



# BREAK THE SILENCE

Combatting  
Violence against Women  
in GREECE



GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR EQUALITY

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**Domestic Violence is a Crime!**

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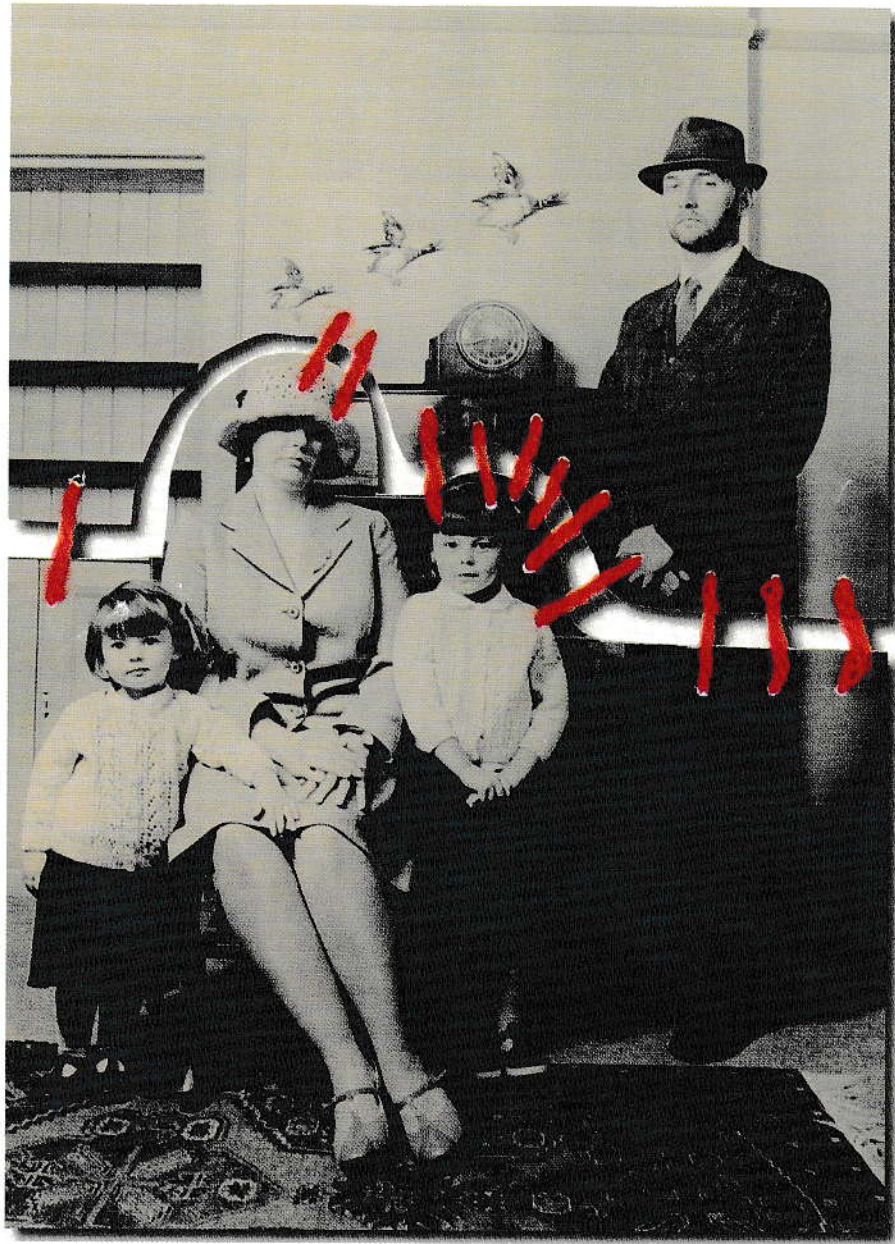


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**Domestic Violence is a Crime!**

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Violence against women is any action or threat of violence against the female gender, wherever manifested, either publicly or privately, and causes or might cause injury or pain to women, be it physical, sexual or psychological, fear or deliberate deprivation of freedom (Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 1995).

This is not an accidental phenomenon, but a result of social inequality between men and women and of those views which are prevalent in society and lead to men's dominance and to discrimination against women.

This constitutes a basic social mechanism for the subordination of women and a blatant violation of their fundamental human rights.

It is a phenomenon which often occurs but is rarely denounced.

Unfortunately our society, to a certain extent, still tolerates violence by men against women.

Tolerance, however, perpetuates violence.

Violence against women is a crime.

The responsibility lies exclusively with the perpetrator.

**NO TOLERANCE TOWARDS VIOLENCE  
THE SAFETY AND INTEGRITY OF WOMEN IS  
A PRIORITY  
ZERO TOLERANCE - BREAK THE SILENCE**

Being under the Ministry of the Interior, Public Administration and Decentralisation, and in the framework of its responsibilities as a competent governmental body in Greece for the furtherance of Equality, the General Secretariat for Equality has placed among its immediate priorities to study and tackle the phenomenon of violence against women:

#### **I. INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR COMBATting VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

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The Inter-ministerial Committee constitutes the basic lever in policy planning and implementation for combatting violence against women. It was established on the initiative of the General Secretariat for Equality and in co-operation with the Ministries of Health-Welfare and Public Order. Its scope is to co-ordinate, specialise and immediately implement actions in order to combat this phenomenon. It comprises one political and one official cadres each from the jointly competent ministries and from the Research Centre for Gender Equality (KETHI), as well as experts who enjoy high authority among the University Community and the Women's Movement.

The objectives set by the Inter-ministerial Committee pertain to the following:

**1. To record existing structures for the reception and care of women who are victims of violence.**

It should be mentioned that with regard to the structures operating in the framework of the Local Government, there is co-operation with the Greek Company for Local Development and Self-Government S.A. which is conducting a similar research.

**2. To publish leaflets** intended for the victims with information regarding the services to which they can go to, as well as for the professionals involved (policemen, social workers etc.) containing brief instructions as to how they could handle cases of violence.

It is planned to publish these information leaflets in the languages of the countries of origin of women who are victims of abuse and sexual exploitation.

On the occasion of the opening of the Piraeus Counselling Station, an information leaflet was published regarding its operation. In co-operation with the Ministry of Public Order and the Greek Police, we plan

**FOR SOME WOMEN, MAKE-UP IS  
A NECESSITY NOT A PLEASURE**



to publish instructions to all police authorities as to how they ought to handle cases of women's abuse.

**3. To plan and materialise special seminars** for training and sensitisation of social service cadres and police authorities who deal with victims of violence.

Already, two special policemen training seminars have been materialised in Athens and Thessaloniki with great success (December 1999). Also, the topic of domestic violence has been included in the regular seminars for policemen which have been recently held (November 1999).

**4. To plan and operate a SOS telephone line;** this aims at offering psychological and legal support to victims of violence, as well as their referring to other services, whenever this is deemed necessary. The technical infrastructure has already been completed, the personnel which will staff it has been trained and the line will begin its operation **on the 1/6/2000.**



5. To flank the Local Councils for the Prevention of Criminality with women sensitised in combatting violence against women all over the country.

6. To establish new structures on the basis of the project contract between the General Secretariat for Equality, the National Organisation for Social Care, and Local Government Organisations. The potentialities for co-operation become broader.

7. With a broadening in the composition of the Inter-ministerial Committee with representatives from the Ministry of Justice, the aim is to elaborate proposals in order to **institute a special legislative framework** to tackle this phenomenon.

IF YOU 'RE LOOKING FOR HELP,  
YOU WON'T FIND IT HERE





## II. RESEARCH CENTRE FOR GENDER EQUALITY (KETHI)

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The Research Centre for Gender Equality (KETHI), a body supervised by the General Secretariat for Equality, has included in its action planning for 1999-2000 the issue of violence against women as a priority issue, with the following activities funded by the European Union and the General Secretariat for Equality:

### **1. Awareness campaign on domestic violence.**

It includes the hanging up of giant posters in five cities in Greece (Athens, Patras, Volos, Heraklion, Thessaloniki); transmission of a television and radio message from stations of national and local range; delivery of six million information leaflets regarding domestic violence to the subscribers of the Public Power Corporation (DEI); production of printed material; setting up of information stands and organising a one-day Conference.

## **2. Research on violence against women**

(physical, psychological, sexual abuse, rape, sexual harassment).

It aims at an overview of Greek bibliography; presentation of basic theoretical approaches; collection and sorting out of material; analysis of the results of the empirical research; finding out the needs in research and, in certain cases, also evaluating the relevant major policy measures.

**3. Operation of Intervention Units on Social Exclusion** in those five cities (Athens, Thessaloniki, Patras, Heraklion, Volos).

They provide supporting services to women (psychological-social support, social work, legal counselling).

They elaborate methods for recording the needs of women (personal and social characteristics).

Pilot operation of two mobile units in the Crete and Macedonia regions.

### **III. CO-OPERATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS**

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In recognising the dynamism and contribution of women's organisations in making known and in tackling this phenomenon, the General Secretariat for Equality co-operates with them and funds their actions in the framework of the Community Initiative DAPHNE.

Programmes which have been implemented:

#### **1. "Network for combatting violence against women"**

It includes actions for publicising the problem and public opinion; co-operation with members of the judiciary and the police (seminars); formation of a network of good practices; (implementation bodies: Movement of Democratic Women).

#### **2. "Women refugees - Stop Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Women"**

It includes actions for publicising the problem; establishment of an office for the support of women refugees and an inter-state research on the attitudes and views of the population regarding sexual exploitation and trafficking of women refugees (implementation body: Research Centre for Women's Issues).

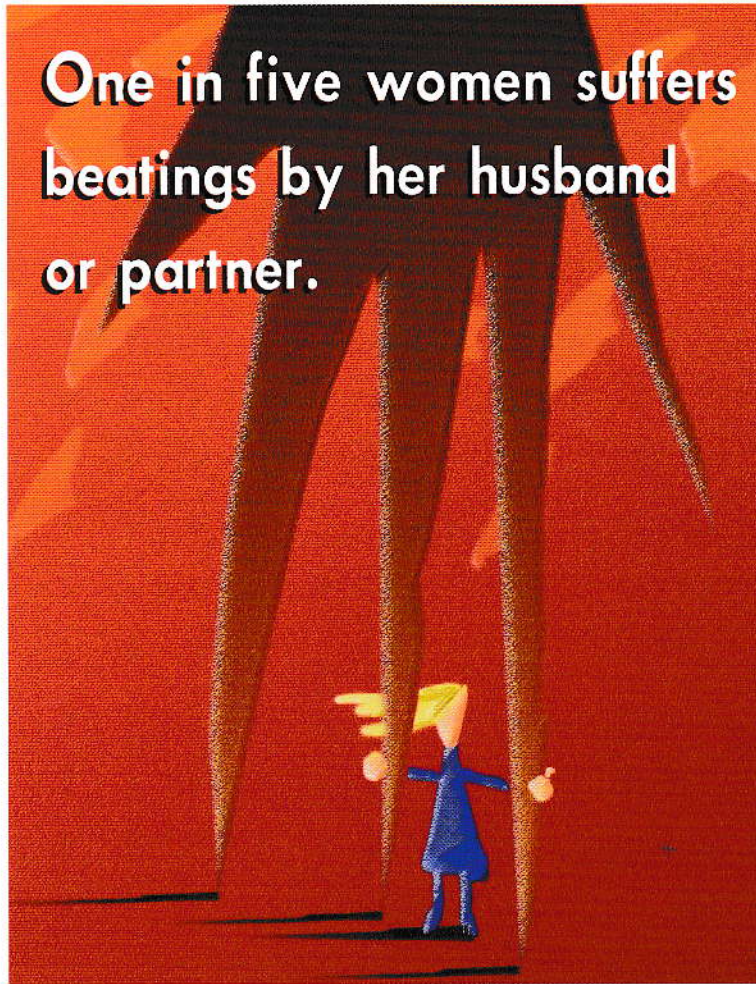


**3. "Making the voices of children heard.  
Protection and empowerment of  
Girls Victims of Violence and  
Sexual Abuse"**

It includes actions for sensitising and publicising the problem; establishment of a Counselling Centre for abused children; a research on the ways of recognising abuse; development of suitable instruments and measures in order to facilitate the process of prompt recognition of the abuse by the persons who are in frequent contact with children (implementation body: Research Centre for Women in the Mediterranean).



**One in five women suffers  
beatings by her husband  
or partner.**



The Reception Centres for Abused Women have been established on the initiative of the General Secretariat for Equality of the Ministry of the Interior, Public Administration and Decentralisation. The aim of these Centres is to inform and support abused women, so that they can find better solutions for their lives.

The Centres comprise of two services:

**a) The Reception Offices offer:**

Legal advice

Psychological-social support

Information on the operation of other social services which could assist them:

- *Athens*: 32, Marni str. tel.: 52.35.250, 52.35.318

- *Piraeus*: 76, Alkiviadou str. tel.: 41.12.091

**b) The Shelter offers:**

A support system and temporary shelter to women victims of violence and to their children who need to move temporarily away from their home.

The General Secretariat for Equality has also taken the initiative to monitor and network all actions, activities and programs by all relevant agents (social partners, NGO's etc) with the co-operation of local Authorities, thus expanding and broadening an information and support policy for domestic violence.



**OTHER SERVICES WHICH CAN ASSIST**

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**Police Stations****Municipality of Athens - Office of Equality**

(information on the shelter)

70, Sophocleous & Pireos str, Athens, tel.: 52.44.657

**Municipality of Serres - The House for the Woman**

1, Grigoriou Rakintzi str. Serres, tel.: (0321) 99500-1

**Network for Combating Male Violence against Women**

8-10, Nikitara str. Athens, tel.: 38.28.126

**Greek League for Women's Rights**

41, Solonos str. Athens, tel.: 36.16.232

**Watch for Women's Rights**

1, Valaoritou str, Athens. Tel.: 36.14.591

**Research and Support Center for Victims of Maltreatment and Social Exclusion**

14, Korai str., Ioannina, tel.: (0651) 78810, 33033

**Center for Women's Social Support (MAC.IN.E.)**

24, Essopou str, Thessaloniki, tel.: (031) 556.349, 556.007

**Public Prosecutor's Offices:**

- *Athens*: former Evelpidon School, Building No.16.  
tel.: 88.28.744
- *Piraeus*: 3-5, Skouze & Filonos str, tel.: 41.86.001

**Forensic Medical Services:**

- *Athens*: 60, Akadimias str. tel.: 36.22.042
- *Piraeus*: 31-33, Gounari str.  
tel.: 41.28.639, 41.77.876

**Hospitals, Social Services of Prefectures and Municipalities as well as Judicial Authorities all over the country****Services for family or individual counselling therapy.****Intervention Units on Social Exclusion**

- Athens*: 19A, Kapnikareas str.  
tel.: 33.11.685-7, 32.18.044
- Thessaloniki*: 30, Syngrou str. tel.: (031) 517.959
- Patras*: 69A, Zaimi str. tel.: (061) 620.059
- Volos*: 170, Analipseos str.  
tel.: (0421) 78218-9
- Heraklion*: No. 105, 1866 str.  
tel.: (081) 341.387, 343.778

**Mental Health Centres**

- *Athens*: 8, Vassileos Herakliou str.  
tel.: 82.10.222
- *Piraeus*: 15, Bouboulinas & Notara str.  
tel.: 57.56.226, 57.56.664
- *Thessaloniki*: 36, Kaftadjoglou & Papafi str,  
tel.: (031) 84.51.32
- *Patras*: 35, Ath. Diakou, Psila Alonia,  
26 224 Patras
- *Heraklion*: 2, Vlaston & Psaromilingon str,  
71 202 Heraklion



**Me,  
I'd never hit  
a woman.**

**I wish I could say  
the same  
about my dad.**



**SOS\* Telephone Line**

**3220 900**

\* from 1-6-2000

**Reception Centres for  
Abused Women**

Athens: (01) 5235 318, 5235 250

Piraeus: (01) 4112 091, 4129 101

**Information:**

Athens: (01) 3311 685-7, 3218 044

Thessaloniki: (031) 517 959

Patras: (061) 620 059

Volos: (0421) 78218-9

Heraklion: (081) 341 387, 343 778



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