

Domestic and gender-based violence

Domestic and gender-based violence is a violation of fundamental human rights. It cuts across all levels of society, at huge social and financial cost. Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are contributing around €27 million to prevent and tackle violence against women and girls.

WHY FOCUS ON DOMESTIC AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE?

Strongly linked to gender-based inequalities, violence against women represents a major obstacle to the achievement of full equality between men and women. The effects of violence on a victim's health, both physical and psychological, can be severe. Moreover, gender-based violence imposes a significant financial and economic burden not only on victims, but on society as a whole.

According to a survey published in 2014 by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights¹:

- > An estimated 13 million women in the EU had experienced physical violence in the course of the 12 months prior to the survey, while some 3.7 million women had experienced sexual violence
- > One in 20 women over the age of 15 has been raped
- > 21 million or some 12% women in the EU said that they have experienced some form of sexual abuse or incident by an adult before the age of 15
- > Half of all women in the EU (53%) avoid certain situations or places, at least sometimes, for fear of being physically or sexually assaulted

In addition hundreds of thousands of women, men and children are trafficked across the EU each year. About 80% are women and girls.²

In recent years, the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the European Union have all taken steps to combat human trafficking and violence against women.

WHAT WILL WE ACHIEVE?

Norway supports programmes and activities aiming to tackle both the causes and consequences of gender-based violence. The programmes contribute to:

- > Reducing domestic and gender-based violence
- > Supporting victims of trafficking

1. EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (2014) EU-wide survey on gender-based violence against women (results based on face-to-face interviews with 42,000 women in all 28 EU member states)
2. Eurostat (2013) Report on 'Trafficking in human beings'



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WORKING IN COOPERATION

- > The Council of Europe, which sets European standards in this field, is involved in several gender-based violence programmes under the EEA and Norway Grants. Its Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence provides guidance and direction for our efforts.
- > The study on violence against women released by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in March 2014, provides robust and comprehensive data to assist programmes in their development of measures to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.

HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE IT?

Programmes addressing domestic and gender-based violence have been set up in the following countries: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

Initiatives to tackle violence against women can also be supported under the NGO programmes which have been set up in all beneficiary countries. Seven NGO programmes highlight gender-based violence as a specific area of support. NGOs play a vital role both as service providers and as watchdogs in this area.

"Violence against women, including domestic violence, is one of the most serious forms of gender-based violations of human rights in Europe that is still shrouded in silence."
(Council of Europe, 2011)

Types of activities supported by the programmes include:

- > Development of training tools, advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns and national strategies
- > Establishment of specialised services to protect victims such as shelters and crisis centres, phone helplines and other practical support services to help victims rebuild their lives
- > Support to civil society in responding to gender-based violence through provision of services, advocacy and awareness raising
- > Research, mapping and data collection
- > Treatment programmes for perpetrators of violence

For example, funding in Estonia is being used to support information campaigns to prevent potential victims from falling into the hands of traffickers and shelters for victims of gender-based violence are being established in Cyprus and Slovakia.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Projects are selected by the programme operator in each country. Calls for proposals are published on the websites of the programme operators, donor programme partners and www.eeagrants.org. Local, regional and national bodies as well as non-governmental organisations and some intergovernmental organisations, can apply for funding. Organisations must be registered in the relevant country to be eligible under a particular programme. More detailed information can be found in the individual calls when published.

BILATERAL COOPERATION

Pooling expertise helps tackle shared challenges. To enhance knowledge exchange and mutual learning, cooperation between organisations in Norway and the beneficiary countries is encouraged. Funding is available to support networking and foster project partnerships. Several public bodies including the Norwegian Police Directorate, Norwegian Directorate of Health and the Norwegian Secretariat of the Shelter Movement, as well as the Council of Europe, are involved as partners in various programmes.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW: DOMESTIC AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Country	Programme	Partners	Grant amount (€ million)
Bulgaria	Domestic and gender-based violence	• Council of Europe	2.0
Cyprus	Domestic and gender-based violence NGO Programme*	• Norwegian Secretariat of the Shelter Movement	0.7
Czech Republic	Domestic and gender-based violence NGO Programme*		4.2
Estonia	Domestic and gender-based violence	• Norwegian Directorate of Health	2.0
Hungary	NGO Programme*		
Latvia	NGO Programme*		
Lithuania	Domestic and gender-based violence	• National Police Directorate (Norway)	1.0
Malta	NGO Programme*		
Poland	Domestic and gender-based violence	• Council of Europe	3.6
Portugal	Gender equality	• Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities	0.4
Romania	Domestic and gender-based violence	• Council of Europe	4.0
Slovakia	Domestic and gender-based violence NGO Programme*	• National Police Directorate (Norway)	8.4
Slovenia	Domestic and gender-based violence**		
Spain	Gender equality NGO Programme*	• Norwegian Equality and Anti-discrimination Ombud	1.0
Total			27.3

* Initiatives to address domestic and gender-based violence are indicated as a specific area of support under the NGO programme; however, there are no specific earmarked amounts

**Specific amount to be defined

