarantees their civil rights, economic rights, protects their employment status in both the public and private sectors and ensures specialized assistance, housing and legal aid.

An important feature of the law is the establishment of specialized Courts of Violence against Women which operate in coordination with a psycho-social team (psychologist and social worker) and a Victim Assistance Officer.

The Act is complemented by other legal reform efforts, including reform of the Penal Code and the introduction of a Protection Order for Victims of Domestic Violence (2003). In order to obtain a protective order, any victim of gender violence (defined broadly to include spouses, intimate-partners and common law relationships, both in current and past relationships) who feels she is in danger can apply through the police, the courts, the prosecutor's office or through State Women's Services Centers. A hearing must take place within 72 hours, and the examining judge determines the duration of the order. A judge may prohibit the perpetrator from having contact with the victim, in the home, at work or through means of communication. In cases of high risk, the judge can order precautionary pre-trial detention of the abuser. Victims may ask for civil measures in parallel to a criminal case, such as child custody determinations, child support and living expenses. Spanish law allows the possibility of suspension or substitution of a criminal penalty in cases of VAW when the sentence is less than two years, but the perpetrator is obliged in such a case to abide by a protective order and participate in psychological treatment for aggressors.

Overall, these legal changes have had positive effects in Spain in making what was regarded as a private affair a public issue and in sending a clear message that the State takes violence against women seriously. With the enactment of the law, the police, the prosecutor's office and judiciary have been able to better coordinate their work.¹³¹

Turkey approach to addressing VAW through the law centered on holistic reform of the Penal Code. Activists led a campaign calling for the transformation of the underlying philosophy and principles of the former code, which “constructed women's bodies and sexuality as belonging to their families, fathers, husbands and society.” The resulting amendments, in 2004, reformulated how the law deals with sexual crimes, including the criminalization of marital rape and customary practices, such as honor-based crimes and the abduction of women. The law also eliminates discrimination against non-virgin and unmarried women and criminalizes sexual harassment in the workplace.

Turkey

Turkey has also enacted specific legal protections for victims of VAW, such as a law establishing protection orders, adopted in 1998. Under the law, all women victims of violence and others who have observed the violence can apply directly to the police or the court for a protection order. Perpetrators, against whom an order can be enforced, are defined broadly to include all family members, and partners, living

¹³¹ Carmen de la Fuente Méndez, *Spanish Legislation on Violence against Women: Challenges and Facts*, Expert Paper presented at UN Expert Group Meeting on good practices in legislation on violence against women, May 2008 and Sonia Chirinos, *Impacts of the Development of the Spanish Procedural System on the Effectiveness of Prosecuting Violence Against Women*, Presentation at Experts' Seminar on Innovative Approaches to Combating Violence Against Women, organized by the Gender Section, OSCE Secretariat, October 2008 (Seminar materials available at http://www.osce.org/gender/item_6_32383.html).

together. A protective order is limited to 6 months, and its violation can result in imprisonment from 3 to 6 months. The office of the Public Prosecutor monitors compliance with the order through the police.¹³²

6.1.4 Action Plans

Government are increasingly moving from developing legislation that addresses forms of VAW to drafting and implementing plans of action, which are public policies for advancing women's rights more broadly.¹³³ While these plans do not create enforceable laws, they are formally adopted strategies that serve as a framework for government action. Action plans can describe the functions of various ministries and agencies, set indicators, describe prevention activities, develop training programs, set up protection services and delineate the responsible agencies, which can include both within the government and NGOs, and allocate funds from the State budget.

There are many examples of action plans, some at the national level which address all forms of violence against women, some national action plans which address particular types of violence, as well as sectoral action plans. UNIFEM has highlighted the experiences of two countries in creating national action plans. In Morocco, a National Action Plan to combat gender-based violence was developed through consultations with around 200 stakeholders, including women survivors of violence, representatives of the criminal justice system, healthcare providers, educators and women's NGOs. The plan has seven broad sections on: legislative reform, support for survivors of violence (legal, medical, psychological, socio-economic), infrastructure support for survivors, awareness raising, research and partnership building, training for police and policy developments. The action plan was tested in two pilot regions before being adopted at the national level.¹³⁴ In Georgia, the State Commission on Elaboration of State Policy for the Advancement of Women developed a national Action Plan on Combating Violence Against Women for 2000-2002. The plan instructed the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Prosecutor's Office to collect data on violence against women, to develop a registry of domestic violence cases and to conduct prevention work. The plan also included mandates to improve research into VAW, to inform the public about domestic violence, to develop programs for perpetrators, to uncover data on sexual harassment in the workplace, to combat ethnic violence against women and girls and to prevent and eliminate trafficking in women. The legislative and executive bodies are responsible for executing the Action Plan while working with NGOs, trade unions and mass media outlets.¹³⁵

Germany: 2nd Action Plan to combat violence against women

In 2007, the German Federal Government approved the second Action Plan to combat violence against women, updating the first plan approved in 1999. The new Action Plan is not only setting goals and targets to combat violence against women on a national basis, but addresses the issue also in the context of international co-operation within the European Union, the Council of Europe, and the United Nations. The Action Plan contains various references to UNSCR 1325.

¹³² Pinar Ilkcaracan and Liz Ercevik Amado, *Good Practices in Legislation on Violence against Women in Turkey and Problems of Implementation*, Expert Paper presented at UN Expert Group Meeting on good practices in legislation on violence against women, May 2008.

¹³³ *Not a Minute More: Ending Violence Against Women*, (UNIFEM, 2003), p. 52.

¹³⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 55.

¹³⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 54.

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The second Action Plan has been drafted on the basis of the results of a comprehensive study evaluating the extent, background and consequences of violence against women in Germany. For instance, one of the conclusions of the report was that migrant women are on average more often victims of violence than German women. Thus, the Action Plan includes new actions that will specifically target migrant women, for example offering services in different languages, as well as addressing special forms of violence against migrant women, such as forced marriages.

For more information on the Action plan (only available in German):
<http://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/generator/BMFSFJ/Service/Publikationen/publikationen,did=100962.html>

A number of countries¹³⁶ have drafted National Action Plans to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, all of which include specific measures on combating and responding to VAW, with a focus on rape and sexual exploitation.

The UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW) has published a guide to the preparation of action plans to implement UNSCR 1325, *Securing Equality, Engendering Peace: A Guide to Policy on Planning on Women, Peace and Security* (2006). The Guide can be accessed from: <http://www.un-instraw.org/en/gps/general/implementation-of-un-scr-1325.html>

Securing Equality, Engendering Peace: A Guide to Policy on Planning on Women, Peace and Security

Type of VAW addressed: Domestic Violence

Approach and major goals: The overall goal of the *Violence Against Women – No Longer A Family Issue* (2006-2008) project was to support the implementation of a new law on domestic violence in Albania. The project worked to strengthen the capacities of Albanian organizations at the national, local and community level to coordinate how they address domestic violence. A critical part of the project was the formalization of a National Strategy and Action Plan on Domestic Violence through a participatory process among government and non-government organizations. The project also addressed several other critical areas: the introduction of new forms of assistance for DV victims, capacity-building for law enforcement and awareness raising for the general public.

Violence Against Women – No Longer A Family Issue

Activities undertaken/how the project works: The project was implemented by UNDP Albania in close co-operation with Albanian central and local government bodies, women's NGOs, media outlets and international organizations (UNIFEM, UNFPA, UNICEF, IOM), in three interrelated components. The first component included a policy review of the legal and social protections for women experiencing DV, support for the creation of a National Strategy and Action Plan and institutional

¹³⁶ To date, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Liberia, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Plans can be found under: <http://www.un-instraw.org/en/gps/general/implementation-of-un-scr-1325.html>

capacity building for the Albanian Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (at the national and local level). In order to further implementation of the law, UNDP also facilitated a partnership between the Ministry of Health and Ministry of the Interior to draft guidance on reporting DV cases. The other two components of the project enhanced the work of the first and focused on improving law enforcement response and assistance to DV victims at the grass-roots level (working with the Ministry of Interior and a network of women's NGOs) and awareness raising to prevent DV and change societal attitudes by using empowerment programs in schools.

Geographic focus: Six regions of Albania

Materials, products, outcomes: During the course of the project, a National Strategy on Gender Equality and Domestic Violence for 2007-2010 was drafted; trainings were conducted for civil servants and police staff; students took part in public campaigns (such as for the 16 Days of Action) and art projects against VAW. In addition, UNDP and UNICEF are providing technical and financial support to the National Institute of Statistics to conduct a household survey of the prevalence and impact of DV in Albania. The survey results will form the first database of its kind in the country and will be used to refine DV laws, policies and services to improve their effectiveness.

Funding information: The project budget was approximately \$275,000 USD, jointly funded by the Japan Women-in-development Fund and UNDP Albania.

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<http://www.undp.org.al/index.php?page=projects/project&id=105>

6.1.5 Codes of Conduct and Internal Policies

In addition to formally adopted laws, codes of conduct and other policies that regulate the response of a particular sector have proven effective. While such policies are not legislated, they can function as "laws" internal to a particular institution. Protocols and procedures are methods to translate legal protections into concrete responses. A great deal of attention has been given to establishing operating procedures among the police, for example, giving police the power to arrest perpetrators of domestic violence upon a reasonable suspicion, mandatory reporting to superior officers and the requirement that police provide survivors with information about protection services.¹³⁷ The OSCE and other international organisations have developed Codes of Conduct which set standards of personal and professional conduct while on and off duty. For example, the OSCE's Code of

¹³⁷ *Policy briefing paper: Gender Sensitive Police Reform in Post Conflict Societies*, (UNIFEM and UNDP, 2007), p. 6.

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Conduct prohibits all forms of discrimination on the basis of sex as well as affiliation with anyone who is suspected of being involved in any activity that violates national or international law or human rights standards, including an affiliation with anyone suspected of being engaging in the trafficking of human beings.

Type of VAW addressed: Gender-based violence and sexual exploitation

Approach and major goals: In 2001, after receiving reports on sexual misconduct committed by humanitarian and peacekeeping forces in West Africa, the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) undertook a project to develop a code of conduct for the UN Mission to Burundi in an effort to prevent violations from taking place. The DPKO, working with the UN Mission to Burundi, took a proactive approach in establishing clear rules and guidance, following Para. 6 of UNSCR 1325 that establishes the need to provide training, guidance and materials on the protection, rights and the particular needs of women.

Activities undertaken/how the project works: The DPKO first appointed a staff person with specific experience in GBV issues as the Chief of the Code of Conduct Unit at the mission. Early in the project, the head of the mission established clear rules for UN soldiers and ensured that both the media and the local population were familiar with these rules. The Code of Conduct unit, working closely with other related units in the mission, such as child protection, human rights and gender, then developed policies and procedures for addressing sexual exploitation and sexual harassment. The code also created civilian and military focal points where abuse or suspicion of abuse could be reported and a procedure for the confidential handling of such reports. Under the new policies, all staff members of the mission would be briefed on the code of conduct and would be asked to commit to them in writing. The Chief of the unit conducted trainings, briefings and follow-up meetings on the new code of conduct.

It was noted that enforcing the code of conduct proved particularly challenging due to the fact that troop contributing countries have disciplinary responsibility and power. Therefore, “if a specific force commander does not take seriously an incident or allegation, there is no guarantee of disciplinary action to individual soldiers.” This challenge was addressed, however, by appointing the GBV advisor to a senior position in the mission, granting the Code of Conduct Unit the necessary status to undertake high-level advocacy with military leaders and all divisions of the peacekeeping forces. At the same time, the head of the mission expressed a clear commitment to discipline and even court martial for commanders who violated, ignored or failed to fully enforce the code of conduct.

Geographic focus: Peacekeeping forces in Burundi but, within the project, interest was expressed in training for regular army units.

Materials, products, outcomes: A website devoted to the 2005 Nairobi conference on *Enhancing Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Populations Affected by Armed Conflict* includes links to policy materials that regulate the conduct of UN personnel. Developed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, these materials include briefings on prohibited acts of sexual exploitation, model complaint forms and terms of reference for in-country focal points. Materials are available at <http://www.womenwarpeace.org/node/953#code>.

Funding information: United Nations

Implementing organization:
United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UNDPKO)

Code of Conduct Implementation Project

For more information: *Enhancing Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Populations Affected by Armed Conflict*, Final Conference Report, UNICEF/UNIFEM (2005) available at <http://www.womenwarpeace.org/node/953#code>.

Codes of conduct have also proven highly valuable in cases where legislation is lacking, for example on the issue of sexual harassment in the workplace. Rather than adopting legislation, the South African government developed the *Code of good practice on the handling of sexual harassment cases* in co-operation with employers' and workers' organizations and community groups within the National Economic Development and Labour Council.¹³⁸ Although such a code of conduct is not legally binding, they have had significant influence on employers and in improving workplace policies and procedures. In Malaysia, for example, around 100 companies have adopted policies and established complaints mechanisms in line with a government-issued code of practice on sexual harassment. In the U.S., courts routinely take into consideration the guidelines issued by the federal Equal Employment Opportunities Commission on sexual harassment.¹³⁹

OSCE Code of Conduct of politico-military aspects of security

The OSCE participating States approved a Code of Conduct to regulate and enhance co-operation on security issues. The Code confirms the notion of security as a comprehensive concept that is related to maintaining peace and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction on the basis of race, sex, language or religion. Participating States also agreed to report on an annual basis to the OSCE Secretariat on the steps taken toward implementation of the Code. For this purpose, a questionnaire was developed and updated in April 2009 which covers several topics, including the implementation of international humanitarian law. A number of delegations¹⁴⁰ declared their intention to expand the scope of their replies to the questionnaire by including information on women, peace and security and on elements included in the OSCE Ministerial Council Decisions related to the Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality and on Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation.

6.2 Specialized Divisions and Responses

Parallel to the development of dedicated laws and procedures to address violence against women, it is now seen as a good practice for States to develop specific agencies or institutions that are devoted to addressing VAW. Such specialized agencies, for example police units or dedicated courts, can improve the overall protection of victims' rights and can improve the effectiveness of prosecution efforts.

The importance of such institutions dedicated to VAW is illustrated by an example from Kosovo/UNMIK. In 2002, the Department of Justice created the Victims' Advocacy and Assistance Unit (VAAU) to "integrate the interests of victims into the justice system and to ensure that victims receive needed assistance

¹³⁸ Deirdre McCann, *Sexual Harassment at Work: National and International Responses*, (ILO, 2005), p. 33.

¹³⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 34.

¹⁴⁰ Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

to participate in the justice process.”¹⁴¹ While assistance through the Victims’ Advocacy and Assistance Unit is not limited to victims of VAW, it was recognized from the beginning that this group were among the most vulnerable, and the VAAU collaborates with a network of Victims’ Advocates who specialize in gender-based crimes. Indeed, since its creation, the unit has assisted thousands of victims, the majority involved in cases that concern domestic violence, sexual assault or human trafficking. The work of the VAAU consists of providing policy advice, conducting training on victims’ advocacy, providing assistance and support to victims involved in the legal process, as well as referrals. Victims can receive comprehensive legal assistance, psychological and medical support, interpretation, educational assistance and shelter through an Interim Secure Facility. Since 2005, the VAAU has collaborated with the Post and Telecommunication of Kosovo to run a toll-free “HelpLine” specifically for victims of gender-based violence, as a complement to the unit’s existing victim hotline.¹⁴²

6.2.1 Police Units

Specialized police units for dealing with various forms of VAW have been established in a number of countries. There is some lack of consensus about whether dedicated police units should be staffed only by women. Particularly in countries where the police and security forces are male-dominated, the creation of all-female unit may have the unintended effect of trivializing or marginalizing the issue of VAW. There is, however, agreement that dedicating specially trained police to work exclusively on VAW cases is a good practice. Many of the existing special police units or police stations are “staffed primarily by female officers in order to provide an environment where women may feel more comfortable in reporting and be assured that their reports will be properly handled.”¹⁴³ Such units can be particularly effective when they collaborate on VAW cases in a team with other professionals, such as healthcare workers, social workers and legal specialists. In countries, such as India and the United Kingdom, where such specialized police units have been operating for a number of years, there have been significant increases in the numbers of women reporting violence as well as higher arrest, prosecution and conviction rates.¹⁴⁴

In 2008, the Centro de Planificación y Estudios Sociales (Center for Planning and Social Studies, CEPLAES) published a comprehensive study of women’s police stations in four Latin American countries, Brazil, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Peru. Latin America was the first region in the world to institute women’s police stations on a wide scale. As many have already been operating for 25 years, an analysis of how these police stations are working in practice can offer useful insights into their creation and also their effectiveness in addressing VAW. While the report focuses on Latin American, it contains useful information about the context in which women’s police stations operate, key aspects of their scope and mandate, the co-operation with social service networks and impact of such police stations, with a focus on improving women’s access to justice and the quality of the services provided. The report can be accessed from: <http://www.ceplaes.org.ec/Accesso-Justicia/>.

**Regional
Mapping Study of
Women’s Police
Stations in Latin
America**

¹⁴¹ *Gender-Based Violence in Kosovo: A Case Study*, (UNFPA, 2005), p. 12.

¹⁴² *Toll-free ‘HelpLine’ for Victims of Human Trafficking*, Press Release, 18 August 2005, UNMIK, available at: http://www.stopvaw.org/Toll-free_HelpLine_for_Victims_of_Human_Trafficking.html

¹⁴³ T. Denham, *Police Reform and Gender*, from *Gender and Security Sector Reform Toolkit*, (UN-INSTRAD/DCAF/OSCE, 2003), p. 15.

¹⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

There are challenges to creating effective specialized police units. They should be supported by the leadership and integrated into the central police structure. Such units should be governed by clear policies and procedures and ensure regular training for the staff. UNIFEM has worked extensively with Indian authorities to develop and replicate Special Cells for Women and Girls within the police. In scaling up the project, it was important that a formal partnership was established through a Memorandum of Understanding between UNIFEM, the local State Government (through the State Police), the Department of Women and Child and the initiator of the project, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences.¹⁴⁵ The Special Cells are providing integrated support to victims of violence, including legal advice in registering criminal complaints, trauma counseling and referrals to support services.

Domestic Violence Investigation Units

Type of VAW addressed: Domestic Violence

Approach and major goals: In 2004, the Kosovo Police Service initiated reform of the police structure and staffing to more effectively respond to DV cases. The police service created the position Regional Domestic Violence Coordinators and Primary Domestic Violence Investigators. Each police station has two Domestic Violence Investigators on staff, most often a woman and a man, who comprise Domestic Violence Investigation Units. These specialized officers respond to and investigate all reports of domestic violence.

Activities undertaken/how the project works: Kosovo police officers are required to attend training on gender issues, domestic violence issues and procedures for handling such cases, human trafficking and human rights. Through the “Enhancing Response” program, the OSCE also provided specific training on procedural issues in domestic violence courses to over 7,000 officers in 2004. The officers of the Domestic Violence Investigation Units follow special procedures in responding to DV reports. For example, the police are trained to secure the location of the incident, confiscate weapons, separate the abuser and victim, take evidence at the scene, interview the parties and witnesses at the scene, to arrest the abuser and to take the victim for medical attention or to a shelter if she agrees. In addition, the Domestic Violence Investigators work with the prosecutor’s office on protection orders and are charged to make arrests if such orders are violated.

Geographic focus: Kosovo/UNMIK

Materials, products, outcomes: In addition to the creation of the specialized units described above, the Kosovo Police Service use regional and national-level electronic databases to monitor gender-based violence. Anecdotal information from a study of GBV in Kosovo/UNMIK suggests that Kosovo police officers have become better at communicating with survivors of violence and that local service providers generally value the work of the Domestic Violence Units.

Funding information: Funded by UNMIK, Kosovo budget and OSCE

Implementing organization:

Kosovo Police Service

http://www.kosovopolice.com/english/index_english.html

Training implemented by: OSCE Mission in Kosovo

Tel.: +381 38 500 162; +381 38 240 100

¹⁴⁵ *Forging New Partnerships among Government, an Academic Institution and the UN System*, UNIFEM, available at <http://www.unifem.org.in/Human%20Rights%20link%204.htm>.

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Fax: +381 38 240 711
<http://www.osce.org/kosovo/>

For more information: *Exploratory Research on the Extent of Gender-Based Violence in Kosova and Its Impact on Women's Reproductive Health, The Kosova Women's Network*, (2008) available at <http://www.unfpakos.org/pub.htm>

Type of VAW addressed: Domestic Violence

Approach and major goals: The Russian NGO Sodeistvie (Assistance) provides support for women through a hotline and crisis counseling services and has undertaken several projects to improve the response to VAW at the local level. In 2005, the organization initiated the Co-operation project that put into place a model for improving interactions between law enforcement agencies and NGOs. The project aimed to develop innovative approaches to address gender-based violence through coordination of law enforcement organs, courts, social services and non-governmental organizations. In the second year of the project, model Domestic Violence Prevention Centers were piloted in three police districts of the city, with the goal to strengthen the capacities of the police and to disseminate lessons learned.

Activities undertaken/how the project works: Within the Co-operation project, Sodeistvie worked closely with local community police, those who are responsible for patrolling specific city districts in Russia. They are the police officers most likely to be aware of or respond to cases of family violence. The NGO collaborated with the police to create Domestic Violence Prevention Centers in each district of the city of Chelyabinsk and in 4 neighboring cities of the region. The centers consist of a dedicated space in each police station with informational stands about DV, including posters and brochures produced by the NGO on steps to take in cases of domestic violence. Sodeistvie provided training to the police to sensitize them to the needs of DV survivors and to give the officers tool to provide victims and their families with referrals to support services. Through the training sessions, the police were introduced to models of police response used in other Russian cities and abroad. The NGO also assisted the police to purchase much needed equipment, such as computers.

Geographic focus: Chelyabinsk, Russia

Materials, products, outcomes: Sodeistvie produced information stands that are located in the Domestic Violence Prevention Centers and regularly provide up-dated materials that citizens and police can use in cases of domestic violence. In 2007, the NGO organized a regional conference at which police from the Urals Region of Russia shared their experiences working on the project. Several noted that since the introduction of the Domestic Violence Prevention Centers, people had come forward to seek information and were speaking more openly about incidents of violence. The police were able to make referrals to NGOs that provide psychological and legal counseling. The police also expressed an interest in placing 2-3 dedicated staff members at each center to focus on DV prevention. Finally, the project's overall focus on collaboration may have also influenced the opening of the city's first municipally supported Crisis Center in 2007, a project in which NGOs have played an important role.

Funding information: The project has been supported by a Democracy Commission grant from U.S. Embassy/ Russia as well as grants from local and Federal Public Chambers, a Russian governmental institution which supports civil society initiatives.

Domestic Violence Prevention Centers

Implementing organization:

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Russia
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Tel./Fax: +8 (351) 265-35-02
E-mail: sodeistvie@chel.surnet.ru
www.gender4.ru

For more information: <http://www.gender74.ru/> (Russian language only)

6.2.2 Courts

While specialized police departments contribute to greater reporting of VAW cases, dedicated courts greatly improve the efficiency of prosecuting such cases, relieve the burden on victims and improve convictions. Most initiatives to develop specialized courts have focused on the problem of domestic violence and specifically in integrating the legal procedure, both criminal and civil, with support services. A model for an Integrated Domestic Violence Court that was developed in the U.S., and similar models for dedicated domestic violence courts have been established in Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom. In fact, the United Kingdom initiated a Specialist Domestic Violence Court Program in 2006 concurrent with publishing a National Resource Manual that outlines the recommended core components for such a specialist court. There are currently 98 accredited Specialist Domestic Violence Courts in the U.K. A resource manual for developing specialist courts, good practice examples from the U.K. and sample data collection forms are available from the Home Office website.¹⁴⁶

Spanish Gender Violence Courts

An important provision of the Spanish Act on Integrated Protection Measures Against Gender Violence is the creation of specialized Gender Violence Courts, which have combined criminal and civil jurisdiction. While the law originally called for the creation of 17 such courts in Spain, there are now 83 courts dedicated to gender violence operating in Spain and another 375 courts that deal extensively with gender violence, but not exclusively. The overarching goal of the new court system is to provide victims with immediate, complete and effective protection. The Gender Violence Courts have combined jurisdiction and hear both criminal and civil cases, generally aspects of family law. This particular provision was controversial when the law was being enacted since it was viewed as contravening a trend in Spain toward specialized and not general jurisdiction courts. However, advocates of the law point out that the aim of the new legislation was to create procedures that would be the most helpful to victims if they decide to use the law for protection.¹⁴⁷

¹⁴⁶ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime-victims/reducing-crime/domestic-violence/>.

¹⁴⁷ Sonia Chirinos, *Impacts of the Development of the Spanish Procedural System on the Effectiveness of Prosecuting Violence Against Women*, Presentation at Experts' Seminar on Innovative Approaches to Combating Violence Against Women, organized by the Gender Section, OSCE Secretariat, October 2008 (Seminar materials available at http://www.osce.org/gender/item_6_32383.html).

6.2.3 Truth and Reconciliation Commissions

Transitional justice refers to varied approaches to address widespread human rights violations, most often in countries that are in transition from conflict to peace and respect for the rule of law. Transitional justice may be used in parallel with traditional courts or with non-judicial approaches. Truth telling initiatives, for example, can be particularly well suited to addressing violence against women. “Truth commissions are based on a conciliatory rather than adversarial approach, and therefore are more likely to encourage individual victims to come forward and relate their stories: especially, theoretically, women victims or victims of gender-based violence.”¹⁴⁸ Truth and Reconciliation Commissions, in particular, have been used when formal criminal legal proceedings proved inadequate to address VAW. Truth and reconciliation commissions, in such countries as Colombia, East Timor, Peru, Sierra Leone and South Africa, have provided “opportunities to give women voice, but also to ensure that this voice transcends and reaches the public... and to render women’s sexual violence explicit.”¹⁴⁹

The Gender Program of the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) has developed an operational handbook on developing truth commissions that address gender issues and to improve “how transitional justice processes can better engage with women survivors seeking justice and acknowledgment.” The guide, *Truth Commissions and Gender: Principles, Policies, and Procedures*, is intended for those involved in setting up and administering truth commissions. The guide provides detailed information and recommendations for addressing gender issues at each stage of a truth commission’s work, which includes recruiting staff, training drafting mandates, developing operating procedures, planning hearings, undertaking investigation and writing reports. This resource draws on lessons learned from the experiences of truth commissions around the world and makes use of critical analysis by victim’s groups, women’s groups and other activists. The guide can be accessed from: <http://www.ictj.org/en/news/pubs/index.html>.

**Truth
Commissions
and Gender:
Principles,
Policies, and
Procedures**

6.3 Capacity-Building for Criminal Justice Professionals and Peacekeeping Forces

Simply enacting strong legislation or specialized divisions that respond to violence against women is not sufficient. Laws must also be implemented properly and consistently by staff that has received proper training. It has been observed that even with good laws, those who implement the laws can impact a women’s ability to access justice by the way in which they carry out their functions. Capacity-building for those professionals who have responsibility to address VAW is an important part of a State’s obligation to fully investigate, prosecute and punish violence against women. Practice has also shown that some of the most promising initiatives are those in which women’s organizations work closely with police, judges or prosecutors to develop and carry out training programs and reference materials for working with victims of violence against women. NGOs play a critical role in offering the perspective of women who have experienced violence, by explaining the dynamics of VAW in professional terms and making connections between the needs of victims and the duties of criminal justice professionals.

¹⁴⁸ Romi Sigdworth, *Gender-Based Violence in Transition*, (Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, 2008), p.16.

¹⁴⁹ S. Quast, *Justice Reform and Gender*, from *Gender and Security Sector Reform Toolkit*, (UN-INSTRAW/DCAF/OSCE, 2003), p. 24.

Capacity-building that improves the functions of criminal justice professionals, such as police and judges, also serves as an important preventive measure. When these professionals are given the skills to recognize early signs of violence, they can respond in a timely and appropriate manner to prevent escalation. Capacity-building has also been used effectively with peacekeeping and security forces; generally such training is organized around mainstreaming gender concerns into peacekeeping operations.

Gender Resource Package for Peacekeeping Operations

The UN Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations developed the *Gender Resource Package for Peacekeeping Operations* (2004), a guide that acknowledges the differing impact conflict has on men and women and the importance that peacekeepers are aware of, but do not reinforce, past discrimination and social inequities. The guide highlights key gender issues in each functional area of peacekeeping operations and provides practical tools for planning and implementing gender issues into mission policies and activities. Significantly, this resource directs attention to gender-based violence as an area of critical concern for all peacekeeping personnel, civilian and military, UN political missions and NGO partners working in conflict and post-conflict settings. The guide can be accessed from:

<http://pbpu.unlb.org/pbps/Pages/Public/viewprimarydoc.aspx?docid=449>.

6.3.1 Training

Approaches to effective training programs are numerous. Training can be conducted as part of basic training, such as in police academies or as professional development or in-service courses for practitioners with work experience. In either case, a critical factor is that the courses become part of a routine system of education in order to reach entering professionals and to reaffirm messages with those who are practicing.

The content of such courses can also vary, but in general they should strive to cover a broad range of topics on violence against women and also on related legal matters (for example, child custody determinations, housing and division of property, compensation and economic support for victims). They should address any stereotypes held by the specific groups of criminal justice professionals and provide the trainees with a greater understanding of the victim's experiences and needs. In addition to the goal of improving the legal system response to violence against women, specific training can also have the effect of building trust between the community and the police,¹⁵⁰ or even the legal system as a whole. This is especially the case with minority communities or in countries where there is a history of fear and distrust of the police and skepticism about the fairness of the legal system.

Program on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence

Type of VAW addressed: Domestic violence

Approach and major goals: Since 2000, the Democratization Department of ODIHR/OSCE has been conducting a program in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Ukraine to sensitize law enforcement to the problem of domestic violence, to build the capacity of law enforcement agencies to play an effective role in preventing and

¹⁵⁰ *Domestic Violence in Europe and Eurasia*, (USAID, 2006), p. 6.

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combating VAW, and to promote co-operation between law enforcement bodies and NGOs on strategies and measures to combat such crimes.

Activities undertaken/how the project works: Through a special training program, designed in co-operation with the Austrian Federal Police, law enforcement agencies (police, prosecutors and judges) in the South Caucasus and Ukraine learn about international standards and commitments on combating domestic violence and best practices. The trainings provide an opportunity to discuss possible solutions to improve the work and organization of the law enforcement structures in combating domestic violence. The program also facilitates the establishment of co-operation mechanisms among law enforcement structures and between law enforcement and local NGOs. Civil society representatives conduct or participate in the trainings and provide information about the dynamics of domestic violence, how to work with victims, data collection and possible joint efforts in combating the problem.

Geographic focus: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Ukraine

Materials, products, outcomes: The program has resulted in the institutionalization of the police training curricula on preventing and combating domestic violence at the national level in co-operation with local NGOs (Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Ukraine). Other outcomes include the development of draft legislation and/or amendments to the legislative framework on domestic violence (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Ukraine) and contributing to the creation of shelters (Georgia).

Funding information: Funded through OSCE/ODIHR and implemented together with national partners.

Implementing organization:

OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

Aleje Ujazdowskie 19

00-557 Warsaw

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Tel.: +48 22 520 06 00

Fax: +48 22 520 06 05

E-mail can be sent via the website: <http://www.osce.org/odihr/contacts.html>

For more information: <http://www.osce.org/item/27443.html>

Type of VAW addressed: All forms of VAW

Approach and major goals: In 2001, the Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit at the London Metropolitan University created a self-guided training tool for police, known as the VIP Guide. The guide addresses the three aspects of police work that can transform how the law enforcement system responds to VAW: *vision, innovation and professionalism*. The guide is both an awareness raising tool for police officers and resource for police trainers.

Activities undertaken/how the project works: The VIP Guide is designed for use by police in self-directed study, and it provides police with the information they need when encountering different forms of VAW (domestic violence, stalking, rape, trafficking, honor crimes and sexual harassment). The Guide consists of background information, case studies, and good practices on responding to the various forms of VAW and activities and quizzes for further reflection. Also included are positive examples of interagency work and tools for risk assessment and safety planning for use with victims.

**The VIP Guide:
Violence Against
Women and
Children – Vision,
Innovation and
Professionalism
in Policing**

Geographic focus: Europe

Materials, products, outcomes: Versions of the VIP Guide exist in English, Albanian, Romanian, Russian and Turkish. The English version can be ordered from the Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit and others can be downloaded from the Council of Europe Police and Human Rights Program website.

Funding information: Funded by the Council of Europe

Implementing organization:

Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit
London Metropolitan University Ladbroke House, 62-66 Highbury Grove
London N5 2AD
United Kingdom
Tel.: +44 (0)20 7133 5014
Fax: +44 (0)20 7133 5026
E-mail: cwasu@londonmet.ac.uk

For more information: Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit: www.cwasu.org
VIP Guide from the Council of Europe Police and Human Rights Program: http://www.coe.int/t/e/human_rights/police/2._publications/2.2_VIP_Guide/index.asp#TopOfPage

Gender & Peacekeeping Training Course

The *Gender & Peacekeeping Training Course*, developed by Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) and UK Department for International Development (DFID) in 2002, is an online resource for a 3-day training on how to incorporate gender concerns into Peace and Support Operations. The website offers 8 separate training modules for instructors and participants. Each module consists of learning goals, readings, handouts and exercise notes. The course in its entirety provides background information on the importance of mainstreaming gender as well as tools for taking gender into consideration as a part of humanitarian law, during peace support operations and in the post-conflict period. The impact and role of gender-based violence is included within the modules. The training program can be accessed from: <http://www.genderandpeacekeeping.org/>.

6.3.2 Manuals, Guides, Handbooks, Protocols

Written guidance for criminal justice professionals is a very effective means of providing support and recommendations that can be used in a concrete situation of VAW. Such materials can include desk references and manuals that are developed and used with training courses. A common characteristic shared by such effective materials is that they streamline processes for dealing with cases of VAW, are arranged in a straightforward and useful way and provide concrete references and answers. While academic articles and legal analysis may be very useful to improve understanding of VAW overall, the idea behind the materials described here is that they are tools to help simplify the daily operations of professionals who deal with cases of violence against women.

Type of VAW addressed: Domestic Violence

Approach and major goals: After lobbying by citizens and pressure from international organizations, Albania passed a law on preventing and reducing domestic violence in 2007. The courts play an essential role in addressing DV since the law establishes their power to grant protection orders. In 2007, the OSCE Presence in Albania initiated the Women's Access to Justice Project (WAJP) with the overall goal of improving the effectiveness of the justice system. The project aimed to raise awareness of the law among legal and justice professionals, civil society and the public in order to enhance justice for victims of DV, to provide them with protection and ensure prosecution of perpetrators.

Activities undertaken/how the project works: The primary activities of the project targeted government officials and members of law enforcement and the judiciary. Several hundred judges, prosecutors, police, bailiffs and lawyers were trained in the legal remedies provided by the law. The OSCE published a handbook for using the DV law and distributed it widely among legal professionals, healthcare workers and NGOs. Additionally an expert working in close co-operation with Albanian legal professionals created a manual to provide guidance to judges and court personnel, a benchbook. The benchbook provides information on the characteristics of domestic violence as well as technical guidance on the procedure for issuing protective orders, evidentiary issues and the role of the court in preventing domestic violence. The benchbook includes annexes with sample petitions for protection orders and other court documents. Pre-printed protection order forms (sample petitions and decisions) were distributed widely to legal professionals, service providers and the general public and have since been used extensively by other organizations in Albania and abroad. Additionally, a large number of brochures and posters were used to raise awareness generally of the problem of DV.

Geographic focus: Albania

Materials, products, outcomes: While no formal evaluation has been undertaken, there has been an overall increase in knowledge about DV and specifically in how to access legal remedies. NGOs who received training on the law are now providing low-cost legal assistance. Anecdotal evidence also suggests that judges in the Tirana District court are regularly using the benchbook in order to better understand, interpret and apply the DV law. Judges have also incorporated a "script" for protection order hearings, included as an appendix to the benchbook, in their daily work. The Magistrate School, which provides education to both future and sitting judges, has incorporated the benchbook into courses on family law.

The *Albanian Judicial Benchbook on Protection Orders and Seeking Protection from Domestic Violence – A handbook*, copies of the petition for a protective order, court decisions and several other information materials can all be accessed in English or Albanian, from the OSCE website:

<http://www.osce.org/albania/documents.html?lsi=true&limit=10&grp=404>

Funding information: Funding provided by OSCE Presence in Albania (OSCE PiA) and USAID Women's Legal Rights Initiative.

Implementing organization:

OSCE Presence in Albania
Sheraton Tirana Hotel & Towers,
1st Floor, Sheshi "Italia"
Tirana
Albania
Tel.: +355 4 223 59 93
Fax: +355 4 223 59 94

For more information:

<http://www.osce.org/albania/documents.html?lsi=true &limit=10&grp=404>

The Greenbook Initiative

Type of VAW addressed: Domestic Violence and Child Abuse

Approach and major goals: In 1999, the U.S. National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) created a guidebook, *Effective Interventions in Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment Cases: Guidelines for Policy and Practice*, to improve how family courts and domestic violence and child welfare service providers interact and work together to more effectively serve families experiencing violence. The NCJFCJ was responding to a specific problem in the U.S. Although in around half of all cases of child maltreatment, the mother is also a victim of domestic violence, the intersection between these two forms of abuse is often missed by the legal and social services systems. Non-abusive mothers are often blamed for the abuse of their children and perpetrators are not held accountable. The guidebook is designed to strengthen the capacity of courts, child protective services and domestic violence service providers to address the co-occurrence of violence against women and children.

Activities undertaken/how the project works: The Family Violence Department of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges convened a number of family court judges and experts on child abuse and domestic violence to develop this guide, commonly called the “Greenbook” due to the color of its cover. The guide provides “a comprehensive set of responses designed to eliminate or decrease the enormous risks that battered mothers, caseworkers and judges must take on behalf of children.” Through a Federal initiative, the Greenbook was launched in parallel with the roll-out of a program in six communities to develop “Collaborations to Address Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment.” The communities received funding for 7 years and were required to implement the Greenbook guidelines. While the guidelines describe a number of different institutions and agencies which work collaboratively to enhance the safety of women and children, many of the communities included a large group of stakeholders, for example, law enforcement, probation and parole, prosecutors, health care providers, children’s advocates, mental health providers, domestic violence survivors, and other community groups. The larger Federal initiative also included technical support and evaluation.

Geographic focus: U.S.

Materials, products, outcomes: Recommendations from the Greenbook for judges, domestic violence agencies and child welfare agencies can be accessed from the project website, as well as evaluation information and links to the demonstration sites.

Funding information:

The initiative was supported by federal and private partners.

Implementing organization:

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
Family Violence Department
P.O. Box 8970
Reno, NV 89507
U.S.A.

Information about the Greenbook and how to obtain a copy is available in the U.S. through the toll-free number: 800-52-PEACE.

For more information: <http://www.thegreenbook.info/>

6.4 Legal Assistance

Legal assistance can prove critical to a women survivor's ability to access justice and remedies for VAW. A woman's lack of legal knowledge may be an impediment to accessing justice. Programs that aim to develop women's legal literacy are discussed as an aspect of empowerment or awareness-raising in the section on Prevention, above. Knowledge of the law alone may be insufficient and that women face a great deal of stress, intimidation and uncertainty in facing abusers in the courtroom. This situation is especially common when women are applying for protection orders against a spouse or partner. Women's organizations, such as Women's Aid of Ireland which has run a Court Accompaniment program since 1994, have found that a non-lawyer advocate can work closely with a victim to prepare her for a court procedure, to provide emotional support, to help to identify safety measures and to clarify the legal process and court's decision.¹⁵¹

Women's unequal economic status is a related issue and may often mean that women cannot afford legal counsel to represent them in court. In a number of countries, such women are eligible for legal aid, funded by the government or taken on by private attorneys as part of a commitment to *pro bono* assistance. The British government recognizes the critical nature of legal aid within efforts to improve victims' access to justice. Among several plans for improvements to the criminal justice system and services for survivors, the government recently announced that the cap on receiving such legal assistance will be waived in cases of domestic violence.¹⁵²

Alternative means to provide women with competent legal assistance include legal clinics or the use of non-lawyer student advocate. In either of these cases, law schools can play a critical role in ending VAW, both through the training of future lawyers who are skilled in addressing this problem and, through coursework, offering affordable legal assistance.

The American Bar Association (ABA) Commission on Domestic Violence recognizes that VAW profoundly impacts the legal profession, and the Commission develops resources to improve the legal system response overall. One publication, *Teach Your Students Well: Incorporating Domestic Violence Into Law School Curricula* (2003), outlines several areas of law school teaching in which issues of domestic violence can be addressed, such as in core curricula, in specialized seminars, through clinical programs and in externships with local organizations. The report describes the basic information that every law student should learn about domestic violence as well as how to overcome challenges to incorporating the subject into coursework. Sample teaching tools and syllabi by subject matter are also included. While the report presents examples from the U.S. law school system, most of the case studies are quite general and could be adapted or replicated in other educational contexts. The report can be accessed from:
<http://www.abanet.org/domviol/pubs.html>

**Incorporating
Domestic
Violence Into
Law School
Curricula**

¹⁵¹ See Women's Aid Online, <http://www.womensaid.ie/index.htm>

¹⁵² *UK – Domestic Violence Accounts for 16% of Reported Violent Incidents – Government Report*, The Guardian, 31 October 2008, available at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2008/oct/31/domestic-violence>

The National Leadership and Training for Civil Legal Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking Project

Type of VAW addressed: Primarily human trafficking but also domestic violence

Approach and major goals: Several divisions of the American Bar Association (ABA)¹⁵³ formed a coalition to improve the ability of attorneys to provide civil legal assistance to adult and child victims of trafficking. The National Leadership and Training for Civil Legal Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking Project has several aims – to encourage greater attorney participation in representing human trafficking victims on a *pro bono* basis, to support the development of comprehensive legal assistance in civil cases by providing training, sample legal documents, manuals and other forms of guidance for practicing attorneys and advocates, to develop a web-based resource center and to provide a toolkit and standards for developing *pro bono* projects that address human trafficking.

Activities undertaken/how the project works: During the project, the ABA entered into a public-private partnership with the U.S.-based corporation LexisNexis (a provider of legal data and information). As part of their commitment to corporate responsibility, LexisNexis had already conducted considerable work in the area of rule of law and likewise contributed both expertise and resources to this project. Within the project, the ABA, working closely with LexisNexis, held a national training for attorneys on civil remedies in human trafficking cases. The ABA also published several manuals for attorneys and advocates on meeting the specific legal needs of trafficked persons, both adults and children. When developing the training and educational materials, the project organizers consulted with NGOs and advocates who address human trafficking and solicited recommendations on key areas of focus.

Geographic focus:

U.S. but interest in expanding lessons learned to other countries.

Materials, products, outcomes: Training materials, including sample legal documents, practice tips and handbooks, can be downloaded from the project site. A film of the training will soon be added to the website where it can be accessed by attorneys for continuing legal education (CLE) credit as well as by other advocates. In addition, two manuals, on meeting the legal needs of human trafficking victims for domestic violence and for children's attorneys and advocates, as well as a fact sheet on the use of expert witnesses can be downloaded from the site.

Funding information: The project was funded through a \$100,000 USD seed grant for one year, provided by the ABA. The project also leveraged expertise, technical assistance and financial resources of LexisNexis, through a public-private partnership. The collaboration between this private company and the ABA significantly enhanced the project overall.

Implementing organization:

American Bar Association
Commission on Domestic Violence
and Section on Individual Rights and Responsibilities
740 15th Street N.W., 9th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
U.S.A.
Tel.: +1 202 662-1000 (ABA general number)
E-mail: HTCivillInfo@staff.abanet.org

¹⁵³ The Commission on Domestic Violence, the Commission on Immigration, the Rule of Law Initiative, the Center for Pro Bono, the Youth at Risk Commission, the Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities and the Center for Human Rights.

For more information: <http://www.abanet.org/domviol/tip/>

Type of VAW addressed: VAW in all forms, namely physical and sexual violence, domestic violence, sexual exploitation, child prostitution, forced prostitution, threats, paternity suits and child custody/kidnapping.

Approach and major goals: Through its work with refugee populations in Guinea, the American Refugee Committee (ARC) found that addressing VAW in a conflict setting requires a coordinated system of support that responds to security, health, psycho-social and legal needs. Once such a comprehensive interagency program on prevention of GBV had been established, survivors began to receive services that helped them to recover physically and psychologically. After a time, these survivors began to express a need for legal justice, but the legal system in Guinea was not accessible for refugees. In response, the ARC implemented GBV (gender-based violence) Legal Aid Clinics to assist and support survivors.

Activities undertaken/how the project works: The ARC established two legal aid clinics in Guinea that work with refugees from Liberia and Sierra Leone. The clinics provide three basic services: education on the legal rights of women and children; confidential legal advice to women and children and legal representation. The ARC notes that it did not begin the legal aid projects until the minimum of prevention and protection services had been established and the trust of the community had been achieved. Survivors continue to have access to these services while involved in legal cases. Legal aid should be offered as part of a comprehensive response system to VAW. The two clinics process between 400 and 600 cases per year.

Geographic focus: The first such clinics were set up in Liberia and Sierra Leone in Guinea. A toolkit that describes the process of designing GBV legal services has been used by ARC in Pakistan, Rwanda and Thailand.

Materials, products, outcomes: A toolkit, *Gender-Based Violence Legal Aid: A Participatory Toolkit*, that provides steps to help field staff design comprehensive services and legal aid for victims of gender-based violence. The tool kit emphasizes that such programs should be implemented gradually and in a culturally appropriate manner, working in close co-operation with the target community. The toolkit, as well as other materials can be downloaded from the website.

Funding information: Funding provided by the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration at the US Department of State.

Implementing organization:

American Refugee Committee (ARC)
430 Oak Grove Street, Suite 204
Minneapolis, MN 55403
U.S.A.
Tel.: +1 612 872-7060
Fax: +1 612 607-6499
www.archq.org

For more information:

http://www.arcrelief.org/site/PageServer?pagename=programs_GBV_bookspage

Gender-Based Violence Legal Aid in Conflict Settings

6.5 International Legal Mechanisms

Activists have successfully used international law to advocate for changes in national legal systems. Civil society groups have effectively used international legal instruments to “[bring] pressure to bear on governments to adopt measures to prevent, eradicate and punish violence against women.”¹⁵⁴ It should be noted that international law is not a useful tool for individual prosecution or to obtain justice for an individual victim of violence, but it can be very effective in bringing about systems-level change.

There are a number of specific mechanisms at the interregional and international level and each has its own specific forms of relief and procedures that should be assessed carefully. The Stop VAW website (<http://www.stopvaw.org>) includes pages on Advocacy Tools and International Law with information on developing advocacy strategies and comparisons of various mechanisms for protecting women’s rights at the international level. The Center for Reproductive Rights has also published a guide for advocacy using UN treaty monitoring bodies that focuses on reproductive and sexual rights but is also relevant to VAW.¹⁵⁵

Below, several significant cases of VAW that were brought before international bodies are described to provide a sense of how an argument can be constructed using international law. These cases illustrate how advocates are invoking international law when the State has failed to act.

International Law in National Court: Sexual Harassment in India

In 1992, after a brutal rape of a social worker by her colleagues that was neither investigated nor prosecuted by the local court, a group of women’s NGOs in India petitioned the Supreme Court, asking the Court to draft a law on sexual harassment. They argued that the Indian Parliament had failed to enact such a law. The petition cited the Indian Constitution as well as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Recommendation 19 to CEDAW on violence against women. The Court examined the specific issue of whether the failure of the Indian State to respond to the case was, in fact, a failure of the State to protect women from sexual harassment and discrimination, a right which is guaranteed in the Constitution and CEDAW. The Court ruled that gender equality requires protection from sexual harassment and drew up a set of guidelines that were in place until the government enacted legislation.¹⁵⁶

International Courts: Failures of the State to Respond to VAW

In January 2008 the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) decided a case against the Russian Federation concerning an incident in which a woman was assaulted, tortured and raped by police while being questioned as a witness in a crime. A criminal case was brought in Russian court but was delayed by a number of procedural issues concerning the investigation. After several years, the case had not been resolved by the local court. The ECHR found violations of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, to which Russia is a party, namely that the State violated the victim’s rights in not providing her with an effective investigation and for the actions of the police, State officials, in raping and torturing her. The Court ordered that the State pay the victim €70,000 in damages.¹⁵⁷

¹⁵⁴ *Not a Minute More: Ending Violence Against Women*, (UNIFEM, 2003), p. 19.

¹⁵⁵ *Bringing Rights to Bear: An Advocate’s Guide to the Work of UN Treaty Monitoring Bodies on Reproductive and Sexual Rights*, (Center for Reproductive Rights, 2002), available from http://www.reproductiverights.org/pub_bo_tmb.html.

¹⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 22 and *Bringing Equality Home: Implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*, (UNIFEM, 1998), p. 19.

¹⁵⁷ *Case of Maslova and Nalbandov v. Russia*, (Application No. 839/02), Judgment, European Court of Human Rights, 24 January 2008.

The failure of the U.S. to act in a case of domestic violence is the subject of a petition that is currently before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). In 1999, the petitioner's three daughters were killed by her estranged husband after Colorado police failed to enforce a restraining order against the former spouse. After the husband abducted the children, the petitioner repeatedly called local police and described her fears that he would harm the girls. After several hours, the petitioner's former husband was killed when he attacked a local police station. It was then discovered that he had murdered his three children. The petitioner filed a lawsuit against the local police, but the U.S. Supreme Court found that she did not have a constitutional right to police enforcement of a restraining order. When the IACHR found the case admissible, it became the first individual complaint to be brought against the U.S. by a victim of domestic violence for violations of international human rights law.¹⁵⁸

In 2005, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women issued conclusions under the first case brought under the Optional Protocol to CEDAW. The case, from Hungary, arose when the petitioner, a victim of domestic violence, claimed that her rights under CEDAW were violated when the State neglected its obligation to protect her from her violent husband. The petitioner outlined the specific situation in Hungary, where there is no protection order mechanism and lengthy criminal proceedings that generally do not result in punishment for the abuser. The Committee found that the petitioner's rights had been violated as the State failed in its duty to provide her with effective protection from serious risks to her physical and mental health. The Committee issued a number of recommendations to the Hungarian State, including immediate measures to guarantee the safety of the petitioner and her children, to ensure that the victim has access to safe housing, to ensure that all domestic violence victims are given the maximum protection of the law, to develop a strategy to address family violence, to provide training for criminal justice professionals and to develop programs to support victims and to rehabilitate offenders. The decision of the Committee is especially important as it clearly establishes that domestic violence is a form of discrimination and that States are obligated to fulfill all the positive duties of CEDAW in the context of VAW.¹⁵⁹

Treaty Mechanisms: Domestic Violence in Hungary

¹⁵⁸ *Inter-American Commission on Human Rights Holds U.S. Responsible for Protecting Domestic Violence Victims*, Press Release, October 9, 2007, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

¹⁵⁹ Views of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Communication No.: 2/2003, Ms. A. T. v. Hungary, 26 January 2005.

7 Conclusion

Eliminating violence against women is a process requiring political will, adequate resources and concerted and long-term effort, carried out by multiple actors across diverse sectors, such as law reform, security sector reform, human rights protection and victim's rights advocacy, democratization work and public health.

As this compilation shows, initiatives that aim to prevent violence against women, to protect survivors and to prosecute perpetrators of violence can take a number of different yet equally effective forms. Common features that underlie good practices include finding creative solutions to a universal problem, making use of sustainable activities and focusing on those interventions that demonstrate real impact.

This compilation highlights a number of projects, some quite limited and some with broad scopes, carried out by government agencies, by non-governmental organizations, by intergovernmental agencies, such as the OSCE, and some by private business, or as is true for the majority of effective projects, by partnerships of the above stakeholders.

Good practices for the OSCE region are the focus of this compilation, but at the same time other regions may extensively benefit from the rich body of work on combating violence against women captured in this publication.

The OSCE remains deeply committed to combating violence against women. Both the OSCE structures and participating States have pledged to intensify efforts in this area. It is hoped that the information in this compilation will prove to be useful for these endeavours and inspiring to those who are designing anti-VAW strategies and programs, to answer questions and to provide encouragement and guidance to consolidate on-going or develop new effective approaches.

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The OSCE

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe is the world's largest regional security body. It spans from North America, through Europe, the Caucasus to Central Asia, to the Russian Far East, reaching out to more than 1.2 billion people.

The OSCE works for stability, prosperity and democracy in 56 States through political dialogue rooted in shared values and through practical work that makes a lasting difference.

A primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, the OSCE deals with three dimensions of security – the politico-military, the economic and environmental, and the human dimension. In this context, it addresses a wide range of security-related concerns, among them arms control, confidence and security building measures, human rights, democratization, rights of national minorities, policing strategies, counter-terrorism and economic and environmental issues.

The OSCE recognizes that discrimination, inequality, and violence undermine peace and security. Promoting gender equality and combating violence against women are an integral part of OSCE's commitments.

“Gender equality and a life free of violence are at the heart of the values of the OSCE and preconditions for security, stability and prosperity. I call on all members of the OSCE family to join their efforts and take decisive action.”

Marc Perrin de Brichambaut
Secretary General of the OSCE

“Bringing Security Home: Combating Violence Against Women in the OSCE Region. A Compilation of Good Practices” comprises more than 95 examples of good practices in the areas of the prevention of violence against women, the protection of victims and the prosecution of offenders as well as strategies for the involvement of men and youth.

These practices are considered to be successful and are implemented by various organizations, including the OSCE in a number of countries, among them the OSCE participating States.

Conceived as a technical reference tool, this volume stimulates further research and action while describing innovative established approaches addressing domestic violence as well as violence against women in armed conflicts.

The fight against violence against women requires strong political will, concerted effort, and sufficient resources, but also good ideas for effective strategies and programs.

By providing lessons learned, this publication assists practitioners and policy makers from governmental and non-governmental sectors in better shaping their current and future initiatives; and helps OSCE participating States in implementing their commitments to eliminate violence against women.

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