

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

COUNTRY INFORMATION PAGE ON NATIONAL ACTION TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

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)

June, 2005: National Campaign to Combat Domestic Violence with aims:

to strengthen trust of the potential victims in state institutions through presentation of new legislation

to increase visibility and recognition of the problem of domestic violence

to encourage victims of domestic violence in asking help

- December, 2005: National Inter-institutional Campaign to Combat Domestic Violence, realized within 16Days of Activism against Gender Violence.

The campaign was carried out in partnership with governmental institutions (Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health), 5 NGOs active in the protection of women victims of domestic violence, as well as international intergovernmental organizations (UNICEF, UNDP). Activities :

- Press - conference and round table with a topic on Inter-institutional cooperation in combating domestic violence in Republic of Macedonia, carried out on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, 25 November

- December, 2006: National Inter-institutional Campaign to Combat Domestic Violence, realized within 16Days of Activism against Gender Violence.

The campaign was carried out in partnership with governmental institutions (Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Ministry of Interior), 5 NGOs active in the protection of women victims of domestic violence

Activities:

Press - conference with presentation of the latest data from the research conducted by NGO ESE and Institute for sustainable communities;

Dissemination of informative flyers by representatives from ministries and NGOs among citizens in four cities

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

"Put an end. Help violence become past"

- b. Campaign duration

Starting date: 25.11.2006 with press conference, last till 10.12.2006

- c. Campaign aims, messages and/or objectives

Joint action of involved institutions and organisations to promote existing services for protection provided by governmental and non-governmental sector. Getting closer to ones that might have a need for services of protection.

Presentation of first findings from the research conducted by NGO ESE, that will serve as a basis for development of National strategy for fight against domestic violence.

- d. Expected or achieved results

Awareness raising among those that have a need for protection regarding existing services and legal provisions for protection of victims of domestic violence

- 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

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 or action to combat violence against women, including domestic violence in the future?

Yes No

If yes, which year(s)

Each year after adoption of the National strategy national action plans will be prepared

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 first phase of the preparation of the national strategy enhanced research that provides basis for planning activities for National strategy. First findings shown that every second women in Republic of Macedonia is a victim of psychological violence that is manifested through interrogations by husbands where and with whom she has been; insulting and making her feel bad; frightening; preventing her of work outside home. Secondly, physical violence is more often reported in 18,6%. Dominant manifestations of sexual violence in 10,6% are unwilling and humiliating sexual intercourse. Although 56,9% of victims find domestic violence a criminal act, still there is low level of reported cases at police stations, centers for social work and NGOs.

b. Duration of the national plan of action

The first one will cover period of 3 years

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

It is an inter sectorial working group primarily established to work on development of protocols on procedures for protection of the victims in four areas: social; police; health and NGO sector. This group expanded with representatives from Centers for social work and courts continued to work within the project for Unification and standardisation of system for protection of victims. Recently on initiative of UN agencies present in Macedonia Steering committee comprised of representatives from UN; governmental and non-governmental bodies has been established with aim to provide relevant information on actual situation regarding system for protection of gender violence including domestic violence.

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

POLICY FRAMEWORK OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL POLICY ACTIONS AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Legal and policy measures:

The domestic violence in R.Macedonia is regulated by law since 2004, with the adopted amendments within the Criminal code and Family law.

The process of implementation of the national legislation has shown lack of implementation of the relevant provisions so far.

In that regard there are already several steps taken by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy in partnership with two NGOs and in cooperation with other relevant ministries:

- 2005: Process of preparation of protocols for dealing with cases of domestic violence (by each relevant institution) as such, is a concrete step directed toward simplification of the provisions introduced in our legislation in 2004 and establishment of coordinative approach toward the problem or referral system of protection.
- The prepared protocols are now in the phase of internal adoption within the relevant ministries. It's of a great importance for the whole system of protection, that these protocols will have obligatory character.
- 2006 - end of 2007: The second phase of this process comprehends further unification of civil and criminal justice system enhanced within the UNIFEM project "Establishing unified and positive practices in combating domestic violence in Macedonia"
- 2007 - In cooperation with NGO ESE, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy will prepare the National Strategy for Protection of Victims of Domestic Violence

Support and protection for victims:

- 2004: Within the Centers for Social Work (implementation institutions under the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy), special departments for protection of victims of domestic violence were formed
- 2004 - 2005: Network of 6 state shelters for protection of victims of domestic violence in different cities all around the country was created.
- 2005: Ministry of Labor and Social Policy in partnership with relevant women NGO experienced in providing services for victims established National SOS - help line that operates 24 hours.
- November 2004 to May 2005 two cycles of integrated trainings " Working with victims of domestic violence in a local community" for participants from different sectors were performed. Total of 86 social welfare, primary health care, police, judiciary and NGO professionals were trained. (Trainings provided by Ministry of Labor and Social Policy with technical support from UNICEF Office -Skopje)
- May/June 2006: Two training seminars for professional staff from 30 Centers for Social Work were organized by Ministry of Labor and Social Policy in cooperation with women NGO ESE.
- December, 2006: Training of Trainers : "Work with victims of domestic violence within community" organized by Ministry of Labor and Social Policy with technical support from UNICEF Office -Skopje, 14 professionals from different sectors trained for further dissemination of training on local level

Data collection:

- During the year 2005 were realized: 834 various interventions (psychosocial; legal advices; counselling work; referrals to other institutions) with victims of domestic violence; 55 victims were sheltered; 21 initiations of the temporary measures of protection; 11 civil restraining orders were issued. Average of calls on National help line is about 130 calls monthly.

- Significant differences are notified within the data for the first six months of 2006th: 404 total of various interventions (psychosocial; legal advices; counselling work; referrals to other institutions) with victims of domestic violence were realized ; 19 initiations of the temporary measures of protection; 17 civil restraining orders were issued; 38 victims were sheltered. Average of calls on National help line is about 140 calls monthly.
- There is a lack of developed methodology that will allow comparison with EU member states

Awareness raising:

Three major awareness raising campaigns were realized:

- June, 2005: National Campaign to Combat Domestic Violence with aims:
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to increase visibility and recognition of the problem of domestic violence
to encourage victims of domestic violence in asking help

- December, 2005: National Inter-institutional Campaign to Combat Domestic Violence, realized within 16Days of Activism against Gender Violence.

The campaign was carried out in partnership with governmental institutions (Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health), 5 NGOs active in the protection of women victims of domestic violence, as well as international intergovernmental organizations (UNICEF, UNDP). Activities that were carried out during the campaign:

- Press - conference and round table with a topic on Inter-institutional cooperation in combating domestic violence in Republic of Macedonia, carried out on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, 25 November
- Organizing local events in 8 cities with the same topic
- November, 2006: National Inter-institutional Campaign carried out within 16Days of Activism against Gender Violence with this year campaign slogan: "Put and end".

Needs and priorities:

- Training program for professional care-providers: Psychosocial Treatment of Perpetrators of Family Violence
- Establishment of Crisis centres within local communities, strengthening of NGO' capacities to provide appropriate help and assistance to the victims.
- Development of methodology for data collection appropriate to EU standards
- Continuation of improvement of skills and knowledge of professionals from different sectors