

Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence

COUNTRY INFORMATION PAGE ON NATIONAL ACTION TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

GREECE

I. National campaigns

1. Is your government currently carrying out a national campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence?

Yes No

2. Has your government carried out a national campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence in the past?

Yes No

If yes, which year(s)

3. Is your government planning on carrying out a national campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence in the future?

Yes No

If yes, which year(s)

Please provide a brief description of the present or past national campaign, by using the space in the following boxes:

- a. Campaign slogan

stop violence! now there are solutions

- b. Campaign duration

The campaign started on 25 November 2004 and it is supposed to end in 2008.

- c. Campaign aims, messages and/or objectives

The campaign aims at raising awareness in society that domestic violence is a human rights violation, which takes place within the family sphere. The greek state is committed to take all the measures required to combat the phenomenon. The protection of the women against this type of violence is considered to be a high level priority. The measures taken include a newly introduced law on domestic violence, extending the infrastructure network both at regional and local level, encouraging NGOs to take action, training of professionals (police officers, social workers, judges, etc) so that they will be able to deal effectively with the issue. Domestic violence has a serious impact on social cohesion itself. It injures women and damages the whole society including future generations. A tv spot and informational leaflets in various languages are the main materials of our campaign.

d. Expected or achieved results

The greek government links combating violence against women with the strengthening of social cohesion which gets through the empowerment of women. The campaign will help society be much more aware of the problem and recognize it as an unacceptable human rights violation that must be challenged. It is especially expected that the campaign will help women victims to understand that the situation they suffer is not their fault and stop feeling guilty. It is expected that more women will report to the authorities and will be helped to take the best decisions for their lives. Through this procedure the effectiveness of the existing measures and policies will be monitored. To this end, the development of a database is currently planned. This will ensure the systematic collection of statistical data and will allow for gender analysis and comparison with other member states of CoE.

e. Campaign website address

II. National Plan of Action

1. Has your government adopted a national plan of action to combat violence against women, including domestic violence?

Yes No

If yes, which year

2004-2008

2. Is your government currently implementing a national plan of action to combat violence against women, including domestic violence?

Yes No

3. Has your government implemented a national plan of action to combat violence against women, including domestic violence in the past?

Yes No

If yes, which year(s)

2000-2004

4. Is your government planning on implementing a national plan of action to combat violence against women, including domestic violence in the future?

Yes No

If yes, which year(s)

2004-2008

Please provide a brief description of the national plan of action, by using the space in the following boxes:

- a. Aims, activities and expected or achieved results of the national plan of action

The aim of the greek plan of action, adopted by the greek government right after the elections of 2004, is to promote the implementation of effective measures for preventing and combating violence against women, including domestic violence. This mainly refers to the introduction of legislation on combating domestic violence, the extension of the social structures protecting and supporting victims, the implementation of a programme aiming at integrating unemployed women in the labour market. Meanwhile an awareness raising campaign is going on, mainly through producing and disseminating material like posters and leaflets in various languages. Lately, a tv spot has been produced and is already broadcasting. Training and sensitisation seminars are carried out to help

professionals (police officers, social workers, judges etc) deal effectively with the relevant cases. Awareness of society and empowering the victims to survive are the most important results expected.

- b. Duration of the national plan of action
The plan of action covers a time period of four years (2004-2008).
- c. National Plan of Action website address

III. National Task Force/inter-agency working group to combat violence against women, including domestic violence

- a. Has your government set up a national Task Force or inter-agency working group to combat violence against women, including domestic violence?
Yes No
- b. If yes, please provide a brief description of this body, including its composition, mandate, duration and expected results
Since 2004, the greek government has been running both an action plan and a campaign to combat domestic violence. An inter-agency working group will soon be designated to develop a National Campaign Action Plan based on the Blueprint.

IV. Additional information on national action to combat violence against women

Additionally, during the period 2000- 2008 we are implementing a large scale, nationwide intervention for raising awareness on gender issues among teachers, students and parents. Domestic violence and its elimination constitute one of the major issues discussed. So far, 4,909 teachers and 72,696 students have participated in the program. During the period 2007-2008 raising awareness on domestic violence would become the central theme of this intervention.