

# BREAK

# BREAKING THE CYCLE



**A GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE  
ON ENDING GENDER-BASED  
VIOLENCE**

**SPAIN \* BANGLADESH \* GREECE \* INDIA \* MADAGASCAR \* NEPAL**

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**COORDINATED BY:**

- \* Centro Rural Joven Vida, Spain

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- \* Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition, Bangladesh
- \* Centre for Research and Action on Peace, Greece
- \* Centre for Health and Social Justice, India
- \* Youth First, Madagascar
- \* Legal Aid & Consultancy Centre, Nepal

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# INTRODUCTION

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It has been an honor for all of the organizations to work in partnership for the implementation of this project "BREAKING THE CYCLE" under the approval and supervision of ERASMUS+ program of the European Union.

## 2 EUROPEAN ORGANIZATIONS:

- **CENTRO RURAL JOVEN VIDA (CERUJOVI)** situated in Caceres, Extremadura, Spain.
- **CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND ACTION ON PEACE (KEDE)** situated in Athens, Greece.

## 3 SOUTHERN ASIAN ORGANIZATIONS:

- **LEGAL AID & CONSULTANCY CENTER (LACC)** situated in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- **CENTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (CHSJ)** situated in New Delhi, India
- **BANGLADESH WOMEN'S HEALTH COALITION (BWHC)** situated in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

## 1 ORGANIZATION IN EASTERN AFRICA:

- **YOUTH FIRST**, situated in Antananarivo, Madagascar.

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Many European projects have been implemented on gender equality and violence against women. One can find as many as possible just by surfing through the internet and especially within the various institutions of the European Union. However, this BREAKING THE CYCLE project brings about its own distinctive perspective on combatting gender based violence. The aims of this project are:

- **To bring together men and women from totally different back grounds, countries, religions, ideas and belief systems.**
- **To create awareness between youth from different cultural backgrounds.**
- **To train trainers and highlight that despite social, economic, educational, geographical, and cultural differences, violence against women is a fact and a factor that tragically affects them all.**

Yes, it is true that many good practice guides have been created, elaborated upon, written and publicized; this guide is unique in many ways. On the contrary, reading through the content of this guide, participants

will find some similarities in the framework of good practices. Some content will be familiar, for they have already been implemented in like trainings as an example, the term "legal aid." Also, there will be huge differences in the essence and the challenges that the good practice is trying to face, to combat, and to transcend.

Thirty good practice training topics in total; five gathered from each partner's country. These topics range from capacity building to self-defense, from refugee camps to discrimination during menstruation, from engaging men and boys on GBV to audio stories for adolescent boys, from shelters for victims of trafficking to family planning. This guide is a most interesting read for all concerned; a short story of discrimination against women, and most of all a "guide" to replicate "good practices" that have been implemented with results, paving the way to gender equality.

We express our appreciation to ERASMUS+ programme for giving us this precious experience and opportunity.

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# BANGLADESH

# SHOKHI (CONFIDANTE)

## A PROJECT ON WOMEN'S HEALTH, RIGHTS AND CHOICES - BANGLADESH WOMEN'S HEALTH COALITION (BWHC)

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### ADDRESSING THE OBSTACLES TO THE FULFILMENT OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN DHAKA

SHOKHI is a four-year project in urban Bangladesh that wants to sensitize and raise awareness amongst women, adolescents and men regarding sexual and reproductive health rights, violence against women and girls and workers' rights thereby increasing their opportunities to lead a safe, healthy and happy life with dignity.

The project was initiated from the findings of research carried out by ICDDR'B, whereby the four key obstacles to the realization of women's rights, dignity, health and safety in Dhaka's slums are:

- **Discriminatory attitudes and social norms**
- **Lack of awareness about health and legal issues**
- **The absence of protection of women's rights by relevant stakeholders**
- **Constraints on women's access to services**

The main beneficiaries of SHOKHI are women who live in 15 slums in the Mohakhali, Mirpur and Mohammadpur areas of Dhaka city.

### SHOKHI ACTIVITIES

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SHOKHI provides women and girls convenient, gender-friendly, affordable, and quality healthcare as well as legal services. It also promotes and refers women to the services already available by government and non-government agencies (e.g. the police, public hospitals etc.). Furthermore, SHOKHI runs awareness-raising and educational activities for women, adolescents and men about sexual and reproductive health, the rights of women on health and legal rights (in particular rights of women in the family and workplace). Finally women who access the services can also take part in the self-help groups organized by the project to help provide a support network for women, to claim rights within the family, at the workplace and in the commu-

nity. Another important part of its work has to do with advocating the effective implementation of existing laws and policies at both the local and national level.

Central to the methodology of the project is the recruitment of community 'Change Makers' that help engage people in the project and help challenge social norms and informal power structures which condone and perpetuate violence against women and prevent women from accessing employment and services.

The project is funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands.





## SUCCESSES & CHALLENGES

The project, while successful, faced various organizational challenges such as lack of proper management, shortage of time and personnel as well as issues around coordination amongst partner organizations in terms of finance and services.

Nevertheless, the community empowerment approach, including engagement of individuals from the commu-

nity as Change Makers and the formation of self-help groups, skills development and trainings of individuals, as well as access to services has been successful and is what will enable SHOKI to sustain its impact in the community. Also, as it forms part of the gender mainstreaming strategy, it would be worth looking into extending the project more widely.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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# HOME FOR CHILDREN & WOMEN VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS

- DHAKA AHSANIA MISSION (DAM)

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## THE ISSUE OF TRAFFICKING AT THE JESSORE DISTRICT

Jessore (a district in Bangladesh) is situated at the border area of the south-western part of Bangladesh which is known to be a major route for cross-border trafficking and labor migration. Most of the victims are women. They are trafficked for prostitution, illegal work or working as servants abroad.

DAM was established in 1997 on the outskirts of Jessore to help those victims of violence, human trafficking and illegal labor migration (children, women and men) by **rescuing them and providing shelter, support rehabilitation and repatriation services. The shelter home has the capacity to accommodate 60 victims of those who are rescued.**

## DAM'S SHELTER HOME

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Initially DAM works closely with the Border Guard Bangladesh and Bangladesh police to rescue the victims. Once victims reach the shelter home DAM offers them a comprehensive range of services to help regain their normal social and family life.

At the shelter, victims have access to psychological counselling, medical screening as well as legal counselling and prosecution support. Emphasis is placed on their economic empowerment and for this purpose DAM offers them non-formal education, formal and distance learning education, vocational training, job placements and even support in setting up their own businesses. Training on life skills and legal rights also take place. To help victims recuperate, they also organize recreational activities such as indoor and outdoor games, movie nights and other fun events. After some time, when the person is ready, DAM helps her/

him to reintegrate into their families and community. DAM will carry out follow-ups with the person to ensure that she/he is doing well.

DAM's work does not restrict itself solely to the shelter; it also extends its assistance to nearby communities. It runs outreach activities that aim to prevent trafficking and gender-based violence but also awareness; raising events that aim to highlight the concern about the issue of trafficking and violence in the local communities.

The project has been supported by various funding agencies including the EU, Cord Aid, UNODC, World Vision, Winrock International and Plan International Bangladesh. UNODC, World Vision and DAM contribute to this project as well.

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## EVALUATION OF INTERVENTION

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DAM's shelter home has helped hundreds of victims of human trafficking. **Not only were they rescued and cared for but also supported and empowered to reintegrate into society and improve their lives.** The impact on the beneficiaries is focused on sustainability. However, the main challenge for DAM is to continuously strive for access to funding to carry on its work.

**This project is often dangerous as the traffickers are proficient criminals in this field.** Without the proper help of law enforcement agency, it seems to be quite impossible to prevent human trafficking. This project would benefit greatly by more community involvement and support by religious leaders. Finally, DAM believes that a campaign to highlight the issue via the media would also be very helpful.

---

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# RECOGNIZE CONSENT AND CHOICE (RCC)

- BANGLADESH LEGAL AID AND SERVICES TRUST (BLAST)

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## RECOGNIZE CONSENT AND CHOICE

Women in Bangladesh continue to have a low social status. They are unable to practise their rights and make their own decisions regarding whether, when and who to marry, have sex and bear children with. The relatively new Domestic Violence (Prevention & Protection) Act of 2010, establishes that sexual violence is a form of domestic violence, and provides the legal framework for addressing rape within marriage. In a national survey on violence against women conducted in 2011, one-third of women stated that they had experienced sexual violence perpetrated by their husbands. And yet the lack of understanding that there is legal protection against such violence, coupled with the lack of access to legal aid, leads to denying women of their rights to refuse consent to sex in the context of marriage.

Along with institutional, legal contradictions and confusion around the understanding of choice and consent, social practices and beliefs govern how practitioners interpret and implement laws and regulations regarding violence against women and sexual and reproductive health. Regressive or conservative interpretations, threats about women's safety, limited social protection and stigma around issues of consent and choice play a critical role in the judgment calls made by legal and sexual and reproductive health practitioners and service providers. That is why this project was initiated.

## BLAST'S RCC PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

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- **To increase awareness on issues of consent and choice among key stakeholders (legal, sexual and reproductive health practitioners, researchers and young people).**
- **To increase knowledge and conceptual clarity among legal and sexual and reproductive health practitioners on issues of consent and choice.**
- **To build consensus among key stakeholders from various fields including law and public health on advocacy agendas regarding choice in early marriage, forced marriage, marital rape and cybercrimes.**

Beneficiaries were legal, sexual, and reproductive health-professionals as well as students/young people from three universities in Dhaka City.

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## THE TRAINING PROCESS

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For this project, BLAST worked closely with the Centre for Gender, Reproductive Health and Rights at James P. Grant School of Public Health and BRAC University. Training, workshops, seminars, symposiums and campaigning were the main tools used to achieve the project objectives. More specifically, as part of the RCC project, BLAST:

- Conducted short courses on 'sexual and reproductive health and the law for individuals who were practicing or potential actors in the discourse and practice of sexual and reproductive health protection in Bangladesh.
- Organized writing workshops for journalists or communication personnel.
- Implemented surveys to identify the attitudes, values and knowledge about sexual and reproductive health through qualitative assessment that was carried out in various geographical areas.
- Run expert workshops, tailored to the needs of development professionals working on public health and women's rights, on issues including marital rape, early marriage and cybercrime, to enable focused discussion on the law and its impact on sexual and reproductive health.
- In order to create wider engagement with a critical segment of young people, BLAST organized a short film competition. Film screenings were organized towards the end of the project period during the internationally recognized 16 Days of Activism on Violence Against Women/ International Human Rights Day.

## PROJECT EVALUATION

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The project achieved its targets with regards to running the workshops, seminars, etc. However, there have been two major challenges that affected its course and outcome: firstly, the lack of adequate in-

stitutional support to accommodate the courses within the time schedule of students and secondly, demur and shame amongst potential participants that affected the quantity of participants in the various activities.

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# ONE STOP CRISIS CENTRE (OCC)

- MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN AFFAIRS 'MULTI-SECTORAL PROGRAM ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN'

## AIM AND BACKGROUND

Violence against women is a national issue in Bangladesh and it is a daily and often deadly fact of life for millions of women and girls. Sadly, most of these crimes are being left unpunished. The OCC initiative started in 2001, provides medical and legal assistance for victims of physical and sexual assaults. Presently, there are OCCs in eight major medical colleges of Bangladesh.

The aim of the OCC initiative is to address and prevent violence against women in Bangladesh through a coordinated integrated interministerial approach. The idea behind it is to provide all required services for a victim of violence in one place.

The pilot phase of the project took place from May 2000 to December 2003. The programme is now in its fourth phase, which will continue until June 2021.

## OCC'S ACTIVITIES

Each centre has a working group which usually contains up to 20 members, supervised by members of the eight ministries. The OCCs focus on providing services to victims of gender-specific violence, namely: health care, police assistance, DNA testing, social services, legal assistance, psychological counselling and shelter service etc. Increasingly, it seeks to expand the scope of rehabilitation service to the victims to include education, skills training and integration into the society.

tion on the role of OCC, DNA lab activities, and psychological counselling. Furthermore, they also run specific training modules on combating violence against women for OCC staff but also for teachers, students, health assistants, family planning officers and other professionals. OCCs also take part in activities that aim to enhance awareness among the general population regarding violence against women and children within the society.

In addition to the services offered to the victims, the project provides substantial capacity building training to the staff of ongoing and new OCCs including induc-

The financial provision for the OCC initiative is split amongst eight government ministries and the Government of Denmark.

## PROVIDING A VITAL SERVICE

The OCC initiative undoubtedly provides a vital service to women victims of violence all over the country. However, it was not easy in the beginning as it faced a lot of social and financial difficulties. One of the main difficulties was that both victims and stakeholders were not sufficiently aware of gender-based violence issues. That is why, in its first phase, this project did not draw adequate attention.

with police, collaboration with Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association, as well as levels of cleanliness and good arrangements were notable. In the future, the program will also look to collaborate with government shelter homes to maximize the long-term impact on the beneficiaries.

Things have changed since then and the OCC's performance has improved. The centres are audited twice a year by the funding agencies. These audits point out that the medical treatment of victims, collaboration

The direct involvement and commitment at high level have been key to making this project as successful as it is (although often political interventions hinder progress). The governmental involvement also enables its financial sustainability.

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## SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

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Overall the project has been highly successful in the delivery of its services. Over the years, it has managed to facilitate the legal assistance process. It has also helped coordinate the identification of the victim's family (missing/disabled) through print and electronic media. Notable is its achievement to **establish in 2011 a separate women's division within the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Department named Women's Support & Investigation Division.**

Despite success in safeguarding and protecting the legal rights of victims, VSCs still faces many challenges.

- **Difficulty in handling the disabled (mentally disabled, hearing impaired, etc.) victims**
- **Lengthiness in the criminal justice process**
- **Shortage of services in the cases of mental health**
- **Inability of children to provide their family address properly**
- **Clearly it is not possible for the police to face these challenges solely. They can only be reduced through an integrated service comprising of doctors, social workers and policy makers.**

---

## CONTACT DETAILS

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**Women Support & Investigation Division**  
**Dhaka Metropolitan Police**  
Stop Violence Against Women & Children

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# GREECE



# GEAR AGAINST IPV

- GENDER EQUALITY AWARENESS RAISING AGAINST INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

BY THE EUROPEAN ANTI-VIOLENCE NETWORK (EAVN)

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## THE GEAR AGAINST IPV PROJECTS

GEAR against IPV I and GEAR against IPV II were two projects that consisted of a coordinated action of primary and secondary prevention of Intimate Partner Violence in adolescents' relationships through interventions in the school or other settings. The interventions were guided by specially designed educational material and were aimed at secondary school students' awareness raising and empowerment.

## THE GEAR AGAINST IPV APPROACH

The aim of the GEAR against IPV approach is to promote the development of healthy and equal relationships between the sexes and the development of zero tolerance towards violence. Given the fact that almost all children and adolescents attend school, the educational system was recognized as the ideal setting for a highly sustainable effort.

The GEAR against IPV approach was developed, implemented and evaluated during the period 2010-2016, in the context of two GEAR against IPV projects that operated under the coordination of the EAVN in seven countries in total.

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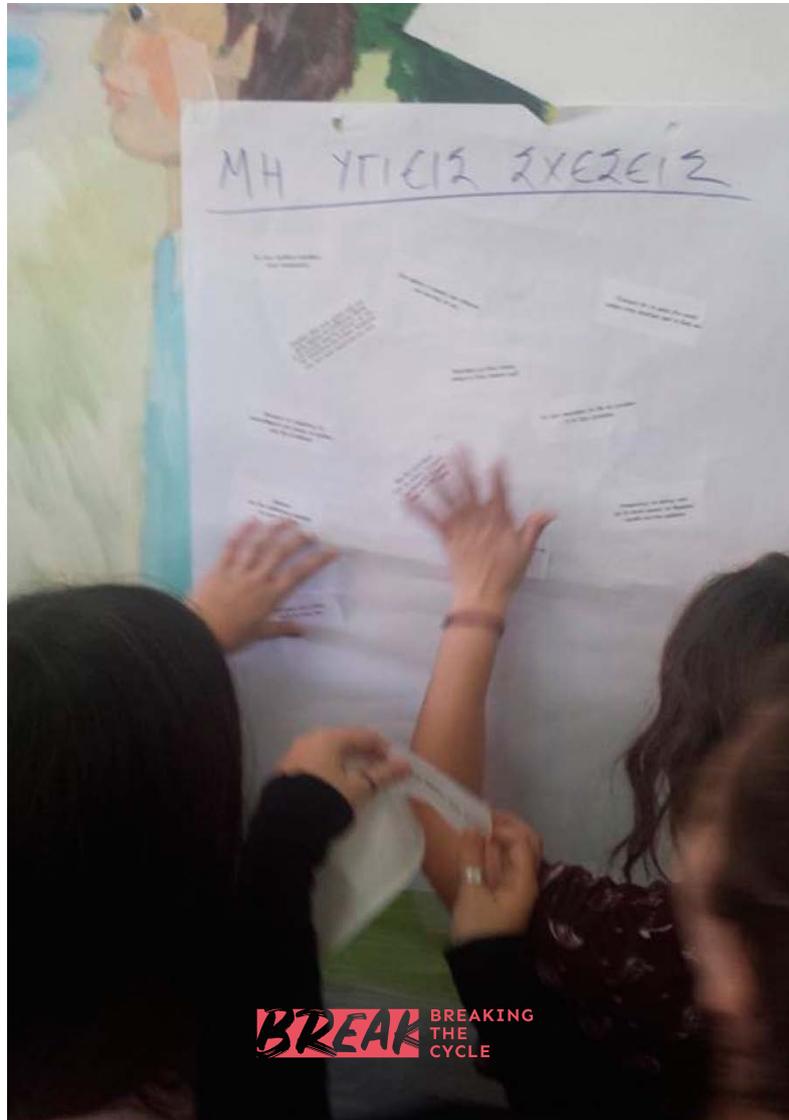
## THE GEAR AGAINST IPV MATERIAL

For the achievement of the objectives of the GEAR against IPV approach, a complete educational material was developed (Four Master Booklets) on the basis of which the National Packages were developed, evaluated and culturally validated. The material of the National Packages was then used by each partner-organization to train teachers (Booklet II) on gender equality and gender-based violence as well as to provide them with the knowledge and skills related to the methodology and implementation of Awareness-Raising Workshops for students. Booklet III and IV contained the tools (experiential activities) that were used by teachers to conduct the workshops with students.

Acknowledging that each country has its own cultural and educational characteristics, the material was developed in such a way that it could be used as a model for the development of National Packages for use in different countries. For this reason, the project developed a Master Package (booklets I-IV) that provides the template for developing a National GEAR against IPV Package. Master Booklet I provides mainly guidelines for developing the National GEAR against IPV Booklets I-IV (National packages have already been developed for the seven participating countries and are available to download along with the Master Package that is available in English).

Both projects were co-funded by the DAPHNE III Programme of the European Union.

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## PROJECT EVALUATION AND IMPACT

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The GEAR against IPV approach has already been implemented and evaluated in seven countries and appears to be effective in increasing teachers' and adolescents' knowledge and modifying their attitudes that are stereotypical and/or tolerant towards gender-based violence.

In Greece alone, during the two projects, more than 140 teachers and related professionals were trained, and more than 750 secondary school students took part in the workshops. Throughout the two projects, the teachers' trainings and students' workshops were thoroughly monitored and evaluated. A summary of the main findings from the effectiveness evaluation of the GEAR against IPV-II main interventions in five Member States along with policy recommendations, are presented in the corresponding policy briefs entitled:

- **Building Healthy Intimate Relationships.** The role of school: Evidence-based Policy Recommendations for Teachers' Trainings
- **Building Healthy Intimate Relationships.** The role of school: Evidence-based Policy Recommendations for Adolescents' Empowerment

According to the evaluation of the Teachers' Training Seminars for Greece, the demand from teachers to participate in the seminars and workshops was impressive (indicating the need and/or appeal of the training topic and methodology). It is worth noting however that according to the same report, in countries where the issue of gender-based violence had already been integrated into government policy, initial interest amongst teachers to participate in the training was far lower, most likely because they had already received some form of training on the subject. Still, once they were introduced to the methodology of the project, they were all very interested.

The impact of the GEAR against IPV approach on beneficiaries has also been highlighted in the external evaluation report (p. 5) of the GEAR against IPV II project, where it is stated that "the data clearly

shows both very high levels of satisfaction and appreciation among both teachers and students as well as significant changes in their knowledge and attitudes." It is further mentioned (p. 2) that the implementation of the GEAR against IPV II project also "confirmed that its philosophy to train and support teachers in a method that empowers both girls and boys by way of active experiential learning is welcomed and appreciated by both teachers and students, and can be implemented successfully in schools, as well as in residential care centres or support services with children who have been exposed to abuse or neglect."

Once trained, educators can deliver the students' workshops beyond the context of the project to more teenagers thus maximizing its impact, while the educational material on which the practice was based is readily available as a tool for those who may want to use it. The fact that it does not require significant financial resources to run it, since the material is already there, makes it even easier to replicate.

The evidence-based evaluation and policy recommendation reports strongly recommend the development of National GEAR against IPV Packages (booklets I-IV) for other countries but also the approval and institutionalization of the National GEAR against IPV packages in the training of teachers and other professionals providing services to adolescents as well as in the implementation of workshops with adolescents.

It is worth noting that the GEAR against IPV approach also consists of a precise fulfilment of Article 14 of the Council of Europe (2011) Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. Clearly, its sustainability depends on the systematic capacity building of human resources as has been set out in the teachers' training policy brief. In the meantime, individuals or clusters of schools, care centres etc. can make use of the GEAR against IPV methodology and material in their educational setting. Despite success in safeguarding and protecting the legal rights of victims, VSCs still faces many challenges.

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# FLASH MOBS AND STREET ART AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

- BY WOMAN'S SHELTER (KATAFYGIO GYNAIKAS)

## RAISING AWARENESS ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Women's Shelter is a voluntary group in Thessaloniki (northern Greece) that consists of volunteers with a vision and humanitarian interest in combating all forms of gender violence. The team is made up of young people who work together to provide support to women who have been victims of violence. It does this by providing support to women and also by raising awareness amongst the general public.

On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25th of November) the Women's

Shelter organizes public artistic events to draw attention to the problem.

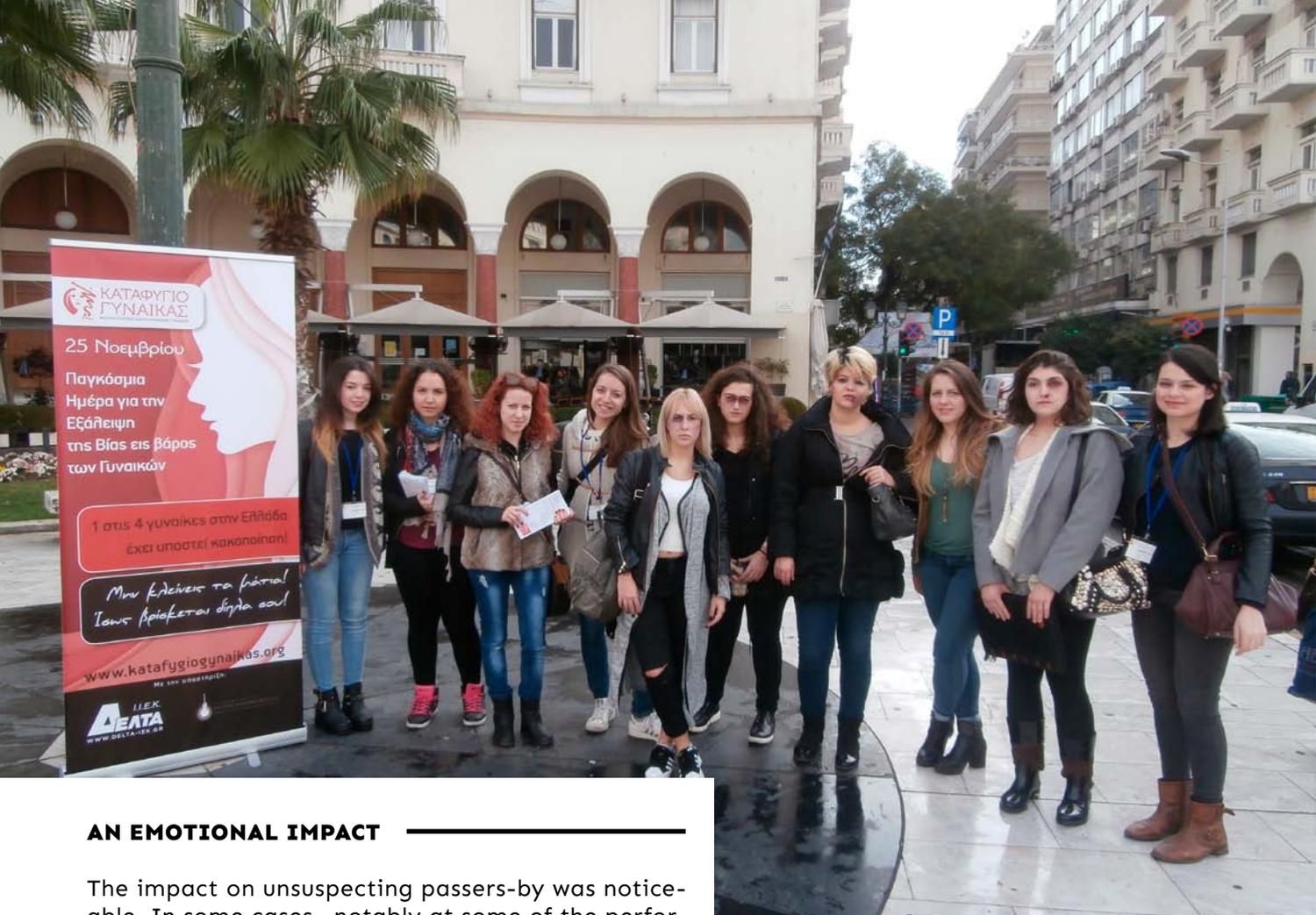
The events have been carried out in the context of the One Billion Rising campaign. One Billion Rising is the biggest mass action to end violence against women. The campaign, launched on 2012, began as a call to action based on the staggering statistic that 1 in 3 women on the planet will be beaten or raped during her lifetime. With the world population at 7 billion, this adds up to more than one billion women and girls.

## STREET ART AND FLASH MOBS

Set in central locations in the second largest city of Greece, various performances have taken place. The Shelter worked with the local drama schools to recruit student volunteers to take part. One was a flash mob whereby a group of 40 women of various ages started an impromptu dance to the One Billion Rising tune. The other one, implemented with the support of a drama college, consisted of a series of short sketches that portrayed scenes of violence many derived from everyday life like a woman being abused by her husband over a trivial dinner issue.

A third was a street play where women bearing evident signs of abuse on the face and bodies wondered in a busy street in an attempt to give a loud, non-verbal message.





## AN EMOTIONAL IMPACT

The impact on unsuspecting passers-by was noticeable. In some cases—notably at some of the performances—the impact was strong; people were in tears. People who might have never otherwise attended an event on gender-based violence were now faced with the topic in a way that it could not fail to be noticed.

It has of course not been possible to assess the longer-term impact on the people who saw the acts, but it is most certain that those that saw them will remember them.

The acts are easily replicated as they require a small budget and can be delivered with the contribution of local colleges and other groups.

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# PAI.D.E.S 100: EMPOWERMENT THROUGH COMPANIONSHIP

- BY THE FAMILY SUPPORT CENTRE, FOUNDATION OF HOLY ARCHDIOCESE OF ATHENS (KESO)

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## SUPPORTING WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN NEED

PAI.D.E.S 100 is a program implemented by KESO since 2017 to present day with funding from the Attica Region and includes actions targeting minor children and their mothers belonging to vulnerable social groups (abused women, single parent families, the economically disadvantaged, etc.).

Within the framework of the program, KESO offers support and training, which are: legal counselling, health promotion (vaccinations, speeches, etc.), dental evaluation and therapies, and adult education and training (English of all levels, manicure and pedicure, and sewing skills). In particular, the latter category aims have been met with success in the acquisition

of new skills amongst beneficiaries and therefore the empowerment of the participating adult women.

The need for this program arose due both to the psychological factors affecting the beneficiaries and to the factors relating to the Greek Welfare State (there is a shortage of supportive structures in general and in particular of supportive structures allowing women to balance a family and professional life, due to which Greek mothers hardly have time for their personal development). In the first case, the role of the facilitator teacher is crucial in addressing the psychological or group issues that arise within the course, while in the second case the courses are provided on different days and hours so they can serve the majority of participating women.

## THE TEACHING PREMISE

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Teaching follows the methodology of adult education as it has been taught in recent years. The adult is appreciated as a personality that already has potential (knowledge, skills, experience, psychological background, etc.) on which the trainer is called upon to “build” the knowledge and skills that he provides within the course. The lesson is largely driven by learners’ learning needs, as this is a key parameter that will motivate them to participate and learn from both the trainer and the rest of the trainees. Consequently, knowledge is added to the already existing background of the trainees and in addition the cooperation within the course promotes the development of social relations, especially useful for people belonging to vulnerable groups who are at risk of exclusion.

An added advantage of the programme is that in practice, the implementation does not require a large cost, as it is carried out in KESO owned premises, so costs are limited to the consumable materials required in the course and the teachers’ fees.

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## THE IMPACT AND CHALLENGES

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The impact of PAI.D.E.S. 100 focuses on both the acquisition of skills and their corresponding direct application to the labor market (finding employment or upgrading the position in existing employment) as well as developing a social network among trainees to help enhance their self-esteem.

Indeed, in the previous academic year several women who participated used the acquired skills in the labor market, sometimes achieving to gain or improve employment or to gain a supplementary income.

During the first year of the implementation of the program, the challenges that were raised mainly concerned the issues of compliance with the regulations of the program and the commitment of trainees. These

have been taken into account during the course of the 2nd year (current) and have now been settled.

What now requires is some further thought about the program's implementation in Greece and potentially elsewhere is the issue of the courses' accreditation. KESO is a Holy Archdiocese of Athens Foundation which does not belong to the regulated part of education (not included and certified by the Ministry of Education). Therefore, the courses are informal. However, bearing in mind the emphasis placed by the EU on certification and quality of training provided in the context of Lifelong Learning in recent years the question of accreditation of the acquired knowledge needs to be addressed.

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# ATHENS COUNSELLING CENTRE

- BY THE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR GENDER EQUALITY (KETHI), MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

## THE NETWORK FOR THE PREVENTION AND COMBAT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The aim of the Athens Advisory Centre has been to prevent and combat violence against women and, in particular, to support women who are suffering or are threatened by it. The Athens Advisory Centre is one of 14 Advisory centres run by KETHI on behalf of the Secretariat for Gender Equality.

The Centre provides free counselling services to female victims of violence by qualified staff (1 reception/administrative staff, 2 psychologists, 2 social workers, 1 lawyer).

### The services provided are:

- Information and specialized information to women victims of violence
- Provision of social, psychological, legal and employment support (gender specific)
- Referral or escort to hostels, clinics, police and other support services
- Provision, in association with lawyers' associations, of legal services
- Provision of information on the issue of gender-equality and counselling services on sexual and reproductive health to school pupils

KETHI as a public body, received funding for the operation of the Centres from the National Strategic Reference Framework (European Structural and Investment Funds of the European Union) 2007-2013. Now KETHI has been assured the continuation of the operation for the next programming period 2014-2020.



## INTERVENTION ASSESSMENT & IMPACT ASSESSMENT

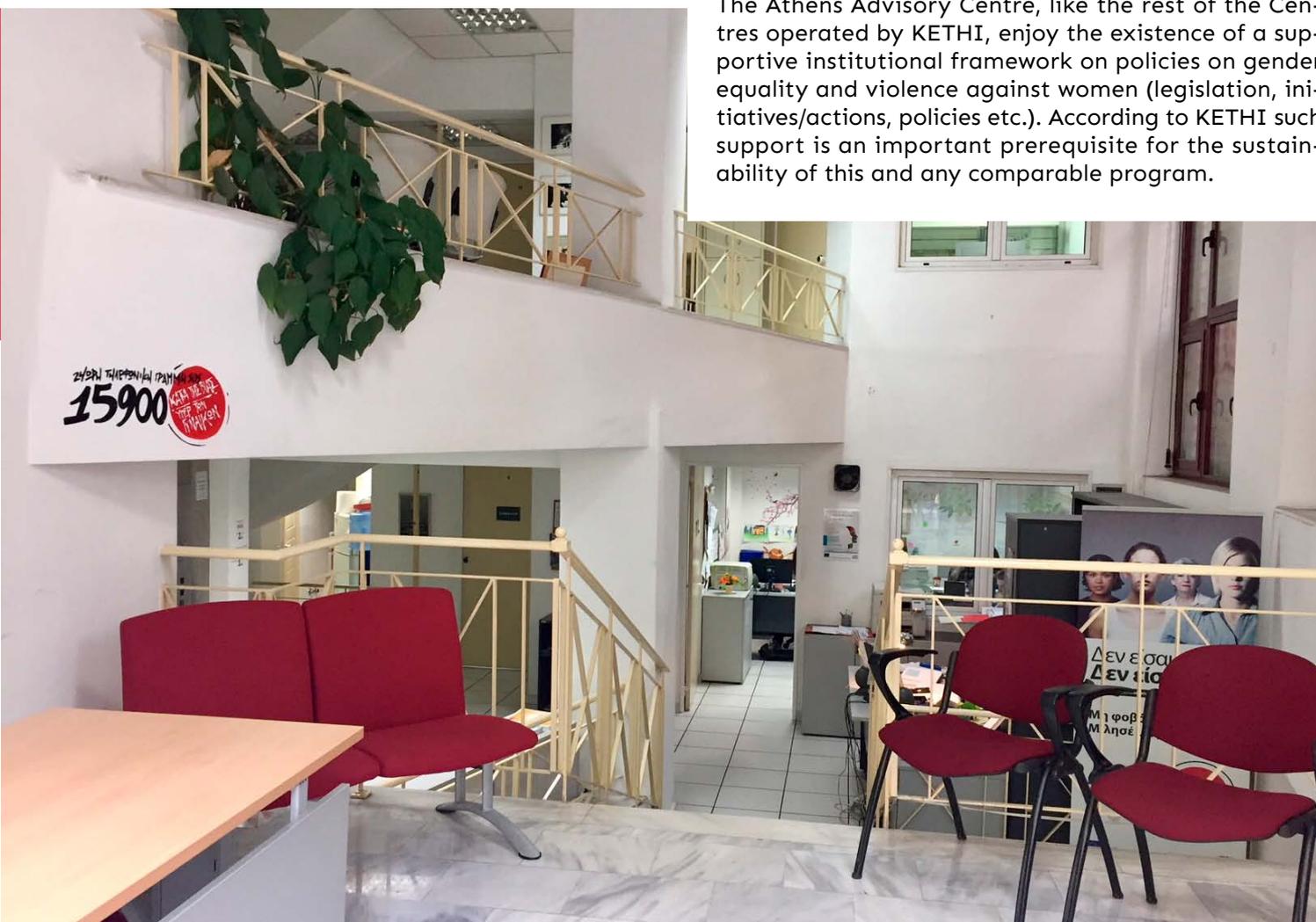
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During its first period of operation (2012-2015), it served 1,960 women victims of violence. A total of 6,102 sessions were provided, namely: 3,209 psychological support sessions, 1,781 social support sessions and 1,112 legal support sessions. In addition, the Counselling Centre has undertaken a number of networking actions and awareness raising activities with various bodies and organizations (e.g. police and prosecution authorities, hospitals, social services, labour force agency, mental health centres, etc.).

The functioning of the Centre has contributed to:

- Acts of violence against women are increasingly visible
- Forms of violence against women are recognized as a social problem and criminal acts
- Women's access to counselling services is facilitated, as there are supportive structures across the territory
- Bodies, services and associations are more effectively interconnected

The Athens Advisory Centre, like the rest of the Centres operated by KETHI, enjoy the existence of a supportive institutional framework on policies on gender equality and violence against women (legislation, initiatives/actions, policies etc.). According to KETHI such support is an important prerequisite for the sustainability of this and any comparable program.



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# INTERVENTION IN MALAKASA CAMP FOR REFUGEE WOMEN

- DIOTIMA CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN'S ISSUES (DIOTIMA)

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## ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF REFUGEE WOMEN

Diotima has been providing support to migrant/refugee women living in refugee camps, since 2016, when thousands of refugees arrived in Greece mainly from the Middle East and South Asia. This case study describes the example at one of the camps, namely the one in the area of Malakasa, because it is where Diotima has been present for the longest period.

Diotima has been the NGO responsible for gender-based violence case management at the refugee camp. It provides specialized support for women survivors of all different forms of violence experienced in the country of origin, during their journey and in the camps, but also those at risk. Additionally, the women receive support towards their integration, empowering them to exercise their citizenship rights and cope with life issues.

## THE RUB HALL

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The activities and services of Diotima at the camp centre around the Female Friendly Space—the Rub Hall, an area of 250 m<sup>2</sup> open to all women at the camp. The Rub Hall is open certain hours a day and functions as a focal point for women at the camp. There, the women can simply drop in or take part in organized activities which run for specific periods of time. English and Greek lessons, sewing/knitting sessions, and computer classes are some of the activities that have taken place. The activities provide women with new skills and with opportunities to meet other women but also, they help build a relationship amongst the support workers and the women. This trust between the women and the team of Diotima is important in order for women to open up and seek help, as it is common that many women refrain from disclosing incidents of gender-based violence.

For women at the camp that seek specialized support, Diotima offers legal and psychosocial support, needs assessment, as well as referral and escorting to external services. Lately, identifying a gap in the system, the organisation has also started offering support to men victims of gender-based violence.

As part of their strategy to enhance protection, prevention and response with regards to gender-based violence, Diotima also works to address men's attitudes towards the issue by conducting focus groups with men (not hosted in the Female Friendly Space) and organizing sessions about women's rights.

So far Diotima has been receiving more or less continuous funding for their service at the refugee camps by various funding organisations such as UNHCR and Secours Islamique France.

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## EVALUATION OF INTERVENTION

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Establishing an everyday presence at the camp through the running of the Rub Hall has been central to the organisation's efforts to offer support to women. It took some time for Diotima to be accepted by the women at Malakasa, but by now the presence of the organization at the camp has become widely accepted, providing them a sense of safety and a sense of community. The impact is even more crucial when it comes to intervening in emergency cases and cases of gender-based violence.

**One of the main challenges is that the population at the camp is transient and is sometimes changing too fast for the support team to build a relationship with the women.** Some leave irregularly for other countries, some to other camps. Some are transferred to more permanent accommodations in Greece, in which case Diotima helps them reach similar services outside the camp (offered by themselves or other NGOs).

Referral to public shelters for women survivors also faces challenges. Interpreting services and Wi-Fi are rarely available in the majority of the shelters and there is a scarcity in available places with regards to shelters located in big cities. Women refugees apparently prefer to be hosted in shelters of big cities, as this is crucial for their access to a range of other social services.

Another challenge encountered in their work at the camp is related to the police. The collaboration of Diotima's team with the local police station has grown gradually towards a level of direct communication thus enhancing the immediate police response in cases of emergency. However, the police continue to resist from entering the camp, in fear of expansion of clashes and have no interpreters available, a gap which is covered by the NGOs' interpreters.

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CENTRE FOR  
RESEARCH ON  
WOMEN'S ISSUES  
DIOTIMA

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# INDIA

# AWAAZ DO (SPEAK UP)

## CAMPAIGN: ENGAGING YOUTH TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN - INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (ISD), ODISHA, INDIA

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### A CAMPAIGN OF YOUTH CHANGE MAKERS

Awaaz Do campaign, launched in Odisha in 2013 by the ISD with financial support from Oxfam India, facilitates the engagement of youth 'Change Makers' in addressing violence against women by training them so they can raise awareness on gender issues.

Following the December 2012 Delhi gang-rape case, ISD decided to prioritize violence against women issues and strengthens engagement with men and boys in 11 districts in Odisha. Awareness among the youth on gender issues was lacking when the campaign started using 'gender' only as a term to distinguish between male and female. There was need for a platform for cross-learning on gender issues among youth from both urban and neglected rural areas of the state to reduce violence against women.

### AWAAZ DO ACTIVITIES

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ISD launched the Awaaz Do campaign to engage college youth, particularly the boys through the following approaches:

**Residential Camp:** A three-day residential camp in the state capital Bhubaneswar is organized every year for 300 youth from 15 rural and urban colleges covering 11 districts.

**Enabling Change Makers:** The core of the campaign is its 'Change Makers' who are enabled to engage in personal development processes and subsequently, involve others in their efforts for gender equality and prevention of violence against women. So far, about 1100 'Change Makers' have emerged from the residential camps.

**Building A Network of Change Makers and Supporters:** ISD facilitates and strengthens the network of groups of 'Change Makers' and provides constant moral and technical support through other related programs to sustain the commitment of these young catalysts in preventing violence against women.

**Interaction with Change Makers:** Regular engagement

of the 'Change Makers' with college campuses has impacted the mindset of groups there. College authorities attest to the 'Change Makers' having helped transform campuses into a no-violence zone.

The youth groups mandatorily dedicate time for gender-related trainings of students, faculty members and non-teaching staff, using popular tools like the 'Snakes and Ladders Game' and 'Power Game' that use the play-way method.

**Gender Time Session:** Early marriage of girls is a major concern in the tribal districts of Odisha. In addition, there is absence of information related to sexual health and sexuality in the regular educational curriculum. Through role-play, the 'Gender Time Session' of the campaign, organized in different colleges, effectively encourages students to open up and share dilemmas related to gender and sexual health and rights and explore how patriarchy affects individual relationships and institutional mechanisms.

**Ripple effect:** The campaign, starting from colleges, creates a ripple effect in other institutions like family and society with whom the youth groups interact.



## THE HUGE IMPACT OF AWAAZ DO

Within four years, the campaign has been able to build credibility and competence at state-level. It has generated support and creative cooperation from various stakeholders—colleges, teachers, the youth and their families, community members and the funding partner Oxfam India, to keep it going.

In some of the tribal districts like Rayagada, Kalahandi and Kandhamal, the campaign has created many change agents who have effectively engaged in the process of rehabilitation of women survivors of violence. They are also mobilizing local Sarpanches (elected leaders) to provide financial support for rehabilitation of these survivors from their government funds.

In colleges, Awaaz Do has made college campuses safer for women. Incidents of sexual harassment have drastically come down on campuses where students participate in the campaign. There is increased attendance of women students and healthy interaction among male and female students. The campaign has created a pool of young Change Makers at the local level who stand together to mobilize their communities towards gender equality and provide support in dealing with instances of violence against women.

Participation of girls from the tribal belt like Rayagada, Kandhamal and Kalahandi districts in Awaaz Do has contributed to instilling confidence in them and, likewise, in changing the mindset of their family members. As a result, girls are allowed to continue their higher education which has helped delay early marriages too.

In areas where students have been participating in Awaaz Do, the mobility of women and girls has increased; they are allowed to go to the bank for financial transactions; girls are being allowed to participate in family matters like resolving property disputes; boys are involved in household activities and doing a range of supportive work at home like fetching water, taking care of domestic animals and cleaning utensils.

**“Honestly, today the campus is completely different. Now we can attend our classes regularly. There are no disturbances from the boys. It is only because of transformation within boys. Now they are more friendly, approachable and sensible enough to understand our point of view. And it is only possible because of their participation in the Awaaz Do campaign”**

— ROSALIN PRADHAN, STUDENT,  
KUNJA BIHARI COLLEGE,  
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# USING COMMUNICATION

## FOR EXPLORING GENDER AND MASCULINITIES: WORKING WITH YOUNG MEN IN URBAN MAHARASHTRA, INDIA - SAMYAK

### A POSTER MAKING PROJECT WITH YOUNG MEN

The NGO SAMYAK is working on youth-led interventions in the area of gender, masculinity and violence against women in public and private spaces. In 2008, the organization worked on a poster making project with male youth on campuses, which led to its idea of using communications or media as a development intervention for social justice.

SAMYAK believes that 'mobilizing men' to stop violence against women may have them saying 'No violence against women' but until men reflect on their masculine power and privileges, the work with them is not truly transformational and sustainable. SAMYAK is encouraging men to reflect on their masculine power and privileges through its communication and media related work and training workshops in India and the South Asia region.



### INTEGRATING YOUTH PROGRAMME WITH WORK ON MASCULINITY AND GENDER

Over eight months in 2008-09 SAMYAK identified 18 young men aged 19-22 from three colleges in the city of Pune in Maharashtra, belonging to lower-middle class socio economic backgrounds. The students became part of a communications project SAMYAK was implementing in collaboration with the Indo-Global Social Service Society, titled 'Young Men, Masculinities and HIV/AIDS: Working with young men in the colleges of Pune City'. The project brief was limited to raising awareness about sexuality and risk-taking behaviour among youth in the context of HIV/AIDS. SAMYAK was to develop a poster on the topic targeted at youth. SAMYAK pushed the boundaries, going deeper with the youth encouraging them to reflect on the meaning of 'mardangi' or masculinity, unpacking gendered roles and responsibilities in the context of gender discrimination, violence and abuse of women, concepts of power and the creation of manhood itself.

Linking the project with the enhancement of the youth's employability skills, an agreement was reached to train them in Corel Draw, a skill with which they

would use to develop a poster based on the concept of masculinity and risk taking. The poster emerged as an outcome of a sustained process of reflection and learning with the young men even though it did not take place in a structured teaching-learning setting. The groups would meet here and there informally, discussing their personal relationships among other things while discussing risks and gender; just a couple of times the interactions were in the form of formal workshops. Brainstorming with them led to the creation of posters like, 'Do women's clothes lead to rape?' Another interesting poster was developed as an outcome of a political event held in Mumbai in which women were given knives and chili powder to defend themselves against molesters. The poster developed by the students said, "Does this chili powder and knives mean that the state and men have no responsibility anymore?" The posters were widely disseminated, locally as well as internationally, and everywhere it went, it was well received.

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## COMMUNICATION AS INTERVENTION

Apart from the understanding on masculinity and gender, the other 'principle' that emerged from this process was: communication itself can be the intervention, it need not be used only as a tool to support a program. With SAMYAK being a communications organization it was a significant progression for the organization to understand the poster making as a process of transformation.

Besides, it has always been the intention that other than meetings, workshops and trainings, all of which had been used many times, innovative means were needed to reach out to people. Thus, it was found that the poster making



## THE IMPACT

The initiative generated a lot of out-of-the-box ideas. Three issues of a newsletter in Marathi were also brought out in partnership with the college youth. The newsletters dealt with issues like risk perception of young men and its linkage with risk of HIV infection; what gender is; what masculinity is; the need to work with young boys on these issues etc. Following this, SAMYAK started an initiative in city colleges called Youth for Equality or YES! a non-funded campaign led by students which ran for 3-4 years and was aimed at male and female students working together to make campuses safer for women students. It was found that the involvement of the youth in all stages of development of the material helped increase its effectiveness and acceptance of its messages by their peers.

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# SAMAJDAR JODIDAR

## (THE UNDERSTANDING PARTNER) PROJECT ENHANCING MALE PARTICIPATION FOR IMPROVING GENDER EQUALITY - CENTRE FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (CHSJ) AND PARTNERS

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### WORKING WITH MEN ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The Samajdar Jodidar project was implemented in 100 villages in the state of Maharashtra by CHSJ and five local partner organizations (Nari Samata Manch, Yuvagram, Savitribhai Phule Mahila Mandal, Halo Medical Foundation and Astitva) from 2010-15 with the mission to address gender inequality. The project primarily worked with men and boys to address domestic violence and women's subordinate status in society.

Based in Delhi, CHSJ has a wealth of experience working with men and boys to address violence against women. **The objectives of the project, funded by UNFPA, were:**

- To reduce gender violence and discriminatory behaviors at the family level
- To improve women's participation in decision making
- To improve knowledge, attitude and behavior of men and boys on issues of gender equality and violence against women
- To increase male participation in reproductive health issues

The assumptions underpinning the project was that there are always some men in the community who do not agree to violent patriarchal norms; through participatory training, mentoring and community education and campaigns, these men can help lead to social change.

### KEY STRATEGIES

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The project used five key strategies to achieve its objectives:

**Community Mobilization:** Each village formed two groups, each with 20 members each—one of unmarried young men and the other of married men. A role model/leader called Animator was selected in every village and trained on issues of gender, human rights, masculinity, sexuality and reproductive health and became a community educator. A Facilitator from the local implementing organization supervised ten villages.

**Community Education and Awareness Campaigns:** Village-based groups carried out issue-based campaigns (such as the 16 Days of Activism against violence against women). Communication materials were prepared to create social awareness about men as responsible partners for gender equality.

**Leadership in Community Action:** The Animators provided leadership to the village-based men's groups to plan and implement community action around gender equality and human rights.

**Linkage with Service Providers:** This was an important strategy to increase utilization of health services amongst men and enhance referrals.

**Mentorship Approach:** Experts in various fields provided mentorship, support, consultancy and guidance to Animators, Facilitators and partner organizations, thus increasing their capacity.





## CHANGING NORMS OF MASCULINITY

**Two hundred men's groups were created by the Samajdar Jodidar project. The impact has been remarkable. It has clearly affected the domestic and personal life of many involved.** Change was not only seen in the less violent behavior of men, but men also remarkably addressed gender based discriminatory practices in the family and village.

A review of the project highlighted the fact that it has uniformly achieved the difficult task of motivating men to take responsibility for domestic work in the home. Men have started sharing household work, taking care of children and demonstrating more affection. As stated by the Wife of an animator, from Hatkar Mangewadi village, Maharashtra:

"Earlier, in our family all male members would eat first together and after them women of the family would eat leftovers, sometimes women didn't get much. After my husband's association with Samajdar Jodidar, he started a new habit for all family members—male and female eating together. Now whatever is there we equally distribute among ourselves."

Men have tried to stop early marriages of daughters and refused to give or take dowry; they supported higher education of girls; they encouraged their wives

to go outside the house rather than remain bound by household and familial duties; decision-making at home started being taken jointly as has the property ownership between husbands and wives. For the first time in many communities men started being referred to reproductive health services. Women too have started realizing their rights and enhanced role in village affairs, for instance through setting up of Mahila Gram Sabhas (women's decision making bodies).

Overall the project, particularly with regards to those directly involved, has led to an emerging consciousness and questioning of traditional beliefs, like what constitutes a real man; a new awareness of what it means to be an 'understanding partner' and of the importance of women's education.

Also, and very importantly, it has changed the public opinion in favour of this change. Thus, entire villages are taking pledges against early marriage, challenging the giving and taking of dowry and are making women, with their husbands, joint property-owners. Samajdar Jodidar provided a source of understanding on how community mechanisms can help change norms of masculinity and help build gender relations over time.

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# KISHOR VARTA

## (ADOLESCENT CONVERSATION) :MOBILE PHONE-BASED AUDIO STORIES PROGRAMME FOR BOYS AND YOUNG MEN - CENTRE FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (CHSJ) AND PARTNERS, INDIA

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### USING TECHNOLOGY FOR CHANGE

In July 2015 CHSJ launched a set of four interactive audio stories in Hindi through a mobile phone-based application aimed at adolescent boys in rural Rajasthan to dial in and listen to. Following a baseline survey, the stories were carefully developed by CHSJ to address issues of gender, health and sexual and reproductive health. Callers are engaged in a 10-12 minute story (Lakhanpur ka Raju, Dada ka Gussa, Haldi ki Jaldi and Dulhan ki Baatein) through a set of colourful fictional characters and a storyline that moves forward from one level to the next after callers punch in a response from multiple options. Each story deals with a preva-

lent social issue and focuses on the role of men and boys in particular, to initiate positive change.

The professionally recorded audio stories are targeted at leading to personal reflection and also for use as a tool for group discussions on these issues in schools and other places in the community by designated Kishor Varta program facilitators. The primary aim is to reduce gender discrimination for girls and improve reproductive health knowledge for adolescents.

The program has been further linked with the Ek Saath national campaign for engaging men and boys in changing social norms, an outcome of which is creating male gender equality champions.

### COMBINING TRADITIONAL STORYTELLING WITH MODERN TELEPHONY

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The concept behind Kishor Varta was to create a platform which is interactive, enjoyable and yet communicating meaningful messages contributing to knowledge creation and a shift in discourse around the issues of gender, sexuality and reproductive health. It was conceived as an innovation combining the traditional charm of storytelling with modern mobile technology.

### THE KISHOR VARTA PROGRAM INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING FEATURES:

#### Use of a digital IVRS platform:

The stories can be heard by dialling a toll-free number widely disseminated in the project area.

#### Two-way communication:

For a story to move ahead, listeners choose from several options. Also, questions related to issues discussed in the stories can be recorded, to be later answered through SMS keeping the user confidentiality in mind.

#### Kishor Varta Factbook:

Supporting factbook further expounds on the main themes and is used by the program's facilitators and teachers for conducting discussions.

Yuva Saathi (Young Partners in Equality) Community Groups are very knowledgeable on gender and rights based issues; taking actions for social change at home and in the community.

## THE GAINS

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The stories and their manner of delivery evoked tremendous interest since their launch. The number of callers rapidly increased to about 1,000 calls daily. In three months 50,000 calls were registered with the toll-free number. Of these, 6000 callers have had a deeper engagement through giving their feedback and responses to the program. Thus, with a limited human resource the outreach of the program is enormous.

The impact of Kishor Varta can be gauged from the backend data generated and on-the-field interactions with communities:

- The target groups have described instances of greater mobility of girls (e.g. boys have intervened at home for sisters to continue education or to learn to ride the cycle).
- Challenges to child marriage and early marriage (discussions have taken place with parents and elders on the matter and groups of youngsters are using this program as a tool to stop child marriages in their villages).
- The sharing of domestic work by boys
- Addressing doubts and misconceptions on adolescent health issues.
- Collective decision making and action being taken for ending gender discrimination (problems being faced by girl students were identified in a school and the girls' toilet was repaired and other changes made).
- Adolescent girls and boys regularly calling to demand more information, especially on issues of body literacy and health.
- Moreover self-organised group discussions around violence, sexual harassment, myths around masculinity and sexual health have been initiated in communities using the Kishor Varta stories.



Much of the success of the program lies with the fact that it is tailor made for its target audience keeping in mind the language, cultural connotations and the economic structure of the community. The program reaches out to youngsters providing knowledge that is not available locally. The platform maintains confidentiality on users' identity, creating a secure environment for youngsters to learn about issues of gender, reproductive and sexual health. The stories are located in the local environment dealing with issues of social inclusion and social justice.

Acknowledging that Kishor Varta has filled this vital gap, the district education authorities have allowed the program to be introduced in all higher secondary schools of the district.

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# TARANG

## ADOLESCENT GIRLS MOVING AHEAD, BREAKING THE SILENCE ON MENSTRUATION - SAHAYOG

### GIVING FLIGHT TO THE DREAMS OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS

Four thousand adolescent girls associated with Project TARANG and a campaign 'Mere Sapne Meri Udaan' (My Dreams, My Flight) have been able to establish Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) as a social issue. They are bringing about massive changes in themselves and their families. These changes include enhanced self-confidence in the girls, improved drive and ambition and taking a stand against discrimination during menstruation.

Project TARANG was carried out with the support of Ford Foundation in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand by SAHAYOG with the help of local community based organization partners (Vimarsh, Bundelkhand Development Foundation, Gramya Sansthan, Shikhar Prashikshan Sansthan) for six years from 2011-17.

The TARANG initiative was designed to enhance youth participation in the implementation, monitoring and advocacy around the Government of India's SABLA scheme (Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls) targeting girls between 11-18 years.

### DEALING WITH MENSTRUAL TABOOS

Even today women and girls are considered impure and dirty during their menstruation due to ancient myths and superstitious practices, and as a result adolescent girls and women are subject to unfair practices while menstruating.

Communities in the Project TARANG target areas continue to believe that women should stay in the cattle-shed during their menstruation as this has been decided by God. This belief forces women to follow the practice. Most people hang their head in embarrass-

ment or cover their face with a veil when the issue of menstruation is brought up. Talking about menstruation and sharing information on the issue is taboo in society.

**A lack of proper facilities such as functional toilets, water and dustbins means that girls miss school while menstruating and often drop out. The taboo means that most adolescent girls in the target area are unaware of basic facts related to menstruation.**





## INNOVATIVE MATERIAL AND GROUP MEETINGS INITIATE CHANGE

Under the project, bimonthly meetings were conducted by facilitators with groups formed of adolescent girls on issues of gender-based discrimination and violence, female education, mobility and nutrition, menstrual hygiene and delaying youth marriage and first pregnancies.

Various tools prepared by SAHAYOG such as Gender Chart, Nutrition Chart, TARANG flyer, Snakes and Ladder game, Umang, Yuva-Tarang, Menstrual Cycle Chart, and issue based photographs and songs were used in the project.

Peer leaders amongst the groups of girls attended residential capacity building sessions to facilitate peer to peer learning. Group members ran a campaign called 'Mere Sapne Meri Udaan' for the last six months of the project to generate awareness on menstruation and Menstrual Hygiene Management across their villages and neighbourhood with the help of other adolescent girls and boys, guardians and stakeholders (education department, health department, members of local governance etc.).

The girls generated awareness and advocated for provisioning required Menstrual Hygiene Management services with the relevant stakeholders using different

media of communication such as street plays, puppet shows, petitions, drawings, wall writing, cycle rally, speeches, dialogues and memorandums.

Project facilitators identified some group members who were given a notebook to document their change stories in their own words and the struggle behind it, which was brought out in the form of a booklet.

## GIVING A VOICE TO THE GIRLS

The TARANG project has spread awareness of menstrual hygiene and given adolescent girls a voice in their community. Multiple changes have taken place at the individual and community level. The girls have been empowered to speak up and confront taboos, superstitions and oppressive traditions on menstruation and related issues.

### Through the TARANG intervention SAHAYOG:

- Increased the information and facilitated the empowerment of adolescent girls regarding their health and their rights
- Provided direct technical support and capacity building of local facilitators and youth campaigners working with partner NGOs
- Raised local awareness about the health and rights of young women among rural communities, local administrators and officials

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# MADAGASCAR

# YOUNG WOMEN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

- YOUTH FIRST

## BREAKING GENDER BARRIERS

The Young Women Leadership Program aims to break gender barriers that prevent women from fulfilling their potential, by developing their leadership skills. The beneficiaries are young women aged between 15 and 24.

**Madagascar is a patriarchal society. The role and capacity of women, presently, is still very much undervalued. Women are not even considered for hire in many professional fields.** This program empowers young women; it gives them a life-changing educational opportunity to develop their skills and their networks, and a space to speak and share their ideas and through this process, to become an inspiration for their peers. The program aims to make young women acknowledge that they are not inferior to men.



## THE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

YOUTH FIRST sets up a four-month program which includes different training modules. First, the program helps young women with their personal development. Then it teaches them to create and manage a viable project. And at the end of the program, the young women can benefit from funding to launch their project and become self-sufficient. Through skill building, peer learning and reflection, young women develop personal and community leadership skills to foster social innovation.



**BREAK** BREAKING THE CYCLE



## THE GAINS AND CHALLENGES

Seven groups of 22 young women each have benefited from the program since 2011. The program has helped the young women discover who they are and what they want. It has also made them realize their worth as members of society; this is the first step towards change that women can make in their life journey. It has also enabled the young women to become more ambitious and to acquire the tools they need to achieve their goals. The benefits that the program provides beneficiaries are focused on sustainability because it allows them to develop their vision and change their perspectives for their future. To help formalize the outcomes at the end of each training, YOUTH FIRST, collected feedback and suggestions from beneficiaries that also helped improve the program for each following intake.

One of the main challenges faced throughout the program has been the advocacy training. Madagascar needs to have a pool of young advocates who can raise awareness and fight for the respect of women rights. However, this has proved difficult because it is something very new in Madagascar, especially among young women. So, it would be important to develop a good and efficient curriculum and give young women more exposure and the possibility to exchange experiences with other young women at international level.

Finally, in order to replicate this good practice, it is important to engage gender experts in the process of the program. A grant is also required to help the young women fund and launch their project.

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# ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF MIGRATION (IOM)

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## THE CASE OF TRAFFICKING IN MADAGASCAR

According to the report of the US State Department in 2017, “Madagascar is a country of origin for men, women and children subjected to forced labour as well as for women and children victims of sexual abuse... It is estimated that several thousand Malagasy women are employed as domestic workers in Lebanon, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.” In addition, the IOM has been warned about numerous cases of trafficking of Malagasy women to China for forced marriage.

Since 2015, the IOM, in collaboration with the Ministry of Population, Social Protection and Promotion of Women, has provided protection and assistance to victims of trafficking, who in majority, are young women. This assistance takes the form of a fund for Malagasy people, victims of trafficking in Madagascar or abroad.



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## THE ASSISTANCE FUND

The IOM fund aids the social and economic reintegration of the victims of human trafficking. Specifically, the fund—limited in both its time and financial scope—addresses the immediate needs of the victims through emergency accommodation, purchase of basic necessities etc. as well as medical and psychological assistance. In cases of trans-national trafficking, when the person is abroad at the time of identification, their return to Madagascar can be supported by additional funds.

Moreover, the fund provides access to vocational training in order to help beneficiaries build their self-confidence. Vocational training also provides the foundation for becoming financially independent thus minimizing the risk of becoming again a victim of trafficking.

An individual risk assessment is conducted before starting the assistance to understand any potentially limiting factors. IOM works with local stakeholders involved in providing identification or assistance services to prepare the transition from the assistance fund to a sustainable local support network.





## BUILDING THE FUTURE

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**About 40 victims (including three men) have received assistance between 2015 and 2016 (during the previous project), and about 15 victims since October 2016. The project allows an all-rounded and sustainable approach to supporting the victims, rarely available in Madagascar.** In all cases, the assistance systematically allows them to find a better standard of living than the one preceding the situation of abuse. The benefits of the program provides pathways towards sustainable outcomes for beneficiaries, especially for those who are successful in finding employment.

The main difficulties encountered through the project are linked to the vulnerability of the beneficiaries, who, as a result of abuse, have strong family and social pressure to embark on overly ambitious income generating activity. Yet, some of these ideas may not be cost-effective or require long-term training or studies that they cannot access. Also, in case of failure of

the activity, the beneficiary is more likely to become a victim of trafficking again.

IOM is committed to the sustainability of the project and it is for this purpose that training in the identification and assistance is organized regularly (at least once a year) with social workers from civil society organizations and the Ministry of Population, Social Protection and Promotion of Women. To this end, IOM and the Ministry of Population, Social Protection and Promotion of Women have planned to reintroduce an emergency shelter for victims of trafficking in mid-2018.

In order to replicate the good practice, a minimum of financial resources would be required. Yet, social actors can already capitalize on existing structures providing free or low-cost assistance. In the same way, to extend the good practice, partnerships between the different structures involved are needed.

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# HEALTHY IMAGE OF MEN

## RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT FAMILY PLANNING - POPULATION SERVICES INTERNATIONAL (PSI)

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### MALAGASY ATTITUDES TO FAMILY PLANNING

This is an initiative that aims to educate Malagasy men to support their partner in using family planning methods (i.e. contraception). The patriarchal system of Madagascar means that it is often men that prevent their partner from using some form of contraception.

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### THE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

To address this problem PSI runs an awareness campaign to transmit gender messages to men and their partners. **The awareness campaign is carried out in several communities as a one-off event.** The organization uses artists appreciated by the community to animate the event and encourage the public to attend it. Then, peer educators discuss with women, men and couples about family planning, the use of contraceptive methods, and so on. There are two methods of awareness raising: interpersonal communication awareness and group awareness (men-only group, women-only group and couples group).

To achieve its goals PSI has trained several agents and several peer educators to carry out the awareness campaign. The good practice has also been shared among PSI partners so that it can be replicated in other communities.

**However, the big challenge in this initiative is that peer educators are constantly changing. Every two years, there is a need to train new peer educators.** There is no consistency in the approach and the training of peer educators requires a huge budget. To replicate this good practice, it is important to set up a constant pool of peer educators and to clearly choose and identify the messages to transmit to men and their partners.





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## IMPACT ASSESSMENT

PSI databases and the family planning records show an increase in family planning usage. According to a survey by PSI, women have gained more autonomy in choosing to use family planning and men are becoming less reluctant to the use of the family planning.

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# SAHALA:

## A HANDBOOK FOR MALE PERPETRATORS OF VIOLENCE AND A MOVEMENT OF MEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

- BY C-FOR-C (CAPACITY BUILDING FOR COMMUNITY)

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### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN MADAGASCAR

This is an initiative that aims to educate Malagasy men to support their partner in using family planning methods (i.e. contraception). The patriarchal system of Madagascar means that it is often men that prevent their partner from using some form of contraception.

### THE METHOD OF ACCOMPANIMENT

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The initiative is based on the concept of "accompaniment". The foundation of accompaniment is active listening and it happens either individually or in a group. The project not only accompanies women who are victims of violence by listening to them, but also accompanies male perpetrators of violence to understand them and change their behaviours so that violence does not last within the couple's relationship and/or home.

The process reflects the following: The woman victim of violence submits a complaint with the relevant authorities in her neighbourhood. The abusive spouse is summoned by the person in charge. The latter makes the observation of the situation of violence. If necessary, he refers the couple to the listening unit. The listening cell is divided into two phases: the assessment of the situation in order to categorize the perpetrators of the violence, and the care of the victims and the actors of the violence.

When the couple comes to the listening unit, they are greeted separately. Men are evaluated and categorized according to 4 levels of violence:

**Level 1: Occasionally violent**

**Level 2: Immature impulsive**

**Level 3: Cyclically violent**

**Level 4: The narcissistic pervert (manipulator)**

Once categorized, the listening units managed by the social workers will offer accompaniment to the men found in the first two levels until the social workers judge that the man is no longer dangerous for the home. Those of the last two will be referred to clinical psychologists or psychiatrists.



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## A NEW FORM OF INTERVENTION

The accompaniment of men in the fight against gender-based violence is a new schema in Madagascar. The project itself has been running for one year and so far, it has accompanied 10 couples. The fact that there has been interest in replicating the project in other communities is an indication of its success. The benefits of the initiative are sustainable as they lead to a change in the behaviour of men. This is often attested by women themselves who state that their spouses have become much more responsible in their homes.

However, there are various challenges that need to be addressed. Firstly, individual and group accompaniments were carried out. In contrast, the group accompaniment was more difficult to organize due to the different work schedules of the men involved. Secondly, the number of the listening units is still insufficient; more need to be established. Finally, to successfully run and replicate this good practice, it is necessary to involve the relevant authorities, something which is a challenge in itself.

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AUT N° 44/07 du 20/12/07  
*Capacity Building for Communities*  
**C for C**  
*Région Analamanga - Madagascar*

# PREVENTION ACTION

## AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - ENDA MADAGASCAR

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### THE RIGHT TO LEAVE

Madagascar is a very conservative country. In cases of spousal abuse, the woman is not supported by society. On the contrary, she is encouraged to stay in her home because her role is to take care of the family. And if she decides to leave to protect herself, her family and friends often blame her because she abandons her responsibilities as a wife and mother.

However, a recently established law in Madagascar gives women, victims of violence, the right to leave their homes for a defined period of time.

To this end, ENDA Madagascar has set up a shelter where these women can stay for two months. This program accompanies these women for the specified period and supports them in making a thoughtful decision about their future without pressure from family and friends.

### THE ENDA MADAGASCAR SHELTER

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The program is divided into three stages. In the first stage, women victims of abuse file a complaint with the relevant authorities in their neighbourhood. It is important that the relevant authorities actually detect violence in the home.

and morally so that they can make a thoughtful decision about their married life. They also benefit from psychological recuperation through recreational and constructive activities.

In the second stage, the women enter the ENDA Madagascar hosting and counselling centre. They benefit from a safe and healthy place and support from the team.

At the end of the two months at the centre, the women decide either to return to their home or to divorce. In both cases, women are encouraged to create a revenue-generating activity, whose launch is funded by ENDA Madagascar. After the two months, women can still return to the centre if they need further counselling or support.

In the third stage, women are accompanied physically

### LESSONS LEARNED

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**35 women benefited from the support of the centre in two years.** The greatest benefit of the beneficiaries is their right to live freely and safely and in a healthy environment where they are respected. The impact on beneficiaries is sustainable, especially if they decide to divorce and start a new, healthier life.

commodate the mother and her children. In this way, women will be more serene and therefore more capable to make the best decisions possible.

However, there are many challenges. The main challenge in this approach is that women often do not feel psychologically comfortable to leave home for two months, although they are convinced of the need for the program. Women feel bad about leaving their children at home with their abusive father. To address this challenge, it is important to adjust the centre to ac-

Besides providing women with physical and psychological support, another key success factor for this program is to help beneficiaries create an income-generating activity so that they can become self-sufficient. Finally, in order for women to seize the maximum benefits from this and other support available, it is essential for authorities and NGO's to raise awareness about the right of women to leave the marital home in case of abuse.

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# NEPAL

# NON-DISCRIMINATORY EQUAL ACCESS

TO NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP THROUGH MOTHER'S NAME  
- LEGAL AID AND CONSULTANCY CENTRE (LACC)

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## THE MATTER OF CITIZENSHIP

The constitution of Nepal clearly grants the mother the right to confer citizenship to her child. However, in practice, this law is mostly violated due to the male-dominated social values and patriarchal practices. Thus, women seeking to practise this right are told to bring their husband or to get a verdict from the Supreme Court. This is of particular importance in the cases where women that are not legally separated, those without marriage registration or those whose husbands have absconded. LACC aims to create by-laws that automatically enforce the law and ensure women's legal rights.

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## LACC'S INVOLVEMENT

LACC has come across many incidents of women on their own pertaining to the acquisition of citizenship for their children. A woman cannot get or give a nationality certificate to her child, just by being born as a Nepali; she needs to legally prove many things. In these cases, LACC mediates on behalf of the victim and files a written petition to the Supreme Court of Nepal. As a result, on all occasions so far, the Supreme Court of Nepal has ordered the local government authorities to issue the citizenship for a child in the name of the mother.

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## THE CHALLENGE

Unfortunately, this form of justice has been granted on each incident separately, despite the constitution being clearly stated. Case after case, the rights of women to obtain citizenship for their child on their own was not entertained. And repeatedly, by the local government bodies as expected, the applications for citizenship were denied. The local Government bodies commented that any previous decision was intended for the individual and was not applicable to all cases.

Again, decisions from the Supreme Court were necessary for these women. Thus, again and again, LACC has filed written petitions for each and every individual. This practice is an act of misinterpretation or poor implementation of the common national laws. Moreover, besides being time consuming and costly, it also demoralizes women wanting to practise their human rights.

The impact of the intervention on the beneficiaries is thereby sustainable because once the woman obtains citizenship for her child, it is for a lifetime. The beneficiaries have been able to utilize their citizenships at all levels: from getting education and training to find jobs, to going abroad for studies or for work. The citizenship issue has paved a way for their progress and prosperity.

Furthermore, since none of the filed written petitions demanding a certificate has been declined by the Supreme Court which means that the Good Practice guide is replicable. But more needs to be done to automatically enforce the implementation of the constitutional law. The by-laws should be self-instructing and this needs to be passed down to the local levels, where women seek help with citizenship certification. Broader awareness campaigns especially hosted by the judges, legal authorities and leaders at the local administrative level, would indeed need to increase the coverage of this law and by-law.

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# TO KINDLE DIGNITY WITHIN

- LEGAL AID AND CONSULTANCY CENTRE (LACC)

## ALIMONY AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

This good practice aims to increase confidence and power amongst women in cases of alimony and property claims. Victimized women come to LACC seeking justice in cases of alimony and property claims. But often they have no proof of their legal relationships to the spouse or even the very basic documents pertaining to their lives like—birth registration, citizenship, marriage registration, single women, poverty and refugee status. Without these documents, seeking legal actions against this form of gender-based violence becomes too difficult or almost impossible and they come to LACC for legal aid.

## LACC'S APPROACH

Usually, before filing a case for alimony and partition of family property, women go to the court seeking a certificate that establishes a legal relationship with their husband. This is a common process that is in practice, which places an added burden to getting proof of their rights. However, LACC takes a different path to deal with this. After a victim, who does not have any legal evidence of spousal relationship, visits LACC and seeks help, LACC files a case directly demanding alimony and partition of property. The question regarding the victim's relationship is not raised because if the opponent's party raises this question, then the burden of proof goes to them.



## EVALUATION & IMPACT

With this intervention, the victimized women are somehow relieved from proving and establishing their legal relationships. Their morale is boosted, and they become ready to fight for their legal rights. This also provides them with a feeling of dignity. Besides, the court procedures are also shortened, and justice can be delivered faster. The beneficiaries of this intervention have been able to practise their right of alimony and receive their proper share on family property more efficiently and with less hassle. The decision of the court that grants their rights on alimony and property partition becomes a legal document of their identity too.

But, at instances where the court demands a legal proof of a relationship, entering the court without any proof, becomes risky too. Also, in these scenarios, the women are compelled to make identity documents from local government bodies, which is quite difficult most of the time.

The good practice is sustainable, as it provides women with justice from the court. This practice could be replicated by other legal practitioners, thus helping more women to exercise their rights. However, for this practice to be implemented on a larger-scale, it requires more gender sensitization and awareness raising.

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# MEDIATION AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO LITIGATION

- LEGAL AID AND CONSULTANCY CENTRE (LACC)

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## THE CASE FOR MEDIATION

The good practice aims to settle the cases without going into the court proceedings. The women victims that come to LACC seeking justice are mostly poor, uneducated, very helpless and unaware of legal requirements and formalities. They usually do not have shelter and food. They do not have the strength, courage and stamina to undergo the long and tedious, frustrating

and costly process of litigation. In these situations, besides cooperating with other organizations for shelter, food and health support, LACC also brings the opponent parties in round table talks and discussions so that settlement can be reached, for non-criminal cases.



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## THE MEDIATION PROCESS

Once the opposition party is called in and the full scenario of the case is understood, LACC appoints a lawyer who provides counselling services to both parties and tries to seek a consensus. During the counselling process, the lawyer explains the legal pressures, possible coercion, and consequences that will be encountered if they go to court. The costs involved and time taken is also explained to both parties. They counsel the parties about the value of the family and how it affects the children's psychology. In addition to the aforementioned, lawyers explain how much they have

to lose and the wider implications as to psychological, social and financial losses attached with their conflict and the court proceedings. Furthermore, that although living together is not an option for them; a peaceful separation in a friendly environment would make their lives more fruitful. In this way, both parties come into an understanding, and if they want to separate, the issues of child custody, alimony and property are also settled mutually. Even if they want to get divorced, the mediation process helps speed up court formalities and finishes the case in a shorter timeframe.



## EVALUATION & IMPACT

The benefits of mediation versus litigation are multiple. With mediation services, women have access to expedient justice and in a very efficient way. The women are able to utilize their right as soon as they are in consensus. However, there are times after the mediation process where the women decide to live with their significant other again. The practice of mediation allows them to be clear about its process and benefits; therefore later on in life even if they want to separate, this process becomes much easier.

Once the parties have opted for mediation they cannot go to the court to appeal. But if the case is decided by the court, the loser can appeal to challenge the verdict. Mediation practice delivers easy and fast justice. It helps to preserve the financial resources and maintains self-dignity of women.

When LACC started to mediate cases, the private lawyers, then in practice, alleged that in the fear of going to the court and fighting the case, female lawyers (like LACC) used mediation instead. However, mediation gained so much popularity that this practice was later replicated by the bar and the court. Now there are mediation laws in practice all across Nepal.

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# CREATING A PROOF

## DOCUMENT THROUGH CONSENSUS

- BY LEGAL AID AND CONSULTANCY CENTRE (LACC),  
NATIONAL WOMEN COMMISSION, POLICE

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### THE CASE OF LACKING A PROOF OF RELATIONSHIP

Gender-based violence victims come to LACC seeking justice. In order to file a claim of victimization by their spouse, they need a documental proof of who they are and the relationship status. At times, most of them do not even have documents like marriage registration, citizenship, birth certificate, photos and so on. Victims are also unable to bring any kind of identity document even from the local government. But without any supportive legal documents that act as a proof of their relationship or even citizenship, there is very little chance of justice being attributed. This becomes even more significant when the husband denies any relationship with the victim and this scenario is commonly encountered in the Nepalese society.

This initiative aims to help generate a document that acts as a proof of relationship while seeking justice for gender-based violence victims.

### THE CONTRACT

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LACC, the National Women's Commission and Nepal police have been jointly working on these types of cases where the opponent parties are called in for a formal inquiry. When they come, a counselling service is provided for both parties so that they can come into a consensus. A minimum level of understanding is tried to be reached, which is written down in the form of a contract that declares or illuminates their relationship status. This document serves as the acknowledged document of proof of their relationship.

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## EVALUATION & IMPACT

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This good practice paves an alternative way for the victim to stand in court in cases of gender-based violence. The victim no longer needs to explore any other means of showing proof of their relationship. This practise encourages women and society to come together and be legally sound. A proof document prevents many hassles and hurdles of justice delivery. And, once the verdict of a legal relationship is vested, the victims acquire more strength to seek their rights in other domains of their lives as now they have a proof of relationship. They would be eligible to enter into any legal system or litigation in a court of law seeking justice in the future.

Most of the beneficiaries have been able to pursue justice using this service and it is currently being used in wider circumstances where proof of document hinders women from receiving justice. However, this form of mediation that attempts to reach a consensus and

create a legally binding document has at times created problems. Sometimes, the opponent party has filed written petitions in the court against LACC, the National Women's Commission and the police claiming that the contract had been done without their proper consent, forcefully; that it needed to be voided. In these circumstances, LACC, the National Women's Commission and Police have jointly fought against these allegations. The Public Attorney from the National Women's Commission, the police and lawyers from LACC has worked together.

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Government of Nepal  
**National Women Commission**  
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# ONE STOP

## CRISIS MANAGEMENT CENTRE (OCMC)

- MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND POPULATION IN NEPAL

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### OCMCS

The OCMCs consist of a network of centres that provide multiple services to victims of gender-based violence. Gender-based violence victims face multiple problems and they need immediate services. For instance, if a victim is kicked out of her house, she would need shelter, food, health services, psychosocial counselling, legal counselling, security and legal aid services. Previously, before the establishment of the centres, different organizations collaborated and established referral systems, to address all the problems. This system was tedious and difficult for the victim. Thus, realizing the need to provide all the services through one

system, the Ministry of Health and Population established 17 OCMCs in different districts for the first phase a number which has now been extended to 21 districts.

**OCMC is one of the best practices in Nepal for gender-based violence victims. It provides health service, psychosocial counselling service, service for the safety of the victims, short-term shelter and legal services under one roof. The centres deliver services in coordination with Nepal Police Department, Attorney's Office, Department of Women and Children and community-based organizations.**

### THE WAY FORWARD

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The OCMC program offers a much needed service to the victims of gender-based violence. The all-in-one approach encourages victims to seek help, something which would be very complex otherwise. In this sense it also saves the victims' time, effort and money. Furthermore, this approach helps women access services that they would perhaps not think of seeking on their own. As commented by one of the beneficiaries: "Many of us were previously let down by other organizations who said they could help us. We formed our group and meet and share our stories of grief and problems. We have been encouraged and supported by OCMC. We feel there is at least one place where we are heard and acknowledged. We have received support and services free of cost from the OCMC."

While the program has helped a large number of victims, its impact is constrained due to a series of challenges. The main one is the shortage of staff per centre and limited funding available for its operation. If there were more staff to offer help and an adequate budget, then the efficiency and efficacy level of the centres would increase. Also, to be able to reach people beyond the 21 districts, it would be necessary to create more centres.

The other issue has to do with the awareness about gender-based violence even amongst hospital staff. OCMCs are based in government hospitals but the hospital staff has been found to be insensitive on GBV. Thus, the OCMC staff is tasked with the continuous effort to making them aware of all the intricacies of this form of violence.

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# SPAIN

# BELDUR BARIK (WITHOUT FEAR)

– EMAKUNDE-BASQUE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



## ADDRESSING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AMONGST THE YOUNGER GENERATION

Statistics in Spain show high figures of gender-based violence cases amongst the under 30s age demographic and the appearance of new forms of violence against young women linked to the use of new communication technologies. However, this age demographic is not aware of this fact and associate gender violence with past generations. In addition, awareness campaigns of gender violence emphasize the physical violence within the couples, so the youth do not identify with these campaigns.

The challenge addressed by this program is to raise awareness about gender-based violence among the youth; that they suffer and/or how they cause GBV in their daily life. Also to generate alternative attitudes and behaviours based on respect, equality, freedom, autonomy and a firm rejection of violence against women. Beldur Barik is a program designed to:

- Provide young women with tools and resources so that they can identify and confront sexist violence in their daily lives.
- Encourage young men to take an active response for sexist aggressions, by bearing individual responsibility and breaking male solidarity.
- Empower youth and offer positive role models for the transformation of sexist attitudes and behaviors.

## THE BELDUR BARIK PROGRAM

Beldur Barik is an inter-institutional program in which the three levels of the Basque public administration participate under the leadership of Emakunde-Basque Women's Institute (autonomous organization attached to the presidency of the Basque Government); the three provincial councils: of Araba, Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa; and Eudel-Association of Basque Municipalities. These are the entities that also co-finance the program.

It uses several tools to achieve its objectives:

The **Audio-visual Competition**: is the backbone of the program. It is aimed at young people from 12 to 26 years of age. The aim of the contest is to show, through audio-visual productions, how boys and girls respond to situations of inequality and how they face manifestations of sexist violence. It includes all types of activities (short-plays, ideas, videos, photoshoots, projects, performance, etc.) presented in audio-visual format and a maximum of a 5 minute duration.

**Topaketa**: is the annual meeting day. In addition to being the space for the announcement of the winning results of the contest, it aims to bring together activities, groups and people who fight against sexist violence. Additionally, more parties and festivals take place around the year to engage young people.

The program has also built strong presence on the internet and through social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Spotify) as a way to communicate with youth. The website [www.beldurbarik.org](http://www.beldurbarik.org) is updated daily from June to December.

One of the main concepts of Beldur Barik is the Violet Point, which was created as a symbol to promote the Beldur Barik. **The Violet Point** is now recognized as the symbol of rejection of violence against women and has been used in several activities also from other partners such as other municipalities.

Aside from the activities undertaken by the Beldur Barik directly, it also offers assistance to local governments and/or institutions to help them develop the program at the local level (contests and local meetings, etc.) and helps spread the message and impact.





## A MAJOR IMPACT

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In 2018, the ninth edition of the program began. Since 2014, there has been a significant increase in the demand of municipalities interested in participating. The date for participation in 2017 is as follows: 2,664 young people participated in the audio-visual competition (1,587 girls, 1,037 boys and 40 young people who did not want to identify their sex); 128 municipalities; 390 works were submitted to the competition; 350 young people attended the final meeting; 394,327 web page visits and 6,617 follow-ups on social networks.

The program works well because it is continuously adapted to the needs of youth, and also because of the involvement of various types of professionals who work with youth, as technical personnel on equality, education, culture, free time monitoring and street-work professionals.

The program is supported by the fact that it fits within the common strategy for the prevention of gender violence among youth adopted by all the institutions of the Basque Country.

As a result of the program there has been a rise in the emergence of youth groups involved in the prevention

of violence against women, some of which become formally constituted. Also, groups of young feminists have emerged with great force and powerful activism in favour of equality and against gender violence.



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# SAY NO

## INTERNATIONAL TRAINING FOR YOUTH WORKERS - CENTRO RURAL JOVEN VIDA (CERUJOVI)

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### CAPACITY BUILDING FOR PEOPLE THAT WORK WITH YOUTH

The age of gender-based violence victims has been decreasing significantly. In order to help young people especially those that are at risk, it is important to get through to them early in their teenage years. It is necessary to train youth workers on the issue of gender-based violence, as they have direct contact with young people in different contexts.

SAY NO was a capacity building project that aimed to develop the skills of people that work with young people, minorities and those that work against gender-based violence. SAY NO also aims to promote the understanding of practices and policies around gender-based violence in different countries and organizations.

### SAY NO TRAINING

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The SAY NO training took place in Cáceres in 2017 over five days and involved 30 youth workers from different countries: Spain, Jordan, Belgium, Tunisia, Lithuania, Germany, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Italy, Greece, Algeria, Hungary, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The training provided a space to discuss how to develop locally and internationally relevant gender-based violence approaches. The aim was to train young workers who have the motivation to contribute to combating violence and gender inequality amongst youth, to provide educators with information and tools for working with young people in the prevention of gender-based violence and foster cooperation and exchanges in the field between participant partners.

The SAY NO project worked on defining and describing forms of gender-based violence, its causes and consequences, understanding of different approaches to preventing and responding to gender-based violence, including mainstreaming. The project was funded by Erasmus+ program.



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**BREAK** BREAKING  
THE  
CYCLE

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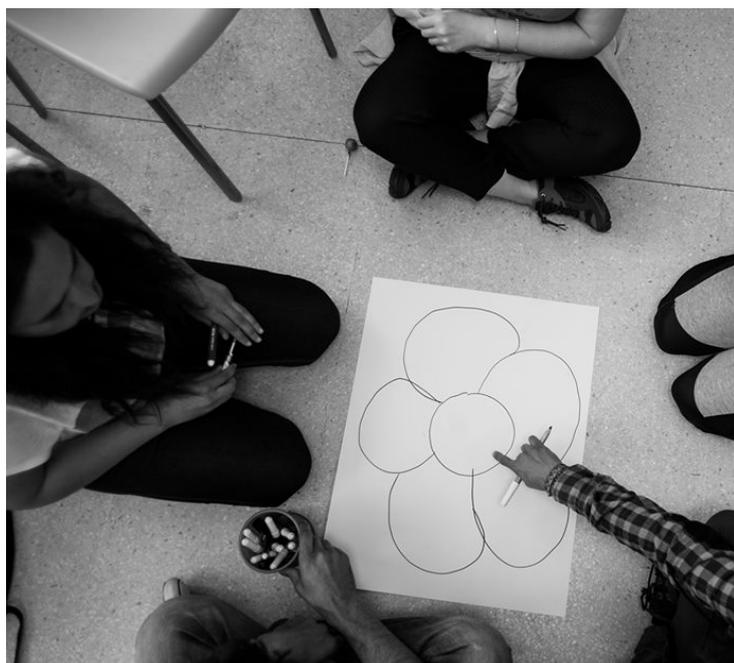


## EVALUATION & IMPACT

Through the SAY NO project 30 participants from many different countries gained considerable knowledge of the different forms of gender-based violence; its causes and consequences. Having participants with different religions and social backgrounds has been really enriching and enabled participants to consider the issue from different perspectives and gain a holistic picture.

Through the project, the beneficiaries had a chance to familiarize themselves with different approaches to preventing and responding to gender-based violence and particularly to be trained in the use of innovative methods and forms of work to fight gender-based violence among youth.

The impact of the SAY NO project on its beneficiaries is sustainable as it built their ability and to work with young people on gender-based violence issues in their own communities and through this it also built the capacity of the organizations they represented.



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# DAYS OF SELF DEFENSE

## SELF-DEFENSE AND SELF-PROTECTION SKILLS FOR WOMEN IN THE CITY OF CÁCERES

- MUNICIPAL INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE HON. CITY COUNCIL OF CÁCERES, EQUALITY AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE OFFICE.)

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### THE MATTER OF SAFETY AND SELF-PROTECTION

Citizen safety, especially for women, is one of the biggest issues in cities. The services offered for the safety of citizens by various departments are insufficient; therefore, citizens are all exposed to the risk of becoming victims of criminality and violence (theft, abuse, rape, etc.). Women in particular, are in a disadvantaged position because of the patriarchal society we live in.

Days of Self Defence was set up to provide to the women of Cáceres the essential knowledge of safety and self-defence techniques that could be applied in a possible situation of violence. Also, Days of Self Defence, has aimed to improve the self-esteem and confidence of each participant by teaching them how to become aware of their own individual abilities, how to gain self-control, positive attitude and firmness of reaction.



### THE TRAINING

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The Days of Self Defence Training for women is organized every year by the Equality and Gender Based Violence Office and implemented by the specialists and trained agents of Cáceres' local police. It is open to all women who want to improve their abilities, self-confidence, sense of safety and firmness of reaction and to know how to physically and mentally respond to a violent incident.

The training is divided into two parts. The first part is physical which involves learning of self-defence skills with different fighting techniques. The other part is the psychological aspect that focuses on the participant's self-esteem, confidence and empowerment: this helps to change the women's mindset, raise their self-confidence, but also helps them exercise self-control so they can react promptly and firmly to any incident of violence. As part of the training—participants are informed about existing resources for cases of gender-based violence, prevention programs in adolescent couples, and for women in situations of vulnerability.

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## EVALUATION OF THE INITIATIVE

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So far approximately 300 women have been trained. The success of the beginner's training and the satisfaction of women who attended it means that every year the attendance capacity is filled and that there is a great demand and interest. The advanced level training has had less participation, since almost no participants had any previous knowledge in self-protection techniques.

Important factors in the project's success have been the annual availability of the training, the flexibility of attendance, its implementation and its dissemination (facilities, logistics, materials, etc.) have also played an important role in the project's success. The motivation of the participants themselves and the quality of the training offered by the local police officers, have also been very important factors.

Days of Self Defence is both a platform that addresses mainstreaming gender equality and activism through raising awareness within the first equal opportunities plan of the City Council of Cáceres in its axis 2. 2. Transversal gender plan: integration of gender perspective in public policies.

Through the evaluation surveys, the beneficiaries of the activity have expressed the value of the techniques learned as well as of their own empowerment. The evaluation also demonstrates the need for this training to be available on a continuous basis, with a more varied schedule available.

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INSTITUTO MUNICIPAL  
DE ASUNTOS SOCIALES  
AYUNTAMIENTO DE CÁCERES



AYUNTAMIENTO  
caceres

# TERRITORIAL COORDINATION BOARD

## AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

– DELEGATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF EXTREMADURA UNIT OF COORDINATION FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN EXTREMADURA, UNIT FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, EXTREMADURA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

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### THE TERRITORIAL COORDINATION BOARD

In our caseload, we have found that one out of four open GBV cases are with young women between the ages of 15 and 29. This statistic motivated the need of implementing tools and specific actions which will be accessible for women suffering psychological and physical abuse from their partners. In addition, this data will be useful to persecute the aggressors and to hopefully end the affliction of misery that GBV causes.

Aim of the Territorial Board

- To establish institutional and permanent links between the different agents which are involved in prevention and eradication of Gender Based Violence and Inter-professional Coordination.
- To design territorial programs on working in the field of GBV with coordination between administrations and public entities.
- To create an area for discussion for reflection and training.

### A COORDINATED APPROACH TO TACKLING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

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Territorial coordination board against GBV are participatory spaces where professionals from Extremadura who work directly or indirectly in prevention, intervention and protection of survivors and minors in GBV cases, attend. These are workers from Security Corps, Social Services, Minors and Family assistance, Equality Units, Politics, Legal aid, Health Services, Educational field, Employment agents, associations, NGOs, etc.

These meetings have a significant educational and informational importance in the field of GBV and equality, where specific issues from each territory are addressed in order to effectively protect the survivor from police enforcement and social perspectives. There are 31 territorial boards in Extremadura.

During territorial board meetings, all cases are profoundly investigated, their risks, vulnerabilities and other circumstances are assessed. There are few actions implemented during the meetings, as the monitoring and coordination of the services and resources are controlled by the General Administration of the State and who determines how assistance for GBV situations are dispersed throughout the regions. Also collaborations with regional and local administrations involved in the area of GBV with promotion and collaboration for specific training of professionals.



## EVALUATION OF INTERVENTION

The number of activities involved and the number of agents who are on these boards and attend the board meetings have been increasing each time. Coordination between different parties involved is also more fluent now thanks to the creation of digital tools, which let professionals in the field find information about different cases in the region.

Territorial boards and trainings for workers in the field of GBV have been implemented each year, promoting more efficient and qualified actions in this field. Therefore, actions of awareness in this area have had more visibility for all public organisms.



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**inex**  
 instituto de la mujer  
 de extremadura



GOBIERNO  
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO  
DE LA PRESIDENCIA  
Y PARA LAS ADMINISTRACIONES TERRITORIALES

SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO PARA LAS  
ADMINISTRACIONES TERRITORIALES  
DELEGACIÓN DEL GOBIERNO  
EN EXTREMADURA  
SUBDELEGACIÓN DEL GOBIERNO  
EN CÁCERES

# VIOLET CALENDAR

## A GUIDE OF GOOD TREATMENT IN EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY AREA - LOCAL BOARD AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE OF CASAR DE CÁCERES

### PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY AMONGST THE YOUNG

Casar de Cáceres has a population of 4787, where many cases of gender-based violence have been reported. Because of that, additional measures have been undertaken to develop a program to combat the issue, measures which are addressed to students, educators and families of students of all educational levels.

### VIOLET CALENDAR ACTIVITIES

The 'Violet Calendar' proposes two types of activities—one by families and the other by the school. There is a different theme for each month, for example 'Why do women in my family have a double duty, work and house?', 'I do not want to be a girl from an advertisement', 'Long live Peace', 'Play and grow in equality', etc. The use of a non-sexist language and selection of didactic-educational materials that respect gender equality and reject gender violence is promoted. The involvement of families is encouraged, as part of a comprehensive action on a day-to-day basis.

The project's activities are transversal, inclusive, participatory, consensual and systematic. They are collected and stated in the 'Violet Calendar'. Theoretical-practical activities and workshops are carried out by professionals, with training adapted to the needs of their audience.

**Workshops addressed to students cover peaceful conflict resolution, cohesion in a group, nonviolence education, and good treatment, as a preventive and awareness-raising measure to combat gender violence.**

For these activities, dialogue assemblies have been established, with common and consensual rules of operation and organization.

The aim of the 'Violet Calendar' project is to ensure that students from local schools grow up in an environment of tolerance and respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of people and women in particular, progressing towards equal opportunities between women and men. Moreover, it aims to raise awareness and train the local community about co-education and the prevention of gender-based violence.





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## AN AWARDED PROJECT

Four years of implementing the 'Violet Calendar' project has resulted in an increased awareness about gender-based violence among the local community. There is also an increase in the number of people attending the project's talks and workshops.

The 'Violet Calendar' approach is completely sustainable, both in human resources and at an economic level, as people involved are teachers, families, and institutions, which plan each activity within their own means.

The project has received multiple awards: In 2016, it was awarded nationally as good practice in eliminating gender-based violence by the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and Equality and the Spanish Federation of towns and provinces FEMP; in 2017 it received the Award for Local Innovation in Gender Equality by the Provincial Council of Cáceres and also the First State Award of APS (Service Learning) in the category of 'Gender Equality'.

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**BREAK**

**BREAKING  
THE  
CYCLE**