

# Domestic violence in the South Baltic Region:

Kaliningrad, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden



South Baltic - Violence Free Zone project report



# **Domestic Violence in the South Baltic Region, Kaliningrad, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden**

## **South Baltic - Violence Free Zone project report**

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Founded in 1991 **NEWW** is an international communication and resource network supporting dialogue, informational exchange, and activism among those concerned with the status of women in Central and Eastern Europe, the Newly Independent States, and the Russian Federation. NEWW coordinates research and advocacy that supports women's equality and full participation in all aspects of public and private life.

**Kretinga Women Information and Training Center** is a non-governmental, non-profit, public organization (association since 2004), which unites women of different age, nationality, religion and attitude. Kretinga Women Information and Training Center was established by MATRA program in 1999. Its mission is to improve the economical and social situation of women, living in Kretinga region, implementing gender equality principles, changing stereotypes, initiating business development and social self-expression and organizing educational and training activities.

**Women's Shelter Karlshamn** is a non-government organization, created 1985 by women volunteers, to deliver help and support women who have been subjected to various forms of abuse. The shelter is related to the Swedish Association of Women's Shelters (SKR) and to the County Shelter Organization in Blekinge.

**Union of Women of the Kaliningrad Region** is a non-governmental organization created in 1998. It consists of 20 organizations, more than half of which are women's organizations. The Union provides trainings and courses, deliver help and legal and psychological support to women, who suffer from violence. The main goal of the Union is to increase a role of a women in a society, women empowerment, protection of mothers and children.

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## **PREFACE**

In the beginning of 2009 the Network of East-West Women together with partners from Kaliningrad, Lithuania and Sweden started to work on the project “The South Baltic - Domestic Violence against Women Free Zone”.

The project is answering a need for cooperation and exchange of good practices on ways of opposing and preventing domestic violence against women between civil society organizations, local governments and institutions like police and crisis intervention centers.

The main objective of this project is to make the South Baltic region friendlier and safer for women. In order to reach this goal organizations participating in the project will create a network in the South Baltic region that would help oppose violence against women. It will be a network of NGOs, politicians, representatives of local government, business and media. Although the countries in the region of South Baltic have different historical, social and political background, they share one common problem - violence against women. Hence there is a lot we can learn from each other in order to find better ways and solutions to tackle this violation of women’s rights.

The report “Domestic Violence in the South Baltic Region” does not provide easy solutions to the problem of domestic violence but offers interesting and important insights into the situation in the four countries which neighbor each other and want to develop further and deeper cooperation in supporting women’s rights. The publication will allow policymakers and practitioners like police, social workers, staff of civil society organizations and others to better understand and deal with the problem of women’s abuse which happens often in their own home.

Małgorzata Tarasiewicz  
Director, NEWW/NEWW-Polska

International human rights instruments determine that violence against women in public as well as in private life is a violation of human rights. Violence decreases woman's self-esteem and self-value, confidence in herself and other people, deprives her of the right of being full member of family and community. Violence against woman is one of the most important obstacles, which hinders the implementation of gender equality principles.

All countries in the South Baltic area adopted in 1995 the Beijing Platform for Action that reflected social needs to combat violence against women. But progress has been slow and not effective. According to the worldwide statistical data, UNICEF estimates that, from country to country, 20 to 50 percent of women have experienced physical violence at the hands of intimate partner or family member (UNICEF, 2000).

When including all forms of violence against women, 45 percent of all women in the South Baltic area have been subjected to and suffered from men's violence. It is estimated that every fifth woman in the area has been subjected to domestic violence, having her fundamental human rights violated by a man in her most immediate and intimate social environment – her home.

According to the **Polish** police statistics, the number of domestic violence victims was 130,682 in 2007, of which 76,162 were women (the rest were children and men). In 2008 the total number of domestic violence victims was 139,747, of which 81,985 were women ([http://www.policja.pl/portal/pol/4/318/Przemoc\\_w\\_rodzynie.html](http://www.policja.pl/portal/pol/4/318/Przemoc_w_rodzynie.html) [accessed 24.05.2010]).

In **Lithuania** statistic shows that 2 out of 3 women have experienced physical, psychological and sexual violence from their male partner. In Lithuania only from 2 percent to 20 percent of victims of domestic violence dare seek help in the law enforcement institutions or women non-governmental organizations (<http://www.stat.gov.lt/en/>). Majority of women in Lithuania still lack self-awareness and self-confidence, sexual education and information on equal opportunities policy.

**Sweden** is by many regarded as a society in which there is a relatively high degree of equality between women and men. There is, however, a considerable imbalance in the power relations between women and men. The most extreme example of such an imbalance is the occurrence of men's violence against women. The number of police reports filed for assault against women increased by 40 percent during the 1990s, according to the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå report No 2009:12).

Violence has negative effect on woman's life in many different aspects. Frequently a woman, who has suffered violence, feels not only short-term, but also long term physical and psychological consequences.

In recent years there are many discussions about violence against woman in private life as a social problem which requires appropriate political and legal decisions. The practical experience of public authorities and non-governmental organizations shows that in order to solve the problem of violence against woman in private life it is necessary to build networks and supply support in a complex way not only to victims, but also to perpetrators.

The main purpose of this report is to systematize knowledge and data about domestic violence in the South Baltic area. As the violence against women is spreading widely, and crossing all borders, the cooperation within Europe is crucial to fight the problem and to help the victims. One's own home can't be a place of conflict. It should be a safe and quiet place, where anyone, especially women and children can find peace and comfort.



## **What is a domestic violence.**

The basic document on violence against women is the **Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women** (CEDAW) also known as the Charter of the Rights of Women, signed by the UN in 1979. Lithuania ratified the convention in 1974, Poland and Sweden ratified the convention in 1980 and Russia in 1981. CEDAW bans all forms of discrimination, exclusion and violating human rights and freedoms because of sex.

The Convention imposes on the state the duty of eradication of violence against women in both public and private spheres of life. Another document defining this problem is the **Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women** accepted in 1993 in Vienna during a conference on human rights. The declaration proclaims as follows:

### **“Article 1**

For the purposes of this Declaration, the term “violence against women” means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

### **Article 2**

Violence against women shall be understood to encompass, but not be limited to, the following:

(a) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation;

(b) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution;

(c) Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs” (United Nations General Assembly, 2000).

The Beijing Platform of Action, which was adopted by the United Nations Organization in 1995, determines violence against woman as violation of fundamental human rights and freedoms. It is one of the most important obstacles, which hinders the implementation of gender equality principles. Violence against woman is as frequent cause of death and disabilities as cancer.

WHO (World Health Organization) defines violence as a „deliberate use of force or a threat of force against a person, a group of people or a community, which may result in an injury, physical damage, pain, psychological trauma, developmental disturbance or death“ (WHO, 1997).

Violence against women is defined as one of decisive factors prohibiting women from their full participation in economic, social and political life. This document proclaims as well that violence against women is conditioned by historical inequality and is tantamount to violation of human rights. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (UN, 1993 from: <http://www.un.org/rights/dpi1772e.htm> [accessed 24.05.2010]) stresses the obligation of states and national authorities to prevent prosecute and punish violence against women, no matter if the perpetrator acts in private or public capacity. Violence against women is an obstacle to development and peace.

### **Popular definitions**

A common understanding of violence in intimate relationships is physical, mental and/or sexual violence perpetrated against a woman by a man she knows and has or had a close relationship with. The violence is based on one of the partners in a relationship wishing to control the other. It is triggered by a feeling of lack of power and control.

An example of what power and control means is explained in the Power and Control Wheel, developed by battered women in Duluth, USA. The women had been abused by their male partners and were attending women's education groups sponsored by the women's shelter. According to this Power and Control Wheel the perpetrator is using coercion and threats, intimidation, emotional abuse, isolation, economic abuse and he is also minimizing, denying and blaming and using the children to control the woman (The Duluth Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, 2008)

<http://www.theduluthmodel.org/domesticabuseintervention.php> [accessed 22.02.2010]).

The concept of violence against woman includes such types of violent actions:

- **Physical violence** – illegal, intentional effect on woman's body against her will, in order to take away her life, damage health, deprive freedom, cause disability, physical pain or other kind of physical suffering. Physical violence can occur: such as beating, damaging of interior and exterior body organs, using of different weapons and guns, punching, kicking or attempting to strangle etc.
- **Psychological violence** – dangerous, intentional effect on woman's psyche against her will, in order to frighten her of further perpetrator's actions. Psychological violence can occur as deprivation of actions, refusal to appear together in public places, prevention of relationships with other people, threat to kill, harm, kidnap of children, persistent criticism, ignoring of feelings, derision of beliefs, screaming, scolding, lying, etc. It can also include insulting, demeaning and degrading words, for example about the woman as a parent, about her appearance and dress, or using those words about her friends and family. Her whole manner could be ridiculed and denigrated. Extreme jealousy and ownership requests can also be emotional abuse, as well as attempts to isolate and control woman's time, activities and contacts with other people.
- **Sexual violence** – attempt on woman's sexual freedom. Sexual violence can occur as enforcing her to undress, to have sexual relations, sexual intercourse, making unwanted sexual comments or advances, sexual allusions.
- **Economic violence** – specific form of violence, not easily noticeable to other society members. Economic violence can occur as forbidding to work, controlling of family budget, refusal to maintain children, etc.
- **Material violence** - can include vandalism, like breaking furniture or other objects, or stealing or embezzling property.

**In most cases women suffer several types of violent actions at the same time.**

### Explanatory Models of Violence

Three explanatory models often referred to in relation to violence in intimate relationships are individual, situational and structural models. In the individual model, the cause of violence is seen in special character traits of the individual. In the situational model, violence is explained as arising from stress factors of various kinds. The personalities of the child and the parents are significant, as is the relationship between the parents and their children. In the structural model it is social conditions that cause violence towards or between an individual and individuals who have a weak position in society.

The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (BRÅ) concludes that violence in intimate relationships should be regarded as a behaviour in which both structural and individual circumstances interact and where power inequality between genders is one of several dimensions.

There are a number of circumstances that characterize the violence that is committed in intimate relationships, like the fact that most incidents take place indoors, often in the victim's home. In 50 percent of all incidents the aggressor is drunk. 'Alcohol is thus a significant factor, but it is less frequently involved with a partner than when a stranger commits violence' (BRÅ report No 2009:12).

## **Definitions of domestic violence in Polish, Lithuanian and Swedish legal acts.**

### **Definition in the Polish law**

Polish law defines domestic violence in the Act on Counteracting Domestic Violence of July 29, 2005. It defines violence as:

„single or repeated **deliberate action** to hurt a **family member**, infringe on their rights or personal possessions, endangering their health and life, infringing on their dignity, personal immunity including sexual immunity, causing moral or psychological suffering of the victims of violence” (Act on Counteracting Domestic Violence, 2005).

The same Act defines „family member” referring to art. 115 § 11 of the Act of June 6, 1997 of the Penal Code: „family member is the next of kin or other person sharing the household”. This is the first definition of domestic violence in the Polish law (Act on Counteracting Domestic Violence, 2005).

**This is the first definition of domestic violence ever included in the Polish law.**

### **Definition in the Lithuanian law**

Lithuanian law penalizes crimes against public peace (such as violence in a public place), and allows for direct prosecution of perpetrators through the office of the public prosecutor. Sadly, there is no specific law in Lithuania which penalizes domestic violence. The result of this state of affairs is a lack of verifiable statistical data on the subject of domestic violence.

The National Strategy for Combating Violence against Women adopted by the government of the Republic of Lithuania in 2006, uses gender blind language which holds domestic violence against women

to be any kind of intentional physical, psychological, sexual or economic action which causes her physical, psychological, economic or moral damage. The law affirms that intentional physical, psychological, sexual or economic actions leading to physical, economic or moral damage violate the Constitutional rights and freedoms of the injured party (National Strategy for Combating Violence against Women, 2006).

### **Definition in the Swedish law**

In everyday language, domestic violence is often described as men's violence against women in intimate relationships. At the same time, domestic violence does not constitute an independent legal concept but is covered by law under the category of assault. The legal concept of assault involves infliction of bodily injury, illness or pain. The concept of illness is not only connected to its physical aspects, but also to mental anguish and shock. Violence against women is included in other offences as well: murder, manslaughter, gross violation of a woman's integrity, rape and other kinds of sexual abuses. Additional categories of crimes related to violence against women are: unlawful threat, molestation or vandalism (Swedish Penal Code, 1962).

The Swedish law was amended in 1982 in a way that was decisive for the perception of men's violence against women. Prior to the amendment, the crime of assault against a woman was perceived to be a private crime which could only be prosecuted at the behest of the injured party bringing a claim to court. The amendment changed the law in such a way that assault against a woman, even if it takes place in the confines of a private domicile, is considered a public crime, and charge can be pressed by the public authorities or public institutions on behalf of the injured party. Many researchers point out that this elevates the legal status of violence against women to that of a social problem from one of being seen as a dispute between individuals (Brå report No 2009:2).

Since the year 2000, the Gross Violation of a Woman's Integrity Act has been on the books in Sweden. The law allows for a universal, wholesale (or "gross") approach in cases of repeated abuse by a man against a woman. The purpose of the Act is to tackle cases of systemic abuse. Such cases may include several individual actions (e.g. assault, molestation, unlawful threat, sexual coercion), each of which taken alone is not punishable by long sentences. The Act thus stipulates a new offence; "gross violation of a woman's integrity" which allows for the perpetrator to be prosecuted for the systemic nature of a series of offences (Brå report No 2009:2).

Anyone who knows that a woman is a victim of domestic abuse can report the matter to the police who are legally bound to investigate.

## **The extent of domestic violence - statistics**

### **Poland**<sup>1</sup>

Domestic violence is not a marginal phenomenon. It is more common than street violence. Battering a family member is a third most common crime in Poland after theft and assault.

**Table 1 Numbers of domestic interventions in Pomorskie Province.**

<b>Place of intervention</b>	<b>Year</b>	2007	2008	2009
<b>City</b>		1846	2146	2154
<b>Rural area</b>		1132	1453	1308

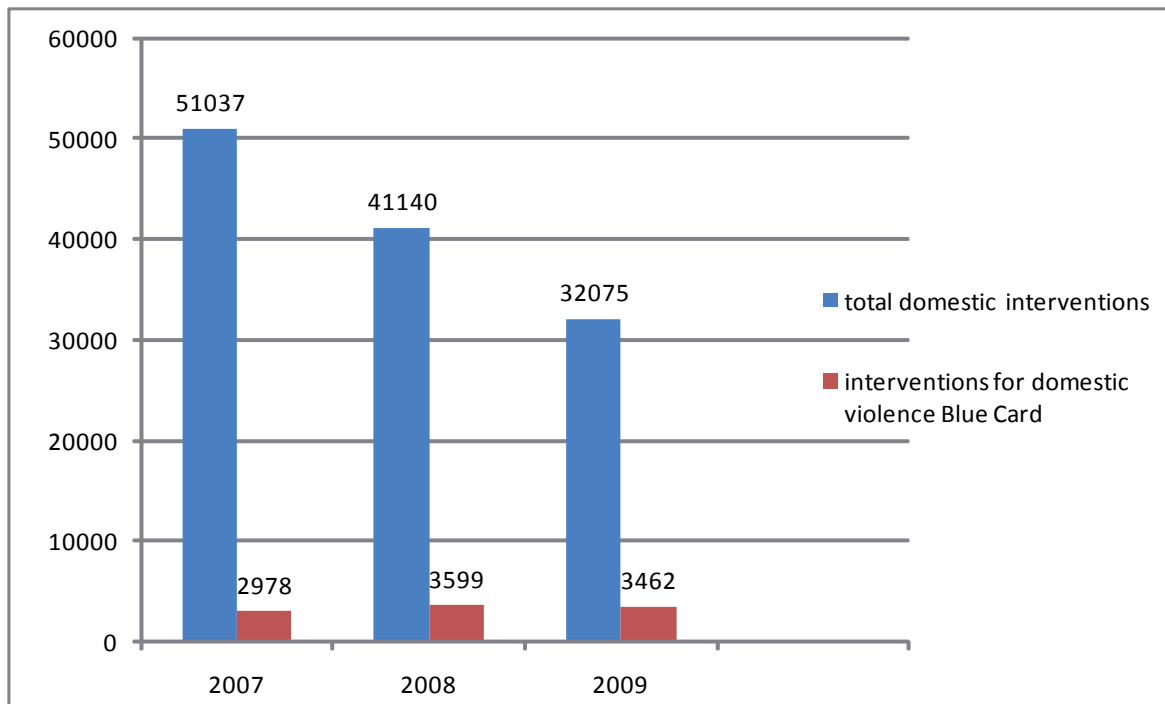
Source: Voivodship Police Headquarters in Gdansk

According to the Decree 162/08 of 02.18.2008 of the Chief of the National Police about the tasks of police regarding domestic violence a "Blue Card" procedure was introduced. In the Pomorskie Province police intervened and assisted the victims of violence through providing them with personal security, isolating the perpetrators, advising victims about their rights.

<sup>1</sup> All statistics come from Official Statistics of Voivodship Police Headquarters in Gdansk: <http://www.pomorska.policja.gov.pl/>

Domestic violence is a specific form of crime against the next of kin, sometimes there is social indulgence or permission for aggressive behavior towards a family member. That is why it is of great importance to work for consciousness raising of the society in regard to domestic violence. It is also necessary to inform the victims that perpetrators are going to be held accountable for their actions.

Those issues are very difficult and sensitive and there are problems with correct interpretation of what actions are violent and illegal as evidenced in examples and statistics.



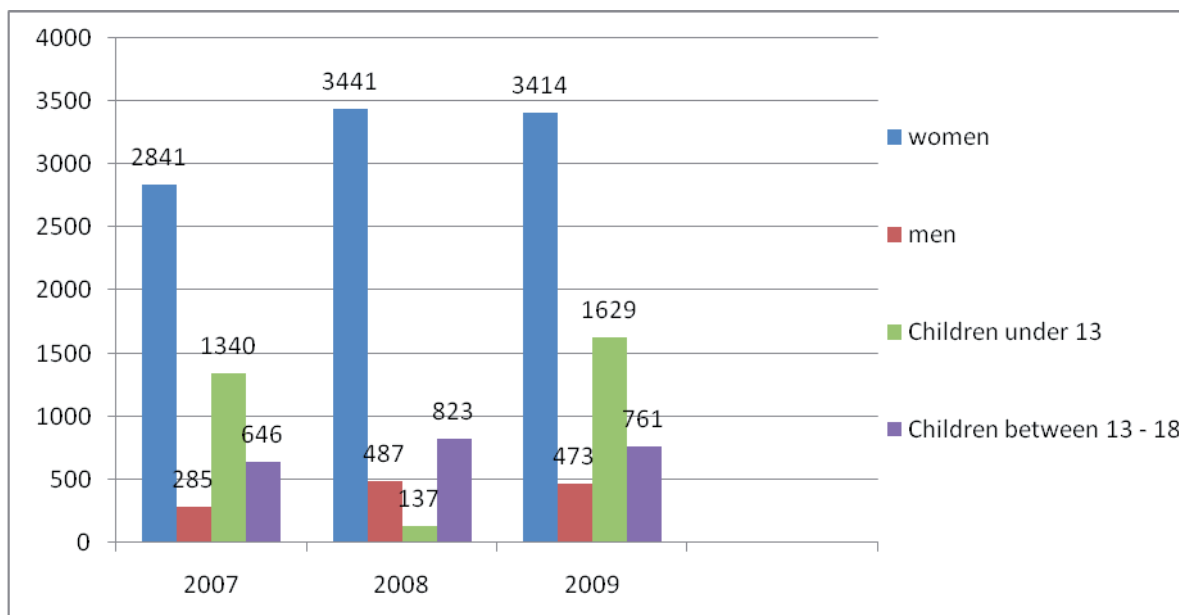
**Figure 1. Number of domestic interventions in Poland**

In 2009 there was a decrease in the number of cases documented through the “Blue Card” procedure. The reason for this was that families which have police file already usually use social institutions if there is a need for help and not police as is usually the case with the first intervention. They know there is



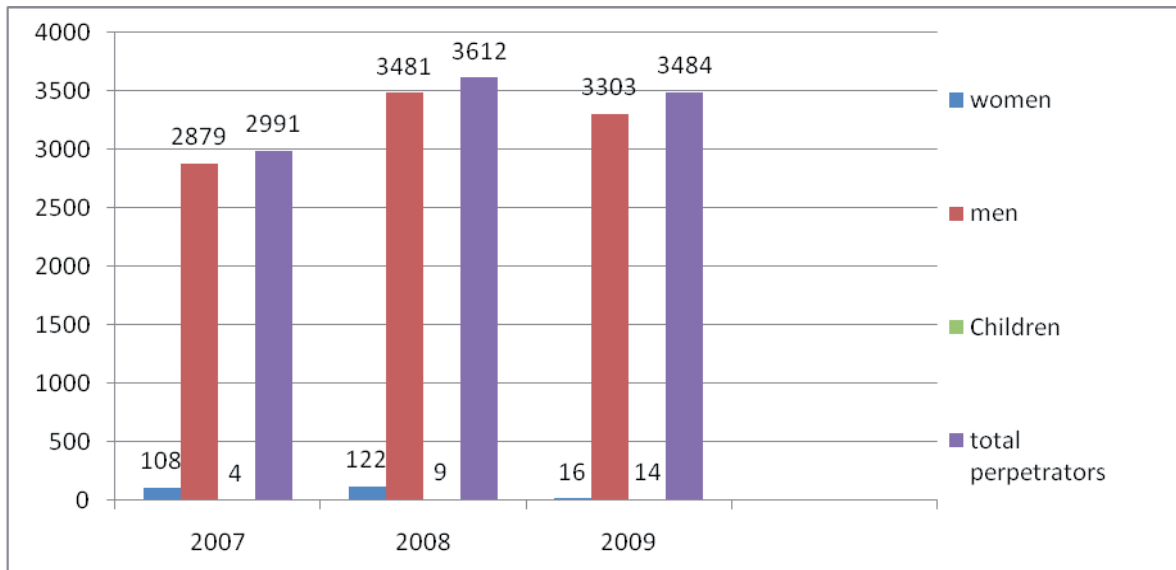
such a possibility and avow themselves of it. In Gdansk there is a program implemented, which includes specialists in the intervening teams.

Data concerning the victims in Gdansk Province are as follows:



**Figure 2. Victims of domestic violence in Gdansk Province**

In 2007 there were 5112, in 2008 - 6382 and in 2009 - 6277 victims. Majority of perpetrators are men. The detailed data on Pomorskie Province are as follows:



**Figure 3. Perpetrators of domestic violence in Pomerania Region.**

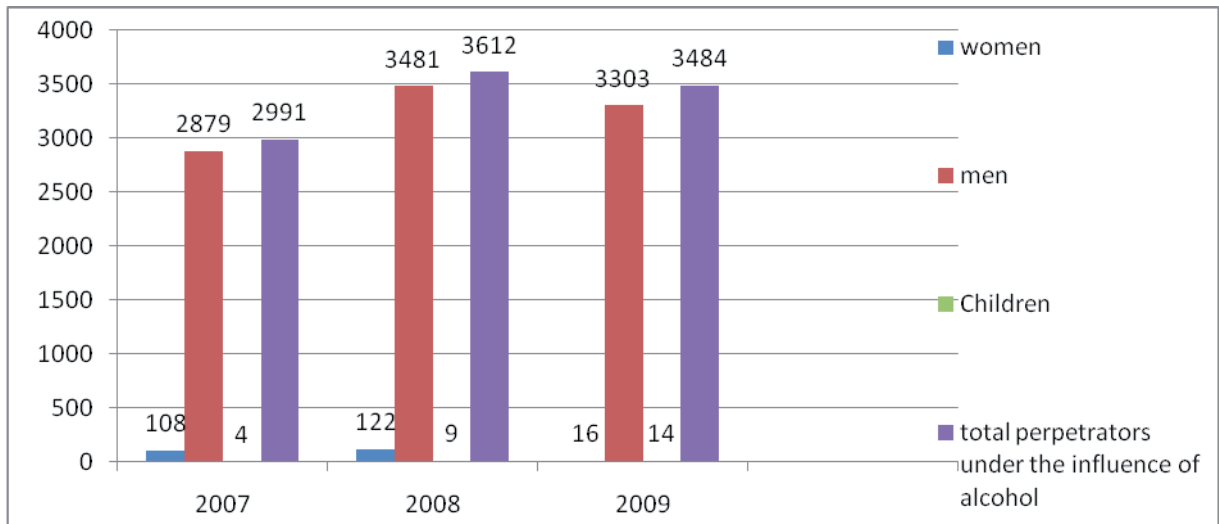
During interventions police detained the following number of perpetrators:

\* in 2007 - 1257 men, 31 women, no minors

\* in 2008 - 1521 men, 33 women, 2 minors

\* in 2009 - 1505 men, 38 women, 1 minor

The most common cause of interventions was family feuds usually with alcohol involved. The number of cases when perpetrators were under influence of alcohol shows that drinking is a huge factor.



Chart

#### 4 Perpetrators of domestic violence under the influence of alcohol

In 2009 in 187 cases medical help was necessary - for 44 victims and 143 perpetrators, in 2008 there were 204 cases with medical help (54 victims and 160 perpetrators) and in 2007 the number was 209 (69 victims and 147 perpetrators). According to current rules the perpetrator must be examined every time to state if he can stay in arrest, that is why the number of medical examinations is higher in the case of perpetrators. In 2007 there were 6 cases when children had to be taken to hospital or foster care, in 2008 there were 12 such cases and in 2009 there were 8 such cases.

The most common felony registered in the „Blue Card“ procedure is physical battering or psychological torture of a family member (art. 207 of the Penal Code, 1997). The numbers are growing steadily and in the last three years they looked as follows: in 2009 there were 511 procedures initiated, in 2008 - 467, in 2007 - 419.

As most institutions would confirm those numbers still do not render the extent of the phenomenon of domestic violence.

As evidenced in statistics most cases are withdrawn or cancelled during the investigation, because the victims withdraw their complaints. The Center of Women's Rights conducted a study to examine the reasons for which victims are reluctant to press charges. (The reasons were classified according to the

frequency of their occurrence) (NEWW, 2005)

Results of the study

1. Practicality - both victim and perpetrator have to live together – 67,6%
2. Children and their welfare – 60,4%
3. Intimidation by the partner – 60,4%
4. Love or the partner and hope he will change – 58,5%
5. Economic issues – 41,5%
6. Disbelief and disillusionment with the justice system – 39,7%
7. Shame and fear of social ostracism – 22,5%
8. Religion.

Assisting the victims and the perpetrators must be comprehensive. Police is aware of this and officers cooperate with other institutions and organizations. One of the ways to help the victims is to inform social organizations about cases of violence and police is the best source of information. Police in Pomorskie Province relay this information to assisting institutions within the “Blue Card Procedure”:

**Table 2. Assisting institutions within the “Blue Card Procedure” in Pomorskie Province.**

Name of the institution	2007	2008	2009
<b>Total</b>	<b>3555</b>	<b>4767</b>	<b>5070</b>
Social help centers	1572	2006	2064
Local committees to fight alcoholism	994	1287	1350
Health centers	3	7	13
Educational centers	18	9	7
NGOs	436	646	811
Other	532	82	832

Source: Voivodship Police Headquarters in Gdansk

## **Lithuania**<sup>2</sup>

The National Strategy for Combating Violence against Women and Plan of Implementing Measures, ratified by the Lithuanian parliament in 2006, obliged Department of Statistics under the government of the Republic of Lithuania, the Police Department and Information Technology and Communication Department under the Ministry of the Interior to compile statistical data about violence against women, which is broken down by gender.

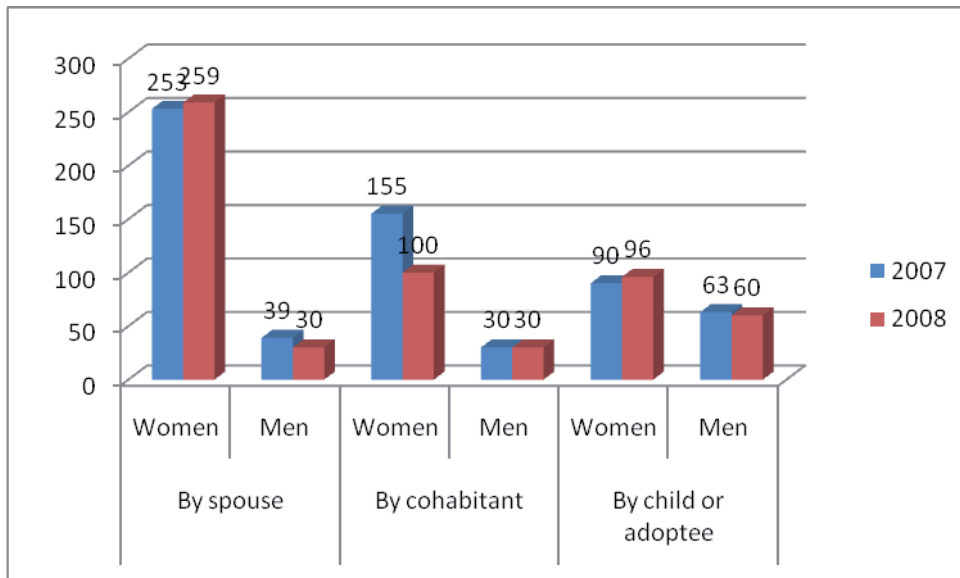
However, the majority of cases of violence against persons in non-public setting cannot be officially confirmed because the majority of those who would qualify for victim status do not seek assistance from law enforcement or organizations which provide services for domestic violence victims. The majority of those who would qualify for victim status are both financially and psychologically dependent on the perpetrator of domestic violence and are therefore unwilling to bring a claim against the perpetrator in order to initiate pretrial investigations.

Data from the government of the Republic of Lithuania's Department of Statistics (<http://db1.stat.gov.lt>) shows that 408<sup>3</sup> women and 69 men suffered violence from their spouses or cohabitants in 2007, and 359 women and 60 men suffered violence from their spouses or cohabitants in 2008. This data suggests that women are victims of domestic violence six times more often than men.

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<sup>2</sup> All statistics come from: Republic of Lithuania Statistic Department: <http://db1.stat.gov.lt>

<sup>3</sup> Number of cases which were registered by courts.



**Figure 5. Number of domestic violence cases in Klaipėda County in 2007 and 2008.**

According to data from the government of the Republic of Lithuania's Department of Statistics, during 2008 the number of recorded calls regarding domestic violence increased more than 2 percent in Lithuania and more than 5 percent in Klaipėda County. However the number of reports regarding domestic violence, which were investigated by the police, decreased more than 22 percent in Lithuania and increased more than 42 percent in Klaipėda County. The number of reports including domestic violence against women has decreased more than 21 percent in Lithuania and has increased more than 8 percent in Klaipėda County. The number of rejections of initiating legal proceedings increased more than 14 percent in Lithuania and more than 120 percent in Klaipėda County. The number of initiated legal proceedings decreased more than 17 percent in Lithuania and more than 46 percent in Klaipėda County. This data suggest that despite the increasing number of recorded calls regarding domestic violence both in Lithuania and Klaipėda County, the number of reports regarding domestic violence, which were investigated by the police and the number of initiated legal proceedings are decreasing.

**Table 4: Domestic violence cases in Lithuania and Klaipėda County**

	Registered calls regarding domestic violence		Total number of applications investigated by police regarding domestic violence		Cases of domestic violence against women		Rejection of initiating legal proceedings		Initiated legal proceedings	
	Republic of Lithuania	Klaipėda County	Republic of Lithuania	Klaipėda County	Republic of Lithuania	Klaipėda County	Republic of Lithuania	Klaipėda County	Republic of Lithuania	Klaipėda County
2007	33 165	5 356	16 180	896	10 269	713	3 802	181	823	41
2008	33 927	5 670	12 506	1 275	8 066	773	4 355	398	680	22

Source: Republic of Lithuania's Statistics Department

Comparing the above mentioned data of Department of Statistics under Lithuania Republic Government with the data provided by Police Department under the Ministry of Interior it is obvious that about 50 percent cases of initiated legal proceedings in Lithuania and almost 100 percent of these cases in Klaipėda County went to court as criminal cases. On the other hand the analysis of the majority available data suggests that only 4 percent of women's applications regarding domestic violence go to court as criminal cases.

**Table 5: Number of criminal offences in Lithuania and Klaipeda County.**

	Initiated criminal procedures regarding domestic violence against women		Including murders		Including serious health disorders		Including minor health disorders		Including causing of physical pain or minor health disorders		Including threat to kill or cause serious health disorders		Including rape or enforcing to have sexual relations	
	Republic of Lithuania	Klaipeda County	Republic of Lithuania	Klaipeda County	Republic of Lithuania	Klaipeda County	Republic of Lithuania	Klaipeda County	Republic of Lithuania	Klaipeda County	Republic of Lithuania	Klaipeda County	Republic of Lithuania	Klaipeda County
2007	418	38	18	3	9	1	149	14	44	5	100	14	5	-
2008	359	21	18	-	10	-	137	9	61	2	55	7	4	-

Source: Republic of Lithuania's Statistics Department

The above noted statistical data show only approximate extent of physical and sexual domestic violence. There are no available statistical data regarding psychological and economic domestic violence because this kind of data is provided by non-governmental organizations, which are initiators of such nature of sociological researches. Since non-governmental organizations are not enough strong financially there are no possibilities for them to initiate such nature of sociological researches annually.

As Lithuanian legal acts do not determine domestic violence as crime therefore it is difficult to make analysis of statistical data supplied by different institutions. The official statistical data give information only about small part of domestic violence cases, because the majority of victims of domestic violence are both financially and psychologically dependent on perpetrator and do not apply to any enforcement institutions or other organizations, which provide services for them. The official statistical data show the approximate extent of physical and sexual domestic violence, while the information regarding psychological



and economic domestic violence is not available at all as it is provided by non-governmental organizations, which are not enough strong financially in order to initiate annual sociological researches.

#### **Sweden<sup>4</sup>**

According to the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (BRA), the total number of assaults, not resulting in death, against women 18 years old or older in Sweden in 2009 was 26 261. Of these, in 19 116 cases the perpetrator knew the victim. The number of cases, when assault resulted in the death of the victim in 2009 was 95, which is an increase of about 50 percent compared to the year 2008!

**Table 6. Crimes against Life and Health, Chapter 3. Reported offences in Sweden.**

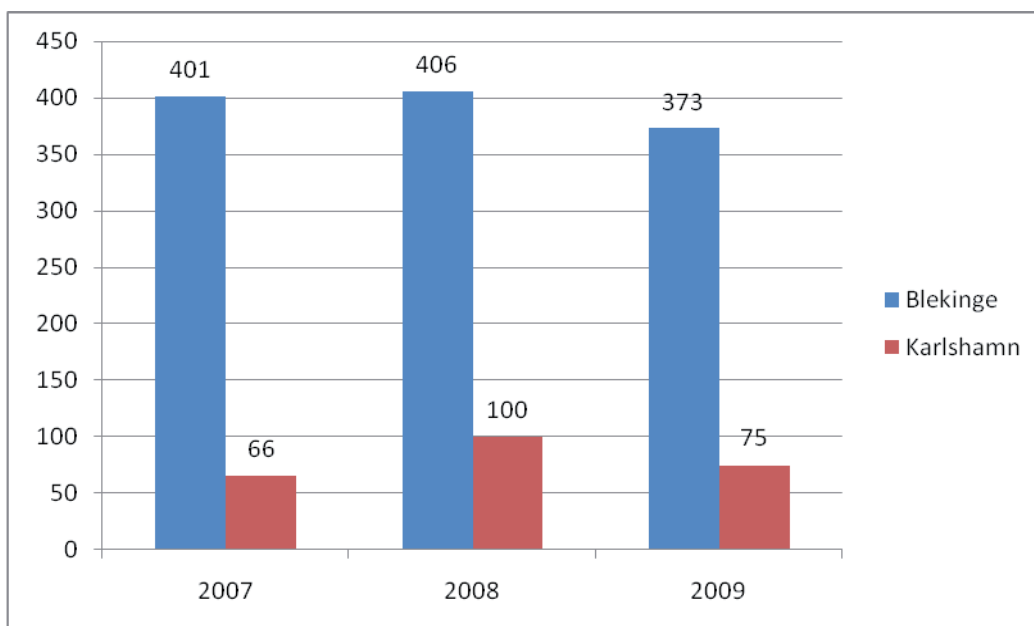
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Completed murder, manslaughter and assault resulting in death against women 18 years or older	87	60	95
Attempt to commit murder or manslaughter against women 18 years or older	197	184	197
Assault (not resulting in death) against women 18 years or older	25 676	25 926	26 261
Crimes committed by person acquainted with victim	18 745	19 072	19 116

Source: The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention.

When looking at the statistics from the Blekinge region, the total number of assaults against women 18 years or older, which did not result in death, was 406 in 2008 and decreased to 373 cases in 2009. Between 2007 and 2009 there was only one registered case of murder of a woman in the Blekinge region: in 2008. Also there were 2 cases reported of an attempt to commit murder: one in 2007 and one in 2008. There were no cases reported of attempted murder or manslaughter, nor any case of murder or manslaughter or any assault resulting in death in Karlshamn in the past 3 years.

<sup>4</sup> All statistics come from Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention – Brottsförebyggande rådet – Brå: <http://www.bra.se/>

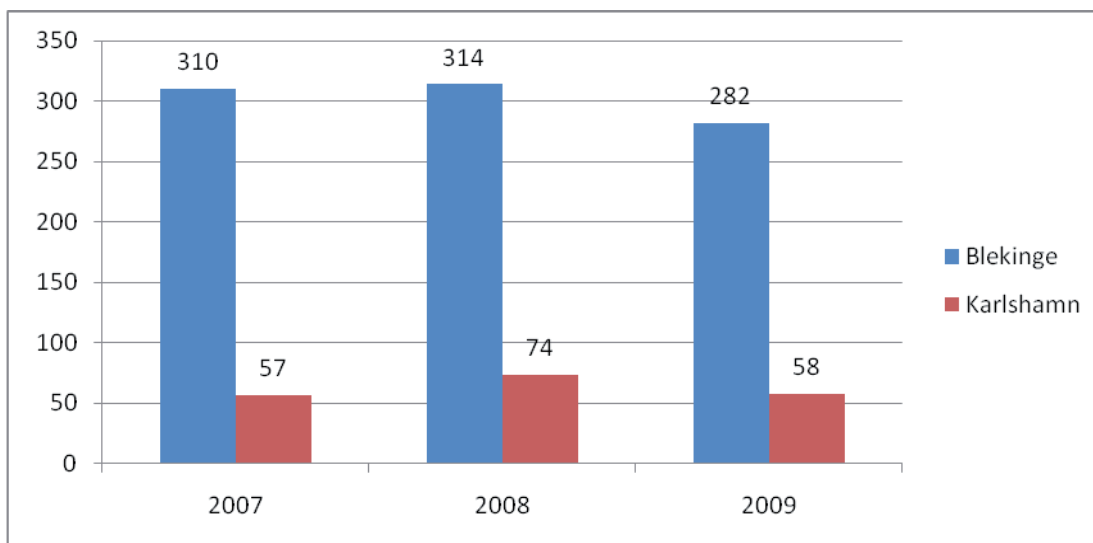
The total number of assaults, not resulting in death, against women 18 or older in the Blekinge region was 401 cases in 2007, 4006 cases in 2008, and in 2009 the number of reported cases decreased to 373 cases. In Karlshamn, in 2007 there were 60 reported cases of assault (not resulting in death) against women 18 years or older. In 2008 this number increased to 100 reported cases, and in 2009 decreased again to 75 cases.



**Figure 6. Assaults (not resulting in death) against women 18 years or older**

As statistics show, the perpetrator is very often acquainted with the victim. In total, out of the 373 cases of assaults reported in Blekinge in 2009, the victim knew the perpetrator in 282 of those cases. In 2008 and 2007 the numbers were correspondingly: 314 for 406 reported cases, and 310 for 401 reported cases.

In Karlshamn, out of the 75 reported cases of assault in 2009 the perpetrator was acquainted with the victim in 58 cases. Out of the 66 cases reported in 2007, the victim knew the perpetrator in 57 cases. In 2008 the numbers were correspondingly: 100 cases reported where 74 perpetrators knew the victim.



**Figure 7. Assaults when the perpetrator was acquainted with victim.**

Another type of crime connected with domestic violence and recognized by the Swedish Penal Code are crimes against Liberty and Peace, including the violation of a woman's integrity, unlawful threat and molestation. The one which is most reported in this category in Sweden is molestation: the numbers increased from 20 527 in 2007, to 22 282 in 2008 and up to 23 770 in 2009. It is estimated that this number will increase in the coming years.

**Table 7. Crimes against Liberty and Peace, Chapter 4. Reported offences**

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Sweden</b>			
Gross violation of a woman's integrity against women 18 years or older	2 514	2 733	2 657
Unlawful threat against women 18 years or older	19 524	20 034	20 009
Molestation against women 18 years or older	20 527	22 282	23 770
<b>Blekinge</b>			
Gross violation of a woman's integrity against women 18 years or older	42	33	33
Unlawful threat against women 18 years or older	281	360	279
Molestation against women 18 years or older	296	355	369
<b>Karlshamn</b>			
Gross violation of a woman's integrity against women 18 years or older	8	9	4
Unlawful threat against women 18 years or older	57	84	46
Molestation against women 18 years or older	68	71	66

Source: The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention.

The last category reported by The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention is sexual offence. The number of reported cases of rape is increasing dramatically: from 1624 cases in 2007, to 2935 in 2009. It is difficult to say why this number has been increasing so dramatically: it might be caused by an increasing number of actual rapes, but more likely the number of actual rapes is more or less constant and definitely bigger than the reports and statistics show. It is more likely that the increasing number of reported rapes is caused by higher social awareness. To put it simply: more women decide to report rape to the Police.

**Table 8. Sexual offences, Chapter 6. Reported offences, women aged 18 years or older.**

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Sweden</b>			
Total number of rape cases	1 624	2 946	2 935
<b>Blekinge</b>			
Total number of rape cases	17	34	26
<b>Karlshamn</b>			
Total number of rape cases	2	7	9

Source: The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention.

In 2009 over 4000 cases concerning rape against persons 15 years or older were reported to the police. In 98 percent the crime victims were young girls or women. Only a fraction of the cases were prosecuted. Most cases concerning assault, threat and molestation against women did not lead to prosecution. The reasons for this were that there was no witness to the assault, and also that the woman did not want to complete the notification.

A common problem is that the police investigations take a very long time to complete and that the waiting period for court procedures will become psychologically stressful for the victim.

"Dark numbers" (estimated non-reported domestic violence statistics) are high when it comes to the problem of domestic violence. Many women are ashamed of reporting that they are abused and others leave the relationship instead of making a notification. The number of unreported cases is estimated to be ten times more than the reported offences and some research suggests that nearly half of all women have been victims of abuse during their lifetime.

## **Legal regulations on domestic violence.**

### **Polish legal acts regulating the issue of domestic violence.**

Polish law defines domestic violence in the Act on Counteracting Domestic Violence of July 29, 2005. This Act is the most important document regarding domestic violence, however the penalties and procedures are described in the Penal Code. Art. 207 of the Penal Code specifies the sentence, which should be applied:

„§ 1. Physical and psychological abuse against the next of kin or other person in temporary or permanent dependence on the perpetrator or against a dependable minor or another person with limited physical or psychological powers is punishable by 3 months to 5 years of imprisonment

§ 2. If the action described in § 1 is especially cruel the sentence of imprisonment amounts from one year to 10 years

§ 3. If the action defined in § 1 or § 2 results in a suicidal attempt of the victim the sentence of imprisonment amounts from 2 years to 12 years” (Penal Code, 1997).

Battering a family member is a crime, which is prosecuted by law when there is a suspicion that it has occurred and prosecutors are obliged to start an investigation. Contrary to popular belief the complaint of the victim is not necessary. However a complaint is the most common reason to start a procedure against the perpetrator. Usually a woman presses charges against her husband or partner. It is very common that women refuse to continue pressing charges and withdraw their complaints. It is the most frequently quoted reason for remitting cases.

#### **1.1 Some excerpts of the Penal Code (published 1997 with some later changes)**

“Art. 191 §1

Violence or a threat thereof to force someone to undertake certain action or abandon certain actions is punishable by imprisonment up to 3 years (prosecuted automatically)<sup>5\*</sup>

Art. 197 §1

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<sup>5\*</sup> Automatic prosecution is undertaken by prosecutor and police because the crime has occurred and complaint of the victim is not necessary. Refusal by the victim to press charges does not have to result in cancellation of the indictment if the crime has been committed

<sup>\*\*</sup> Prosecution resulting from a complaint takes place only if the victim wants to press charges and cannot be initiated without a complaint

Violence or a threat thereof to force someone to sexual activity is punishable by one year to 10 years of imprisonment (prosecution initiated by the complaint of the victim)\*\*

Art. 209 §1

Avoiding the burden of care of the next of kin if it was ordered by the court and endangering thereby the basic needs of that person is punishable by imprisonment up to 2 years (prosecution initiated by the complaint of the victim)" (Penal Code, 1997).

## **1.2 Currently obligatory Polish legal documents regulate the issues of violence:**

- Constitution of the Republic of Poland of April 2, 1997
- Act on Counteracting Domestic Violence of July 29, 2005
- Act on Education of September 7, 1991
- Act on Sobriety and Counteracting Alcoholism of October 26, 1982
- Act on Police Forces of April 6, 1990
- The National Program to Counteract Domestic Violence, 1997.
- Penal Code of 1997
- Code of Family Law of 1964, art. 87 defines relations between parents and children
- Code of Civil Law of 1964
- Act on procedures concerning minors of October 26, 1982

"Art.572 § 1 Everyone who knows a case meriting automatic prosecution is obliged to notify a court of family law

Art.572 § 2 This duty legally burdens vital statistics offices, courts, prosecutors, notaries, bailiffs, local governments, police, educational centers, social workers and all person working with children and mentally sick people" (Code of Civil Law of 1964).

Even though there are appropriate legal acts the Polish courts are rather lenient in applying sanctions to perpetrators and do not protect the victims sufficiently. As the national statistics show in 2008 only 66 perpetrators were ordered to sign up for a therapy. Only 85 perpetrators were sentenced to participate in

correction programs. These numbers are small considering the fact that they apply to the whole country and not just Pomorskie Province. In 166 cases perpetrators were ordered to vacate the residence they shared with the victim and in 280 cases orders of protection were issued.

Article 14 of the Act on Counteracting Domestic Violence is of paramount importance for the victims as it proclaims:

“Art.14. 1. If there are circumstances for detention of the person accused of domestic violence as defined in art.13, the court may apply police probation instead of arrest providing that the accused will leave the residence shared with the victim and will notify the police of his new abode.

2. If the afore mentioned residence is vacated the court may also apply an order of protection as defined in the Penal Code art. 272, Act of June 6, 1997” (Act on Counteracting Domestic Violence, 2005).

This article obviously enables the removal of the perpetrator from the common residence he/she shares with his/her victim. Alas, Polish courts too rarely use this legal tool to protect the victims of violence. In 2009 there were solely 166 cases when the perpetrators were ordered to leave the place of residence, which was shared with the victim. In most cases it is the victim, who flees the place of residence to avoid violence and has to face uncertain situation in shelters, which are far too few.

The new amendments to the Act from 2005, that came into force in August 2010, enable courts to order a perpetrator of violence to leave the place of residence when it is shared with his/her victim. Court sentence, in such a case, is issued after a trial, which has to be conducted within one month from the notification of crime. The decision of the court is binding immediately after its announcement.

In June 2010 Polish Parliament passed amendments to the Act on Counteracting Domestic Violence from July 2005. New regulations strengthen the protection of victims of violence, especially through restraining order and possibility of eviction of the abuser from the place of residence.

The eviction of the abuser from common flat and restraining order can be issued by the public prosecutor during the preparatory proceedings before the court case takes place.

The Act allows also for free forensic examination for the victim and places an obligation on each municipality to help every victim, who has no legal right to the property, which she occupies with the perpetrator.



The amendments give the social workers powers to intervene when the life of a child is endangered and take the child away from his/her carers. The decision must be made together with a police officer and a person representing the health service.

The amendment also strengthens the law by obliging every municipality to create interdisciplinary units consisting of experts working on eradication of domestic violence: psychologists, police officers, social workers and probation officers (Centrum Praw Kobiet < [http://www.cpk.org.pl/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=244&catid=78](http://www.cpk.org.pl/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=244&catid=78)> [accessed: 20.08.2010]).

These data point to poor understanding by Polish courts how important it is to provide victims with security and compensation for their suffering. Consciousness-raising seems to be a necessary step, especially in regard to judges. Creating an infrastructure of assistance to victims is equally important as well as the right enforcement of court orders and sentences. Victims of violence, who feel unsafe in their own homes, must be provided with personal immunity.

#### Lithuanian legal acts defining the issue of domestic violence

There is no separate law in Lithuania regarding domestic violence. There is only a draft law called the law of Protection from Violence in Private Space. Currently there are many discussions on the subject of this draft law between different institutions and organizations which compose the system of help and support for victims of domestic violence. These institutions and organizations submit different corrections to the draft law based on their practical experience, with a view to improving the current system of help and support for victims of domestic violence.

#### **Currently in the cases of domestic violence, the following legal acts apply:**

- Republic of Lithuania Criminal Code (Official Gazette, 2000, Nr. 89-2741);
- Republic of Lithuania Criminal Procedure Code (Official Gazette, 2002, Nr.37-1341);
- Republic of Lithuania Civil Code (Official Gazette, 2002, Nr. 2002, 37-1341);
- Republic of Lithuania Administrative Code (Official Gazette, 1985, Nr. 1-1).

## 2.1. Physical Violence

**Table 9. Domestic violence in Lithuanian Law – physical violence**

Republic of Lithuania Criminal Code Ch. 18 “Crimes against Human Health”	Serious health disorders Art. 135.1	Injury of a person, which caused loss of sight, hearing, speech, childbearing, pregnancy, led to incurable or long-term disease, bodily disfigurement, serious disability	Imprisonment up to 10 years
	Minor health disorders Art. 138.1	Injury of a person, which led to long-term disease, minor disability	Restriction of freedom or detention or imprisonment up to 3 years
	Causing of physical pain or minor health disorders Art. 140.1	Violent actions against a person, which caused physical pain or minor health disorders, led to short-term disease	Public works or restriction of freedom or detention or imprisonment up to 1 year

Source: compiled by the author based on national legal acts.

According to data from the Republic of Lithuania’s Department of Statistics and Police Department under the Ministry of the Interior, physical violence is one of the most common types of domestic violence (<http://www.stat.gov.lt/en/pages/view/?id=1350>, [accessed 11.03.2010]). On the other hand practical experience shows that the punishment of perpetrators, according to the Criminal or Administrative Codes is very limited.

The Criminal Procedural Code provides for the possibility of legally evicting the perpetrator of domestic violence. However practical experience shows, that usually women, who suffer violence and their children, leave home, because in many cases the court avoids any violation of the perpetrator’s rights to property. The Lithuanian Parliament is currently considering amendments to the Procedural Code in order to include the possibility of temporarily restricting a perpetrator’s property rights.

## 2.2. Psychological Violence

**Table 10. Domestic violence in Lithuanian Law – psychological violence**

Republic of Lithuania Criminal Code Ch. 19 “Dangerous Crimes against Human Health and Life”	Threatening to kill or cause serious health disorders Art. 145.1	Threatening to kill or cause serious health disorders, if there are reasonable grounds to believe that the threat can be fulfilled	Public works or fine or restriction of freedom or detention or imprisonment up to 2 years
Republic of Lithuania Criminal Code Ch. 20 “Crimes against Human Freedom”	Limiting of free actions Art. 148.1	Using psychological violence against a person and/or his or her acquaintances to compel a person to undertake unlawful actions or/and act in accordance with perpetrator will and instructions	Fine or restriction of freedom or detention or imprisonment up to 3 years
Republic of Lithuania Criminal Code Ch. 22 “Crimes against Personal Honor and Dignity”	Slander Art. 154.1	Dissemination of false information about a person in order to offend or humiliate a person or undermine the confidence in her or him.	Fine or restriction of freedom or detention or imprisonment up to 1 year

Source: compiled by the author based on national legal acts.

Comparing the data from the Republic of Lithuania’s Statistics and Police Departments (both under the Ministry of the Interior) with the data from assorted sociological data from NGOs, it is obvious that there is a huge gap between the two. The data from those NGOs shows that the majority of cases of psychological domestic violence remain hidden. As a result, in many cases, the court finds the perpetrator guiltless.

### 2.3. Sexual Violence

**Table 11. Domestic violence in Lithuanian Law – sexual violence.**

Republic of Lithuania Criminal Code Ch. 21 "Crimes against Human Sexual Self-determination and Inviolability"	Rape Art. 149.1	Coerced intercourse with a person using and/or threatening to use physical violence and/or depriving her/him of the opportunity to resist and/or taking advantage of his or her vulnerability	Imprisonment up to 7 years
	Sexual coercion Art. 150.1	Coerced sexual relations with a person in anal or oral way using and/or threatening to use physical violence or taking advantage of his or her vulnerability	Detention or imprisonment up to 6 years
	Forced sexual relations Art. 151.1	Forced sexual relations with a person using psychological violence and/or his or her dependence on perpetrator	Detention or imprisonment up to 3 years

Source: compiled by the author based on national legal acts.

According to data from the Republic of Lithuania's Statistics and Police departments, under the Ministry of the Interior there are no cases of domestic sexual violence (<http://www.stat.gov.lt/en/pages/view/?id=1355>, [accessed 11.03.2010]). On account of the stereotype that a woman must satisfy her husband's sexual needs, the majority of victims of sexual domestic violence do not seek out any enforcement institutions or other organizations, which provide services for domestic violence victims.

## 2.4. Economic Violence

**Table 12. Domestic violence in Lithuanian Law – economic violence.**

Republic of Lithuania Criminal Code Ch. 23: “Crimes and offences against the child and the family” and Criminal Code Ch. 28: Crimes against Property.	Abuse of rights and duties of parents, guardians and other lawful representatives of child Art. 163	Using of physical or psychological violence against a child, leaving a child without care	Fine or restriction of freedom or detention or imprisonment up to 5 years
	Avoidance to maintain child Art. 164	Avoiding an obligation under the court decision to keep the child, to pay money for a dependent child, or any other necessary material support to a child.	Public works or restriction of freedom or detention or imprisonment up to 2 years
	Damage or destruction of property Art. 187.1	Damaging or destructing of property of other people	Public works or fine or restriction of freedom or imprisonment up to 2 years

Source: compiled by the author based on national legal acts.

According to data from the Republic of Lithuania’s Statistics and Police Departments, under the Ministry of the Interior there are no cases of domestic economic violence (ibidem). Usually domestic economic violence occurs when a woman is on maternity leave and has low income, or in cases of divorce where custody is granted to mothers.

The Children’s Rights Protection Act of the Lithuanian Republic obliges parents, guardians and other legal protectors of the child to take care of the child’s life and health, rearing and education, etc. The Administrative Law in Lithuania stipulates the possibility to penalize parents who become negligent in the performance of their duties (Lithuania Republic Administrative Code, 1985). However in many cases these parents, who refuse to support their children, hide their official income so that the court cannot prosecute them. In these cases children are supported from the state budget.

The main problem with the legal system in Lithuania is that there is no separate law in Lithuania regarding domestic violence so in many cases violence within the family, especially psychological, sexual and economic, is hard to oppose. Domestic violence against women is still treated as a private problem between spouses and hence the majority of such cases are hidden. It is worth mentioning that the Criminal

Code of the Republic of Lithuania provides for procedures that make possible an eviction of the perpetrator. Nevertheless, it is usually a victim of domestic violence who leaves home as court avoids violation of the perpetrator's rights to property.

### **Swedish legal acts defining the issue of domestic violence**

#### **Currently in the cases of domestic violence the following legal acts apply:**

1. Swedish Penal Code 1962.
2. Social Services Act 2005.
3. The Restraining Orders Act 1988.

### **3.1 Swedish Penal Code**

In the past, to prosecute a domestic violence case, prosecutors needed explicit accusations from the victim. Additionally, Swedish legislation mandated that the courts view each criminal act as an isolated matter. The result of this approach was that courts rarely could consider the number of repeated offences perpetrated by an offender or the aggravating circumstances of violence. Moreover, the Swedish legislature previously viewed reconciliation between the involved parties as preferable to judicial intervention (Nylen, 1999). The Swedish Penal Code was adopted in 1962 and came into force on 1 January 1965. At present only certain parts of the Code are written using gender neutral terminology, but the intention is to extend gender neutral terminology to the entire text. For the purpose of this report author used the translation of the Swedish Penal Code into English made by Norman Bishop in 1999 (<http://www.sweden.gov.se/content/1/c6/02/77/77/cb79a8a3.pdf> [accessed 11.06.2010]).

Chapter 3 to 7 contains acts about crimes against a person. Chapter 3 specifies crimes against life and health, which include bodily injuries, assault and murder. Chapter 4 specifies crimes against liberty and peace, chapter 6 outlines sexual crimes. Section 1 of Chapter 3 describing Crimes against Life and Health states: "A person who takes the life of another shall be sentenced for *murder* to imprisonment for ten years or for life" (Swedish Penal Code, translation 1999, p. 14) and section 2 supplements it by stating: "If, in view of the circumstances that led to the act or for other reasons, the crime referred to in Section 1 is considered

to be less serious, imprisonment for *manslaughter* shall be imposed for at least six and at most ten years” (ibidem).

Other sections of the same chapter state the penalties for bodily injuries and gross assault: *Section 5* “A person who inflicts bodily injury, illness or pain upon another or renders him or her powerless or in a similar helpless state, shall be sentenced for *assault* to imprisonment for at most two years or, if the crime is petty, to a fine or imprisonment for at most six months” (Swedish Penal Code, 1999, p. 15).

#### *Section 6*

If the crime referred to in section 5 is considered gross, the sentence for *gross assault* shall be imprisonment for at least one and at most ten years” (Swedish Penal Code, 1999, p. 15).

In assessing if the crime is gross special consideration shall be given to whether the act constituted a mortal danger or whether the offender inflicted grievous bodily harm or severe illness or otherwise displayed particular ruthlessness or brutality.

In Chapter 4 of Swedish Penal Code, describing Crimes against Liberty and Peace, states penalties for crimes committed by the person in close relation to the victim:

#### *Section 4a*

A person who commits criminal acts as defined in Chapters 3, 4 or 6 against another person having, or having had, a close relationship to the perpetrator shall, if the acts form a part of an element in the repeated violation of that person’s integrity and intended to severely damage that person’s self-confidence, be sentenced for *gross violation of integrity* to imprisonment for at least six months and at most six years.

If the acts described in the first paragraph were committed by a man against a woman to whom he is, or has been, married or with whom he is, or has been cohabitating under circumstances comparable to marriage, he shall be sentenced for *gross violation of woman’s integrity* to the same punishment” (Swedish Penal Code, 1999, p.18).

Other sections of this chapter, like section 5 and 7, although describing crimes of molestation and threatening another person do not refer directly to domestic violence.

Very important is Chapter 6th of Penal Code, which states penalties and describe sexual crimes.

#### *Section 1*

A person who through violence or threat which involves, or appears to the threatened person to involve an imminent danger, forces another person to have sexual intercourse or to engage in a comparable sexual act that, in view of the nature of the violation and the circumstances in general, is comparable to enforced sexual intercourse, shall be sentenced for *rape* to imprisonment for at least two and at most six years. Causing helplessness or a similar state of incapacitation shall be regarded as equivalent to violence. If in view of the nature of the violence or the threat and the circumstances in general, the crime is considered less serious, a sentence of imprisonment for at most four years shall be imposed. If the crime is gross, a sentence of imprisonment for at least four and at most ten years shall be imposed for *gross rape*. In assessing whether the crime is gross, special consideration shall be given to whether the violence involved a danger to life or whether the perpetrator caused serious injury or serious illness or, having regard to the method used or the victim's youth or other circumstances, exhibited particular ruthlessness or brutality" (Swedish Penal Code, 1999, p.24).

### **Social Services Act**

The other group of legal acts concerning domestic violence is the Swedish Social Services Act from 2001. The Act describes the general objectives of Swedish social services. Different sections of the Act specify, to some extent, the aims related to different target groups or types of problems. Chapters 5 and 14 refer to procedures dealing with victims of crime and reporting of the abuse. The most important thing is that the victim of crime and her or his close relatives receive proper support and assistance, also in collaboration with other authorities.

Chapter 5 of the Social Services Act states that particular attention should be paid to the fact that "women who are being or have been subjected to violence or other abuse by a person close to them may be in need of support and help in order to change their situation" (Social Services Act, 2005,p.11).

Also a very important thesis expressed in the Act is that children, who have witnessed violence or other abuse by or towards adults close to them are victims of crime and may be in need of support and help (Social Services Act, 2005).

The social services bear the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that everyone living in their municipality receives the assistance and support they need, irrespective of whether or not they are crime



victims and regardless of age or sex. Cooperation between all actors, including the social services, is important so that the individual does not suffer from any gaps in provision of support (Government Bill 2006/07:38).

Chapter 14 of the Social Services Act states the responsibility of every social worker, in case he or she will receive any information about an abuse or crime being committed to report the case to the authorities: "Any person receiving information of a matter, which can imply a need for the social welfare committee to intervene for the protection of a child, should notify the committee accordingly. Authorities whose activities affect children and young persons are duty bound, as are other authorities in healthcare, medical care, other forensic psychiatric investigation services and social services, prison and probation services to notify the social welfare committee immediately of any matter which comes to their knowledge and may imply a need for the social welfare committee to intervene for the protection of a child. The same applies to persons employed by such authorities. The same duty of notification also applies to persons active within professionally conducted private services affecting children and young persons or any other professionally conducted services in health and medical care or in social services field" (Social Services Act, 2005 p.30).

The changes in the Social Services Act in 2007 meant that the text in the law was changed from "should" to "shall". The support for the victims of domestic violence became imperative for the social services. The amendment came to mean much for the social services response to the victims. The victims do not have to prove that they have been abused. Many critics had argued that social servants, prior to this amendment, were biased on behalf of perpetrators due to social stereotypes and did not feel it imperative to perform their function.

All public sectors activities are subject to the Confidentiality Act (1980:100), therefore all information the victim share with the social worker are strictly confidential.

### **The Restraining Orders Act**

The Restraining Orders Act was introduced in Sweden in 1988. The fundamental objective of the Act is to prevent crimes against, and to create a sense of security for, individuals who are subject to stalking and harassment. The law is drafted in a gender-neutral way, but it is clear from the preliminary work conducted in connection with the formulation of this legislation that the Act was in particular intended to be applied

in situations in which a woman is exposed to violence or threats within a relationship or where a man is harassing and stalking a woman in connection with the break-down of an intimate relationship (Brå report No 2007:2).

On 1 September 2003, the law was extended by the inclusion of two new forms of restraining order: the *specially extended restraining order* and the *domestic exclusion order*. Under a specially extended restraining order, individuals may be ordered to stay away from areas of particular importance to the victim. Under the domestic exclusion order, the victim's partner may be ordered to stay away from the couple's shared residence for a maximum of one month (BRA report No 2007:2).

The evaluation of the Act, made by The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention showed that most of those applying for restraining orders (four out of five) are women and that the vast majority of those who comprise the subjects of these applications (nine out of ten) are men. In the majority of cases, the parties concerned are currently involved or have been involved in a relationship (Brå report No 2007:2).

Traditionally the penalties for domestic violence and violence against women in Sweden were mild.

Another problem is that the eviction of the perpetrator of domestic violence from the common abode is not actively executed, save in particularly serious cases. Therefore, it is usually the victim who leaves home and lives in a shelter.

## **Consequences of domestic violence**

Being the victim of a crime often has a number of negative after-effects. These may be financial losses, physical injuries, psychological reactions and problems or social consequences. These after-effects often bring about many practical problems. How badly or to what extent a person reacts is an individual matter, depends on several things. The criminal act itself, the relation between the victim and the offender, the victim's social situation and personality are some of the factors that influence the reactions.

Although the crime may have led to financial losses or physical injuries, it is almost always the psychological effect of knowing that one has been intentionally hurt or violated by another person that is the most difficult aspect for a crime victim. Generally speaking, sexual crimes evoke stronger psychological

reactions than crimes of violence which in turn affect people more deeply than crimes against property.

Abuse within close relationships, such as the gross violation of a woman's integrity, or a child subjected to sexual abuse by a parent, is especially serious since the criminal acts are often carried out repeatedly (The Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority, 2009).

There are many stereotypes about violence against women in modern society. The most popular are the following:

- Woman, who suffer violence, has low level education and low income level;
- Violence against woman happens in dysfunctional families living in rural areas;
- Violence against woman refers to physical or sexual harm;
- Woman is the one, who provokes violence against herself;
- Woman must be obedient to her husband and save her marriage.

According to the data of sociological research, which was initiated by the Lithuanian Ministry of Social Security and Labor, the majority of victims of domestic violence are middle age women, who have secondary education and average income. Violence against women is equally prevalent in both urban and rural areas. Psychological and economic violence against woman happens significantly more often than physical or sexual violence. The most frequent factor of violence against woman is perpetrator's intoxication from alcohol (Women's Information Center, 1999; <http://www.socmin.lt/index.php?1606775163> [accessed 11.02.2010]).

In recent years 15 percent of married women regularly suffer from domestic violence, 65 percent of them suffer from domestic violence more often than once per month. The majority of these women suffers not only from different types of violence, but also feels short-term and long-term physical and psychological consequences. These consequences refer not only to woman, but also other members of her family, especially children, who are not only witnesses, but also victims of domestic violence. Although the majority of cases of violence against women are hidden, indirect consequences of violence against woman influence all the members of community (Women's Information Center, 1999).

According to the statistical data in Lithuania 37 percent of victims of domestic violence often feel anger, 25 percent – sadness, 23 percent – helplessness, 19 percent – fear (<http://www.socmin.lt/index.php?1606775163> [accessed 11.02.2010]). Usually women, who suffer from domestic violence, are characterized by lack of self-esteem and self value, self-distrust and distrust in other people, avoidance of honest and sincere communication with other people. The majority of women, who suffer domestic violence, limit their relations with relatives and friends, thus trying to avoid the disclosure of domestic violence. On the other hand the limitation of relations with other people can be not only a consequence, but also a form of domestic violence. Domestic violence causes negative psychological climate and fear-based communication pattern within the family. Often woman, in order to protect her children from stress, or children, in order to protect their mother from father's aggression, distort or conceal certain facts.

The statistical data show that the majority of victims of physical domestic violence suffer minor health disorders. However in many cases these disorders after a while cause very serious health disorders. Approximately 10 percent of victims of physical domestic violence suffer very serious health disorders or are being killed. In many cases children become victims of physical domestic violence as they are witnesses or actors of conflict situation between adults. Negative consequences of physical domestic violence are also reflected in the statistical data given by public healthcare institutions (NEWW Polska, 2005).

Psychological effects can also be very severe and take the form of diverse post- traumatic reactions, especially if the victim has been subjected to long lasting and cruel treatment.

Domestic violence is a crime which often takes place in the victim's own home whereby the victim has no secure place to retreat to. To aggravate the crime further, the offender is a person close to the victim and on whom she relies emotionally as well as socially and financially. The offender's mood swings between violence and human warmth in such relationships often create strong but detrimental emotional ties. There is also a real risk that both victim and perpetrator minimize the crime. Another common occurrence is the offender putting more and more blame on the victim for provoking the abuse.

Feelings of guilt and shame about what happened are very common even though it is the offender who is responsible for what took place. It is not unusual to use different kinds of defence mechanisms in order to handle the anxiety brought on by the crime. For example, to deny or suppress what has happened (Symonds, 1975).

Later in the process, often when the victim has left the relationship, other common reactions are anger and hatred towards the offender and a desire for revenge. These reactions, which are normal, can be difficult to handle in such situations in which the victim and the offender have children, and the court allows the offender to spend time with children.

The decision for the victim to seek help or to leave the partner/perpetrator is a process of risk assessments. The factors affecting the decision can be:

**Table 13. The factors affecting the decision of the victim to seek help.**

<b>Emotional factors</b>	<b>Practical factors</b>	<b>Situational factors</b>
Love	Security/protection	Rural/metropolitan area
Hope about change	Economical situation/status	Ethnicity and immigration status
Children's needs	Housing	Disability
Family, relatives, friends and community	Arrangements for the children	Class, caste, religion
	Societal/social assistance	Age

Source: Compiled by the author.

The consequences suffered by victims of sexual domestic violence are similar to the ones suffered by victims of physical domestic violence. These victims of sexual domestic violence, who are forced to have sexual relations in unacceptable ways, usually suffer minor health disorders. However women, who become pregnant during forced sexual relations and experience interruption, suffer very serious health disorders, which cause painful sexual relations and inability to become pregnant. In many cases children become victims of sexual domestic violence as they are used in order to frighten woman, who refuses to have sexual relations with perpetrator, or abused in order to satisfy perpetrator's sexual perversion. The worldwide statistical data show that the majority of victims of prostitution were witnesses or victims of sexual domestic violence in their childhood (Symonds, 1975).

Violence impairs women professionally and blocks their chances of development. Research in Western Europe shows that more than half of battered women worked while suffering from domestic violence. The quality of their work diminished because of frequent absences, late-comings resulting from

violence. The same study shows that battered women are more often fired, they change jobs more frequently and more often suffer from psychological disturbances. The experience of violence at home lowers the socio-economic position of a woman, her professional standing and forces her to seek institutionalized help. Financial dependence on the violent partner is the most often quoted reason for staying in the pathological relationship. Other effects include lowered self-confidence, depression, fits of fear or anger and other symptoms of post-traumatic stress. They all negatively impact the ability to work and make it more likely for a woman to lose her job, especially compounded with absences, late-comings caused. In many cases perpetrators punish women for being professionally active as it gives them more independence. They feel threatened if a woman has a job so they try to wreck her chances through repressions, as refusing to take care of children, destroying objects or clothes necessary for work or applying even more violence leaving supposedly shameful marks and bruises. As such domestic violence is a serious obstacle for gender equality (Centrum Praw Kobiet, 2010a,b).

Practical experience shows that the majority of victims of economical domestic violence are completely financially dependent on their spouses, because their access to professional career and sufficient reward are limited. Also they have limited access to planning and allocating of family budget, which leads to meeting of the needs of one spouse. In most cases women, who suffer economical domestic violence, experience complete self-insecurity and insecurity of children, as income of one spouse can't assure financial stability of all family members and support of government fill only essential needs of family members (Centrum Praw Kobiet, 2010a,b).

It needs to be stressed that domestic violence is a social problem even though it is directed at a particular individual. Firstly, harmful role models develop and are absorbed by children. A child who witnesses violence is traumatized, even though it may not be an object of aggression. Children from violent homes are more prone to repeat the same kind of behavior in their families. It only increases the number of potential victims in next generations (ibidem).

Children, who have experience of witnessing domestic violence, tend to develop dependence on psychotropic drugs and delinquent behavior. After these children grow up, consequences become causes of domestic violence. The data of sociological research show that girls, who in their childhood have witnessed father's violent actions against mother, two and a half times more often suffer violence from their husbands than the ones, who haven't got such kind of experience. Boys, who in their childhood have

witnessed father's violent actions against mother, four times more often use violence against their wives than the ones, who haven't got such kind of experience.

About 200 000 children in Sweden are experiencing violence between adults in their families (Brå report No 2009:12). Most common is that the mother is threatened and abused by the father. Unless the children are helped to process their experiences they risk to become traumatized. Research in this area shows that about 70 percent of children, without help, themselves become victims or perpetrators.

The conditions of life in vulnerable families are characterized by insecurity in the links between children and parents, a lack of continuity and communication and a lack of stimulation. The family often lives in chaotic circumstances and with intense conflicts between members of the family.

Psychologist Per Öystein Steinsvåg, Alternative To Violence (ATV), Oslo, says that domestic violence affects the child's fundamental needs of security, and that security is of great importance for development. He has compared the situation of a child who is experiencing a war with a child witness to violence (ATV, Steinsvåg, 2005).

Children who have experienced war:

- Have witnessed violence together with the family.
- Their normal life was interrupted.
- Shared experience with significant others.
- Had no sense of shame or need to hide the reality.
- Had no doubt about who the enemy was.
- Believed in a right and a wrong side, and believed they were on the right side.

Children who have experience of being a witness to domestic violence:

- Experienced violence alone.
- Nobody around them spoke about what had happened.
- Felt shame and a need to hide the reality.
- Their normal life was not interrupted. They were expected to pretend in front of others that everything was as it used to be.
- There was no formal confirmation of the conflict. They had to deal with pain in silence, isolation and loneliness.

- There was a great uncertainty about who the enemy was.
- They were not sure which of the parents they should support.
- To keep with one of the parents resulted in serious consequences, whoever they chose (Steinsvåg, 2005).

Social costs are another negative result of violence. Victims need help and it is costly. It is not unusual for the victims to suffer from damage of internal organs and require medical treatment at the expense of the whole society. Lethal battering is rare, but victims may die after years in the result of damages to their vital organs. Domestic violence may lead to disability of the victims, who can no longer work and support them and are excluded from the working community, cannot fulfill their social roles, take advantage of education and professional experience. Because of that victims may feel worthless as society members. It is also stigmatizing, bruises and marks of battering make victims feel ashamed and avoid other people, they often live in fear of being discovered as victims and suffer in isolation. Victims of violence are not full participants in social life (Centrum Praw Kobiet, 2010b).

All the victims of any type of domestic violence can't be full-fledged members of community as they aren't able to carry out their civil duties and develop overall welfare. It is estimated that the average costs of eliminating the consequences of domestic violence in country, which has three and a half million inhabitants, make up to 140 million Euros per year. The costs of eliminating the consequences of domestic violence include maintenance of institutions and organizations, which provide services for victims of domestic violence and perpetrators, funding of special preventive and rehabilitation programs and projects, etc (Centrum Praw Kobiet, 2010b).

A socio-economic analysis of violence against women has been made in Finland (Piispa, Heiskanen, 2001). The study shows that the immediate social costs of violence towards women were 296 million FIM in 1998 which was over 53 million US Dollars. The costs for the healthcare were 40 million (over 8 million US Dollars), for the social services 88 million (almost 18 million US Dollars), for the police/prosecutor and court 158 million (almost 32 million US Dollars), and other costs 10 million (2 million US Dollars). The indirect costs of violence against women are estimated between 360 and 660 million FIM (72 million and 133 million US Dollars) (Piispa, Heiskanen, 2001).



**Table 14 Consequences of domestic violence.**

	<b>Individual</b>	<b>Family</b>	<b>Community</b>
<b>Physical/ Sexual</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal and external bodily injuries</li> <li>• Short-term and long-term bodily injuries</li> <li>• Forced sexual relations between partners</li> <li>• Unintended pregnancy and its interruption</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Injuries, suffered by children, during conflict situation between adults</li> <li>• Strained sexual relations between partners</li> <li>• Sexual abuse of children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deteriorative physical indicators of public health</li> <li>• Increasing numbers of suicides and murders</li> <li>• Frequent violations of women's reproductive rights</li> <li>• Tendency of under ages to prostitute themselves</li> </ul>
<b>Psychological</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feelings of anger, sadness, helplessness and fear</li> <li>• Low level of self-esteem and self-value</li> <li>• Self-distrust and distrust in other people</li> <li>• Avoidance of honest and sincere communication with other people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negative psychological climate in family</li> <li>• Fear based communication in family</li> <li>• Transfer of violent behavior model to children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deteriorative psychical indicators of public health</li> <li>• Increasing numbers of people dependent on psychotropic stuff</li> <li>• Frequent occurrence of delinquent behavior of under ages</li> </ul>
<b>Economical</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited access to professional career and sufficient reward</li> <li>• Financial dependence on partner</li> <li>• Limited access to planning and allocation of family budget</li> <li>• Self-insecurity and insecurity of children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited opportunities to meet needs of all the members of the family</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment and maintenance of institutions and organizations, which provide services for victims of domestic violence and perpetrators</li> <li>• Funding of special programs and projects</li> <li>• Support for unemployed or partially employed people</li> </ul>

Source: Compiled by the author.

There are many different stereotypes about violence against women in modern society, which hinder disclosure of domestic violence and forming of clear view about extent of domestic violence. Lack of sociological qualitative as well as quantitative research make it impossible to fully assess the impact of domestic violence to woman, her family members and whole community, and also separate causes and consequences of domestic violence.

The other main problem with counteracting domestic violence is that institutions and organizations, which provide services for victims of domestic violence and perpetrators, do not produce eligible results as the activities of these institutions and organizations are focused on combating the consequences, but not the causes of domestic violence.

## **Support procedures and help for the victims of domestic violence.**

### **Poland**

Procedures are structured methods of action in difficult or challenging situations. It is their big advantage that they enable quick and decisive actions without debating their sense and order of steps, which must be taken to counteract the challenge. They are especially important when danger is involved. Familiarity with procedures is indispensable and invaluable in such situations when they guarantee that the intervention will be best suited for the circumstances. One should not forget that procedures are necessarily only of general nature and give only simplified directions. Real life events have their unexpected turns and twists and different causes and effects. Procedures are meant to facilitate the reactions, but one has to bear in mind that every real life intervention is unique.

## **Blue Card Procedure<sup>6</sup>**

This procedure is used by police, social workers and local committees on alcohol abuse problems. It is meant for patrol and intervention teams and neighborhood policemen. It consists of two forms; card A, which is a note written on the spot and card B - information for the victims.

When a policeman arrives to intervene he deals with alleged or actual violence. Frequently the same perpetrator had been violent for a long time before the first intervention occurred. Policemen need skills to deal with it and they must know they are there to help the victims. It may be difficult in cases of acute and ongoing violence in the moment of the intervention. The whole energy of the policeman is aimed at stopping the violence and subduing the perpetrator and there is no time or chance to talk to the victims and tell them about their options.

Removing the violent individual and placing him in isolation, especially when he is drunk, is a short term method and will not provide the victims with safety. It is not uncommon that after going back home the perpetrator is in a vengeful mood and the battering is even worse. Blue Card procedure runs in stages:

I. Accepting a call or complaint. Policeman who accepts complaint is obliged to gather more information, register it and all data he managed to collect and referring it to intervening team.

II. Intervention. Each intervention is unique and policemen should observe reactions and behavior of all people present. If they suspect there is a danger that some family members may be injured or killed the perpetrator should be detained and isolated. After intervention policeman fills in the blue card and advises the victims about their options

III. End of the intervention. Policeman must make sure that the victims are safe and tell them that soon they will be visited by their neighborhood officer to double check on them.

IV. Role and function of the neighborhood office. He should contact the family within seven days of the violent event to get oriented in the situation and find out what kind of assistance they need. He should visit them on a monthly basis to make sure the family is safe and to control the behavior of the violent individual. He should stay involved as long as there is a threat of recurring violence.

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<sup>6</sup> Based on the publication by Sasal, H.D. (1998). *Blue Cards. Guide to police procedure of home intervention*, Warszawa 1998.

## **Procedure of helping abused children<sup>7</sup>**

All public institutions and NGO, which work for the benefit of children, should create one uniform system of protecting their rights. Especially when they discover abuse against children they should undertake procedural steps

*Procedure of helping abused children* is based on and assumes such coordination and concerted efforts of different agencies and actins, which are best for the child. *Procedure of helping abused children* was created by a team of specialists from different areas and accepted by the representatives of Program Committee "Safe Family - Safe Gdansk" ([www.mops.gda.pl/aktualnosci/dokumenty/PROC.doc](http://www.mops.gda.pl/aktualnosci/dokumenty/PROC.doc) [accessed: 10.06.2010]). Creating and implementation of the *Procedure of helping abused children* enables realization of the mission defined in the preamble to the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*:

"Recognizing that the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding" (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989).

The basic objective of the procedure is to provide the abused child with security and stop physical, emotional, psychological or sexual violence, or negligence. This goal can be achieved through common, uniform rules for all the institutions and NGOs working for the benefit of children. Procedures can facilitate and quicken action aiming at protecting abused children.

**1. Social assistance** - violence against children is defined in the legal acts as one of the hardships and social workers are obliged to intervene and help. Domestic violence is one of the reasons for families to receive social assistance.

Social workers are obliged to intervene and this duty is imposed on them by the Constitution of the Republic of Poland, Convention on the Rights of Children, legal acts on minors, Penal Code, Code of the Family Law.

**2. Police** - in every case, when a minor or a child are abused, the effects of the abuse have to be defined to decide which action will be undertaken for the benefit of the child: separation from the perpetrator, notifying social workers, medical help etc.

**3. Probation officer** - his role is to prevent violence and all kinds of social pathology besides the tasks assigned by the courts. Probation officer should be active as a consultant and cooperate with social workers, educators, healthcare workers, NGOs. His role is also to mediate in conflict resolutions and implement

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<sup>7</sup> Based on: Decision of the President of Gdansk, no. 1766/07, 2007. *Procedure of helping abused children*, Gdansk 2007.

preventive programs. Direct actions for particular individuals are only assigned by courts.

### **Corrective-educational programs for the perpetrators**

Persons committing acts of domestic violence are a separate group within general perpetrators of violence. They need therapy. Traditional therapeutic approach may not be sufficient as domestic violence is more than the result of individual pathology or dysfunctional family life. Besides psychological aspects therapy should include the social ones. Therapy should also take into consideration the attitudes of the perpetrators towards the rights of men and women, their social roles and personal security of victims. It is suggested that the treatment should be conducted in two stages. First basic stage should focus on the aggressive behavior of the perpetrator and his responsibility for the violence. The second stage should focus on the treatment of his personality disorder. Only after completing this treatment the next phase of therapy may begin and focus on the individual pathology of the perpetrator (Fenik, 2002).

Usually the therapy is considered successful if the violence stops, sometimes it is enough to claim success if the level of violence decreases. One has also to consider psychological and sexual aspects of violence. Other measure of success can include quitting alcohol, improvement of the mental and psychological conditions of the victim and children living with the perpetrator, change in his attitude towards women and gender roles, his growing tendency to really take care of the family. The results of therapy are varied and difficult to compare as they refer to different sources of information: some researchers use the opinions of the perpetrators only, some others study testimonies of their partners and police sources (Niebieska Linia, [http://www.niebieskalinia.info/index.php?p=spr\\_przem\\_char](http://www.niebieskalinia.info/index.php?p=spr_przem_char) [accessed 10.06.2010]).

Court custodians who work with perpetrators claim it is the least effective and most difficult job. Police custodian has some tools to exert pressure to make him behave in a non-violent way, usually it is a threat of imprisonment. They all confirm that this is a short term method and usually perpetrators lapse to their violent ways when the threat disappears.

In Pomorskie Province the best programs are in the cities: Gdynia<sup>8</sup>, Tczew and Malbork. Corrective-educational programs are meant for adults and their objective is to make them abandon violence when dealing with their family members. Participants are referred by social workers, police and courts. One of the conditions to be accepted is an interview with the therapists. Programs include both individual and group

<sup>8</sup> Specialized Center in Gdynia, Wejherowska St. 65. Meetings and consultations take place on Mondays and Fridays 16:00 – 19:00 in City Centre of Social Services Gdynia, Armii Krajowej 44 (4<sup>th</sup> floor, room415).

activities. Groups are open and new participants can always join. The main objectives can be summarized as follows:

- to reduce the level of aggression
- teach partnership and respect in relationship
- to learn responsibility for negative effects of violent behavior
- to learn to express feelings.

Educational part is meant to teach perpetrators about violence and its negative results. Correction is meant to teach them how to refrain from violence, it focuses on teaching social skills and conflict resolution, ability to use support groups. More information on centers which offer such programs and therapies are available on internet page [www.mpips.gov.pl](http://www.mpips.gov.pl)

### **Lithuania**

*The following chapter was written by Marija Aldona Juskiene and is based on experience of Lithuanian experts who work on the issue of counteracting domestic violence.*

Practical experience shows that victims of domestic violence need legal, social help and psychological support most of all. The Lithuanian system of help and support for victims of domestic violence consists of the following institutions and organizations:

- Police Office;
- First Level Legal Help;
- Second Level Legal Help;
- Children's Rights Protection Department;
- Social Services Center;
- Non-governmental organizations.

### **Police Office procedures and responsibilities.**

Usually police officers respond to a call in the case of physical domestic violence. Police officers go to the place of the incident if the call was made by either a victim or witness of the offence. In case of physical

domestic violence, police officers depending on the situation can apply the following disciplinary means towards the perpetrator:

- A perpetrator, who isn't intoxicated from alcohol and stopped to behave aggressively, can be placed into custody (up to 6 hours);
- A perpetrator, who is intoxicated from alcohol and still behaves aggressively, can be placed into custody (up to 12 hours);
- A perpetrator can be warned of liability according to Criminal or Administrative Codes.

Police officers are also charged with the duty of explaining the legal rights of victims of domestic violence to the presumed victim, including the right to file charges before a court of law. Further legal proceedings depend on the active involvement of the presumed victim of domestic violence throughout the process, since the legal mechanism for rectifying domestic violence requires the presumed victim to press charges. In most cases, the presumed victim of domestic violence is both financially and psychologically dependent on the perpetrator and therefore only a small number of claims of actual domestic abuse are filed in court.

### **First and Second Level Legal Help**

Usually first level legal help is provided by civil servants of municipal administration or private lawyers hired by the municipal administration. First level legal help includes lawyers' services before legal proceedings and is free of charge for all the victims of domestic violence.

Usually second level legal help is provided by public or private lawyers. Second level legal help includes lawyers' services during legal proceedings and is free of charge only for those victims of domestic violence whose income is below the state level of poverty?.

### **Children's Rights Protection Department**

The Children's Rights Protection Department responds to a call in case there are under aged witnesses or victims of domestic violence. Usually children's rights protection specialists are informed about the cases of domestic violence by police officers (within 24 hours of a call coming in). Children's rights protection specialists arrive at the scene of the crime in order to assess the situation and ascertain the safety of children.

Children's rights protection specialists decide whether to place the children in a temporary shelter in case it isn't safe to leave them with the perpetrator.

### **Social Service Centers**

Social services center provides accommodation services (up to 6 months) to a woman, who suffers domestic violence, and her children. Also there are consultations available with a psychologist and social worker. Psychological consultations usually include individual support and group therapy. A social worker usually helps find accommodation, prepare divorce forms and fill out welfare applications. Usually all these services are free of charge for all the victims of domestic violence.

### **Non-governmental organizations**

Usually non-governmental organizations provide counseling services. The majority of NGO activity is focused on dissemination of information regarding domestic violence, counseling for victims of domestic violence and perpetrators, pro bono legal representation for women who suffers domestic violence and their children, organization of trainings for specialists and volunteers in the field of domestic violence. Also non-governmental organizations are initiators of sociological researches regarding domestic violence.

The majority of these institutions and organizations are involved with different networks which supply help and support to victims of domestic violence and perpetrators in an integrated way. On the other hand domestic violence is only one of many different areas in which most of these institutions and organizations work. Therefore in some cases, victims of domestic violence face the lack of efficiency and flexibility.

The majority of institutions and organizations, which provide services for victims of domestic violence and perpetrators, are funded from the state budget. Hence the annual budget for their maintenance is immense. The majority of the activities of these institutions and organizations are focused on combating the consequences but not the causes of domestic violence therefore they often do not produce desirable results.



## **Sweden**

*The following chapter was written by Mona Olausson and is based on experience of Swedish experts, who work on the issue of counteracting domestic violence.*

Victims subjected to violence by a person close to them usually need the possibility to gather their thoughts in an isolated environment away from the offender so as to be able to describe the abuse and to change their situation. The need for support and help from other people varies. As well as legal assistance, personal support in one form or another is often required.

### **Responsibility**

The social services in the municipalities are responsible for providing support to the victims of violence in intimate relationships as stipulated in the Social Services Act (2001) Chap. 5 Sect. 11. This means various forms of psychological and social support and also financial and practical assistance. Other authorities like healthcare, police, prosecutors and courts are also obliged by law to support the victims. Nevertheless cooperation between the authorities and NGOs is essential for the provision of maximum support and assistance to the victims.

All authorities have special handbooks with information about how a matter relating to violence in intimate relationships should be handled.

### **Interpreter**

If a victim does not speak Swedish, she is entitled to free assistance from an interpreter, during the police investigation and during the hearing. The same applies for any other contacts with other authorities, for example, the social services.

### **Social services**

Social services have a duty to investigate people's needs if they apply for assistance. According to the Social Services Act, the social services have to make an assessment and investigation of children's needs for support, when there is a reason to believe that they suffer from negligence. Such cases may

arise, either through application or a notification. Social services in the municipalities in Sweden are working in different ways with issues related to violence in intimate relationships, often depending on the municipality's resources.

The social services have to offer a woman, exposed to violence, accommodation in a shelter. The *sheltered housing* can be run by the municipality itself, or be offered in collaboration with the Women's Shelter. If a woman who is a victim of domestic violence needs help, for instance practical and/or psychological support, she can be granted such assistance from a so called *support person*. She may be offered counselling by the social services, or be supported by the psychiatric clinic. She can get help to apply for financial assistance and to apply to the Swedish Tax Administration to get a "confidentiality note". The children can be offered emergency treatment, or be referred to a child psychiatric clinic.

The offender may also be offered various forms of treatment.

In some municipalities in Sweden there are crisis centres where both victims and offenders can receive support and treatment.

### **Healthcare**

A battered woman's emergency visit to a clinic for treatment and certification to the court (certificate of medical evidence) is free of charge. After the first visit there is a maximum cost which means that she pays no more than SEK 900 for healthcare and medical, or psychiatric, treatment during a twelve-month period. There is no charge at all for the healthcare for children and young people up to their 19<sup>th</sup> birthdays.

Psychiatric help is available for grownups as well as for children and youngsters. In Blekinge County, there are three child and adolescent psychiatric clinics, which treat patients up to age 18. There are also youth clinics for youngsters up to twenty years old, and a special youth team, "Skarven", where you can get help if you are between 16 and 24 years old.

### **Police / prosecutors**

The Police have at their disposal a special group of "Crime Victim Coordinators" trained to take care of and support victims of crime, and to develop methods for support and provision of safety. When a battered woman testifies to the police she is asked about her need of support and shelter.

In Blekinge there is a so-called *security package* available to victims of domestic violence that includes an alarm and a mobile phone connected via GPS directly to the police. The security package can be borrowed from the local police authority after a special review.

Visiting bans have been introduced and used primarily to protect women from being threatened and harassed by an ex-husband or partner but a visiting ban can also be imposed to protect children or other vulnerable persons. A *visiting ban* means that the perpetrator threatening and harassing the victim is forbidden to visit, follow or contact the victim in any other way; by posting a letter, sending an SMSs, phoning or using contacts with friends as an excuse for a meeting. Such an order may also be extended so that the person in question is forbidden to come near the victim's home, place of work or any other place she normally visits.

It is the prosecutor who decides whether to impose a visiting ban. In Blekinge, a "*police-dog-patrol*" can also, unannounced, visit women in their homes, to ensure that no offender is in the vicinity of the dwelling.

In very serious circumstances, the possibility exists for a threatened person to get a *personal bodyguard*. An application for a personal bodyguard should be submitted to the local police authority.

If there is a risk of serious crime against a victim's life, health or freedom and none of the protective measures are considered adequate, she may be granted permission to use *an assumed identity* (fictitious). An application to use an assumed identity is made to the National Police Board.

### **District court**

For certain types of crimes, like those of a sexual nature and those involving violence in close relationships, the crime victim can make a request to the District Court for *legal counsellor*

A counsellor can be appointed as soon as the preliminary investigation has been initiated. The crime victim can either make the request for a counsellor to the police officer, the public prosecutor or directly to the District Court. The court will appoint the counsellor, but the crime victim is allowed to make a choice regarding whom the court shall appoint. The counsellor, who is usually a lawyer, looks after the victim's interest and gives her guidance and support during the prosecution and the hearing. The counsellor can also help the victim by assisting the prosecution and presenting a claim for damages. The counsellor is provided to the victim for free.

In Blekinge County most victims get free help from a legal counsellor.

If a person who has custody of a child, usually a parent, is suspected of committing a crime against that child, the child is entitled to a *special legal representative*. This is also the case if the suspect has a close relationship with the person who has custody of the child. The intention is that the special legal representative will safeguard the child's rights during the investigation and the hearing.

### ***Legal aid***

In Sweden it is a fundamental right to have your case heard by a legal representative, either in or outside court. Legal aid is a form of a statutory social protection that aims to help an individual who cannot get legal support in any other way. The right to legal aid is governed by the Legal Aid Law. Young people/ children under the age of 18, without any income or wealth, have the right to legal aid and advice free of charges.

### ***Criminal injuries compensation***

If it is not possible to get the damage the victim is entitled to from the perpetrator, (when he is unable to pay), she can either get compensation from her own insurance or from the state. Such compensation is known as criminal injuries compensation. (The Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority)

## **The Swedish Tax Administration**

### ***Confidentiality notice***

The information in the census is normally available to the public. In certain cases, the tax authority can, pursuant to the stipulations in chapter 7, paragraph 15 of the Confidentiality Act, decide not to release information about a certain individual if for some reason it can be assumed that the person or someone close to him can come to harm or detriment if their information is released. In such cases, a confidentiality notice can be placed in the census register.

An application for a confidentiality notice shall be made in writing and contain information regarding the person's personal identification number, current address and telephone number. A thorough account shall be submitted as to why the person wants his/her personal information to be made confidential as well as information about who is threatening or harassing him/her.

The reasons given (such as violence, threat of violence or harassment) shall be substantiated by means of a copy of a police report, a statement from, for example, the police, a nurse, a school welfare officer or social services authority. If the court has ordered a restraining order, then a copy of the order shall be submitted along with the application.

### **The prison management**

If the offender has been sentenced to imprisonment or is under institutional psychiatric care as a result, the prison management has an obligation to inform the victim if the convict is granted leave, if he escapes, is transferred to another prison or is released. The victim will be asked whether she wants this kind of information.

### **Non Governmental Organisations**

A number of associations in Sweden work voluntarily to provide victims of crime with help and support. The most widely established, found in many places all over the country, are women's shelters and crime victim support centres. The largest centres may have paid staff but most active members work on an entirely voluntary basis.

### **Women's Shelter**

There are two non-governmental-organisations (NGOs) with a national scope in Sweden dealing with the issue of domestic violence: The Swedish Association of Women's Shelters and Young Women's Empowerment Centres (SKR) and The National Organisation for Women's and Girls' Shelters in Sweden (ROKS). Most local shelters are members of one of these national organizations. There are about 160 shelters in Sweden. ROKS is the largest member organization in the country with currently around 100 women's shelters within the organization.

Statistics from 34 of SKR's around 60 member shelters, collected in 2007, showed that 987 women and children were helped by a sheltered accommodation, and 28 950 people received assistance via telephone, visits, letters, or email. The same statistics showed that contributions to the shelters from the municipalities vary from almost no contribution at all to about 10 SEK per capita (which is about 1.5 US

Dollars). They received an average of about 4 SEK per capita (about 0.6 US Dollar!) in grants (SKR, access: <http://www.kvinnojour.com/se/homepage/om-skr/about-skr/kvinnojourer/> [accessed 18.09.2010]).

Costs for apartment rent, electricity, telephones and equipment to the apartment are financed by contributions from the municipalities, other organizations and private donations. Accommodation in a sheltered flat is usually free of charge for women who make contact themselves, or who are municipal residents. If the social services from other municipalities need accommodation for the protection of a woman, the charge at the shelters in Blekinge is about 800 SEK / day.

There are five shelters in the municipalities of Blekinge, one shelter in each municipality. Women's shelters in the county are managed by NGOs, politically and religiously independent, and activities are conducted by volunteer workers. Voluntary workers answer phone calls at a help line 24 hours a day. The work at the shelter can consist of practical tasks, like picking up the woman at home, at the police station, at the hospital or somewhere else, and installing her in the sheltered accommodation, to providing her with necessities, to informing her of her rights, and to accompanying her to various authorities, like police, healthcare, social services, lawyers and courts. Voluntary workers from the shelters often serve as support persons when the women are questioned during the preliminary investigation and during the court hearing.

The work of volunteers may also consist of helping a woman get an apartment and making contact with schools and child care, if she has children. A woman coming to the shelter has a great need to talk and it is an important task for the voluntary workers to be interlocutors for the women and children. The volunteers are also given information to the public about the problem of violence in intimate relationships, and their educational work at schools aims at the prevention of domestic violence.

### **The Swedish Association for Victim Support (BOJ)**

Victim support centres provide help to victims of all types of crimes, for example assault, burglary, molesting, robbery and unlawful threatening. When a crime is reported to the police, the victim will be informed about the availability of the local victim support centre and other support activities, like women's shelters. The police will also ask the victim whether she or he wants to be contacted by the victim support centre. The victim support centres can offer help through a support person. Many centres also run a witness support service.

There are three local victim support centres in the county of Blekinge, in the municipalities of Karlshamn, Karlskrona and Ronneby.

The task for a witness support person is to help witnesses and injured parties and offer support before and after the hearing. Their role is to make people feel more comfortable in the public areas of the court, for example in the waiting room, and explain, if necessary, what happens at a hearing. Most courts have a separate witness support service room where witnesses and crime victims can wait undisturbed. There is a witness support service established at all District Courts and Courts of Appeal in Sweden. The witness support service is usually carried out by volunteers from victim support centres (<http://www.boj.se/?c=3&pg=51>).

### **“Save the Children” Sweden**

“Save the Children Sweden” fights for children’s rights. It strives to have an influence on decision makers – from local authorities to the United Nations – to see to the best interests of the child. They arouse public opinion and spread knowledge about children’s needs and rights and exert an influence on legislation for the benefit of children. They support those children whose rights have been violated most.

In Sweden “Save the Children” works together with the members in the local branches to advocate for children’s rights. The 249 local branches are supported by eleven regional offices around Sweden (<http://www.savethechildren.se/>).

### **Children’s Rights in Society (BRIS)**

BRIS is a voluntary organisation which supports children and young people in distress and is a link between children, adults and the community. The core of BRIS’ activities is comprised of the Children’s Helpline, BRIS-mail and the BRIS-chat, to which children and young people up to the age of 18 can turn anonymously and free of charge when they need support from an adult. BRIS also works as an opinion maker and referral organisation to increase adults’ respect for children as individuals and for the full application of the principles established in the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child. The organisation uses its collective knowledge of the situation of children and young people to inform the public and influence and create opinion in children’s rights issues at various levels.

BRIS is organized as one national and five regional offices, located in Malmoe, Gothenburg,

Stockholm and Umea (<https://www.bris.se>).

### **Men's Shelter**

Men's shelters provide support to men who have been assaulted, as well as to men who have committed violence against women. The perpetrator can receive help in controlling their aggression and finding alternatives to violent behaviour. There is one shelter for men in Blekinge, in the municipality of Ronneby.

### **National Helpline**

*Kvinnofridslinjen 020 505050*

Kvinnofridslinjen is a national telephone support for women who have been subjected to threats and violence. The line is open around the clock and calls are free of charge. The line has access to interpreters for most languages that are spoken in Sweden. Kvinnofridslinjen was commissioned by the government and is run by NCK's clinical unit at Uppsala University Hospital.

## **NATIONAL AUTHORITIES**

### **The Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority**

The Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority (Brottsoffermyndigheten) is responsible for assessing state compensation, administering the Fund for Victims of Crime and acting as an expert centre. The authority is not bound by a court decision on damages while having an important role in setting a good example, since there are relatively few cases concerning damages for crime victims adjudicated in the Supreme Court.

The Crime Victim Fund is funded by money paid by offenders. Using the offender's money to improve the conditions for crime victims has pedagogical advantages. The Decree on the Fund for Victims of Crime prescribes that all offenders convicted for an offence punishable by a prison sentence are liable to pay a lump sum of 500 SEK (75 US Dollars). This constitutes a specific legal remedy which is applied besides other sanctions.



The fund has allocated money to projects promoting new methods of therapy for victims of sexual offences, research projects and seminars targeted on crime victims, and other projects.

The authority also plays a role as an expert centre since the Swedish government has realised that the Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority possesses a vast fund of knowledge in the field of crime victims. One task for the authority has been to develop a research programme in victimology. There were three areas in particular that were identified as important areas of research: crime victims in the judicial system, crime victims and ethnicity, and children as crime victims. Another task has been to ensure that witness support was made available at every district court and court appeal in Sweden.

The Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority with its three areas of activity gathered under one roof is in its entirety a unique concept. The three branches of activity together generate a fund of knowledge on crime victims. In many of the applications for compensation for criminal damages, the crime victim provides an explanation of their situation before the crime, during the period the crime was dealt with by the judicial system, and also since the crime. By combining these insights with the knowledge gained through administering the Fund for Victims of Crime, not only does the authority have a good understanding of the crime victim situation in Sweden but also it knows which development projects are in progress and which new treatment projects are being planned.

### **The National Board of Health and Welfare**

The National Board of Health and Welfare is a government agency in Sweden under the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs. The board has a very wide range of activities and many different duties within the fields of social services, health and medical services, environmental health, communicable disease prevention and control and epidemiology. The Government determines the policy guidelines for the work at the board.

The majority of the activities focus on staff, managers and decision makers in the mentioned institutions. The board gives support, exert influence and supervise in many different ways, like e.g. collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of information, development of standards based on legislation and the information collected, and exercise supervision to ensure that the standards are observed.

Regarding the problem of violence in close relationships, the National Board found that, under the present situation, there is a lack of support for female victims of violence who also have substance abuse

problems or/and disabilities or/and foreign background or/and are living in same-sex relationships or/and are older women who suffer from violence. There is a great need to improve work with female victims of violence in which the social services role is to:

- Provide protection and assistance to female victims of violence in the communities where the deficiencies are greatest.
- Coordinate their actions, both immediate action to protect the woman and long-term support.
- Follow up the outcome.

The National Board also believes that cooperation between different actors, such as police, health services and NGOs, are extremely important for the work against violence to become powerful and effective. The municipalities need to respond to female victims of violence and their need for protection and support, with NGOs and other actors work as an invaluable accompaniment.

### **Polish experience in counteracting domestic violence.**

For a long time the problem of domestic violence was marginalized in Poland and it was simply not a topic of public discussion. Now for the past several years it has been slowly getting recognition as a serious social problem. Following the changes in public consciousness some legal acts were implemented. Still a lot of people do not realize the extent of domestic violence and only now media give more information about it and report more cases.

The Act on Counteracting Domestic Violence of July 29, 2005 is an attempt to introduce uniform and focuses law. It was passed "to increase efficiency of actions to fight domestic violence and initiate actions raising public awareness about the causes and effects of domestic violence". It was the first major step to tackle this problem.

Additionally all actions fighting violence were given a legal framework and it raised their significance. The act obliged the government to accept the National Program to Counteract Domestic Violence

### **a) The National Program to Counteract Domestic Violence (2006)**

The objective of the program is to improve the quality of help available to victims of violence in Poland. It implements the directives of the Polish Charter of the Rights of Victims through education to limit the extent of domestic violence in the province. There are leaflets and flyers in police precincts informing victims about their options and places where they can seek help. The program is meant to be a comprehensive gamut of actions to both counteract violence and to inform the public about it. It is also meant to increase the level of professionalism of social workers in their contacts with victims and dealing with the perpetrators.

The program has been created in the cooperation of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education. The works of all those agencies started with analyzing and summing up all knowledge and experience about domestic violence in Poland and other European countries as well as facts and methods of its prevention. In Pomorskie Province and other provinces there are coordinators of the programs assigned by local authorities.

#### ***Goals of the program:***

1. To decrease and limit domestic violence
2. To improve the efficiency of help and making it more readily available to victims
3. To improve the efficiency of prevention and corrective actions aimed at perpetrators

The goals are achieved through:

1. Systematic diagnosing of the problem
2. Raising social sensitivity
3. Raising competence and professionalism of services dealing with it and providing help
4. Rendering efficient help to victims
5. Dealing with perpetrators

### **b) Blue Interview Rooms**

Policemen use "Blue Rooms" when dealing with victims of domestic violence. They are meant to help them not to get victimized again during interviews and not to get negatively affected psychologically.

There is a Week of Helping the Victims campaign organized in precincts on different level and

trained officers from the Team of Criminal Prevention are there on call to inform and help the victims of domestic violence. There are also trainings for social workers

**c) Together Against Pathologies - program of the Pomorskie Province**

This program puts together police and institutions in interdisciplinary groups. Their task is to quickly and correctly diagnose domestic violence in the family in question. Those groups include social workers, City Guards, education department, health department, and centers for abuse addiction. If necessary they also engage workers of a center for youth and children "Anthill", adoption centers, nurses, probation officers and pre-school teachers. Since 2007 corrective-educational programs for perpetrators have been implemented in the voivodship. Children from the neediest families may apply for free summer and winter camps and for material help to get school gear and equipment for children in first grade.

**d) Program "Here and Now" - participation of specialists in teams intervening at homes.**

In Gdansk this program is meant to reduce the level of violence. People other than policemen are needed when there is an intervention in a household plagued by violence. This program was created by a decree 534/08 of the mayor from 2008. The program works in three streams involving professionals other than police officers:

- stream one - specialists on call taking part in the home intervention
- stream two - specialists on call in local precincts. Together with a neighborhood policeman the specialist pays a visit at home after the interventions to check on the developments where the Blue Cards have been filled. This visit allows for a complex evaluation of the situation. Specialist must have the ability to evaluate the psychological condition of the victims and create an individual plan of help for them. The role of the specialist also facilitates the job of the policeman to initiate contact with the family. A visit by two persons proves to the perpetrator that there are people and institutions out there which are not going to look away and which will help the victims he batters or oppresses. The perpetrator feels less impunity and this may change his pattern of behavior already.
- stream three - training and seminars. The topics are all about how to prevent and efficiently intervene in cases of violence. People, who are invited to participate, are social workers, teachers, priests, probation officers as they all have most insight into their communities and particular families.

### **e) Information centers**

Police precincts serve as information centers through leaflets and flyers, which are to be found there. This role of precincts is new and imposed on them by the Act on Counteracting Domestic Violence. Precincts inform about the network of institutions available to help in Pomorskie Province.

## **Lithuanian experience in counteracting domestic violence**

In 2006, the parliament of the Republic of Lithuania ratified the National Strategy for Combating Violence against Women and Plan of Implementing Measures, which determined the main objectives, activities and measures regarding combating violence against women and obliged the Statistics Department under the Lithuania Republic Government, the Police Department under the Ministry of the Interior and the Information Technology and Communication Department under the Ministry of the Interior to provide statistical data about violence against women, which is gender-disaggregated.

- Different institutions and organizations, which provide services for victims of domestic violence and perpetrators, join into local and national networks in order to supply their services in complex and flexible way.
- Different institutions and organizations, which provide services for victims of domestic violence and perpetrators, according to their practical experience submit different corrections of law of Protection from Violence in Private Space, which is currently considered by the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania

## **Swedish experience in counteracting domestic violence.**

When looking at the problem of violence in intimate relationships and the developments in Sweden over the past decade one can find that a lot has been improved. Research has given a better understanding of the issue, new laws, like gross violation of woman's integrity have been stipulated and changes in the Social Services Act have given the municipalities' responsibilities for the help and support to the victims. The cooperation between authorities like the police, prosecutors, court, healthcare, prison and probation service, social services and, not to forget, non-governmental organizations has been very important for the protection and care of the victims.

The non-governmental organizations, like women's shelters which highlighted the problem at an early stage, and the Swedish Association for Victim Support are worthy of special mention especially that their members are working as volunteers without payment for their work. Local initiatives are important for the safety of the victims, like the "police-dog-patrol" working in the county of Blekinge.

In 2007 the Swedish Government decided on a national action plan against men's violence against women. The action plan contains 56 measures in six areas, as protection and assistance to victims, prevention, enhanced quality and efficiency of the judiciary system, inventions for the offenders, and increased cooperation and knowledge. The national action plan has meant a lot for the regional and local work against the problem and the local action plans in the municipalities.

### **"SLAGEN DAM"**

In 2001, a well-known survey, "Slagen Dam", by a professor of sociology, Eva Lundgren (Lundgren, 2001), showed that 46 percent of the 1000 interviewed women had been exposed to violence. 56 percent had been exposed to sexual harassment. Every fourth woman had been exposed to violence during the last year, and 15 percent of the women had reported the last incident to the police.

Professor Eva Lundgren is also well-known in Sweden for having explained the situation for women, victims of violence in intimate relationships, as "normalization process". The victim is so often exposed to different kinds of violence, like isolation, violation, harassment, threats and abuse, which becomes a normal part of her life. From the beginning, violence is not so serious, but increasing in intensity with time. The

victim's self-esteem is broken down. The "normalization process" is one explanation why the victim does not leave the abuser.

#### NATIONAL STUDY OF RAPES

A national study of rapes reported to the police has been conducted, published by the National Council for Crime Prevention (BRA report No 2005:7). The study is based on information from approximately 90 percent of all cases of consummated rape reported to the police in the years 1995 and 2000. The findings in the study clearly showed that the total numbers of reported rapes are committed by perpetrators who are well-known to, or at least acquainted with the victim.

The study showed that the victims in a significant proportion of cases are very young. The median age was 26 years, and slightly over 60 percent were under 30.

One conclusion of the report is that the number of consummated rapes reported to the police has increased dramatically, more than tripling over the course of the past two decades. The authors of the report opined that this can be explained as the result of an increase in the propensity to report these crimes to the police, and the effects of the legislative changes in 1998, but that it does not appear unlikely that the number of rapes committed has in fact increased (BRA report 2005:7).

#### PARTNER VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND MEN

Another study, "Partner Violence Against Women and Men" (BRA report No 2009:12), had as its purpose the highlighting of two main issues:

1. The extent and nature of violence in intimate relationships. Who suffers?  
To what extent do people exposed to violence in intimate relationships experience feelings of fear and insecurity?
2. How strong is the confidence in the judicial system among people exposed to violence in partner relationships? How do these people evaluate their contacts with the judicial system (the police)? What support have they received?

Partner violence is defined as incidences of assault, sexual violence, harassment or threats by a partner or ex-partner. The results showed that women are exposed to violence more often than men. Other studies, which focus more on conflicts, report that the difference between women's and men's exposure to

partner violence is small. Violence directed towards women is more often repeated, more serious and has more negative consequences for the victim. Partner violence carried out by men against women continues to be a major social problem.

- There is a difference between men's and women's reporting, while men primarily report exposure to harassment, more incidents of assault and threats were reported among women.
- Female victims of partner violence have a greater fear of a crime being committed compared with women exposed to other forms of violence, and they more frequently report that they refrain from certain activities because of the fear of crime.
- Confidence in the judicial system among people exposed to partner violence is lower compared with the confidence among people affected by other forms of violence.
- Slightly more than one quarter (27 percent) of the reported incidents of partner violence have been reported to the police.
- 40 percent of those interviewed who had been affected by partner violence reported that they needed support but that it was not available (BRA report No 2009:12).

#### THE SWEDISH CRIME SURVEY

The Swedish Crime Survey is a recurrent, annual survey of the attitudes and experiences of the general population of Sweden (aged 16 – 79 years) regarding victimization, fear of crime and public confidence in the justice system.

Results for 2008 (based on BRA report No 2009:2).

A majority of the Swedish population aged 16 – 79 years state that they were not exposed to any crime during 2007, but every fourth person (25 percent) reports that they were exposed to some kind of crime during the year. Threats and harassment are the most common crimes against individual persons;



around four percent state that they were exposed to such crimes during 2007. Hence assault the most common crime (3 percent).

#### *Contacts with the judicial system*

Persons who had been exposed to some type of threat or violence had more negative experiences with the police than people who had been exposed to other types of crime.

#### *Insecurity and fear of crime*

Women generally feel more insecure than men. This becomes apparent in particular when it comes to being alone outside in the housing area late at night, but also in relation to worries about being subjected to crime. Women also have a greater propensity to alter their behaviour due to their fear, and more often state that worries about crime affects their quality of life.

#### *Confidence in the judicial system*

Trust in the judicial system is great, but vulnerable. Trust in police remains at a continued high level. At the national level, 60 percent of respondents stated that they had great confidence in the police and the judicial system as whole. The prison and probation service is the authority with the greatest proportion of low confidence (17 percent), and the prosecutor the lowest (9 percent).

When it comes to trust in the judicial system as a whole, it is lowest in Blekinge County (49 percent) Blekinge County stands out as having the lowest level of confidence (47 percent) when it comes to trust in police and the lowest trust (45 percent) when it comes to the prosecutors.

## THE USE OF ELECTRONIC TAGGING

Intensive supervision with electronic monitoring has existed in Sweden since 1994 and has proved a solid alternative to prison sentences without the negative consequences of imprisonment.

On 1 January 2007, two new release alternatives were introduced into the Correctional Treatment Act, stay in halfway houses and extended parole. The EM Release pilot (electronic monitoring) was also discontinued. The new regulations aim to improve the transition from prison to community by adapting release to the individual needs of offenders. Extended parole is similar to EM Release in many respects and means that the offender serves some of his or her prison sentence at home under supervision. Employment is a basic requirement for this release alternative and according to the bill, the release should begin with a

curfew. The main rule is that the offender wears an electronic tag or bracelet around the ankle, but if this release functions successfully for the individual and there are no breaches of programme conditions, the curfew and electronic monitoring can cease completely." (BRA Report 2007:3)

The alternative "halfway house" involves an offender living in a house supervised by the Prison and Probation Service. Offenders who are not deemed to have any substantial need for care or treatment, but do not have their own accommodation can live in such halfway houses. Supervision can take the form of electronic tagging, telephone calls or visits by staff (BRA Report 2007:3).

For EM, most clients take part in crime-prevention or addiction-related programmes, or some form of programme intended to influence behaviour, while they are tagged.

Interviews with the offenders show that they are overwhelmingly positive to the programmes mentioned above. From the victim's perspective there were also interviews with positive answers, like believe that the offender's chances of easing successfully back into community are greater with this form of release. Most victims did not feel unsafe during the program EM Release. The majority of interviewed crime victims were positive to the offender serving a sentence at home with electronic tagging.

The report shows that crime victims, usually women who have been battered and threatened by their partners over a longer period of time were disappointed by the legal system not only because the offender was placed on EM (BRA report 2007:3).

## **Domestic violence in Kaliningrad Region**

### **Definitions of domestic violence in Russian legal acts**

There is no specific definition of domestic violence in Russian legal acts. The Russian Criminal Code is gender-blind. Domestic violence is not recognized as a separate crime and there is no legal definition of the term. The Kaliningrad Region is subject to federal law.

The Constitution of the Russian Federation guarantees equality of rights and freedoms for all citizens, regardless of sex, race, nationality, language, origin, property and official status, place of residence, religion,

convictions, membership in public associations, and also of other circumstances (source: The Constitution of the Russian Federation <http://www.constitution.ru/en/10003000-03.htm> [accessed 11.08.2010]).

Russian Federation is also a party to international treaties, that oblige the state to protect human rights. The documents are as follows:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Optional Protocol to the ICCPR;
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);
- The European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR) (Amnesty International, 2005).

Also The Constitution guarantees protection of rights and freedoms “in accordance with generally respected principles and norms of international law” (Ibidem).

The most significant definition seems to be the one quoted in The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Domestic violence is defined as violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms and as an obstacle to development and peace. The Declaration also obliges governments to condemn violence against women and adopt all appropriate measures to eliminate it.

Violence in the family is usually considered as “violence in the private sphere” (bytovoe nasilie). The term “domestic violence” (domashnee nasilie) is used by women’s organizations (*Amnesty International, 2005*).

International reports indicate that Russian government has not initiated any new legislation to combat domestic violence. As well, sources note that the Russian legal system does not provide for restraining, protection or barring orders (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, 2009).

In 2006 a draft of federal law “Prevention of Domestic Violence” (available at: <http://besprizornie.ru/oldsait/ProektDN2006.pdf>) was proposed, however it was not released for consultations with NGO workers and State Duma committees.

## **The extent of domestic violence - statistics**

Domestic violence in Russia is widespread. Amnesty International estimates that violence against women occurs in all 89 regions of the country, in families of all socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds. (*Amnesty International, 2005*).

Although Kaliningrad Region is geographically cut off from the rest of Russia, due to a similar social, cultural and historical context, it may be assumed that, the scale of domestic violence in Kaliningrad is comparable to the rest of the country.

However, domestic violence is still considered to be a private family matter in Russia.

The main reasons for prevalence of violence are patriarchal values, that maintain unequal relations between men and women. Although domestic violence is not accepted as a social norm in Russia, traditional values may justify violence against women (for example, popular proverbs say: "A beating man is a loving man", or "Love your wife like your soul, shake her like a pear tree"). Interference in family affairs is traditionally not accepted in Russian society. 43 percent of Russians say that domestic violence is a private matter, and one-third of them blame the victims for 'inciting' the violence at home. (*Violence against women is widespread in Russia: Amnesty International*, available at: <http://sify.com/news/violence-against-women-widespread-in-russia-amnesty-international-news-international-kf1qaddjgdd.html> [accessed 10.08.2010]). The situation may be deteriorated by drug abuse, alcoholism, poverty and poor living conditions, which are common problems in Russia. However it must be stated that domestic violence appears in families of all social classes and backgrounds.

The problem of domestic violence was concealed in Soviet Union. It was claimed that violence did not occur in soviet society and if it did, it was committed by sex maniacs or mentally ill persons. Consequently, there was no statistics, and the problem was contextualized to social pathology and crime (Zabielina, 2002).

The perestroika period and, next, the transition to market economy, did not bring any change. Only at the end of 1990s, media started to talk about the problem. The number of organizations which help the victims of physical violence increased. In 2000 The Union of Women of the Kaliningrad Region and American Association of Lawyers conducted a seminar on domestic violence. The seminar was the first occasion on which the issue could be raised in public debate. However it did not influence public opinion.

According to the Open Society Institute's (OSI) Violence Against Women Monitoring Program and the United States Department of State's *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2008*, the Russian government does not compile official statistics on incidents of domestic violence. Also Kaliningrad Region lacks such a data.

Public organizations provide data on applications they receive. The Prosecutor's office provides data on the number of criminal cases, among which domestic violence is not mentioned since it is not contained within a special article (U.S. Department of State, 2008)

*Country Reports 2008* indicates that authorities claim there are approximately 250,000 violent crimes committed against women annually; however, many cases of domestic violence are not reported to authorities, making it difficult to ascertain concrete figures (Ibidem). According to Amnesty International (2005), every hour a woman in Russia dies at the hand of her relative, her partner or her former partner.

Research carried out by the Council for Women of Moscow State University documented an alarming rate of domestic violence. A survey of married couples in seven regions of the Russian Federation found that nearly three quarters of interviewed women had been subjected to violence—physical, psychological, or sexual—during the course of their marriage. Almost three quarters suffered from some form of psychological violence, including sense of powerlessness, uncertainty, stress, despair, guilt or outright fear. 50 percent of them experienced threats restrictions on their mobility. Nearly 60 percent had experienced aggression from a current or former husband, lover or significant other. Nearly 20 percent experienced regular and/or severe beatings. Some 48 percent of women who were physically assaulted were attacked while pregnant, nursing, ill, or unemployed. Over 60 percent of women beaten by their husbands experienced various degrees of trauma – 3 percent required medical treatment. 90 percent of respondents had either witnessed domestic violence between their parents or had experienced it first hand in their current relationship

([www.unfpa.org/gender/docs/fact.../domestic\\_violence\\_russia.doc](http://www.unfpa.org/gender/docs/fact.../domestic_violence_russia.doc) [accessed 11.08.2010])

### **Statistics of Kaliningrad organizations**

As it has been already mentioned, there is no official statistics on incidences of domestic violence. Instead, there are only statistics of public organizations, gathered on base of applications they receive.

Data gathered by the biggest Kaliningrad organizations - public and nongovernmental, is presented below:

### Regional Crisis Centre

Year	Women and children	Children	Victims of domestic violence
2006	133	50	35%
2007	192	66	20%
2008	403	178	12,9%
2009	440	168	63%
2010 (7 months)	322	111	47%

Source: Regional Crisis Centre

### The Commissioner for Human Rights in the Kaliningrad region

Year	Children rights	Problems In the family
2008	115	110
2009	135	134
2010 ( to August 30th)	189	122

Source: The Commissioner for Human Rights in the Kaliningrad region

### Centre for Social Assistance to Families and Children

Year	Number of applications	Victims of domestic violence
2006	1680	340
2007	2917	2334
2008	3606	1879
2009	1735	1735
2010	2015	1015

Source: Centre for Social Assistance to Families and Children

### The Satori

In 2006-2010 the organization provided counselling to 96 women.

- 40% was victims of domestic violence;
- 20% described the violence as psychological;
- 10% described the violence as economical;

- 10% was made to break contact with their family and friends;
- 5% was sexually abused
- 15% was manipulated and blackmailed that in case of divorce they would be forbidden to contact children.

### **The Centre for the Protection of the Family and Individual**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of persons, including telephone counselling</b>	<b>Victims of domestic violence</b>
2000	124	68
2001	282	160
2002	290	171
2003	303	160
2004	300	77
2005	307	89
2006*	103	56
2007	77	47
2008	70	44
2009	68	40
2010	31	20

Source: The Centre of the Protection of the Family and Individual

\*in 2006 a hotline was ceased and the number of persons decreased

### **The Union of Women of the Kaliningrad Region**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of persons</b>	<b>Victims of domestic violence</b>
2000	20	—
2001	25	—
2002	27	—
2003	31	27
2004	33	29
2005	31	31
2006	43	36
2007	27	27
2008	50	32
2009	54	27
2010	25	12

Source: The Union of Women of the Kaliningrad Region

## **Russian legal acts defining the issue of domestic violence**

In Russia, legal provisions related to domestic violence are not specific and address violence in general. Acts of domestic violence can be prosecuted under some of the following articles of the Criminal Code:

### **“Article 112. Intentional Infliction of Injury of Average Gravity Health**

1. Intentional infliction of injury of average gravity, which is not hazardous to human life and which has not involved consequences referred to in Article 111 of this Code, but which has caused protracted injury to health or considerable stable loss of general capacity for work by not less than one-third, shall be punishable by arrest for a term of three to six months or by deprivation of liberty for a term of up to three years.
2. The same act committed:
  - a) against two or more persons;
  - b) against a person or his relatives in connection with his official activity or the discharge of his public duty;
  - c) with especial cruelty, mockery or torture for the victim, or against a person who is known by the offender to be helpless;
  - d) by a group of persons, a group of persons under a preliminary conspiracy, or an organized group;
  - e) out of malicious motives;
  - f) by reason of national, racial, or religious hatred or enmity,
  - g) abolishedshall be punishable by deprivation of liberty for a term of five years.

### **Article 115. Intentional Infliction of Light Injury**

1. Intentional infliction of light injury which has caused temporary damage of health or an insignificant stable loss of general capacity for work, shall be punishable by a fine up to 40 thousand roubles, or in the amount of the wages or salaries



or any other income of the convicted person for a period of up to three months, or punishable by compulsory works for a term of from 180 to 240 hours, or corrective labour for a term of up to one year, or by arrest for a term of from two to four months.

2. The same deed committed through ruffian-like motives, shall be punishable by compulsory works for a term from 120 hours to 180 hours, or by corrective labour for a term from six months to one year, or by arrest for a term from four to six months, or by deprivation of liberty for a term of up to two years.

**Article 116. Battery**

1. Battery or the commission of similar violent actions, which have caused physical pain but not involved the consequences referred to in Article 115 of this Code, shall be punishable by a fine up to 40 thousand roubles, or in the amount of the wages or salary or any other income of the convicted person for a period of three months, or by compulsory works for a period of time from 120 to 180 hours, or by corrective labour for a term of up to six months, or by arrest for a term of up to three months.

2. The same deeds committed through ruffian-like motives - shall be punishable by compulsory works for a term from 120 to 180 hours, or by corrective works for a term from six months to one year, or by arrest for a term from four to six months, or by deprivation of liberty for a term of up to two years.

**Article 117. Torture**

1. The infliction of physical or mental suffering by means of systematic beating or by any other violent actions, unless this has involved the consequences referred to in Article 111 or 112 of this Code, shall be punishable by deprivation of liberty for a term of up to three years.

2. The same act committed:
  - a) against two or more persons;
  - b) against a person or his relatives in connection with the official activity of this person or the discharge of his public duty;

- c) against an woman who is in a state of pregnancy, which is evident to the convicted person;
  - d) against obvious juvenile or a person who is in a helpless state, as known by the convicted person, or in material or any other dependence on the convicted person, and also in respect of a person, kidnapped or seized as a hostage;
  - e) with the use of torment;
  - f) by a group of persons, a group of persons under a preliminary conspiracy, or an organized group;
  - g) by hire;
  - h) by reason of national, racial, or religious hatred or enmity,
- shall be punishable by deprivation of liberty for a term of three to seven years.

Note. Torture in this Article and in other Articles of this Code shall mean the infliction of physical or mental suffering for the purpose of compelling to give evidence or to commit other actions against a person's will, as well as for the purpose of punishing, or for other purposes.

**Article 118.** Infliction of Grave Injury by Negligence

1. The infliction of grave injury to health by negligence -  
Shall be punishable by a fine in the amount up to 80 thousand roubles, or in the amount of the wage or salary of any other income of the convicted person for a period up to six months, or by compulsory works for a term of up to 2 years, or by restraint of liberty for a term of up to 3 years, or by arrest for a term of 3 to 6 months.
2. The same deed committed in consequence of the improper discharge by a person of his professional duties,  
shall be punishable by restraint of liberty for a term of 4 years or deprivation of liberty for a term of up to one year, with the deprivation of the right to hold specified offices or engage in specified activities for a term of up to 3 years, or by the permanent deprivation of such right.
3. abolished
4. abolished

**Article 119.** Threat of Murder or Infliction of Grave Injury Health

Threat of murder or infliction of grave injury to health, if there were grounds to fear the realization of this threat,

Shall be punishable by restraint of liberty for a term of up to two years, or by arrest for a term of 4 to 6 months, or by deprivation of liberty for a term of up to two years” (The Criminal Code Of The Russian Federation, 1996).

A perpetrator may be also sentenced under following Articles of the Russian Criminal Code:

- Article 105 (homicide)
- Article 108 (homicide committed when exceeding limits of necessary defence)
- Article 110 (incitement to suicide)
- Article 111 (intentional causing of grave harm to health)
- Article 127 (illegal deprivation of freedom)
- Article 231 (hooliganism) (*Amnesty International, 2005*).

*Rape and sexual abuse* are penalized under Articles 131 and 133. However these do not recognize relationship between the perpetrator and the victim.

None of the articles considers relationship between the perpetrator and the victim.

The majority of domestic violence cases without a sexual violence component are subject to Articles 115 and 116 of the Russian Federation Criminal Code. Article 115 punishes “a deliberate infliction of light harm to health that caused a short-term health disorder or a minor but persistent loss of the general ability to work.” Cases of less serious harm, such as “beating or other violent actions that caused physical pain without entailing the consequences specified in Article 115” fall under Article 116.

In case of long-term domestic violence, prosecution may be initiated under Article 113: “causing physical or mental suffering by means or systematic beating or other violent actions”.

According to the American Bar Association (ABA) Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (CEELI), Russian family law does not contain any provisions for divorce cases in which one spouse is abusive, for determining such issues as child custody or visitation rights. Many women must continue to live with their abusive partner because of a lack of other options (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, 2009).

## **Support procedures and help for the victims of domestic violence.**

### **State Protection**

There is no specialized budget in the federal government. Nongovernmental organizations may be provided with grants from state authorities, but usually under condition that they are working in cooperation with government authorities. There is no yearly budget set for those purposes (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, 2009).

In 2003 League of Women Voters of the Kaliningrad Region provided a report on discrimination of women, revealing that local authorities do not consider domestic violence as the main problem of the region. Furthermore, domestic violence is, according to them, connected to alcohol abuse and poverty.

There are state institutions helping victims of domestic violence, departments of social assistance, care centres in Kaliningrad Region, for example, Social Assistance Centre For Families And Children. The Centre provides social, medical, psychological and legal services to women and children. There is also a room for female victims of violence in the Centre of Social and Labour Rehabilitation for Persons with no Residence Registration and Work.

The State is also going to create Regional Crisis Centre in the town of Pioniersk in the Kaliningrad Region.

### **The Commissioner for Human Rights in the Kaliningrad Region**

The main tasks of the Commissioner are:

- monitoring of compliance with human and citizen rights and freedoms of the performances of the Kaliningrad Region authorities,
- promoting restoration of violated citizen rights;
- promoting the improvement of legislation of the Kaliningrad Region in terms of observance of human rights;
- informing residents of the Kaliningrad Region on the situation of security and protection of human rights and freedoms;
- promoting the improvement of mechanisms to ensure and protect the human and citizen rights and freedoms;

- assistance in coordinating the activities of federal authorities and local authorities of Kaliningrad region to preserve and protect human and citizen rights and freedoms;
- improving civil and legal education on human rights and freedoms, forms and methods of their protection in the Kaliningrad region.

The position of The Commissioner for Human Rights in the Kaliningrad region is currently held by woman, Irina Werschinina.

### **Militia<sup>9</sup> and Prosecutor's office**

Militia is obliged to investigate all reported cases of domestic violence. They refer victims of domestic violence to a forensic expert who examines the injury to determine the extent of bodily harm and issues a statement to the victims which can be used as evidence in court.

All sources indicate that most cases of domestic violence are never reported. Victims rarely decide to file a complaint.

However, as independent reports show, the process of investigation may be traumatic to a victim. There is no psychological counselling, that is especially important in case of sexual abuse victims, who often have to make statement to a male Militia officers, or repeat it few times. Tatiana Zabelina, the author the UNIFEM report *Russia: Domestic violence - violence in society (Zabelina, 2002)*, indicates that opinions that the victim must have provoked the perpetrator is still very popular among Militia officers and may influence the process of making statement and collecting evidence. Zabelina (2002) writes about double standards for men and for women.

There is also no special unit in law enforcement agencies which deal with domestic violence in a "legally required, systematic, and organized way". The victim, who files the complaint, may be often responsible for collecting evidence and inviting witnesses. (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, 2009).

As it is mentioned in the report "Violence Against Women. Does the Government Care in Russia?" (Open Society Institute, 2006) there is no free legal aid for the victims of violence, neither before, nor during the procedures required by law. What is more, the accused perpetrator has the right to obtain

<sup>9</sup> Militia is Russian equivalent of Police.

free legal advice and legal representation in court. The victim may obtain free legal representation from nongovernmental organizations only when the NGO receives approval of their participation as expert witness.

### **Support Services**

According to the UN database and information submitted by the Russian government, in 2008 there were 21 crisis centres operating under the jurisdiction of social welfare agencies, 119 crisis units for women within social service institutions and 22 hostels for women with minor children, providing “psychological, legal, medical, educational and social services to women and children who find themselves in difficult situations or who have been subjected to violence”, and 485 hotlines. The centres help 50,000 women and 20,000 children annually. In addition, the database indicates that in 2008 there were 50 crisis centres for women that were established by women’s NGOs (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, 2009).

However access to the shelters is limited. So in order to stay in the state-sponsored shelters a woman needs to produce a passport and official residence registration in the city or town where the shelter is located. Sometimes a woman needs to obtain medical documents and a referral from another state agency. Requirements differ in case of shelters managed by NGOs. Many of the shelters limit the length of stay from one to three months.

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (2009) provides a list of shelters for victims of domestic violence in Russia: Pskov (NGO) (10 beds); Petrozavodsk, Karelia (10 beds); Sortavala, Karelia (5 beds); Saratov (30 beds); and Izhevsk (18 or 24 beds) (ANNA 20 Nov. 2009; Associate Professor 19 Nov. 2009); Polyarnye Zori (2 beds); Syktyvkar (10 beds); Blagovsechensk (6 beds); three shelters in St. Petersburg (ranging from 6 to 17 beds); Klin, Moscow Region (5 beds); Moscow (35 beds); Khimki, Moscow Region (5 beds); Stupino, Moscow Region (2 beds); Dmitrov, Moscow Region (11 beds); Arzamas, Nizhni Novgorod Region (8 beds); Bogdanovich, Sverdlovsk Region (15 beds); Bol’shaya Lipovitsa, Tambov Region (30 beds); **Kaliningrad Region (20 beds)**; Samara (details on spaces not available); Murmansk (no details available) (Ibidem).

Shelters managed by NGOs face financial difficulties. Some of them were closed because of lack of funding.

In Kaliningrad Region there are few nongovernmental organizations, providing help to women

subjected to physical violence:

- The League of Women Voters of the Kaliningrad Region
- The Union of Women of the Kaliningrad Region
- The Centre for the Protection of the Family and Individual
- The Satori
- To help now
- Youth for the Freedom of Speech
- The Star of Hope
- Soldiers' Mothers
- Vita

Most of them face financial problems and have no office. Psychological and legal counselling is conducted few times a week at schools, in libraries or other rented places.

### **Kaliningrad's experiences in counteracting domestic violence**

**Zvezda Nadezhdi** is a partnership, providing legal and psychological counselling to domestic violence victims. The Centre has conducted 44 seminars, training sessions and conferences on the problem of domestic violence.

In 2006 the Centre set up a partnership with The Centre of Social Help to Family and Children and Agency of Milan Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Craft and Agriculture "Formaper". The Partnership is conducting a project "Your Time Business Incubator".

The main aims of the project:

- providing information, education and counselling services for increasing women's competitiveness in economy and public life;
- providing legal, medical and psychological help to women in crisis situation (unemployment, violence)
- helping women in exerting their right to be protected by the State by submitting legal petitions;
- providing assistance for women seeking employment ;
- providing assistance for unemployed women who wish to start their own business.

**Kaliningrad Alliance for Women's Empowerment** was started in 2008 by an Italian – Russian partnership of 4 NGOs, and is funded by the European Union in the framework of the EU-Russia Cooperation Programme.

The aim is to promote the empowerment of women in the Region of Kaliningrad, Russian Federation, by helping the capacity building of women's NGOs and grassroots groups, raising public opinion awareness, producing studies and researches, supporting women's micro-business with training and technical assistance.

Project Partners: Differenza Donna, Zvezda Nadezhdi, Youth for the Freedom of Speech

Website: <http://zhenforum.org/en.html>



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### Internet resources:

Alternative to Violence: <http://www.atv-stiftelsen.no>

Brottsförebyggande rådet – Brå - Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention: <http://www.bra.se/>

Centrum Praw Kobiet (Centre of Women's Rights): <http://www.cpk.org.pl>

Children's Rights in Society (BRIS) <https://www.bris.se>

Duluth Domestic Intervention Program, The: <http://www.theduluthmodel.org/>

Kaliningrad Alliance for Women's Empowerment: <http://zhenforum.org/en.html>

Republic of Lithuania Statistic Department: <http://db1.stat.gov.lt>

Save the Children – Sweden: <http://www.savethechildren.se/>

The Swedish Association for Victim Support (BOJ) <http://www.boj.se/?c=3&pg=51>

Voivodship Police Headquarters In Gdansk: <http://www.pomorska.policja.gov.pl/>

## **Where to get help: database of organizations and institutions**

### **Poland**

Network of East-West Women NEWW Poland  
80-239 Gdansk  
Miszewskiego 17/100  
Phone: (+48 58) 344-97-50  
WWW: [www.neww.org.pl](http://www.neww.org.pl)

Crisis Intervention Centre in Gdańsk  
Gdańsk - Nowy Port  
Plac Księdza Prałata Gustkowicza 13  
Phone: (+48 58) 511 01 21, 511 01 22  
e-mail: [centrum@cik.sos.pl](mailto:centrum@cik.sos.pl)  
WWW: <http://www.cik.sos.pl>

Crisis Intervention Centre in Gdynia  
81-200 Gdynia  
Leszczyńki 177  
Phone: (+48 58) 622-22-22  
e-mail: [oik@razem.org](mailto:oik@razem.org)  
WWW: <http://oik.razem.org/>

Crisis Intervention Centre in Bytów  
77-100 Bytów  
Domańskiego 2  
Phone: (+48 58) 822 86 07, (+48 58) 822 86 08  
e-mail: [dom\\_bytow@poczta.onet.pl](mailto:dom_bytow@poczta.onet.pl)

Crisis Intervention Centre in Kartuzy  
83-300 Kartuzy  
Gdańska 12  
Phone: (+48 58) 684 02 19, (+48 58) 681 19 75  
e-mail: [andzia99@tlen.pl](mailto:andzia99@tlen.pl)

Crisis Intervention Centre in Kościerzyna  
83-400 Kościerzyna  
Brzechwy 5  
Phone: (+48 58) 680 87 55, (+48 58) 686 60 66, (+48 58) 686 48 23  
e-mail: [mops@koscierzyna.gda.pl](mailto:mops@koscierzyna.gda.pl)

Crisis Intervention Centre in Kościerzyna  
83-400 Kościerzyna  
Krasickiego 4  
Phone: (+48 58) 686 29 28  
e-mail: [pik\\_kna@wp.pl](mailto:pik_kna@wp.pl)

Crisis Intervention Centre in Kwidzyn  
82-500 Kwidzyn  
Warszawska 14  
Phone: (+4855) 279 70 13  
e-mail: [stow.rodzin.katol@neostrada.pl](mailto:stow.rodzin.katol@neostrada.pl)

PCK Crisis Intervention House in Słupsk  
76-200 Słupsk  
Wolności 3  
Phone: (+48 59) 842 71 25, (+48 59) 842 85 77  
e-mail: [pckslupsk@op.pl](mailto:pckslupsk@op.pl)

Crisis Intervention Centre in Sopot  
81-838 Sopot  
Niepodległości 759a  
Phone: (+48 58) 551 57 41, (+48 58) 555 04 07, (+48 58) 555 10 22

Crisis Intervention Centre in Tczew  
83-110 Tczew  
Wojska Polskiego 6  
Phone: (+48 58) 530 07 92, (+48 58) 530 07 93  
e-mail: [pomoc@cik.tczew.pl](mailto:pomoc@cik.tczew.pl)  
WWW: [www.cik.tczew.pl](http://www.cik.tczew.pl)

Crisis Intervention Centre in Wejherowo  
84-200 Wejherowo  
Strzelecka 9  
Phone: (+48 58) 672 27 02, (+48 58) 672 40 63  
e-mail: [cik@pcprwejherowo.pl](mailto:cik@pcprwejherowo.pl)

Crisis Intervention Centre in Starogard Gdański  
83-200 Starogard Gdański  
Mickiewicza 9  
Phone: (+48 58) 562 22 26  
e-mail: [pik\\_stg@wp.pl](mailto:pik_stg@wp.pl)  
WWW: [www.starogard.cik.sos.pl](http://www.starogard.cik.sos.pl)

Diocesan Shelter for Single Mothers

80-283 Gdańsk

Matemblewska 9

Phone: (+48 58) 348 03 70

e-mail: [parmbb@diecezja.gda.pl](mailto:parmbb@diecezja.gda.pl)

WWW: <http://www.matemblewo.pl/dsm/>

Family Prevention Centre

89-600 Chojnice

Strzelecka 31

Phone: (+48 52) 397 35 74

e-mail: [opr.chojnice@wp.pl](mailto:opr.chojnice@wp.pl)

Consulting-Information Centre for Family Violence Prevention - "Przystań"

77-300 Człuchów

Wojska Polskiego 7

Phone: (+48 59) 834 24 82, (+48 59) 606 21 34 52

Consulting-Information Centre for Victims of Family Violence

77-310 Debrzno

Kościuszki 18

Single Mother with Children Shelter - "Wspólnymi Siłami"

80-701 Gdańsk

Ku Ujściu 23

Phone: (+48 58) 721 13 27

Women's Shelter

81-376 Gdynia

Fredry 3

Phone: (+48 58) 620 55 26, (+48 58) 621 65 26

Consulting-Information Centre for Victims of Violence

84-300 Lębork

Łokietka 13

Phone: (+48 59) 862 27 11, (+48 59) 862 16 04

0-800 402 401 0-800 402 401

e-mail: [piklebork@interia.pl](mailto:piklebork@interia.pl),

[mopsleborsk@post.pl](mailto:mopsleborsk@post.pl)

Consulting Centre for Victims of Family Violence  
82-200 Malbork  
Nowowiejskiego 48  
Phone: (+48 55) 272 22 22, (+48 55) 273 33 33  
e-mail: [jpiwinska@wp.pl](mailto:jpiwinska@wp.pl)  
[cpu@konto.pl](mailto:cpu@konto.pl)

Association for Battered Mother and Children - "Oaza"  
82-100 Nowy Dwór Gdański  
Kanałowa 41  
Phone: (+48 55) 246 75 07, (+48 55) 648 75 27  
888 482 467

Single Mother's Shelter  
84-121 Swarzewo  
Władysławowska  
Phone: 53 58 674 35 03

Consulting-Information Centre for Victims of Domestic Violence – "Vita Activa"  
76-270 Ustka  
Marynarki Polskiej 83  
Phone: (+48 58) 814 58 88, (+48 58) 814 45 91  
e-mail: [mkrpa@um.ustka.pl](mailto:mkrpa@um.ustka.pl)

„STOP Family Violence” Association  
84-200 Wejherowo  
Kusocińskiego 17  
Phone: (+48 58) 672 50 41, (+48 58) 672 79 49

Women's Shelter  
81-376 Gdynia  
Fredry 3  
Phone: (+48 58) 620 55 26, (+48 58) 621 65 26

Single Mother Shelter – „Monar”  
83-240 Lubichowo  
Mościska 17  
Phone: (+48 58) 588 55 20

Women for Women Association  
Bytów  
Miła 26  
Phone: (+48 59) 822 55 81, 880610449  
e-mail: [skkbytow@op.pl](mailto:skkbytow@op.pl)

Women's Rights Centre  
80-239 Gdańsk  
Generała de Gaulle'a 1b/15  
Phone: (+48 58) 341 7915  
e-mail: [m.tobiszewska@cpk.org.pl](mailto:m.tobiszewska@cpk.org.pl)

Democratic Union of Women  
80-239 Gdańsk  
Miszewskiego 17  
Phone: (+48 58) 345 5016  
e-mail: [dukgd@poczta.onet.pl](mailto:dukgd@poczta.onet.pl)  
[uniakobiet@interia.pl](mailto:uniakobiet@interia.pl)  
www: [www.duk.gdansk.pl](http://www.duk.gdansk.pl)

Self-Help Association "Krąg"  
Gdańsk  
Olszyńska 41  
Phone: (+48 58) 301 92 62

Local Community Association - "Wsparcie dla słabszych"  
Reda  
Brzozowa30  
e-mail: [wsparciedlaslabszych@wp.pl](mailto:wsparciedlaslabszych@wp.pl)



## **Lithuania**

Kretinga Women Information and Training Centre  
Vilniaus st. 18, LT-97104 Kretinga  
Phone: +370-445-78024  
e-mail: [kmimc@kretvb.lt](mailto:kmimc@kretvb.lt)

Gargždai Social Service Centre  
Sodo st. 1, Gargždai  
Phone: +370-46-470202  
Phone: +370-677-73032  
Twenty for hours

Kretinga Social Service Centre  
Klaipėdos 133 C, Kretinga  
Phone: +370-445-78988  
Twenty for hours

Klaipėda Social and Psychological Help Centre  
Smilčių st. 6 (Melnragė)  
Klaipėda  
Phone: +370-46-350099  
e-mail: [kmn@moteriai.lt](mailto:kmn@moteriai.lt)

Public company "Nuo pradžios" (Home start Lietuvoje)  
Debrečno st.3,  
Klaipėda  
Phone: +370-46-300385

Public company "Informations and Help Centre for Big Family"  
Debrečno st.3,  
Klaipėda  
Phone: +370-46-300385

Social Service and Crises Centre in Pagėgiai Municipality  
Vilniaus st. 7,  
Pagėgiai  
Phone: +370-441-56081  
e-mail: [nkovaliova@pagegiai.lt](mailto:nkovaliova@pagegiai.lt)  
Twenty for hours

Kretinga Men Support Centre  
Vilniaus st. 2A, LT-97129 Kretinga  
Phone: +370-681-14386  
e-mail: [kretingosvyrucentras@gmail.com](mailto:kretingosvyrucentras@gmail.com)

Police Office of Klaipėda County  
Jūros st. 1, Klaipėda  
Phone: +370-46-354112  
e-mail: [klaipeda.vpk.bd@vrm.lt](mailto:klaipeda.vpk.bd@vrm.lt)  
www: [www.klaipeda.policija.lt](http://www.klaipeda.policija.lt)

Kretinga Police Office  
Vytauto st. 19, Kretinga  
Phone: +370-445-79100

Klaipėda region Police Office  
Gamyklos st. 29, Gargždai  
Phone: +370-46-470643

Šilutė Police Office  
Lietuvininkų st. 31, Šilutė  
Phone: +370-441-61573

Skuodas Police Office  
Basanavičiaus st. 3, Skuodas  
Phone: +370-440-70010

Palanga Police Office  
Vytauto st. 4, Palanga  
Phone: +370-460-49094

First Level Legal Help

Klaipėda City Municipality  
Liepų st. 11, Klaipėda  
Phone: +370-46-396018

Klaipėda Region Municipality  
Klaipėdos st. 2. Gargždai  
Phone: +370-46-452545;  
Phone: +370-46-472025

Kretinga Region Municipality  
Savanorių st. 29A, Kretinga  
Phone: +370-445-53141;  
Phone: +370-445-76173

Neringa Municipality  
Taikos st. 2, Neringa  
Phone: +370-469-52248

Pagėgiai Municipality  
Vilniaus st.11, Pagėgiai  
Phone: +370-441-70401

Palanga Municipality  
Vytauto st. 73, Palanga  
Phone: +370-460-48707

Skuodas Region Municipality  
Vilniaus st. 13, Skuodas  
Phone: +370-440-73972

## **Sweden**

Social services  
Karlshamns Kommun  
IFO  
374 81 Karlshamn, Sweden  
+46 45481000  
[www.karlshamn.se](http://www.karlshamn.se)  
[omsorg@karlshamn.se](mailto:omsorg@karlshamn.se)

Karlskrona Kommun  
Socialförvaltningen  
Östra Hamngatan 7 B  
371 83 Karlskrona, Sweden  
+46 455303030  
[www.karlskrona.se](http://www.karlskrona.se)  
[socialforvaltningen@karlskrona.se](mailto:socialforvaltningen@karlskrona.se)

Ronneby Kommun  
IFO  
372 80 Ronneby, Sweden  
+46 457618258  
[www.ronneby.se](http://www.ronneby.se)  
[social@ronneby.se](mailto:social@ronneby.se)

Sölvesborgs Kommun  
IFO  
294 80 Sölvesborg, Sweden  
+46 45681600  
[www.solvesborg.se](http://www.solvesborg.se)  
[ifo@solvesborg.se](mailto:ifo@solvesborg.se)

Olofströms Kommun  
Socialförvaltningen  
Box 302  
293 24 Olofström, Sweden  
+46 45493210  
[www.olofstrom.se](http://www.olofstrom.se)  
[ks@olofstrom.se](mailto:ks@olofstrom.se)

Special units for support to victims of violence in intimate relationships

Municipality of Ronneby

[www.ronneby.se](http://www.ronneby.se)

SESAM

[sesam@ronneby.se](mailto:sesam@ronneby.se)

Ronneby Kommun

Sesam

372 80 Ronneby, Sweden

+46 457618556 / 457618557

Municipality of Karlskrona

UTSIKT

[socialforvaltningen@karlskrona.se](mailto:socialforvaltningen@karlskrona.se)

Karlskrona Kommun

Socialförvaltningen

Utsikt

Östra Hamngatan 7 B

371 83 Karlskrona, Sweden

+46 455304309

Women's Shelters

NGO's

Karlshamn

[kvinnojourenkarlshamn@yahoo.se](mailto:kvinnojourenkarlshamn@yahoo.se)

Karlshamns Kvinnojour

Norra Fogdelyckegatan 41

374 38 Karlshamn, Sweden

+46 45481899

Karlskrona

[www.kvinnojourenkarlskrona.se](http://www.kvinnojourenkarlskrona.se)

[kvinnojouren\\_kna@yahoo.se](mailto:kvinnojouren_kna@yahoo.se)

Kvinnojouren Frideborg

Skepparegatan 18 B

371 30 Karlskrona, Sweden

+46 45518803

Sölvesborg  
[www.kvinnojourenembla.se](http://www.kvinnojourenembla.se)  
[info@kvinnojourenembla.se](mailto:info@kvinnojourenembla.se)  
Kvinnojouren Embla  
Dr Sternsgatan 4 A  
294 32 Sölvesborg, Sweden  
+46 45613100

Olofström  
[olofstromkvinnojour@roks.se](mailto:olofstromkvinnojour@roks.se)  
Olofströms Kvinnojour  
Östra Storgatan 35  
293 34 Olofström, Sweden  
+46 45440698

Ronneby  
[ronneby-kvinnojour@operamail.com](mailto:ronneby-kvinnojour@operamail.com)  
Ronneby Kvinnojour  
+46 45712323  
Girl's helpline

Tjejjouren Ella Karlshamn  
[www.ella.tjejjouren.se](http://www.ella.tjejjouren.se)  
[Kontakt@tjejjourenella.se](mailto:Kontakt@tjejjourenella.se)

Tjejjouren Tindra Karlskrona  
[www.karlskrona.tjejjouren.se](http://www.karlskrona.tjejjouren.se)  
[Kontakt@karlskrona.tjejjouren.se](mailto:Kontakt@karlskrona.tjejjouren.se)  
Tjejjouren Tindra  
Skepparegatan 18 B  
371 30 Karlskrona  
+46 709-616162

Crime victim support centers (BOJ)  
[www.blekinge.boj.se](http://www.blekinge.boj.se)  
[info@blekinge.boj.se](mailto:info@blekinge.boj.se)

Support center for men  
Mansjouren, Kronoberg  
[www.mansjouren.eu](http://www.mansjouren.eu)  
[info@mansjouren.eu](mailto:info@mansjouren.eu)

Private practice  
Treatment for men  
[www.gabech.se](http://www.gabech.se)  
[gabech@globalnet.net](mailto:gabech@globalnet.net)  
+46 45584000

National help lines

Kvinnofridslinjen 020 505050  
[www.kvinnofridslinjen.se](http://www.kvinnofridslinjen.se)

For different languages:  
Shelters:  
Terrafem 020 521010  
[www.terrafem.org](http://www.terrafem.org)

Somaya 020 818283  
[www.somaya.se](http://www.somaya.se)  
[info@somaya.se](mailto:info@somaya.se)

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## **Kaliningrad**

Women's Consultation of the Central Area  
Kaliningrad, Chekistov street 16.  
tel. 212-755.

Socio-Educational Assistance  
Kaliningrad , Copernicus street, 2-4.  
tel. 462-819.

Consulting Department  
Kaliningrad, Mukomolnaya street, 31.  
tel. 693-488.

Integrated Social Service Centre  
Pravdinsk, 50 th Anniversary of Victory 1.  
tel. 8-252-212-65.

The Center of Social Help to Family and Children  
Svetlyj, Sosnovyj pereulok, 12.  
tel. 8-252-329-49.

Integrated Social Service Centre  
Neman, Krasnoarmeyskaya Street, 13.  
tel. 8-262-220-48

Zvezda Nadezhdi  
Kaliningrad, Bagramnaya Naberezhnaya 18,  
tel +7 (4012) 538 381  
<http://zhenforum.org/>  
<http://www.zvezdanadezhdy.narod.ru/>

Svetlyj, Parkovaya Street 4,

Pravdinsk, Kutuzova Street 15

Neman, Krasnoarmeyskaya Street, 13



Sovetsk, Gastello Street 13

Youth for the Freedom of speech  
Kaliningrad, Donskovo Street 7/11, Nr. 512.  
+7 (4012) 75 22 75 +7 (4012) 75 22 75  
krmoo@mail.ru  
www.yfs.ru

The Union of Women of the Kaliningrad Region  
Kaliningrad, Sovetskij Pereulok, 13.  
Tel. 8-911-4527116

Centre for Social Assistance to Families and Children  
Svetlyj, Parkovaya Street 4.  
Tel.(40152) 3-29-49

The Commissioner for Human Rights in the Kaliningrad Region  
Kaliningrad, Sovetskij Prospekt, 13  
Tel. +7 (4012) 95-83-50, 59-95-28  
<http://ombudsman39.ru/>