

GREECE

HELLENIC REPUBLIC

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
AND DECENTRALIZATION

GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR GENDER EQUALITY

**INFORMATION AND DATA ON THE ISSUE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN IN GREECE**

APRIL 2005

A. TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

1. The Greek State and the Civil Society have commonly promoted actions against trafficking in human beings in the domestic field and then utilized the experience and technical know-how in the context of international developmental co-operation, contributing to combating the problem at a European regional level.

I. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

2. Ever since 2001, Greece has intensified its efforts to crack down on trafficking in human beings. An important first step has been the establishment of the "Group against human trafficking" (OKEA), in the Ministry of Public Order, aiming to change of the legislative framework and inform about the problem.
3. Over the same period, a proper legislative framework was created, through the revision of the relative Articles of the Penal Code and the special handling of trafficking by law 3064/2002 and Presidential Decree 233/2003. In particular:
 - Law 3064/2002 for "The elimination of human trafficking, crimes against sexual freedom, children pornography and, in general, financial exploitation of sexual life and assistance to victims of such crimes", which was unanimously voted for in the Greek Parliament, attempts serious and substantial interventions on the Penal Code, providing for severe penalties for the perpetrators. Under the provisions of the law, there are stricter penalties (some of them to the degree of felony) for all the contemporary forms of human trafficking, as that of removing organs of the body, coerced and fraudulent exploitation of individuals' labour, financial exploitation of sexual life, recruitment of children to use in armed conflict, while special emphasis is placed on the protection of children and socially vulnerable groups (foreign women). An explicit provision deals with the problem of child pornography which, through the development of the Internet, has taken on alarming dimensions.
 - Presidential Decree 233/2003 regarding the provision of assistance to victims of human trafficking introduces the necessary legislative framework for the provision of assistance, protection and care to the victims of criminal actions of pandering, human trafficking, sexual abuse of children for pay and trade in human beings. In particular there are provisions for the protection of life, physical integrity, personal and sexual freedom. Assistance is also provided in relation to accommodation, sustenance, medical care, psychological support, ensuring the existence of a legal advisor and an interpreter. Particularly for minors, it is provided that they participate in educational and vocational training programmes.
 - Paragraph 7, Article 34, law 3274/2004 replaces paragraph 7, Article 44, law 2910/2001 and provides that:

"Deportation of illegal aliens who bring charges against actions of pandering, may, by order of the First Instance Court Public Prosecutor and the approval of a Principal Public Prosecutor, be suspended until an irrevocable court decision is issued regarding the offences which were brought to Court. If the complaint is proven false, the deportation is

executed. For the duration of the suspension of deportation, by order of the Secretary General of the Region, a residence permit is granted, by way of derogation from law 2910/2001. The said residence permit is also used in place of a work permit, is given for a time period of six months and is extended for equal time periods until the issuing of an irrevocable court decision; its granting does not require payment of a fiscal stamp. This provision is also implemented proportionally for the cases of Article 12, law 3064/2002”.

II. STATISTICAL DATA

4. According to a survey by K.E.D.E. (STOPNOW 2002), the number of women coerced to prostitution in Greece, in 2002 was estimated at 17,200. According to estimations, this number is continuously decreasing. Having reached a peak in 1997 (22,500 women and children was the estimated number), coerced prostitution showed a limited fall in the period 1998-2000. By the end of 2001 onwards, it shows a steady downward trend. In 2002, the actual number of cases was reduced to slightly more than 17,000. During 2004 – if the present trend continues, which is probable – it is expected to fall to under 13,000 people coerced to prostitution in the context of the term human trafficking – as this has been defined on the basis of European Conventions and the Annex to the Palermo Convention.
5. An important part to this development has been played by the measures taken by the Greek State, and, in particular, the action taken by the Greek Police. According to statistical evidence of the Ministry of Public Order, (2000-2004), during the past years, significant results have been noted owing to the activation of the Services against the phenomenon (440 cases dealt with, in 2001 as opposed to 272 in 2000). In 2001, 54 criminal networks were eliminated as opposed to 41 in 2000. In these networks, 164 victims of human trafficking were involved. In 2002, the Greek Police cracked 64 criminal networks of pandering and human trade, in which 184 victims of human trafficking were involved. From 15-10-2002, when law 3064/2002 took effect, until 30-10-2003, the Greek Police Services implemented it in 475 cases, while 195 women were recognized as victims of trafficking. During the first semester of 2004 the Greek Police Services dealt with 35 cases of Human Trade and Trafficking, 15 of which were committed by criminal organizations. Investigations and inquiries into these cases resulted in bringing charges against 182 perpetrators, Greek and foreign nationals, while there were 125 victims (foreign nationals, men and women) of financial and sexual exploitation (human trade).

III. GOVERNMENTAL ACTIONS

6. Greece has developed an integrated programme of actions against human trafficking, based on the coordination of co-competent Ministries, which covers the entire range of actions related to illicit trafficking, namely:
 - Monitoring the phenomenon – locating the victim
 - Recognition and protection of the victim
 - Establishment of hostels – refuges
 - Medical and psychological support of the victim
 - Legal protection and assistance to the victim
 - Administrative support – granting a residence permit

- Repatriation
- Support in the countries of origin with programmes of re-integration
- Education and labour integration of the victims who remain in Greece
- Training of the Police Force
- Training of judges and attorneys
- Informing the public

Analytically, the actions, which have been either implemented or programmed, are:

7. Interministerial Level
 - *Establishment of a Special Steering Committee*, by initiative of the Ministry of Justice, aiming at the coordination, at a political level, of the work for the implementation of the provisions of Law 3064/2002 for the “Elimination of Human Trafficking”.
 - *Development of a national database* for the monitoring of the phenomenon through data assembled from all Ministries.
 - *Co-operation and establishment of a “permanent forum”* of opinion exchange and information by Ministries and NGOs.
 - *Participation of Greece to the ad hoc committee of the Council of Europe for Actions against Trafficking in Human Beings (CAHTEH)*, aiming at signing a European Convention for the elimination of trafficking in human beings.
8. Ministry of the Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization
 - *Information* through clarifying instructions circulars by the competent Regional Immigration and Aliens Offices, which grant the relevant permits.
 - *Awareness enhancement* and information of the public through an advertising campaign of the Immigration Policy Institute.
9. General Secretariat for Gender Equality
 - *Consultation and social support*: Immediate provision of specialized information services, consultation and social support to women – victims of trafficking, aiming at their social and, mainly, labour integration. The programme is to be realized in the context of the 17 Action Plans of the programme “Integrated Interventions for Women” of the Operational Programme “Employment and Vocational Training”.
 - *A campaign* aiming to inform the public about trafficking in human beings and to promote awareness in society:
 - Through the production of multilingual printed informational material
 - Through a television and radio campaign
 - *Work – Integration – Employment of the victims* in co-operation with the Ministry of Employment and Social Protection in the context of the EQUAL Community Initiative, which provides for training, labour integration and employment of the victims of trafficking in new areas of the economy, through innovative actions.
 - *Consultation Centres for Violence against Women*: There are two consultation centres for violence against women in Athens and Piraeus, which provide psychological and social support for the victims.
 - *Co-operation with women NGOs*: The General Secretariat for Gender Equality cooperates with women’s organizations to illuminate and

combat violence phenomena and it also finances, in certain cases, their actions.

10. Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- *Financing NGO's actions against trafficking in human beings.* For the year 2004 the total amount spent will be up to 3.1 million Euro.
- *Bilateral agreement with Albania against trafficking in children:* A bilateral agreement with Albania regarding trafficking in children is at the final stage of processing. Its aim is the achievement of a final agreement that attempts to deal with the subject in all its dimensions and aspires to constitute an international standard for similar agreements.
- *Signing similar agreements with neighboring countries:* By signing and implementing the above mentioned agreement with Albania, the Ministry aims at signing similar agreements regarding the subject of trafficking in children with other countries of the Balkans and Eastern Europe, which are countries of origin of the children – victims.
- *Hub of International Contact Against Human Trafficking in Thessaloniki:* In co-operation with OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) and the Stability Pact, it was decided to establish and operate a Hub of International Contact for the coordination of the actions of international organizations and states at the alternative headquarters of the Stability Pact, in Thessaloniki.
- *Hostels – Refuges:* Financing of the operation of four shelters (“Allilegii”-Solidarity-, “Giatri tou Kosmou” –Doctors of the World- and “Klimaka” in Athens and “E.K.Y.TH.K.K.A.” in Ioannina) for the protection of the victims. These hostels provide psychological and social support and prepare repatriation. Two hostels operated by the Ministry of Health and Welfare in Athens and Thessaloniki are co-financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as is an EKAKV (National Centre of Emergency Social Care) unit of protection and assistance for the first hours after locating a victim.
- *Creation of international networks for the elimination of trafficking in human beings:* Financing of two programmes for the establishment of networks to eliminate trafficking, and to exchange information with the victims' countries of origin (Balkans – Eastern Europe)
- *Repatriation Programmes:* Financing – repatriation programme with the International Organization for Migration.
- *Support in the countries of origin:* Financing of two programmes for the support of victims after their repatriation to their countries of origin (Georgia, Belarus, Moldavia and Armenia) with a) support of the existing reception centres, b) reintegration programmes, c) medical and pharmaceutical care, d) vocational seminars, etc.
- *Protection in the countries of origin:* financing a programme for a protection centre of unaccompanied or neglected children in Albania, after their repatriation.
- *Financing of seminars:*
 - For the Police
 - For Judges and Public Prosecutors

11. Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs
- The Ministry of national Education and Religious Affairs studies ways of informing of the students at the senior grades of Lykeio (non compulsory secondary education, succeeding the three years of compulsory secondary education, Gymnasio) regarding the problem of trafficking in human beings for their sexual and financial exploitation.
12. Ministry of Employment and Social Protection
- *Participation in an OAED (Greek Manpower Employment Organization) STAGE programme*
 - *Participation of recognized victims to a labour market integration programme.* The victims may participate in an Integrated Intervention programme designed in the context of the Operational Programme “Employment and Vocational Training”, aiming at their full integration into the labour market. The programme is based on a mesh of supportive psychological, social and employment structures. In particular:
 - *Provision of support and supplementary services,* aiming at the empowerment, encouragement and confidence building of abused women. Support and supplementary services are provided, while the victim is approached individually.
 - *Learning the Greek language,* so that the victims are enabled to communicate fluently in their daily life and integrate without problems in the labour market. Greek language courses with a duration of 200-500 teaching hours are offered by the company “Vocational training Plc.”, leading to acquisition of a Greek language efficiency certificate.
 - *Vocational Training:* Theoretical education and practical training in businesses, aiming at the acquisition of vocational skills and experience is offered to the victims by the company “Vocational Training for the Unemployed”. The duration of the programmes is about 600-1,000 hours.
 - *Forwarding to employment:* following the completion of the above-mentioned actions, the trained women are integrated into programmes of OAED aiming to find employment.
13. Ministry of Health and Welfare
- *Operation of the EKAKV – hotline 197.* The National Centre of Emergency Social Care (EKAKV) is at the core of the integrated programme of actions. It is a Legal Entity of Public Law, controlled (by 100%) by the Ministry of Health and Welfare and is responsible for the operation, management and supervision of hostels for victims’ accommodation. In particular, through the operation of hotline 197:
 - Complaints regarding illicit detention of individuals are filed
 - There is multilingual communication
 - Victims are located
 - Psychological support services are provided
 - Medical advice is provided
 - Callers are referred to Health Centres for Medical and Pharmaceutical Care
 - Callers are referred to cooperating institutions for coverage of legal protection needs

The action of EKAKV in the field of trafficking in human beings is parallel to the other services of social support that it provides:

- *Voluntary repatriation programme*: The Ministry of Health and Welfare finances the International Organization for Migration for the voluntary repatriation of the victims.
- *Free medical and pharmaceutical care*
- *Information*
- *Information of the public about the operation of hotline 197*
- *Issuing circulars of the Ministry for information and sensitization of a) Health and Welfare Services Staff and b) Welfare Directorates of the Prefectures of the country regarding the offence of trafficking in human beings*
- *Operation of a Permanent Committee for the Protection and Assistance of Victims of Human Trafficking*: The Permanent Committee for the Protection and Assistance of Victims of Human Trafficking of Article 9, Presidential Decree 233/2003 is going to operate with a new, substantial role.
- *Co-operation with NGOs.*

14. Ministry of Justice

- *Amendment of the legislation framework by changes in Presidential Decree 233/2003*: The Ministry of Justice will proceed to an amendment of the provisions of Presidential Decree 233/2003 “Protection and assistance to victims of the crimes of Articles 323, 323^A, 349, 351 and 351^A of the Penal Code, according to Article 12 of law 3064/2002”. The amendments of the Presidential Decree tend towards:
 - The immediate characterization of the victim by the competent First Instance Court Public Prosecutor (characterization act) so that the victim may benefit, as soon as possible, from the provisions regarding protection, support and assistance.
 - The participation, in the field of assistance, of NGOs who are active in the field of support and assistance for victims of trafficking (after evaluation).
 - The implementation of necessary measures, through an expansion and strengthening of the competencies of the Permanent Committee of Article 9 of the Presidential Decree.
- *Training of Judges and Public Prosecutors*:
 - The inclusion of relevant subjects into the curriculum of the National School of Judges and
 - The organization of advanced training seminars for active Judges, in the context of operation of the Department of Advanced Training of the National School of Judges in Komotini.

15. Ministry of Public Order

The Ministry of Public Order has been implementing a long-term specific strategy and action plans which aim at laying down the problem at a Police Division level, the delegation of concrete duties to High Rank Officers, the close co-operation with Local Authorities, the constant and persistent effort of enhancing staff awareness, the activation and improvement of the information network, the strict implementation of the statutory regulations, the in-depth

investigation of the cases, the more intense mobilization of the Border Guard Departments, etc. The fields of action are the following:

- *Team Against Trafficking in Human Beings*: The operation of OKEA (Team Against Trafficking in Human Beings) continued in 2004, its aim being to undertake energetic action in a more practical manner, such as studying and strengthening its co-operation with all involved institutions to locate and liberate as many victims as possible. In the context of the OKEA operation there have been proposals to the Ministry of Justice for specific amendments to Presidential Decree 233/2003.
- *Pilot operation of Special Services against trafficking*: Aiming at dealing effectively with the phenomenon, there are pilot anti-trafficking services operating, suitably staffed and equipped. In the Security Departments of Attika and Thessaloniki in the existing specialized Vice Departments, the special anti-trafficking teams have been in operation since 1-11-2003.
- *Co-operation with foreign embassies – competent institutions – NGOs*: The Services of the Greek Police have been cooperating more effectively with foreign embassies in our country, in matters concerning assistance to victims who are citizens of their respective countries, in such cases, since the beginning of 2004. This co-operation begins with informing the Foreign Authority regarding the involvement of the citizens of their country. After prosecuting on the perpetrators, and after the victims are characterized by the competent Public Prosecutor, the Police Services communicate to the Embassies the possible wishes of the victims for repatriation and the embassies see to the victims' repatriation. Greek Police Services also cooperate in matters of assistance to victims with NGOs (Doctors of the World, KESO, E.K.Y.TH.K.K.A.), through the General Secretariat for Gender Equality and regarding the victims' safe repatriation, with the International Organization for Migration.
- *Personnel Education and Training*: During the Academic years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 the Police Academy has included into their syllabus, in all education levels (Policemen and Police Officers Academies) as well as departments of advanced training and education of police staff) the subject of trafficking in human beings (fighting the phenomenon – locating the victims – assistance and protection to the victims).
- *International police operation "Mirage 2004"*: In May 2004 the police operation "Mirage 2004" took place. It was organized by the SECI Centre (of which Greece is a member) and the participants included the member states, international organizations and NGOs. The aim of the operation was to define the criminal groups who manage trafficking in women in the context of common Police investigations.
- At the same time work on the following continues:
 - Development of co-operation and meetings with the Police Departments of neighboring countries (Albania, FYROM, Bulgaria)
 - Exchange of information (INTERPOL, EUROPOL, SECI, etc.)

B. ACTION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

16. The General Secretariat for Gender Equality is the governmental body competent for violence against women, a form of which is domestic violence (violence within the family). In the context of “National Policy Priorities and Axes of Action for Gender Equality 2004-2008”, that were adopted by the Governmental Committee (2 November 2004), preventing and combating violence against women is associated with the achievement of the goal of social cohesion and is defined as a priority axis.

I. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

17. By Decision of the Minister of the Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization (February 2005), a Working Committee has been established in the General Secretariat for Gender Equality, the task of which, is to propose an integrated legislative framework for the prevention and reduction of domestic violence. The Committee is already in operation and intends to examine, among others, the terms and prerequisites for establishing payment of financial aid to victims of domestic violence whose leaving home is impeded by lack of financial resources. An attempt towards legislative action against the phenomenon had also been made during the previous government’s term of office, with the elaboration of a Draft Bill by a Working Committee in 2002, which, however, was not taken to Parliament to be put to the vote.

II. INFRASTRUCTURE

18. Apart from the two Consultation Centres for Violence against Women of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality, which operate in Athens and Piraeus, and the branches of K.E.TH.I. (they operate under the supervision of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality) in five big cities of the country (Athens, Thessaloniki, Patra, Herakleion, and Volos), similar structures operate:
- In the Prefecture of Thessaloniki: the Centre for the Support of Women, of the Macedonian Institute
 - In the Prefecture of Aetoloakarnania: the “Centre for the Education and Care for Family and Child” (KESTT - KEMOP “PLATO”)
 - In the Prefecture of Ioannina: the Centre for Research and Support of Victims of Abuse and Social Exclusion
 - In the Prefecture of Preveza: the Centre for Research and Support of Victims of Abuse, Sensitive Social Groups and Protection of Single-parent Families (KESTHYKEKO)
 - In the Prefecture of Serres: the “Women’s Shelter” - Social Care
 - In the Prefecture of Komotini: the Social Service of the Municipality of Komitini
 - In the Prefecture of Karditsa: the Centre for the Support of Women of the Municipality of Karditsa
 - In the Prefecture of Chios: the Office of Women’s Issues of the Municipality of Chios.

These structures provide psychological, social, and legal support to women victims of violence and other sensitive women’s groups, and operate through

initiatives of local social bodies, co-financed by the European Programme for Combating Social Exclusion.

19. Since 2002, the Greek Section of European Women's Network has been operating, for the first time, a free telephone help line, which provides psychological, social, and free legal assistance at the national level, on a 12-hour basis. At the same time, a consultation service was established, operating in the general area of the capital city. Its activities also include training volunteer social scientists for the operation of the telephone help line mentioned above.
20. The National Center of Emergency Social Care (EKAKV) operates as the statutory state agency of the Ministry of Health, aiming at addressing cases of domestic violence. The records of the total number of cases who used the hotline (SOS line) of EKAKV (197), which operates on a 24-hour basis, during the period from June 2003 to June 2004, show that a large percentage were cases of domestic violence.
21. The General Secretariat for Gender Equality, in cooperation with the Municipality of Athens, operates a shelter, which provides accommodation to women victims of violence and their underage children.
 - In the wider area of the capital city, a large part of the accommodation needs is covered by the shelter of the Athens Archdiocese (KESO) and by state social shelters of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, addressing vulnerable groups of the general population.
 - At the regional level, accommodation shelters exclusively for abused women and their children are provided -since 2000 up to the present day- by the Centre for Research and Support of Victims of Abuse and Social Exclusion (Prefecture of Ioannina) and "Women's Shelter" (Prefecture of Serres). The latter possesses a mobile unit to offer aid to women victims of abuse who face kinetic problems, visiting them at home, while there is a volunteer women's group active in providing services. Also, KETHI, in Heracleion operates a shelter for victims of violence.
 - The General Secretariat for Gender Equality cooperates with the Municipality of Athens in order to renew the programme deal for the operation of the shelter for abused women, and the Municipalities of Thessaloniki, Serres, Kavala, and Komotini for the establishment and operation of similar Consultation Centres and Shelters.

III. REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

22. In the context of rehabilitation, it is important to note that the Programme of Supplementary Supportive Services of all branches of the KETHI also includes employment consultation. From the annual records of provided support services that have been offered by KETHI to abused women (among other vulnerable groups of women), it is shown that a large number of abused women had consultation on employment since their vast majority were unemployed. (KETHI Athens, 2000 - Sept. 2004)
23. Given that finding a job constitutes a significant factor for the release of women from abusive relationships, other institutions have also been active in this field, as

- The shelter of the Athens Archdiocese also provides training (like, for instance, handicraft courses) aiming at their employment and social rehabilitation
- In 2003, the Centre for Research and Support of Victims of Abuse and Social Exclusion implemented a programme of Supplementary Supportive Services titled «Femina», under the auspices of the Ministry of Employment and Social Protection, which addressed vulnerable groups and abused women.
- Similar actions have been implemented by almost all existing structures, in the context of combating social exclusion.

IV. INFORMATION AND SENSITIZATION OF PUBLIC OPINION

24. During the period 2001-2004, the General Secretariat for Gender Equality has attempted to sensitize the public opinion through TV and radio advertising spots, publication of leaflets (Greek and English languages), and printing posters. Among other events, in 2002, the General Secretariat also financed the performance of a theatrical play referring to domestic violence, at a central theatre in Athens.
25. On 25th November 2004, commemoration day of violence against women, the General Secretariat for Gender Equality publicized data from a study on “Domestic Violence – Sample statistical development of data on women’s abuse” (Annex B). The research refers to women who contacted the Consultation Centres of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality during the period 1-1-2004 to 31-10-2004 and was conducted on the basis of the 7 European indicators posed by the Danish Presidency in 2002. A similar study had been published in November 2003, as well. Information offices for the public also operated in central streets of Athens and Piraeus, printed material was distributed and posters were put up in public transportation vehicles.

At a regional and local level, events such as seminars, one-day meetings, and conferences on domestic violence were organized, as indicated below:

- KETHI Athens and its branches organized events mainly addressing the local bodies involved, as well as scientific associations of the local community.
- At the same time, the Municipality of Athens organized training seminars and events to sensitize professionals.
- The shelter of the Athens Archdiocese organized events, published and distributed informational material, and actively participated in information and sensitization of the community projects. It also organised conferences on Domestic Violence.

VI. RESEARCH

26. With the financial support of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality, the Research Centre for Gender Equality (K.E.T.H.I.) and its branches have carried out a considerable number of quantitative and qualitative research studies on domestic violence. For instance, the following studies may be mentioned:

- “Review of Greek and foreign bibliography on domestic violence against women and record of bodies supporting women” (K.E.TH.I. Athens, 2000)
 - “Publication of a Consultation Guide for Women” for the staff and advisors of K.E.TH.I. (K.E.TH.I. Athens, 2001)
 - “The profile of women-users of services provided by K.E.TH.I. during the period 1.1.2000 to 30.6.2001. Evaluation of the services of K.E.TH.I. Quantitative and qualitative analysis of data and proposals for intervention” (K.E.TH.I. Athens, 2001)
 - “Study-proposals regarding the final draft of the Ministry of the Interior bill on preventing and combating domestic violence” (K.E.TH.I. Athens, 2002)
 - “Domestic Violence against women: first Pan-hellenic epidemiological research” (K.E.TH.I. Athens, 2003)
 - “Victim or Survivor? The linguistic construction of identities in consultation for women’s abuse: a study analysis” (K.E.TH.I. Thessaloniki, 2001)
 - “Violence against women exercised by their partners” (K.E.TH.I. Patra, 2001)
 - “Attitudes of inhabitants in the Prefecture of Magnesia towards women heads of single-parent families” (K.E.TH.I. Volos, 2002)
27. During the same period (2000-2004), research was conducted by the following scientific and social bodies:
- National Kapodistrian University of Athens in collaboration with the K.E.TH.I. Herakleion: “The connection of domestic violence with the general health and image of the woman’s body” (2003)
 - Medical School of Athens: “Screening Tool for the Identification of Intimate Partner Violence” (IPV) and “Development and Pilot Testing of a Module Concerning the Role of Health Care Providers in Assessment and Prevention of Intimate Partner Violence” (2003)
 - KESO - The refuge of the Athens Archdiocese: “A study of social cases that were accommodated at Mother’s Home” and “The profile of the individual who abuses children sexually” (2003)
 - Centre for Research and Support of Victims of Abuse and Social Exclusion: “Women Victims of Domestic Abuse: Behavioural Characteristics” (2003)
 - Centre for Research and Support of Victims of Abuse and Social Exclusion: “Domestic Violence: first report from a battered women’s agency” (2004)

VII. GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

28. Ministry of the Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization (in cooperation with the Institute of Training of the National Centre for Public Administration)
- Organization of two Conferences on “Violence against Women as an Obstacle to Equality” (Athens – Thessaloniki 2003)
 - Organization of three training programmes for civil servants, titled “Gender Equality and Violence against Women” (Athens 2003)

- Organization of a conference on: “Methods of combating the phenomenon of Violence against Women” in co-operation with the Association of Police Officers of Attica (Athens 2004).

29. Ministry of Public Order

- It included in the curriculum of the Greek Police Academies (Policemen/-women, Police Officers, School of Post-graduate Education and Training, and School of National Security), compulsory courses on topics concerning, in general, the protection of human rights, crimes against sexual freedom, and protection against rape.
- In the context of training on treatment towards victims of rape, officers of the Security Services participated in seminars abroad: in Britain (from 9 to 10-5/ 2000, from 23 to 26/6/2003, and from 27 to 30/7/2004) in Germany (from 18 to 26/10/2004) and in Sweden (from 13 to 18/3/2004).
- In the context of training the police staff on treatment towards women victims of domestic violence, the Ministry organised and implemented:
 - From February to May 2001, a pilot programme in the context of which social workers and psychologists were hired at regional police stations, to: (a) seek-locate individuals in need of help, (b) investigate charges for abuse, (c) keep records of individual cases, (d) contribute to and scientifically support the project as experts, (e) compile a report and (f) direct people to competent agencies.
 - Till January 2002, the Programme was applied to Police Stations in the capital city (districts of Omonoia, Acharnon, Kolonos, Exarheia), and in other districts (Democracy Sq., Dendropotamou, Stavroupolis/Thessaloniki, Larissa, B´ Patra, Veroia, A´ Heracleion) as well as to Police Stations of the Sub-Constabulary for Juvenile Delinquency of Attica and of the Security Department of Herakleion and Patra.
 - In the second phase, the Programme continued from September 2002 to September 2003, and five more Police Stations participated additionally, three in the district of Athens (Kallithea, Ag. Panteleimonas, Kypseli), and two in Thessaloniki (Border Guards Police Station and White Tower).
- During the same time period, three training seminars were organized to sensitize the police staff, and the telephone numbers of the Consultation Centres of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality were given to all Police-Stations of the country.

30. Ministry of Health and Welfare

- Training programmes addressing scientific personnel of the National Centre of Emergency Social Care (EKAKV) of all specialties, psychologists, social workers, sociologists, nursery teachers, educators, psychiatrists, and nurses.
- Introductory Education Programme on: “Intervening in crisis situations” (12 to 21/12/2001), Training Programme on: «Women’s Abuse – Intervening in crisis situations - First contact with agencies – Link to special forms of support» (3 to 20/2/2003) with the participation of civil servants of other cooperating bodies of the National Organisation for Social Care (the National Organisation for Social Care was abolished by Law 3100/2003, Article 5).

ANNEX

GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR GENDER EQUALITY (2004)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCESample statistical development of data on women's abuseMAIN CONCLUSIONS

The activities of the Consultation Centres of Athens - Piraeus of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality, during the period from 01/01/2004 to 31/10/2004, have been as follows:

- Appointments: 728
- Telephone calls: 2302
- 16% of the women who contacted the Consultation Centres, during the time period from 01/01/2002 to 31/10/2004, were foreign nationals. It is noted that of the total number of foreign women – victims of domestic violence, approximately, 4 out of 10 come from the Balkans.
- The majority of women-victims of domestic violence, (64%) belong to the age group from 31 to 50 years.
- 67% of the women having suffered abuse and contacted the Consultation Centres in Athens and Piraeus, are married.
- Concerning the educational level of women who visited the Consultation Centres of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality, it is worth-noting that, approximately, 7 out of 10 are graduates of Secondary, Technological or Tertiary Education Institutes. The common belief that abused women are usually of low educational level is not confirmed¹. Consequently, women may become victims of violence, regardless of their educational level.
- Of particular interest is the fact that approximately 6 out of 10 women who suffered abuse and visited the Consultation Centres of Athens - Piraeus mentioned that they are of a medium or good financial situation.
- Out of the total sample of women who visited the Consultation Centres of Athens and Piraeus, only 22% stated that they had suffered abuse in the past (by father, mother, brother, etc.), while the remaining 78% stated that they had not been victims of abuse in the past.

Consequently, tolerance of violent behaviour does not necessarily imply abuse of the woman-victim in the past (by father, mother or brother).

- It is worth-noting that 1 out of 3 women victims of domestic violence 33% had suffered abuse (psychological, physical or sexual) by the perpetrator before deciding to marry him. However, this fact did not prevent them from getting married to the perpetrator.
- Concerning the relationship between the woman-victim and the perpetrator, in 82% of the cases, the perpetrator is the husband of the victim, 11% he is the partner, while the percentage of cases of

¹ See Walker L., «When love kills», transl. by Moschopoulou P., Fytrakis Publications, Athens, 1997, p. 148

- women's abuse in which the perpetrator belongs to their family or social environment is lower.
- Examination of the duration of the relationship between woman-victim and perpetrator, showed that approximately 5 out of 10 women-victims of domestic violence have been in the relationship for more than 16 years.
 - The majority of women that contacted the Consultation Centres of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality, during the period from 01/01/2002 to 31/10/2004, had suffered – at a percentage of 65%- a combination of psychological and physical violence, 21% of them had suffered psychological, physical, and sexual violence, while 14% of them had suffered psychological violence.
 - 3 out of 4 women-victims of domestic violence had sought help in the past (Police, Courts, Hospitals, Welfare Services etc.), before contacting the Consultation Centres of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality. This implies the existence of real need and interest on behalf of the women themselves regarding their disengagement from the abusive relationship.
 - 40% of women who contacted the Consultation Centres of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality from 01/01/2002 to 31/10/2004, sought socio-psychological support, 19% of them sought legal advice, 19% needed a combination of the above mentioned provided services, while the remaining 8% sought accommodation at a shelter, as well.
 - Regarding the age distribution of perpetrators, about 6 out of 10 are from 31 to 50 years old.
 - Concerning the educational level of perpetrators, approximately 6 out of 10 perpetrators are graduates of Secondary, Technological or Tertiary Education Institutes. The above data essentially contradict the predominant perception according to which, one of the basic reasons for violent behaviour is the low educational level of perpetrators. According to a research by Eurobarometer², which registers European public opinion in relation to domestic violence, 84,5% of the Greeks who took part in the research replied that they consider low educational level as a factor leading to demonstration of violent behaviour against women.
 - Concerning the employment status of the perpetrators, it seems that 8 out of 10 perpetrators of domestic violence are employed. This finding refutes the common belief according to which, one of the predominant factors for demonstrating violent behaviour is unemployment. According to the Eurobarometer³ research, 88% of the Greeks who participated in this research replied that they consider unemployment as a factor leading to demonstration of violent behaviour against women.
 - Concerning the use of narcotic substances by the perpetrators, 62% of them do not make any use, as mentioned by women-victims of domestic violence, while 38% make use of such substances. According to the research of Eurobarometer⁴, which registers European public
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opinion on domestic violence, percentages 95,7% and 94,4% of the Greeks, who participated in the research, replied that they consider alcoholism and the use of narcotics/medicinal products for mental disturbances, respectively, as factors leading to demonstration of violent behaviour against women.

³ See European Commission, Eurobarometer 51.0, "Europeans and Their views on domestic violence against women", June 1999, p. 32

It is noted that 84,5% is the highest percentage among the total European population.

⁴ See European Commission, *ibid*, p.p. 24-25