

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

COUNTRY INFORMATION PAGE ON NATIONAL ACTION TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

BULGARIA

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)

In 2005, the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria adopted the Protection against Domestic Violence Act
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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)

2007

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

- a. Campaign slogan

Since 1997 in Bulgarian has been organised campaigns against violence against women in the frame of the UN campaign. Campaign slogan- Law against Domestic Violence – Alternative to Helplessness.

- b. Campaign duration

16 days

- c. Campaign aims, messages and/or objectives

To offer specific programmes, based on close cooperation with state institutions, police and local authorities Campaign aim: Discussion of the Draft Law against Domestic Violence in Parliament, introduced by the deputy Ms. Marina Dikova and Members of Parliament.

Message: Only a Law against Domestic Violence can change the situation in Bulgaria regarding domestic violence. This is due to the fact that domestic violence is a serious social problem and not just an individual problem of the people who are suffering it.

d. Expected or achieved results

Achieved results: The Draft Law against Domestic Violence was discussed in Parliament on April 17, 2003. The Draft Law was introduced by 19 Members of Parliament. The successful implementation of psychological and social programmes and special cares is an important step towards decreasing violence.

e. Campaign website address

It will be open.

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

2005

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)

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)

2007-2008

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 government plans to open a national 24 – hour telephone line which will disseminate information among the victims of domestic violence. It also foresees the establishment of temporary shelters for the victims of domestic violence. Specialized and educational programmes for the training of children, including those put in special centres (correctional boarding schools, homes for children deprived of parental care, etc.) will be created. Another type of programmes and trainings are directed at the professionals working in the specialized institutions, police officers, etc. These are part of the prevention measures, which also include raising awareness about the problem among the broad public. A reference book for protection from domestic violence will be created. It will include advice how to receive immediate and effective protection in cases of domestic violence. Legislative measures are also envisaged.

b. Duration of the national plan of action

2007-2008 and prolongation.

- 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

Working group set up in the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy including the representants of the ministries-Interior, Justice and Education and Science and also representants of the Parlement, social partners and NGO.

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

The voluntary sector in Bulgaria has been very active promoting actions, developing programmes and care services in support of the victims of domestic violence. For instance, "Animus Association" Foundation has developed within its Rehabilitation Centre for Women, Adolescents and Children, Survivors of Violence programmes such as: 24-hour Help-line; 24-hour Crisis Unit (with short-term accommodation for the victims of domestic violence); Care programme for women victims of domestic violence; Social programme; Correspondence programme; Programme for couples with violence problem. The organization also works in the community: lobbying, prevention and establishing a network of partners and like-minded individuals and conducts trainings, which disseminate the model of the good practices in working with survivors of violence on a national and international level.