

# Towards a Europe free from all forms of male violence against women

European Women's Lobby  
Mental Health Europe meeting  
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EUROPEEN DES FEMMES

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# Domestic violence in Europe



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- ✓ An estimated one in five women has been a victim of domestic violence



- ✓ 95% of all acts of violence taking place within the home are violence against women



- ✓ For a significant proportion of women, domestic violence is a pathway to homelessness



- ✓ Male domestic violence contribute to the feminisation of poverty as women experience a drop in income after separation



- ✓ In Europe, 7 women die every day from domestic violence



red is beautiful. not always...



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- ✓ In only 16 countries of the EU, foreign victims of intimate-partnership violence without independent residence can apply for residence, under immigration and/or asylum law





- ✓ In Lithuania, marital rape is still not considered as a criminal offence (exemption in the law)



- ✓ The annual cost of domestic violence in the 27 Member States is estimated to be as high as 16 billion Euros, amounting to 1 million Euros every half hour, whereas the annual budgets of EU MS for prevention programmes of male violence are 1000 times less



# Male domestic violence is part of the continuum of violence against women



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# Violence against women is structural, not accidental

- ✓ CEDAW General Recommendation 19:  
*Gender-based violence against women is violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately, and includes acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty’.*



# Violence against women is structural, not accidental

✓ Beijing Platform for Action (1995):

*‘Violence against women is a manifestation of the historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of women's full advancement’.*



# Violence against women is the main structural expression of gender inequality

In addition to the direct impacts on individuals and the aggregate costs to society, **violence against women shapes women's place in society**: their health, access to employment and education, integration into social and cultural activities, economic independence, participation in public and political life and decision-making, and relations with men. At the same time, **inequality between women and men creates the conditions for violence against women and legitimises it.**



# Challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

- ✓ VAW invisible and underestimated
- ✓ VAW depolitised and culturalised
- ✓ VAW trivialized
- ✓ Women not equally protected in the EU
- ✓ Impunity of perpetrators
- ✓ Denial of women's diversity of needs
- ✓ Impact of the recession and austerity measures
- ✓ Backlash on women's sexual and reproductive health and rights



# The work of the European Women's Lobby on violence against women



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# The EWL: the democratic voice of women at European level

- ✓ The largest umbrella organisation of women's associations in the EU, promoting women's rights and gender equality in Europe
- ✓ Members in all 27 EU member states and 3 candidate countries, as well as 21 European-wide associations → representing over 2500 women's organisations
- ✓ Monitoring, advocacy, projects, awareness raising, partnership



# The EWL Observatory on violence against women

- ✓ Brings together experts from 30 European countries with extensive knowledge of violence against women
- ✓ Feeds into EWL work on violence against women
- ✓ Has contributed to **EWL Barometer** on the National Action Plans in the EU member states
- ✓ Is contributing to **EWL study on sexual violence** for the EIGE



# EWL work on violence against women

*Unveiling the Hidden Data on domestic violence in the EU (1999)* → **first European-wide data!**

*Towards a Common Framework to Monitor Progress in Combating Violence against Women (2001)*

→ **Indicators on VAW**

*Reality Check: When women's NGOs map policies and legislation on violence against women in Europe (2007)*

→ **shadow report to Council of Europe publication**



# Examples of projects and good practices on ending male domestic violence in Europe



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# The Spanish law against gender-based violence

- ✓ Passed in 2004
- ✓ Awareness raising
- ✓ Training of public services professionals
- ✓ Emergency removal order
- ✓ Sanctions against perpetrators and programmes
- ✓ Specific courts for cases of gender-based violence
- ✓ Crisis centers in all regions
- ✓ **Weakness:** Definition of violence against women



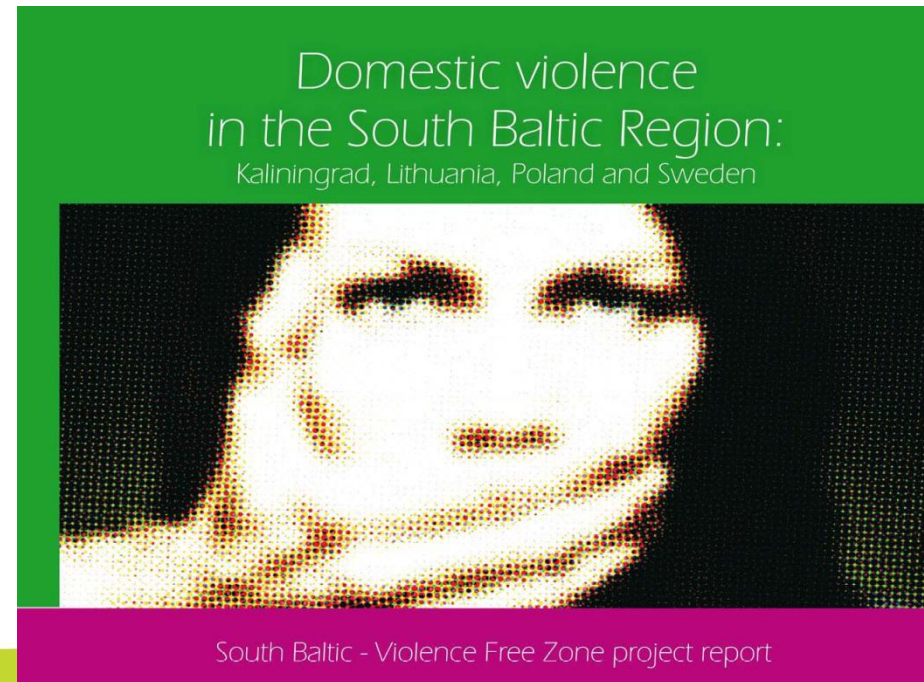
# South Baltic Area – Domestic Violence Free Zone

**Partners** in Poland, Kaliningrad, Lithuania and Sweden

**Creation of a network** of NGOs, local governments, institutions (police, crisis intervention centers)

## **Report outcomes:**

- ✓ Lack of data
- ✓ Domestic violence as a private issue
- ✓ Lack of support to NGOs
- ✓ Problematic access to services

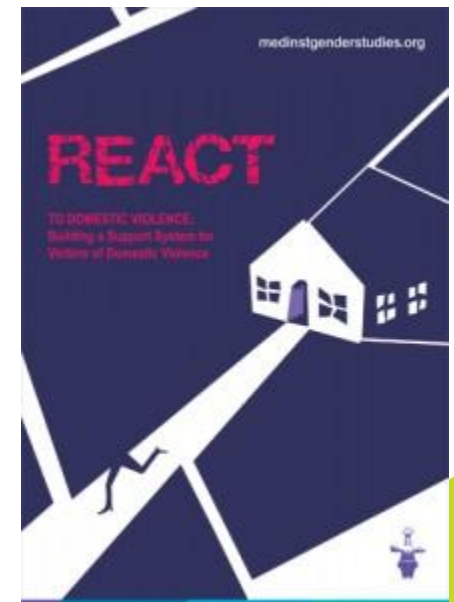


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# Daphne Projects on the links between Domestic Violence against Women and Poverty and Social Exclusion

## Partners in Cyprus, Slovenia

- ✓ Lack of systematic national data
- ✓ Lack of awareness and expertise among relevant stakeholders
- ✓ Gaps in Service Provision for Women Victims of Violence in the Family
- ✓ Poverty and social exclusion as a cause and a consequence of domestic violence against women → gender equality perspective is needed



# Daphne Project

## *Job-keeping or vocational integration for victims of domestic violence*

**Partners:** COFACE and NGOs from Belgium, Bulgaria, Spain and Greece

- ✓ Awareness/information to victims, at the workplace or at the time of integration in employment
- ✓ Training course for specific target groups (trade union representatives, vocational integration or vocational training facilitators)





# Daphne Project *Intimate Partner Violence against Older Women*

**Partners** in Austria, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Portugal and UK

- ✓ Older female victims of IPV face particular difficulties in the termination of a long-term abusive relationship.
- ✓ Most older women experiencing IPV reported a long history of such violence.
- ✓ Report on trends in help-seeking by older female victims of IPV and the types of services they receive.

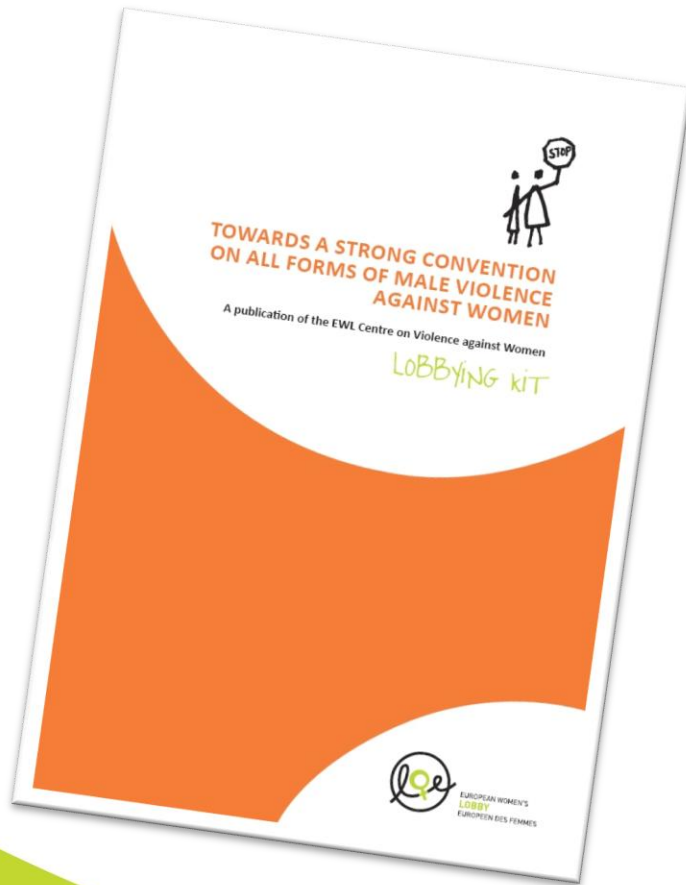
**IPVOW**

**INTIMATE  
PARTNER VIOLENCE  
AGAINST  
OLDER WOMEN**



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# EWL advocacy work at European level



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# Thank you!



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