

2. Resolution 73/148«Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: sexual harassment».

Regarding the implementation of Resolution 73/148, Greece undertook the following actions:

Legislative actions

Ratification of the Istanbul Convention (Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence) with Law 4351/2018. The Convention emphasizes on prevention of gender-based violence through specialized education and awareness programs and specialized measures are envisaged:

- to protect women-victims of violence in order to prevent their secondary victimization,
- to protect children witnesses of abuse,
- to facilitate access for victims of gender violence to legal compensation and
- to establish a mechanism for the monitoring of its implementation.

Greece deposited the instrument of ratification of the Convention in 18/6/2018, thus becoming the 32nd State to ratify it.

As the Law designates the GSFPGE as the competent authority for the Convention monitoring, GSFPGE is setting up a Working Group, with specialized scientists in order to monitor the Convention's implementation in the Greek territory and also propose actions in all its areas of application.

Another important legislative change that occurred in 2019 was the Law 4604/2019 on substantive gender equality and preventing and combating violence against women, trying to implement a gender mainstreaming approach and eliminate gender inequalities in the public and private sphere. All basic notions, mechanisms, institutions and stakeholders are explicitly clarified aiming at the implementation of the principle of gender mainstreaming and at preventing and combating violence against women. The panhellenic gender-based violence network by the GSFPGE and the Municipalities is institutionalized (Counseling Centers, Shelters, a 24-hour SOS 15900 helpline).

Implementation of the National Program for Combating Violence against Women:

The GSFPGE of the Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs, is implementing since 2010 the «National Programme on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women» which is the first comprehensive and coherent national action plan against gender based violence. The “National Programme on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women”, refers to all forms of gender based violence (e.g. domestic violence, rape, sexual harassment, trafficking in women) and is part of the National Action Plan on Gender Equality 2016-2020 (NAPGE). Within this programme a network of 62 structures was established and operates for women victims of gender based violence. The program will be a part of the next National Action Plan on Gender Equality.

The network includes:

- the bilingual SOS telephone helpline 15900 and the e-mail address sos15900@isotita.gr (both in Greek and English) which operates 24 hours/day and 365 days/year. It is a low-cost helpline, nationwide, confidential and staffed by gender-trained counselors.
- 42 Counseling Centers and 20 shelters all over Greece.

The services provided by the above mentioned structures are free of charge and include psychosocial support, legal counseling as well as counseling in labour issues, emergency shelter and, where necessary, legal aid in cooperation with local Bar Associations. In designing and delivering these services, due consideration is given to the need to respond to different social,

ethnic, and cultural backgrounds, faiths, states of health, etc. Our goal is to empower women victims of violence and help them to regain self-esteem, thus enabling them to make sound decisions for their future, and ultimately gain independence in their jobs and in their personal and family lives.

The tasks of the structures also include networking with local agencies and relevant associations for joint communication and public awareness programme.

The public awareness campaign included relevant seminars, a thematic conference, informational material in several languages (Greek, English, French, Albanian), TV and radio spots, cultural events, publicity on public transport, entries in Press, a webpage (www.womensos.gr) and a facebook page as well as banners in web pages. Its goal was to promote a zero-tolerance attitude towards VAWG and to widely disseminate information on existing structures and measures regarding the protection of women victims. Moreover, four TV spots on sexual harassment in public places were created and presented in the context of the celebration of the World Day against Violence against Women (25 November 2017).

Special events (information sessions and conferences) were organized as part of the launching of the regional infrastructures.

In the new programming period (2016-2020 a new similar awareness campaign will be organized.

Furthermore, the GSGE has secured funding so that the structures and actions of the above described programme will continue to operate.

Counseling services have been expanded to provide work counseling as well. Furthermore, the target group of all services has also been expanded to include, a part of women victims of gender based violence, also women victims of multiple discrimination (refugees, single parents, Roma etc.). In this end, to essentially contribute to the refugee crisis, safe accommodation is provided to refugee women victims of violence or to refugee women at serious risk of gender-based violence and to heads of single parent families with their children.

Training seminars will be implemented for the staff of all the structures. The basic services such as hospitality, psychosocial support, legal counseling and legal aid provided by the Counseling Centers and Shelters and the Helpline SOS15900, will continue to be provided in Greek and English. Informational material has been created in cooperation with the UNHCR for women refugees and migrants relevant to the services provided in English, French, Urdu, Kurdish, Farsi and Sorani. Furthermore, information on the existence and operation of the SOS 15900 Helpline has been periodically published to the immigrants' press. For the needs of refugee women, a register of translators-interpreters for languages, other than English, has been created to serve refugee and migrant women in cooperation with the Center for Research on Gender Equality (KETHI).

Since November 2012, GSGE has signed and implements an Agreement with the General-Maternity District Hospital "Helena Venizelou" for the joint implementation of actions in the fields of protection of sexual and reproductive health of women, as well as the prevention and combating of gender-based violence. Since then, individual counseling services have been provided by a Nurse-Counselor of Reproductive and Sexual Health at the Counseling Center for Women in Athens to women who request it.

GSFPGE also collaborates with the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs and provides information on sexual education to secondary school students either at the Counseling

Center for Women in Athens or in the schools.

Students also visit regularly -and in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs- the premises of the GSGE and are briefed by the its staff on issues related to the concept of gender equality, such as gender balanced participation in decision-making, gender-based violence, discrimination in the workplace, gender-based health, among others.

ILO Convention on Violence and Harassment in the world of work, 2019 (No 190)

The adoption of Convention No. 190 and Recommendation No. 206 that recognizes the right of everyone to a world of work free from violence and harassment, including gender-based violence and harassment, has been adopted. As a European Union member, our country has participated to the discussions of both the Convention and the Recommendation and supports its final adoption and ratification by the EU.

The GSFPGE participated as a partner in three European co-funded programs for refugee women victims or potential victims of gender-based violence, the first of which has been completed while two other are ongoing. Specifically:

The European program "Building a safety net for migrant and refugee women" with GSFPGE program partners, the KETHI, the Center for Women's Studies and Research - DIOTIMA, Differenza Donna (Italy) and SURT (Spain). This program concerned the prevention and tackling of gender-based violence in migrant and refugee women living in Italy, Spain and Greece. In this context, two leaflets were issued for women refugees. This program was completed in the autumn of 2018. Its budget was 360.416,36 €.

During the current period (2018-2020), two new European co-financed projects are also implemented:

(a) The SURVIVOR program: "Reinforcing services for refugees and migrant victims of gender violence", co-funded by the European Union under the EU's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Program REC-RDAP-GBV- AG-2017), with KETHI partners, the Center for Women's Studies and Research, and the International Rescue Board (IRC Hellas).

This project started on 3 September 2018 and will end on 2 September 2020 with 712.174,00 € budget. It's website is <https://www.gbvsurvivor.gr/>.

The outcomes of the project include: the recruitment of 4 women mediators-interpreters for the SOS15900 helpline and the Network of Structures, the training of KETHI intercultural mediators, the training of public sector professionals and of the Network staff, the creation of an implementation guide, the training of professionals deriving from different services of the public sector related to the refugee issues as well as members of the Network of Structures, training seminars at the Police Academy and at the Department of Social Work of the University of Western Attica, the training of professionals from NGOs active in the field of refugees, the creation of a tool for the public sector referral process, awareness-raising actions, including the organization of 8 regional meetings with the local government to inform and raise awareness of relevant professionals, with regard to the revised cooperation protocol.

Until now, the following actions have been implemented:

-the translation of the Project's Grant Agreement (GRANT AGREEMENT 810189).

- Establishment of the project's brand identity and printing of awareness raising material.
- the contract for the provision of postal services within the project.
- The planning of an information brochure addressed to professionals in the field, to raise awareness and disseminate the results of the project's activities, translated into Greek and English.
- Also, the planning of a brochure in three languages of refugees-migrants in Greece (English, Arabic, Farsi) on Gender-based violence protection, rights and support services at local / national as well as European level. The brochure is addressed to migrant and refugee women, their families and their community.
- the translation of the texts of both the above brochures and the relevant sections of the WOMENSOS website in English, Arabic and French.
- Planning of the communication actions of the project.

Eight regional meetings are planned to be held in eight regions of the country, involving institutional bodies and representatives of the target group communities, to support-coordinate them and a final event in Athens.

Within the framework of the same program, exchange of knowledge, experience and expertise has taken place within Europe, in order to strengthen programs that combat gender-based violence at European level.

b) The "EMPOWER" program, with partners from the Center for European Constitutional Law - Tsatsos Foundation and the Doctors of the World. The program concerns the "empowerment of professional and refugee communities for the detection, recording and prevention of sexual and sexist violence in Greece". The project has two-year duration and has started on 01/01/2019. Its budget is 303.015,44 €. Work packages include: recording the situation on gender based violence in the refugee population, training field professionals (in refugee camps and urban area), awareness-raising actions, including 5 meetings to strengthen the refugee population throughout the region territory. In this context, the following actions have been approved and planned:

- Development and management of the Project website and logo
- Creating and promoting newsletters/press releases
- Brochure creation and printing - Translation and distribution of informational material
- Participation in the organization and implementation of discussion groups within refugee communities
- Organization of information/awareness raising events

Measures undertaken to address the increase of domestic violence due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Significant increases in allegations of domestic violence were recorded during the days of "quarantine" and compulsory confinement at home due to the pandemic of COVID-19. The SOS 15900 hotline of the General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality (GSFPGE) has received a total of 1,769 calls in April 2020, while the corresponding number of calls in March was 325. Calls for domestic violence cases almost quadrupled in the quarantine month compared to the previous month, in March, when 166 calls were recorded for similar incidents.

As part of the emergency measures to address and prevent the further spread of the Covid-2019, in Greece the GSFPGE has sent instructions to all structures on their operation procedures in order to protect the health of both employees and women victims addressed thereto. At the same time, the GSFPGE has also informed the local government bodies, in the framework of which the Counseling

Centers and the Shelters are operating.

All structures continue to offer their services adapted to the emergency restrictive measures in force due to the corona virus, while teleworking and telephone support sessions have already been ensured and are being implemented.

The network of structures as referred above consists of:

- The SOS 15900 helpline, a nationwide telephone line that provides immediate assistance in emergency cases on a 24-hour basis, all year long. At the same time, it is possible for women to communicate electronically through the e-mail address: sos15900@isotita.gr.
- 42 Counselling Centres that provide social, psychological, legal and employment support services, and
- 20 Shelters that offer safe accommodation to women victims of violence and their under-aged children.

Moreover, awareness raising actions³ (including video spot and posts on the social media of our organization and in the media) are undertaken stressing the possibility of increasing incidents of domestic violence. In the same time, women who remained at home were urged not to remain silent but report violence incidents. They are also informed on the support structures. Similar actions have been taken by the Research Centre for Gender Equality, which is the legal entity of the General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality, responsible for the scientific supervision of the Network of Structures.

In emergency cases during the lockdown, the General Secretariat in collaboration with the Hellenic Society of Forensic Medicine, offered special accommodation, with free housing and meals throughout Greece.

In cases of women victims of violence, free of charge medical tests were provided by the Hellenic Society of Forensic Medicine. Also free of charge medical tests for their children were offered by the Organization "the Smile of the Child".

The General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality informs Civil Society Organizations on its actions, to address any emergencies of domestic violence that may have been directed at other agencies.

In addition, the statistical data collected by the department of documentation, research and digital support of the General Secretariat along with the statistical data (phone calls and emails along with demographics of the callers-victims and third parties) provided by the SOS 15900 Helpline⁴ provide us with a holistic perspective of the phenomenon and enable us to format policy measures according to the data.

More information on the actions taken by the General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality during the COVID-19 pandemic is available at: <http://www.isotita.gr/en/actions-taken-by-the-secretariat-general-for-family-policy-and-gender-equality-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

³ A video spot has been created as part of the central campaign of the Greek Government "We Stay at Home", with the message "We stay at Home but We Don't Stay Silent". Also, the Research Center for Gender Equality (KETHI) conducted a sponsored information campaign on support structures for victims of violence on social media with a short video (Gif).

⁴ A press release with recent data on domestic violence cases reported in the 15900 SOS Helpline in Greece is available in Greek: <http://www.isotita.gr/%ce%b4%ce%b5%ce%bb%cf%84%ce%af%ce%bf-%cf%84%cf%8d%cf%80%ce%bf%cf%85-%cf%83%ce%b7%ce%bc%ce%b1%ce%bd%cf%84%ce%b9%ce%ba%ce%ae-%ce%b1%cf%8d%ce%be%ce%b7%cf%83%ce%b7-%cf%84%cf%89%ce%bd-%cf%80%ce%b5%cf%81/>