

AUTONOMOUS WOMEN'S CENTER, BELGRADE

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES IN 2010

Autonomous Women's Center, Belgrade is a women's non-governmental organization founded in 1993

The major achievement in 2010:

A draft Administrative Data Base on cases of domestic violence written and adopted by the Government of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina.

FOR EMPOWERED WOMEN



Empowering women to overcome the trauma of domestic violence, partner violence and/or sexual violence, through psychological and legal support in order for them to be able to make autonomous decisions and exercise their rights to live without violence.

Major activities:

In the direct work with women victims of domestic AWC consultants in 2010 supported about 900 women through 4042 provided services:

- 1641 SOS phone consultations with women victims of violence;
- 1356 individual consultations;
- 196 e-mail consultations;
- 835 legal services (483 by phone, 47 by e-mail, 4 by mail, 165 direct conversations, 136 legal documents);
- 19 victims of domestic violence were represented in 20 court cases in 51 court hearings;
- AWC for the first time submitted a constitutional complaint to the Constitutional Court against interim court contact order, which ended successfully;
- a self-help group was organized (12 sessions with 12 women);
- 5 permanent/long time beneficiaries were employed by the project for housewives for the elderly, with the continuous support through individual and group consultations.



FOR COORDINATED ACTION

Contribution to establishing a comprehensive, effective and efficient system to protect victims of domestic violence at the national level, based on clear policies and principles of protection, formulated actions or procedures and monitoring mechanisms through a mutual Draft Administrative Data Base on domestic violence.



Major activities:

- A Working Group (14 professionals) developed a proposal for a central register of cases of domestic violence that included eight departments (police; prosecution; criminal, family and misdemeanor court; social services; medical institutions and specialized support services to victims);
- The Government of the Autonomous province of Vojvodina *adopted the Draft Administrative Data Base*;
- The project: "Combating sexual and gender based violence" *accepted the Draft Administrative Data Base* and *made it part of the draft National Strategy* for preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence;
- An *analysis* of the legislative framework for the exchange and processing of personal data about citizens was conducted;
- The first part of the *Guidebook* for the implementation of the Administrative Data Base was developed;
- Suggestions and guidelines *for the application of the Administrative Data Base* were presented to all key decision makers at the national level and relevant institutions;
- Provincial Secretariat for Labor, Employment and Gender Equality of Vojvodina and the project "Combating sexual and gender-based violence" will seek approval for a test application of the Administrative Data Base;
- 13 cross-sectoral and expert meetings were held for 199 representatives of relevant institutions (CSW, police, health services and the judiciary).



FOR AVAILABLE JUSTICE

Raising awareness among the representatives of judiciary and state bodies to develop effective strategies for better legal protection for victims of domestic violence.

Participants: 524 representatives from institutions from 28 municipalities in Serbia (54.4% from the legal system; 31.4% from the CSW; 14.2% from police and other services (lawyers, representatives of local government, ministries, international organizations, NGO). Gender structure: 84.2% female and 15.8% male.

Education of professionals:

- 14 specialized seminars for 524 representatives of the judiciary in Belgrade and Serbia:
- Honoring and respecting children's rights in situations of solving partnership/parental disputes and domestic violence (5 seminars);





CEDAW and the opportunities it offers - the role of women NGOs: by Ms. Eleanor Solo, Coordination and Outreach Unit at the Division for the Advancement of Women (1 seminar);
Overcoming job related stress of family judges (4 seminars);
Prosecuting Domestic violence cases in the practice of the misdemeanor courts (2 seminars);
Perpetrators of domestic violence – who does what to whom? by Prof. Dr. Marianne Hester, Bristol University (1 seminar);
Domestic violence, protection of children and parental rights – “Tree planets” concept by Prof. Dr. Marianne Hester, Bristol University (1 seminar).

Research:

Public presentation of results of the research on family law protection from domestic violence that was conducted in 2009 in 26 municipal courts in Serbia for 80 participants.

FOR A RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

Contribution to raising the responsibility of the Government in the process of identifying priority needs of marginalized groups through the channels of public policy and budget and strengthening capacities of the civil society to monitor the implementation of gender sensitive policies.

Participants: 6 women organizations: Women center – Uzice, Cultural center DamaD – Novi Pazar, Lighthouse – Loznica, Peščanik – Kruševac, Fenomena – Kraljevo, Osvit – Niš; 7 Civil society focal points (KOCD): Amity, Autonomous Women’s Center, Center for Independent Living of Persons with Disabilities, Civil Initiatives, Group 484, Society for Promotion of Mental Health of Children and Youth and Roma Information Center; representatives of the state on national and local level.

Major activities:

- Analysis conducted of the budget execution of the Directorate of Gender Equality in 2009;
- Analysis of local budgets and gender analysis of budget programs in six cities conducted and published in the publication "Poverty Reduction: Gender equality and responsible government";
- The budget analysis was presented on three round tables.



FOR ADVOCACY



- Wrote amendments to the Law on Games of Chance;
- Wrote amendments to the Law on Social Protection;
- Wrote comments and proposals on the Criminal Procedure Code;
- Communication to the UN Commission on the Status of Women on the state of reproductive rights in Serbia;
- Comments on violence included in the EU Progress Report 2010;
- Input to the EU questionnaire Republic of Serbia on violence against women;
- A proposition for the improvement and standardization of work of police officers in connection with violence against women was prepared for the Ministry of Internal Affairs;
- Comments made on all documents within the project "Combating sexual and gender-based violence";
- Comments made on the second draft to the National strategy for combating violence against women and domestic violence;
- A proposal on the coordinated action of the community in preventing domestic violence was adopted in the Strategy of Sustainable Development of Belgrade;
- Comments made on the first report on social inclusion and poverty reduction in Serbia for the period 2008-2010.



FOR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Education for professionals:

Realization of accredited educational programs, "Domestic violence and institutional protection" in cooperation with the Secretariat of Labor, Employment and Gender Equality, Autonomous Province of Vojvodina; Praxis, Belgrade; Sandglass, Kruševac and Committee on human rights, Vranje.

Participants: 1481 professionals in the system of protection against domestic violence (CSW, police, courts, prosecution, health institutions, schools) in 12 municipalities in Vojvodina and 6 in Serbia.

Major activities:



- Basic educational program “Domestic violence and institutional protection”:
 - 15 basic two-day seminars from the accredited program “Domestic violence and institutional protection”;
 - 15 seminars on organization of coordinated action in local communities from the accredited program;
 - 13 seminars on organization of case conferences from the accredited program.
- Specialized educational program:
 - 6 seminars on health consequences of violence in intimate partner relationships from the accredited program;
 - 8 seminars from the field of criminal and family law matters for the representatives of judiciary and lawyers representatives from CSW (1 on criminal law protection, 3 on family law protection, 1 on the initiation of proceedings by the CSW, 3 on misdemeanor protection in domestic violence cases);
 - 3 advising and therapeutic seminars;
 - 1 seminar for civil society organizations.
- Accreditation initiated for a two-day seminar "Protection from violence in the family context - the role of educational institutions" at the Institute for the Advancement of Education.



Education for women organizations:

Strengthening the capacities of women organizations.

Participants: 72 representatives from women NGO's from 10 cities in Serbia (Vlasotince, Vranje, Leskovac, Kraljevo, Belgrade, Užice, Novi Pazar, Loznica, Kruševac, Niš).

Major activities:

- 3 two-day trainings on budgets monitoring and gender-sensitive budgeting for 6 partner organizations;
- 2 two-day educations for guiding Self-help groups and Groups for social action for activist from women organizations in Belgrade and Kraljevo;
- 1 two-day education for representatives from women organizations on representation of victims of domestic violence and the mandate and possibilities of the Office of the Ombudsman;
- A series of workshops on violence against women, violence against lesbians, feminist principles and emotional literacy (Peščanik – Kruševac, ...Iz Kruga – Vojvodina, NLO – Novi Sad, SOS Kikinda, Domine – Split, CURE – Sarajevo);
- Training for women SOS phone lines in Kirgizstan, after the armed conflict in the southern region of the country (Osh and Jalalabad).



Education for youth:

Participants: peer educators from Novi Sad (students of psychology, law, pedagogy, sociology), 12 high school students from Kikinda, 21 participants of trainings (Women's prison Požarevac; NLO, Novi Sad; Labris, Belgrade; legal team AWC and from the open call)

Major activities:

- Supervision of peer workshops in high schools in Autonomous Province of Vojvodina;
- A Guidebook for young people about violence in relationships created;
- A four-day training for peer educators on gender-based violence;
- A one-day training for planning of peer workshops;
- 29 female and 2 male students contacted AWC for support in professional development; books from the AWC library were borrowed 283 times; 7 students from the alternative Women students visited AWC;
- 90 hours of training for working on the SOS line in the field of: feminist principles, domestic violence, sexual violence, conversation techniques, bases for cooperation with institutions, legal bases of violence against women.



FOR SOCIAL ACTION

Contribution to establishing a model of "engaged services" for women victims of violence in women's non-governmental organizations specialized in providing support to women.

Participants: women victims of violence, consultants from women organizations that work with women victims of violence, centers for social work, police stations, health care centers, prosecutions and courts.

Major activities:

- Group work with victims of violence in family context was promoted with the goal of social influence on communities – 20 sessions in which women planned and realized "social actions" (SOS Vranje, "Women for Peace" Leskovac, SOS Vlasotince, AWC);
- 5 beneficiaries of Self-help groups sent a collective letter about the flaws in the procedures of the City Centre for Social Welfare, Belgrade, after which they were invited to a meeting;



- 3 Guidelines through social services for women that are affected or are survivors of violence were printed and distributed (Belgrade, Vranje, Jablanički region).

FOR NETWORKING

Women against Violence Network

Since 1996 AWC coordinates the *Women against violence network in Serbia*.

Members of the Network: 27 women organizations

Major activities:

- Seminars and educations for members of the Network:
 - 5 seminars on piloting the unified data base for collecting the information on beneficiaries and provided services of organizations;
 - 9 visits to member organizations outside of Belgrade as additional support on implementation of project activities: Novi Sad, Novi Pazar, Kikinda, Kraljevo, Valjevo, Leskovac, Velika Plana, Krusevac, Nis;
- Visibility activities for the Women's network (publishing the Network bulletin, web presentation, e-mail conference, 3 video documents on the Network's activities, 2 Network pamphlets printed in 110 000 copies);
- Participation in organizing the 16 Days Campaign against violence against women in over 40 cities in Serbia and the launch of the campaign *Stop femicide in Serbia*;
- Translation of the study *Men's reproductive control over women who have experienced partner violence in the U.S.*

Civil Society Focal Points

AWC is the focal point for the target group of women appointed by the Team for the Implementation of the Poverty reduction strategy from the Deputy Prime ministers Office.

Participants: 40 members of the cluster, women civil society organizations.

Major organizations:

- Regular exchange of information with representatives of women organizations of civil society and governmental institutions.
- Amendments to the Law on games of chance created with the support of local mechanisms for gender equality.



Cross-border cooperation with the Center for Women War Victims ROSA in Zagreb

Participation on the project “Exchange of experiences and education for promotion of gender mechanisms and the fight against gender-based violence in Serbia” organized by Center for Women War Victims ROSA in Zagreb.

Major activities:

- 1 conference on documentation of violence against women,
- 2 study visits for professionals from Serbia to institutions in Zagreb,
- 1 round table with health workers from Zagreb.



Anti – Poverty Network Serbia

AWC is co-founder of the Serbian Network Against Poverty. The network has applied for membership to the European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN)

Women’s Business

An AWC activist moderates the e-mail conference “Women’s Business” with more than 700 e-mail addresses and a daily communication of 10-17 e-mails.

European Women’s Lobby Network

AWC is one of the co-founders of the Network for European Women’s Lobby Serbia (which is part of the EWL) and actively supports the growth and development of the Network.



FOR SELFDEVELOPEMENT



1. Members of AWC took part in following educations for capacity development:
 - *Cost benefit analysis* organized by ISC;
 - School on women’s human rights *Women’s Human Rights Training Institute*, Sofia, Bulgaria;
 - *Strategy for monitoring the implementation of laws* pertaining to domestic violence;
 - *Combating domestic violence in Western Balkans and Turkey*, P2P Program, Brussels;
 - Workshop *Psychodrama techniques in dealing with the trauma of women who are survivors of sexual violence*, Gabrielle Mueller;



- Attendance on the 54th session of the Commission on the Status of Women United Nations and the parallel NGO Forum Peking+15 activities, New York;
 - Regional meeting with the UN representative for sexual violence in armed conflicts Margot Wallstrom, Sarajevo;
 - Annual Conference of the *Observatory of Violence against Women European Women's Lobby*;
 - International Conference to celebrate 20 years since the first of the Autonomous Women's House, Zagreb;
 - Regional workshop "Integrated Security for Women Human Rights Defenders", Jahorina;
 - Festival of women's culture Pitchweise, Sarajevo;
 - Attendance at the women's march for March 8th;
 - Annual Donor Meeting of the German feminist foundation Filia, Hamburg;
 - The rights of people of different sexual orientation, visit to EU institutions for representatives of civil society from EU candidate countries, P2P, Brussels;
 - Study visit to the European Anti Poverty Network, Brussels;
 - Training to improve coaching skills of AWC trainers: a two-day seminar and two consultative meetings;
 - 44 internal and supervisory meetings for AWC consultants.
2. An AWC representative is member of the EWL Observatory on Violence against Women
<http://www.womenlobby.org/>
 - A member of AWC is a representative for the coordinating body CoCo WAVE
<http://www.wave-network.org/>
 - AWC edits the Stop Violence Against Women internet presentation on a voluntary basis (Women's Program of The Advocates for Human Rights)
http://www.stopvaw.org/Serbia_Country_Page.html
 - AWC has applied for consultative status with the UN Committee on Economic and Social Affairs (ECOSOC).
 3. Members of AWC have published several professional papers :
 - Professional papers in magazines Temida and Social Thought;
 - Professional paper "*Social Services - the difference between the autonomous women's organizations and state institutions*" at a conference in Zagreb;
 - Brochure for consultants: *Feminist consultation with women survivors of domestic violence - work protocols*.
 4. Members of AWC participated at 63 meetings, conferences, round tables with representatives from state institutions, public authorities, international organizations and non-governmental organizations by invitation.
 5. Members of AWC had 128 media appearances in 2010.

FOR TRUST

Autonomous Women's Center is:

Governing board: Aleksandra Vesić, Biljana Maletin, Ljiljana Živković, Slavica Stojanović, Vesna Cipruš

Legal representatives: Bobana Macanović

Program Coordinators: Lepa Mladenović, Tanja Ignjatović

Working: Aleksandra Nestorov, Ana Bukvić, Bojana Bulatović, Danijela Pešić, Donka Ćirić, Dragana Vujinović, Ivana Kanjevac, Jelena Keserović, Katarina Glavonić, Ljerka Mezga Ćurčin, Milena Bošković Vilotić, Mira Wagner, Nada Đuričković, Nada Žarković, Nataša Jovanović, Sadija Gicić, Sanja Kalčević, Saša Pokrajac, Slavoljupka Pavlović, Sonja Lalić, Sonja Vučetić, Sonja Gabeljić, Tanja Drobnjak, Tijana Popivoda, Vanja Macanović, Vesna Milićević, Zorica Spasojević.

52 permanent and temporary external associates, trainers and lecturers participate in the implementation of the activities of Autonomous Women's Center

During 2010 Autonomous Women's Center was supported by:

Institute for Sustainable Communities, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Irish Aid; OAK Foundation; UNDP, European Commission, Provincial Secretariat for Labour, Employment and Gender Equality; Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Team, CARITAS, Wien; Filia; Kvinna Till Kvinna; City of Belgrade; Municipalities Savski Venac; International Women's Club.

AWC Mission: We believe that **a life without violence** is a basic human right and accordingly we provide specialist support to women and individual and institutional response to male violence against women, contributing to strengthening of the civil society.

The work of AWC is based on feminist theory and practice.

**autonomni
ženski
centar**



11000 beograd, tiršova 5a
tel: 011 2645 328
tel/fax: 011 2687 190
e-mail: azc@azc.org.rs
web: www.womenngo.org.rs