

**Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women,  
including Domestic Violence**

Proceedings

**Closing Conference**

**Strasbourg, 10 -11 June 2008**

**Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence  
à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique**

Actes

**Conférence de clôture**

**Strasbourg, 10 -11 juin 2008**

**Stop domestic  
violence  
against women**



COUNCIL  
OF EUROPE      CONSEIL  
DE L'EUROPE

**Stop à la violence  
domestique  
faite aux femmes**



**Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence  
against Women, including Domestic Violence**

# **Closing conference**

Strasbourg, 10-11 June 2008

## **PROCEEDINGS**

**Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence  
à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique**

# **Conférence de clôture**

Strasbourg, 10-11 juin 2008

## **ACTES**

Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking Division  
Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs  
Council of Europe  
F-67075 Strasbourg

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# CONTENTS

## INTRODUCTION

Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence ... *p. 9*

Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique ... *p. 11*

## PROGRAMME OF THE CLOSING CONFERENCE

### COUNCIL OF EUROPE CAMPAIGN TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, INCLUDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Programme ... *p. 14*

## PROGRAMME DE LA CONFÉRENCE DE CLÔTURE

### CAMPAGNE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE POUR COMBATTRE LA VIOLENCE À L'ÉGARD DES FEMMES, Y COMPRIS LA VIOLENCE DOMESTIQUE

Programme ... *p. 20*

## OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

Address by the Right Honourable Terry Davis, Secretary General, Council of Europe ... *p. 27*

Allocution du Right Honourable Terry Davis, Secrétaire Général, Conseil de l'Europe ... *p. 29*

Address: Ms Nyamko Sabuni, Representative of the Swedish Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and Minister for Integration and Gender Equality, Sweden ... *p. 31*

Discours: M. Paul Wille, Vice-président de l'Assemblée parlementaire, Conseil de l'Europe ... *p. 33*

Discours: M. Valerio Prignachi, Président de la Commission de la cohésion sociale du Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux du Conseil de l'Europe ... *p. 35*

## COUNCIL OF EUROPE CAMPAIGN TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, INCLUDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

### ASSESSMENT OF THE FIRST EUROPEAN CAMPAIGN

Keynote speech: Ms Hilary Fisher, Chair of the Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence ... *p. 39*

Keynote speaker: Mr José Mendes-Bota, Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe ... *p. 42*

**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:  
ANALYSIS OF THE MEASURES AND ACTION TAKEN BY COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
MEMBER STATES**

Keynote speaker: Ms Carol Hagemann-White, Council of Europe Consultant, Professor, Faculty of General Pedagogy and Gender Studies, University of Osnabrück, Germany ... *p. 47*

**PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE ACTION BY THE COUNCIL OF  
EUROPE AND ITS MEMBER STATES  
TO PREVENT AND COMBAT VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN**

Keynote speaker: Ms Dubravka Šimonović, Vice-Chair of the Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence ... *p. 55*

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL ACTION  
TO PREVENT AND COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK  
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE CAMPAIGN**

Speech: Ms Jadranka Kosor, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Family, Veterans' Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity, Croatia ... *p. 61*

Speech: Mr Stefan Wallin, Minister of Culture and Sport and Minister in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland ... *p. 63*

Mr Fiorenzo Stolfi, Minister for Foreign and Political Affairs, San Marino ... *p. 65*

Speech: Ms Doris Bures, Minister for Women, Media and Civil Service, Austria ... *p. 68*

Speech: Ms Nyamko Sabuni, Minister for Integration and Gender Equality, Sweden ... *p. 70*

Speech: Ms Galina Balmos, Minister of Social Protection, Family and Children, Moldova ... *p. 72*

Speech: Ms Marjeta Zaçe, Deputy Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Albania ... *p. 75*

Speech: Ms Ivanka Hristova, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Bulgaria ... *p. 77*

Speech: Ms Astri Aas Hansen, State Secretary of the Ministry of Justice and the Police, Norway ... *p. 79*

**PARLIAMENTARY ACTION  
TO PREVENT AND COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK  
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE CAMPAIGN**

Speech: Ms Carina Hägg, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on violence against women, Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe, Contact Parliamentarian for Sweden ... *p. 83*

Speech: Ms Darinka Stantcheva, Member of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe, Contact Parliamentarian for Bulgaria ... *p. 85*

Speech: Ms Nursuna Memecan, Member of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe, Contact Parliamentarian for Turkey ... *p. 87*

## LOCAL AND REGIONAL ACTION

### TO PREVENT AND COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE CAMPAIGN

Speech: Ms Claudette Baldacchino, Member of the Committee on Sustainable Development of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe ... *p. 93*

Speech: Ms Britt-Marie Lövgren, Member of the Committee on Social Cohesion of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe ... *p. 95*

## GOOD PRACTICES

### TO PREVENT AND COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Keynote speaker: Ms Carolyn Hannan, Director, Division for the Advancement of Women, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations ... *p. 99*

Speech: Ms Karin Nordmeyer, Representative of the Conference of INGOs enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe ... *p. 102*

Speech: Ms Gita Sahgal, Head of Gender Unit, Amnesty International ... *p. 104*

## EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL MEASURES

### TO PREVENT AND COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Speech: Ms Violeta Murauskaite, Secretary of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Lithuania ... *p. 109*

Speech: Ms Sadagat Gahramanova, Deputy Chair of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Issues, Azerbaijan ... *p. 111*

Speech: Mr Miguel Lorente Acosta, Government Delegate for Gender-based Violence, Ministry for Gender Equality, Spain ... *p. 113*

Speech: Mr Duško Minovski, State Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy ... *p. 114*

Speech: Ms Snežana Lakićević Stojčić, State Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Serbia ... *p. 117*

Speech: Mr Tigran Sahakyan, Adviser to the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Armenia ... *p. 119*

Speech: Mr José Mendes-Bota, Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe ... *p. 121*

## CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE

Closing speech: Ms Maud De Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General, Council of Europe ... *p. 125*

Allocution de clôture: Mme Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Secrétaire Générale Adjointe ... *p. 127*

## PARTICIPANTS

List of participants/Liste des participant(e)s ... *p. 129*

## BLUEPRINT OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE CAMPAIGN

Blueprint of the Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence, prepared by the Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including domestic violence (EG-TFV) and adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 June 2006 ... *p. 139*

Programme de la Campagne pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique, préparé par la Task Force pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique (EG-TFV) et adopté par le Comité des Ministres le 21 juin 2006 ... *p. 145*





# INTRODUCTION



## Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence

The *Closing Conference of the Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*, was held on 10-11 June 2008 in Strasbourg. It marked the end of a campaign which united governments, parliaments and local and regional authorities in their efforts to combat violence against women, including domestic violence.

Following the decision of the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe member states, this Council of Europe Campaign had been launched at a high-level conference in Madrid in November 2006 in the presence of the Spanish prime minister and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, as well as many other decision-makers from various fields: ministers, parliamentarians, representatives of local and regional authorities, non-governmental representatives and representatives of international intergovernmental organisations. Over the course of more than a year and a half, the three main actors – governments, parliaments and local and regional authorities – have heeded the call for action and have contributed to the success of the Campaign by sparking and supporting many initiatives in law, policies and practice with the aim of stopping violence against women.

Governments have launched national campaigns, short and long-term, using the Council of Europe Campaign material and many innovative ways to spread the message of the Campaign “Stop domestic violence against women”. Many have also reviewed their institutional and legislative framework to combat violence against women, thus embarking on the important task of improving the plight of women victims of violence.

Many parliamentarians have used their role as contact parliamentarians for the Campaign to push for legislative changes to better protect women from gender-based violence. Additionally, many have organised parliamentary debates and hearings on the topic and have issued public statements to raise awareness of violence against women. Local and regional authorities have similarly drawn attention to the issue by organising awareness raising weeks, accompanied by public debates and other initiatives.

During the course of the Campaign, the Council of Europe supported governments, parliaments and local and regional authorities by organising regional seminars and conferences to exchange information and good practices, but also publishing in-depth studies in this field. These seminars and conferences contributed to significantly promoting the aims of *Council of Europe Recommendation Rec (2002)5 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the protection of women against violence*.

The *Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*, set up in 2006 to develop the blueprint for the Campaign and to oversee its implementation, held seven meetings in fulfillment of its mandate. Its tasks comprised an assessment of measures and actions taken at national level to combat violence against women, including domestic violence, as well as the development of recommendations for future Council of Europe action in this field.

The speeches and presentations given during the Closing Conference – collected in these proceedings – give a picture of the many good initia-

tives and measures taken by the many different actors. However, the Task Force's assessment of the impact of the Campaign in Council of Europe member states and of the national measures taken revealed that much more remains to be done. The Task Force therefore recommends a set of measures in many different fields that member states are invited to take to

prevent and combat violence against women, including domestic violence. To provide these measures with legal backing, they also recommended the Council of Europe start the process of drafting a legally binding instrument in this field.

This Conference marked the end of the Council of Europe Campaign, but it did not represent the end of the

united effort to combat the serious violation of human rights that gender-based violence represents. The Council of Europe remains dedicated to combating violence against women and keeping this issue on the political agenda. ★

## Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique

La Conférence de clôture de la Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique, s'est tenue les 10 et 11 juin 2008 à Strasbourg. Elle marquait la fin d'une campagne qui a vu gouvernements, parlements et pouvoirs locaux et régionaux unir leurs efforts pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique.

La campagne avait été lancée lors d'une conférence de haut niveau qui s'est tenue en novembre 2006 à Madrid, suite à décision des chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement des Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe. Le Premier ministre espagnol et le Secrétaire Général du Conseil de l'Europe y étaient présents, ainsi que des décideurs des différents secteurs concernés : ministres, parlementaires, représentant(e)s des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux, représentant(e)s d'organisations non-gouvernementales et d'organisations internationales intergouvernementales. Au cours de ces dix-huit mois, les trois acteurs principaux – gouvernements, parlements et pouvoirs locaux et régionaux – ont répondu à l'appel et contribué au succès de la campagne en entreprenant et soutenant de nombreuses initiatives dans le domaine juridique, politique et des pratiques visant à stopper la violence à l'égard des femmes.

Les gouvernements ont mené des campagnes nationales à court ou long terme, utilisant le matériel du Conseil de l'Europe ou ayant recours à divers moyens novateurs pour diffuser le message de la campagne « Stop à la violence domestique faite aux femmes ». Certains d'entre eux ont révisé leur cadre institutionnel et lé-

gislatif et ont contribué ainsi à améliorer sur le fond le sort tragique des femmes victimes de violence. De nombreux parlementaires ont pris avantage de leur rôle de parlementaire référent pendant la campagne pour faire avancer les révisions législatives pour mieux protéger les femmes contre la violence fondée sur le genre. De plus, beaucoup d'entre eux ont choisi de sensibiliser le public à la question par le biais de débats, auditions parlementaires et déclarations publiques. Les pouvoirs locaux et régionaux ont également participé à cet effort en organisant des semaines de sensibilisation, accompagnées de débats publics et autres initiatives.

Pendant la campagne, le Conseil de l'Europe a soutenu les gouvernements, les parlements et les pouvoirs locaux et régionaux par l'organisation de conférences et de séminaires régionaux dans le but d'échanger des informations et des bonnes pratiques, mais également par la publication d'études approfondies dans ce domaine. Ces conférences et ces séminaires ont considérablement contribué à promouvoir les objectifs de la *Recommandation Rec(2002)5 du Comité des Ministres aux Etats membres sur la protection des femmes contre la violence*.

La *Task Force du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique*, mise en place en 2006 pour élaborer le programme de la campagne et superviser sa mise en œuvre, a tenu sept réunions pour mener à bien sa mission, qui comprenait l'évaluation des mesures et des actions entreprises au niveau national et l'élaboration de recommandations pour l'action future du Conseil de l'Europe dans ce domaine.

Les discours et les contributions présentées lors de la conférence de clôture – rassemblés dans ces Actes – illustrent les nombreuses initiatives et mesures mises en œuvre par les différents acteurs. Cependant, la Task Force a montré, dans son évaluation de l'influence de la campagne et des mesures prises dans les Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe, qu'il restait beaucoup à faire. Elle recom-

mande donc un ensemble de mesures que les Etats membres sont invités à appliquer pour prévenir et combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes. Pour donner à ces mesures un cadre juridique, elle recommande également au Conseil de l'Europe d'entamer l'élaboration d'un instrument juridiquement contraignant dans ce domaine.

Cette conférence a marqué la fin de la campagne du Conseil de l'Europe,

mais pas celle des efforts conjugués pour combattre cette violation grave des droits humains que constitue la violence fondée sur le genre. L'engagement du Conseil de l'Europe dans le combat contre la violence à l'égard des femmes demeure entier et cette question doit rester inscrite à son ordre du jour politique. ★

**PROGRAMME  
OF THE CLOSING  
CONFERENCE**

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE CAMPAIGN TO COMBAT  
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, INCLUDING  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

## Programme

# Closing Conference

**Organised by the Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking Division,  
Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs, Council of Europe**

**Palais de l'Europe, Room 1, Strasbourg,  
10-11 June 2008**

**Tuesday, 10 June 2008**

9 am Registration of participants

### **I. Opening of the Conference**

9.30 am Address by The Right Honourable Terry Davis, Secretary General, Council of Europe

9.50 am *Welcoming addresses by :*

Ms Nyamko Sabuni, representative of the Swedish Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and Minister for Integration and Gender Equality, Sweden

Mr Paul Wille, Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe

Mr Valerio Prignachi, Chair of the Committee on Social Cohesion of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe

10.20 am **II. Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence: Assessment of the first European Campaign**

Chair: Pēteris Kārlis Elferts, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Latvia to the Council of Europe, Thematic Co-ordinator on Gender Equality of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

Keynote speakers:

Ms Hilary Fisher, Chair of the Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence

Mr José Mendes-Bota, Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe

Mr Valerio Prignachi, Chair of the Committee on Social Cohesion of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe

Questions and discussion

11.15 am Break



- 11.30 pm **III. Violence against women: analysis of the measures and action taken by Council of Europe member states**
- Keynote speaker: Ms Carol Hagemann-White, Council of Europe Consultant, Professor, Faculty of General Pedagogy and Gender Studies, University of Osnabrück, Germany
- Questions and discussion
- 11.50 am **IV. Proposals for future action by the Council of Europe and its member states to prevent and combat violence against women**
- Keynote speaker: Ms Dubravka Šimonović, Vice-Chair of the Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence
- Questions and discussion
- 12.10 pm **V. National governmental action to prevent and combat violence against women within the framework of the Council of Europe Campaign**
- Panel discussion*
- Ms Jadranka Kosor, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Family, Veterans' Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity, Croatia
- Mr Pedro Silva Pereira, Minister of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Portugal
- Mr Stefan Wallin, Minister of Culture and Sport and Minister at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland
- Mr Fiorenzo Stolfi, Minister for Foreign and Political Affairs, San Marino
- Ms Doris Bures, Minister for Women, Media and Civil Service, Austria
- Ms Nyamko Sabuni, Minister for Integration and Gender Equality, Sweden
- Questions and discussion
- 1.15 pm *Family photo of Heads of Delegations*
- 1.20 pm *Luncheon hosted by The Right Honourable Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, for Heads of Delegations*
- 2.45 pm **V. National governmental action to prevent and combat violence against women within the framework of the Council of Europe Campaign (continuation)**
- Chair: Mr José Mendes-Bota, Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe
- Panel discussion*
- Ms Galina Balmos, Minister of Social Protection, Family and Children, Moldova
- Mr Pēteris Kārlis Elferts, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Latvia to the Council of Europe
- Ms Marjeta Zaçe, Deputy Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Albania
- Ms Ivanka Hristova, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Bulgaria

Ms Astri Aas Hansen, State Secretary of the Ministry of Justice and the Police,  
Norway

Questions and discussion

4 pm Break

4.15 pm **VII. Parliamentary action to prevent and combat violence  
against women within the framework of the Council of Europe  
Campaign**

*Panel discussion*

Ms Carina Hägg, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on violence against  
women, Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe, Contact Parliamentarian  
for Sweden

Ms Darinka Stantcheva, Member of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of  
Europe, Contact Parliamentarian for Bulgaria

Ms Nursuna Memecan, Member of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of  
Europe, Contact Parliamentarian for Turkey

Mr Chris Green, Executive Director of the White Ribbon Campaign UK, United  
Kingdom

Questions and discussion

5.15 pm **VIII. Local and regional action to prevent and combat violence  
against women within the framework of the Council of Europe  
Campaign**

*Panel discussion*

Ms Claudette Baldacchino, Member of the Committee on Sustainable Develop-  
ment of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe

Ms Britt-Marie Lövgren, Member of the Committee on Social Cohesion of the  
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe

Questions and discussion

5.45 pm End of the first day

**Wednesday, 11 June 2008**

Chair: Ms Feride Acar, Member of the Council of Europe Task Force to Combat  
Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence and former Chair of  
United Nations CEDAW Committee

9.30 am **IX. Good practices to prevent and combat violence against  
women**

Keynote speaker: Mr Thomas Hammarberg, Commissioner for Human Rights,  
Council of Europe [video intervention]

9.40 am Keynote speaker: Ms Carolyn Hannan, Director, Division for the Advancement  
of Women, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations

10 am *Panel discussion*

Ms Karin Nordmeyer, Representative of the Conference of INGOs enjoying par-  
ticipatory status with the Council of Europe

Ms Gita Sahgal, Head of Gender Unit, Amnesty International

Ms Rosa Logar, Chair of “Women Against Violence Europe” (WAVE)

Ms Radostina Belcheva, “Animus Association Foundation”, member organisation of La Strada International

Questions and discussion

10.45 am Break

11 am **X. Effective implementation of national measures to prevent and combat violence against women**

*Panel discussion*

Ms Violeta Murauskaite, Secretary of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Lithuania

Ms Sadagat Gahramanova, Deputy Chair of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children’s Issues, Azerbaijan

Mr Miguel Lorente Acosta, Government Delegate for Gender-based Violence, Ministry for Gender Equality, Spain

Mr Duško Minovski, State Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”

Ms Snežana Lakićević Stojačić, State Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Serbia

Mr Tigran Sahakyan, Adviser to the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Armenia

Mr José Mendes-Bota, Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe

Questions and discussion

12.15 pm **XI. Closing of the Conference**

Address by Ms Maud De Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General, Council of Europe

12.30 pm End of conference



**PROGRAMME  
DE LA CONFÉRENCE  
DE CLÔTURE**

CAMPAGNE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE  
POUR COMBATTRE LA VIOLENCE À L'ÉGARD  
DES FEMMES, Y COMPRIS LA VIOLENCE  
DOMESTIQUE

## Programme

# Conférence de clôture

organisée par la Division pour l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes  
et la lutte contre la traite, Direction générale des droits de l'Homme  
et des affaires juridiques, Conseil de l'Europe

Palais de l'Europe, Salle 1, Strasbourg,  
10-11 juin 2008

Mardi, 10 juin 2008

- 9h Enregistrement des participant(e)s
- 9h **I. Ouverture de la conférence**
- 9h30 Allocution du Right Honourable Terry Davis, Secrétaire Général, Conseil de l'Europe
- 9h50 *Allocutions de bienvenue par :*
- M<sup>me</sup> Nyamko Sabuni, représentante de la présidence suédoise du Comité des Ministres du Conseil de l'Europe et ministre de l'Intégration et de l'Égalité entre les femmes et les hommes, Suède
- M. Paul Wille, Vice-président de l'Assemblée parlementaire, Conseil de l'Europe
- M. Valerio Prignachi, Président de la Commission de la cohésion sociale du Congrès des Pouvoirs locaux et régionaux, Conseil de l'Europe
- 10h20 **II. Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique : évaluation de la première campagne européenne**
- Président : M. Pēteris Kārlis Elferts, Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire, Représentant Permanent de la Lettonie auprès du Conseil de l'Europe, Coordinateur thématique du Comité des Ministres sur l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes du Conseil de l'Europe
- Rapporteuse : M<sup>me</sup> Hilary Fisher, Présidente de la Task Force du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique
- Rapporteur : M. José Mendes-Bota, Rapporteur de l'Assemblée parlementaire, Conseil de l'Europe
- Rapporteur : M. Valerio Prignachi, Président de la Commission de la cohésion sociale du Congrès des Pouvoirs locaux et régionaux, Conseil de l'Europe
- Questions et discussion
- 11h15 Pause

11h30 **III. Violence à l'égard des femmes : analyse des mesures et des actions prises par les États membres du Conseil de l'Europe**

11h30 Rapporteuse : M<sup>me</sup> Carol Hagemann-White, Consultante auprès du Conseil de l'Europe, Professeur, Faculté de pédagogie générale et d'études de genre, Université d'Osnabrück, Allemagne

Questions et discussion

11h50 **IV. Propositions pour l'action future du Conseil de l'Europe et de ses États membres pour prévenir et combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes**

Rapporteuse : M<sup>me</sup> Dubravka Šimonović, Vice-présidente de la Task Force du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique

Questions et discussion

12h10 **V. Actions gouvernementales nationales pour prévenir et combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes dans le cadre de la Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe**

*Table ronde*

M<sup>me</sup> Jadranka Kosor, Vice-présidente du gouvernement et ministre de la Famille, des Anciens combattants et de la Solidarité entre générations, Croatie

M. Pedro Silva Pereira, ministre de la Présidence du Conseil des Ministres, Portugal

M. Stefan Wallin, ministre de la Culture et des Sports et ministre auprès du ministère des Affaires sociales et de la Santé, Finlande

M. Fiorenzo Stolfi, ministre des Affaires étrangères et politiques, Saint-Marin

M<sup>me</sup> Doris Bures, ministre des Femmes, des Médias et du Service civil, Autriche

M<sup>me</sup> Nyamko Sabuni, ministre de l'Intégration et de l'Égalité entre les femmes et les hommes, Suède

Questions et discussion

13h15 *Photo de famille des chefs de délégations*

13h20 *Déjeuner offert aux chefs de délégations par le Right Honourable Terry Davis, Secrétaire Général du Conseil de l'Europe*

Président : M. José Mendes-Bota, Rapporteur de l'Assemblée parlementaire, Conseil de l'Europe

14h45 **VI. Actions gouvernementales nationales pour prévenir et combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes dans le cadre de la Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe (suite)**

*Table ronde*

M<sup>me</sup> Galina Balmos, ministre de la Protection sociale, de la Famille et des Enfants, Moldova

M. Pēteris Kārlis Elferts, Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire, Représentant Permanent de la Lettonie auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

M<sup>me</sup> Marjeta Zaçe, vice-ministre du Travail, des Affaires sociales et de l'Égalité des chances, Albanie

M<sup>me</sup> Ivanka Hristova, vice-ministre du Travail et des Politiques sociales, Bulgarie

M<sup>me</sup> Astri Aas Hansen, Secrétaire d'État du ministère de la Justice et de la Police, Norvège

Questions et discussion

16h Pause

16h15 **VII. Actions parlementaires pour prévenir et combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes dans le cadre de la Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe**

*Table ronde*

M<sup>me</sup> Carina Hägg, Présidente de la Sous-commission sur la violence à l'égard des femmes de l'Assemblée parlementaire, Conseil de l'Europe, parlementaire de référence pour la Suède

M<sup>me</sup> Darinka Stantcheva, Membre de l'Assemblée parlementaire, Conseil de l'Europe, parlementaire de référence pour la Bulgarie

M<sup>me</sup> Nursuna Memecan, Membre de l'Assemblée parlementaire, Conseil de l'Europe, parlementaire de référence pour la Turquie

M. Chris Green, Directeur exécutif, Campagne du Ruban Blanc au Royaume-Uni, Royaume-Uni

Questions et discussion

17h15 **VIII. Actions locales et régionales pour prévenir et combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes dans le cadre de la Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe**

*Table ronde*

M<sup>me</sup> Claudette Baldacchino, membre de la Commission du développement durable du Congrès des Pouvoirs locaux et régionaux, Conseil de l'Europe

M<sup>me</sup> Britt-Marie Lövgren, membre de la Commission de la cohésion sociale du Congrès des Pouvoirs locaux et régionaux, Conseil de l'Europe

Questions et discussion

17h45 Fin de la première journée

**Mercredi, 11 Juin 2008**

9h30 **IX. Bonnes pratiques pour prévenir et combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes**

Présidente : M<sup>me</sup> Feride Acar, membre de la Task Force du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique et ancienne présidente du Comité CEDAW des Nations Unies

Rapporteur : M. Thomas Hammarberg, Commissaire aux Droits de l'Homme, Conseil de l'Europe, [intervention vidéo]



9h40 Rapporteuse : M<sup>me</sup> Carolyn Hannan, Directrice, Division de la promotion de la femme, Département des affaires économiques et sociales, Nations Unies

10h00 *Table ronde*

M<sup>me</sup> Karin Nordmeyer, représentante de la Conférence des OING dotées du statut participatif auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

M<sup>me</sup> Gita Sahgal, Chef de l'Unité de l'égalité d'Amnesty International

M<sup>me</sup> Rosa Logar, Présidente de « Femmes contre la violence en Europe » (WAVE)

M<sup>me</sup> Radostina Belcheva « Animus Association Foundation », organisation membre de la Strada International

Questions et discussion

10h45 Pause

11h00 **X. Mise en oeuvre effective des mesures nationales pour prévenir et combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes**

*Table ronde*

M<sup>me</sup> Violeta Murauskaite, Secrétaire du Ministère de la Sécurité sociale et du Travail, Lituanie

M<sup>me</sup> Sagadat Gahramanova, Vice-présidente du Comité national pour les Affaires de la Famille, des Femmes et des Enfants, Azerbaïdjan

M. Miguel Lorente Costa, Délégué du gouvernement pour la violence fondée sur le genre, ministère de l'Égalité entre les femmes et les hommes, Espagne

M. Duško Minovski, Secrétaire d'État du ministère du Travail et de la Politique sociale, « L'ex République yougoslave de Macédoine »

M<sup>me</sup> Snežana Lakićević Stojačić, Secrétaire d'État du Ministère du travail et des politiques sociales, Serbie

M. Tigran Sahakyan, Conseiller auprès du ministre du Travail et des Affaires sociales, Arménie

M. José Mendes-Bota, Rapporteur de l'Assemblée parlementaire, Conseil de l'Europe

Questions et discussion

12h15 **XI. Clôture de la conférence**

Allocution de Mme Maud De Boer-Buquicchio, Secrétaire Générale Adjointe, Conseil de l'Europe

12h30 Fin de la conférence



# OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE



## Address by the Right Honourable Terry Davis

Secretary General,  
Council of Europe

**M**ore than eighteen months ago in Madrid, I called on all Council of Europe member states to make a real change in the lives of women in Europe.

The Campaign launched on that occasion was conducted at three levels: intergovernmental, parliamentary and local. Bringing different people and institutions to work together has proved to be a very successful strategy.

Since the launch of the Campaign, many governments of our member states have heeded the call for action. During the course of the Campaign and beyond, member states were asked to make significant progress in four main areas: legal and policy measures, support and protection for victims, data collection and awareness raising. They were also invited to carry out national campaigns to lobby for stronger implementation of the (2002)5 Council of Europe Recommendation on the protection of women against violence.

During the course of the Campaign, five regional seminars have been organised as part of the intergovernmental dimension of the Campaign in order to collect information and exchange experience in areas such as legal measures, support and protection of victims, data collection and the role of men in combating violence against women. Two important areas were also studied more closely: the questions of minimum standards for services for women victims of violence, and how to collect data about violence against women.

As part of the parliamentary dimension of the Campaign, many parliamentarians have, individually and jointly, pushed for changes in legislation to protect women from gender-

based violence. By organising parliamentary debates and hearings on violence against women but also in interviews and public statements, parliamentarians have greatly contributed to raising awareness of this topic.

In a similar vein, local and regional authorities organised the display of the Campaign posters in public places in more than 30 cities or regions as part of their awareness-raising weeks, involving public debates and other initiatives to draw attention to violence against women.

Going far beyond the use of existing publicity material, member states have explored other innovative ways to spread the message of this Council of Europe Campaign. Let me give you some examples.

The message “Violence kills unless you speak up! – React by saying No to Domestic Violence” was sent to all mobile phone subscribers in Albania by the Speaker of the Albanian Parliament. In the Czech Republic, they produced a leaflet on how not to become a victim of domestic violence, and the leaflet was printed in a magazine for women. A special campaign stamp was sold in Croatia to raise funds for women’s organisations running shelters for victims of violence.

Several member states organised drawing or essay writing competitions on the topic of domestic violence and created interactive websites dedicated to the Campaign at national level.

It is impossible to list all the initiatives and activities that have taken place during the Campaign, but you can read more about them in the national reports on Campaign action prepared by national focal points.

The Directorate of Communication has worked hard to ensure that the visual image and the main messages of the Council of Europe Campaign are known throughout Europe and known in particular to the media. As an example of these joint efforts, the Council of Europe television spot has been shown in 27 member states of the Council of Europe as well as on CNN.

Today, more than half of all Council of Europe member states criminalise acts of violence against women. This is quite an achievement. And approximately half of all member states have recognised the importance of introducing appropriate procedures for victims and have set up specialised courts or specialised units within the police, the public prosecutor or the judiciary. However this statistic means that half have not done it. And in only half our member states can women victims of domestic violence seek help by calling a national helpline free of charge at any time of day or night. In the rest of Europe, women are either left alone with their problem or need to find a local number first. More strikingly, less than a third of all member states offer enough safe shelters for victims of domestic violence.

This means that women in most member states are still turned away from overcrowded shelters or simply live too far away from any shelter at all.

The proclaimed commitment of more than half of all member states to consider domestic violence as a human rights violation in their legal system therefore stands in stark contrast to the lack of shelter for women who need to escape from violence.

At the Launching Conference in Madrid one and a half years ago, I stated that the Campaign's "ultimate success will not be measured by the number of seminars or declarations, but by the positive and quantifiable changes which our Campaign helps to bring about in the lives of women suffering from abuse, through better laws, more shelters, better counselling, more help and above all by prevention."

Eighteen months later and based on the information we have received from member states, we can certainly conclude that significant progress has been made in terms of raising awareness about violence against women and drawing the attention of governments, parliaments and local and regional decision makers to this issue.

But have we been able to make a difference in the lives of millions of women in Europe and provide them with the support and protection they need?

Personally, I think that we still have a long way to go. Changing attitudes and cultural norms takes years before results can be seen through decreasing rates of violence. While changes in legislation can be made in a fairly short time, their implementation and the training of professionals to enforce these laws requires both commitment and resources in order to fulfil the objective of the laws.

The Task Force, which has been in charge of evaluating the national and international measures on violence against women, will tell you more about recent developments in our member states and about their conclusions and recommendations for future actions of the Council of Europe. I will only add that while the Campaign will come to an end, the Council of Europe commitment to preventing and combating violence against women will not. We broke the silence, but we must not stop until the screaming stops. ★

## Allocution du Right Honourable Terry Davis

Secrétaire Général,  
Conseil de l'Europe

Il y a plus de dix-huit mois, à Madrid, j'appelais tous les Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe à opérer un véritable changement dans la vie des femmes en Europe.

La campagne lancée à cette occasion a été menée à trois niveaux : intergouvernemental, parlementaire et local. Amener différentes personnes et institutions à travailler ensemble s'est révélé être une stratégie très fructueuse.

Depuis le lancement de la campagne, de nombreux gouvernements de nos Etats membres ont répondu à l'appel. Tout au long de la campagne et au-delà, ils ont été exhortés à faire des progrès notables dans quatre domaines principaux : les mesures politiques et juridiques, le soutien et la protection des victimes, la collecte de données et la sensibilisation du public.

Ils ont également été invités à organiser des campagnes nationales pour exercer des pressions en faveur d'une mise en œuvre renforcée de la Recommandation (2002)5 du Conseil de l'Europe sur la protection des femmes contre la violence.

Dans le cadre de la dimension intergouvernementale de la campagne, cinq séminaires régionaux ont été organisés afin de rassembler des informations et d'échanger des expériences dans des domaines comme les mesures juridiques, le soutien et la protection des victimes, la collecte de données et le rôle des hommes dans la lutte contre la violence à l'égard des femmes. Deux domaines importants ont également été étudiés de plus près : les questions des normes minimales pour les services aux femmes victimes de violences et de la collecte de données sur la violence à l'égard des femmes.

Dans le cadre de la dimension parlementaire de la campagne, de nombreux parlementaires ont appelé, à titre individuel ou collectif, à des modifications de la législation en vue de protéger les femmes de la violence fondée sur le genre. En organisant des débats parlementaires et des auditions sur la violence contre les femmes, mais aussi en accordant des entretiens et en faisant des déclarations publiques, ils ont grandement contribué à sensibiliser le public à cette question.

Dans le même esprit, les collectivités locales et régionales ont organisé l'affichage de posters de la campagne dans des lieux publics dans plus de 30 villes ou régions, à l'occasion de leurs semaines de sensibilisation, qui comprenaient aussi des débats publics et d'autres initiatives pour attirer l'attention sur les violences faites aux femmes.

Les Etats membres ont non seulement exploité le matériel de publicité existant, mais ils ont aussi trouvé d'autres moyens novateurs de diffuser le message de cette campagne du Conseil de l'Europe. Laissez-moi vous donner quelques exemples.

En Albanie, le message « La violence tue si vous vous taisez ! – Réagissez en disant non à la violence domestique » a été envoyé à toutes les personnes souscrivant un abonnement auprès d'un opérateur mobile par le président du Parlement albanais. La République tchèque a produit un dépliant expliquant comment ne pas être victime de violence domestique, qui a été imprimé dans un magazine féminin. Un timbre spécial en faveur de la campagne a été vendu en Croatie afin de collecter des fonds pour une organisation de femmes qui gère des foyers pour les victimes de violence domestique.

Plusieurs Etats membres ont organisé des concours de dessin ou d'écriture sur le thème de la violence domestique et créé des sites web interactifs consacrés à la campagne au niveau national.

Il est impossible de dresser la liste de toutes les initiatives et activités entreprises pendant la campagne, mais vous obtiendrez plus de détails en consultant les rapports nationaux sur les actions de campagne rédigés par les organismes nationaux de contact.

La Direction de la communication a beaucoup œuvré pour que l'image visuelle et les principaux messages de la campagne du Conseil de l'Europe soient connus à travers l'Europe, en particulier des médias. Comme exemple de ces efforts communs, le spot télévisé du Conseil de l'Europe a été diffusé dans 27 Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe ainsi que sur CNN.

Aujourd'hui, plus de la moitié des Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe incriminent les actes de violence perpétrés à l'encontre des femmes. C'est un beau succès, et près de la moitié des Etats membres ont reconnu l'importance qu'il y avait à adopter des procédures appropriées pour les victimes et ont mis en place des juridictions spécialisées ou des unités spécialisées au sein de la police, du ministère public ou du judiciaire. Toutefois, ces statistiques signifient aussi que l'autre moitié ne l'a pas fait. Par conséquent, seule une moitié de nos Etats membres proposent une ligne nationale d'assistance téléphonique gratuite fonctionnant 24h sur 24h pour les

femmes victimes de violence domestique. Ailleurs en Europe, les femmes doivent soit se débrouiller toutes seules pour régler leurs problèmes, soit commencer par trouver un numéro local. Ce qui est encore plus frappant, c'est que moins d'un tiers de tous les Etats membres dispose d'un nombre suffisant de foyers sûrs pour les victimes de violence domestique. Cela signifie que, dans la plupart des Etats membres, les femmes se voient refuser un hébergement dans des foyers qui sont déjà surpeuplés ou vivent tout simplement trop loin d'un foyer.

L'engagement pris par plus de la moitié de tous les Etats membres de considérer la violence domestique comme une violation des droits humains dans leur système juridique contraste donc vivement avec le manque réel de foyers pour les femmes ayant besoin d'échapper à la violence.

Lors du lancement de la conférence à Madrid il y a un an et demi, j'ai déclaré que la « réussite finale ne sera(it) pas mesurée au nombre de séminaires et de déclarations, mais à l'aune des changements concrets et quantifiables qu'elle aura apportés dans la vie des femmes victimes de maltraitance, grâce à de meilleures lois, davantage de lieux d'accueil, un meilleur accompagnement, plus d'aide et, surtout, grâce à la prévention. »

Dix-huit mois plus tard et sur la base des informations que nous avons reçues des Etats membres, nous pouvons sans aucun doute conclure que des progrès non négligeables ont

été accomplis en termes de sensibilisation à la violence faite aux femmes et d'attention accordée par les gouvernements, les parlements et les décideurs locaux et régionaux à cette question.

Mais avons-nous été capables de faire la différence dans les vies de millions de femmes en Europe et de leur apporter l'aide et la protection dont elles avaient besoin ?

Je suis d'avis qu'il nous reste encore un long chemin à parcourir. Changer les attitudes et les habitudes culturelles peut prendre des années avant de pouvoir observer des résultats tangibles comme la diminution des taux de violence. Si les modifications de la législation peuvent se faire en un temps relativement bref, leur mise en œuvre et la formation des professionnels pour faire appliquer ces lois nécessitent à la fois un réel engagement et des ressources suffisantes si l'on veut faire respecter les objectifs fixés.

La Task Force, qui est chargée d'évaluer les mesures nationales et internationales prises pour lutter contre la violence à l'égard des femmes, vous en dira davantage sur les évolutions récentes dans nos Etats membres et sur ses conclusions et recommandations pour les futures actions du Conseil de l'Europe. J'ajouterai simplement que si la campagne prend fin aujourd'hui, l'engagement du Conseil de l'Europe pour prévenir et combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes ne s'arrête pas là pour autant. Nous avons brisé le mur du silence, mais nous ne nous arrêterons que lorsque les cris auront cessé. ★



**Address:  
Ms Nyamko  
Sabuni**

**Representative of the  
Swedish Chairmanship  
of the Committee of  
Ministers of the  
Council of Europe and  
Minister for  
Integration and  
Gender Equality,  
Sweden**

**M**r Secretary General, Your Excellencies, Mr Chair, ladies and gentlemen,

The Council of Europe's core objective is to promote and protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. All activities and work within the Council of Europe must be focused to contribute in reaching these fundamental objectives.

Since the beginning of last month Sweden holds the chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. The Swedish Chairmanship will focus its work on promoting realization of the Council of Europe's core objective – making rights become real.

This of course includes the very important work to combat violence against women. Men's violence against women exists in all our countries as a widespread problem affecting the whole community. All individuals must be able to live their lives free from fear of violence and abuse. Ultimately this is a question of gender equality and women's right to fully enjoy their human rights, to which all individuals are entitled.

I'm honoured to be here today at this Closing Conference of the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*. But let us make this Conference the end of the beginning.

The decision to launch the Campaign was a manifestation of political will. The conclusion from this is crystal-clear: Men's violence against women is unacceptable. And men's violence against women can be stopped.

A *Task Force* was set up. The mission was to evaluate progress at national level and establish instruments for quantifying developments

at pan-European level. The Task Force also had the important mission to propose concrete measures for our future work.

The three basic aims of the Campaign have been:

First; to raise awareness of violence against women as a human right's issue and encourage every citizen to challenge it;

Second; to urge member states to demonstrate political will with a view to delivering concrete results in ending violence against women; and

Third; to promote the implementation of the effective measures contained in the *Council of Europe Recommendation on the protection of women against violence*.

All member states were invited to make significant progress under four thematic areas:

- ▶ legal and policy measures,
- ▶ support and protection for victims,
- ▶ data collection and
- ▶ awareness raising.

As you will hear during these days, the campaign has led to a lot of actions and activities in our countries. Almost all member states have participated. Different levels of society, national governments, parliaments and local and regional decision-makers, have been involved. More than 40 governments have submitted their final report on their national Campaigns to prevent and combat violence against women.

In Sweden a national action plan has been adopted. I will have the opportunity to elaborate on this later today. I am really looking forward to sharing different experiences on how to combat violence against women. I am sure that we all will get some more inspiration on how to continue our work.

The Task Force are expected to present their proposals for future action to prevent and combat violence against women.

Based on the information received from different member states, the Committee of Ministers will decide on possible future action by the

Council of Europe in this field. Already next week our ambassadors in the Committee of Ministers will receive the oral report from this conference. They will then have a first discussion on the follow up.

On behalf of the Swedish Government, I hope we can make use of the

political momentum that the Council of Europe Campaign has created. I encourage the Council of Europe to start the preparation of the first European human rights treaty to prevent and combat violence against women. I know this is the end of the beginning.  
Thank you for listening. ★

## Discours: M. Paul Wille

Vice-président de l'Assemblée parlementaire, Conseil de l'Europe

**M**onsieur le Secrétaire Général, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres, Chers collègues, Mesdames et Monsieur,

C'est un grand honneur pour moi de participer à la conférence de clôture de la Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique et de saluer, au nom de l'Assemblée parlementaire, l'ensemble des participants.

Permettez-moi tout d'abord de rendre un hommage appuyé à toutes celles et ceux qui ont permis de concrétiser une campagne paneuropéenne contre la violence domestique que l'Assemblée parlementaire avait appelée de ses vœux dès 2002. J'ai la profonde conviction que les efforts conjoints de l'ensemble des acteurs de ce processus – Chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement réunis à Varsovie en 2005, puis parlements, gouvernements, autorités locales et régionales et organisations non gouvernementales – ont contribué à remplir des missions essentielles du Conseil de l'Europe : la promotion des droits de la personne humaine, le respect de la dignité des femmes, le refus de l'intolérable et de l'indicible. Car comment accepter, comment seulement imaginer que sur le continent européen, une violation massive des droits de l'homme se déroule à l'abri des regards, comment justifier que notre inaction puisse aboutir à mettre en danger la vie de 80 millions de femmes en Europe, si l'on s'en tient aux statistiques et évaluations disponibles ?

La campagne du Conseil de l'Europe que nous avons le privilège de clôturer aujourd'hui a été une expérience unique à plus d'un titre : jamais peut-être une action du Conseil de l'Europe n'aura, au nom du principe de l'égalité

entre les femmes et les hommes, aboutit à faire prendre conscience que la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris - et à fortiori la violence domestique faite aux femmes, est une violation grave et inacceptable des droits fondamentaux de la personne humaine. Le message est fort : même dans l'intimité de vos foyers, les valeurs sur lesquelles repose le Conseil de l'Europe sont inaliénables et doivent être garanties.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Oui, cette campagne a été une expérience singulière. Jamais une campagne n'avait été déclinée avec autant de force à tous les niveaux de décisions, du global vers le local. La mise en œuvre des trois dimensions de cette campagne a clairement montré qu'il nous faut impérativement joindre nos forces pour qu'une action efficace puisse sauver des vies, épargner des souffrances.

Dans ce contexte, l'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe s'est pleinement investie durant plus de trois années pour que cette campagne soit inscrite dans le Plan d'action du 3e Sommet des Chefs d'Etats et de gouvernement de Varsovie, pour que soient ensuite mobilisés et impliqués les parlements nationaux des Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe, mais aussi les parlements dotés du statut d'observateur auprès de l'Assemblée parlementaire, ainsi que l'Union interparlementaire, le Parlement européen et le Conseil nordique.

Depuis juin 2006 et l'adoption de la Résolution 1512 (2006) sur « les parlements unis pour combattre la violence domestique contre les femmes », de nombreuses initiatives paneuropéennes ou nationales ont été proposées par l'Assemblée parlementaire

ou lancées dans les parlements nationaux. La désignation d'un parlementaire de référence dans presque tous les parlements nationaux a permis de mettre en place un réseau, vecteur de synergie, d'échange de bonnes pratiques et de mobilisation de toutes les forces parlementaires en Europe autour d'une même cause : la lutte contre la violence domestique faite aux femmes. Par l'adoption de résolutions et de déclarations solennelles, l'organisation d'auditions parlementaires et de discussion, l'interpellation des membres des gouvernements, l'organisation de débats dans leurs circonscriptions électorales, de nombreux parlementaires ont rejoint et soutenu la campagne du Conseil de l'Europe.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Quels enseignements tirer aujourd'hui de l'implication des parlements dans la campagne du Conseil de l'Europe ? Tel était précisément l'enjeu de la conférence finale de la dimension parlementaire organisée le 30 avril dernier par l'Assemblée parlementaire et le parlement autrichien. Cela fut là l'occasion de faire le point sur les actions qui ont été menées, l'impact qu'a eu la dimension parlementaire de la campagne au niveau national et les perspectives de travail dans ce domaine pour les mois à venir. Plusieurs points peuvent être relevés :

En premier lieu, l'Assemblée parlementaire a, pour la première fois, mené la dimension parlementaire d'une campagne du Conseil de l'Europe en misant sur la mise en réseau des parlements nationaux. Comme le soulignait le Président de l'Assemblée Lluís Maria de Puig à Vienne, par cette méthode de travail unique et exemplaire, le Conseil de l'Europe a été en mesure de cibler l'ensemble des parlements d'Europe. C'est incontestablement une valeur ajoutée que peut apporter notre Organisation dans le concert des institutions européennes et internationales.

Deuxièmement, la campagne du Conseil de l'Europe a permis un travail de sensibilisation indispensable au sein de nos parlements. Non, lutter contre la violence faite aux femmes n'est pas une affaire de femmes, c'est

notre responsabilité - individuelle et collective - à tous, hommes et femmes, tous partis politiques confondus. Parce que nous l'avons bien compris au cours de cette campagne : le vrai défi en Europe aujourd'hui, c'est le changement de mentalité et d'attitudes. Il faut faire évoluer nos sociétés, encore imprégnées d'une culture patriarcale millénaire, et qui, bien trop souvent, justifie l'inégalité entre les femmes et les hommes et, sournoisement, fait de la violence à l'égard des femmes un acte banal et coutumier. Voilà l'intolérable ! Au sein de leur parlement, dans leur circonscription électorale, les parlementaires ont multiplié les actions pour briser le silence. Le panel parlementaire proposé cet après-midi permettra de rappeler certaines initiatives parlementaires développées au cours de ces derniers mois.

Ensuite, la campagne du Conseil de l'Europe a permis de rappeler les normes et les standards que nous entendons défendre, et qui ont été fixés par le Comité des Ministres de notre Organisation dans sa Recommandation (2002)5 sur la protection des femmes contre la violence. Dans cette perspective, l'Assemblée parlementaire a identifié en octobre 2007 sept mesures législatives phare. M. Mendes Bota, rapporteur de l'Assemblée parlementaire, que je tiens ici à remercier pour son engagement exemplaire et la détermination avec laquelle il a mené à bien sa tâche, s'en fera l'écho plus largement au cours de sa présentation de ce matin. Mais nous avons aussi acquis l'intime conviction qu'une recommandation adressée aux Etats membres n'est plus suffisante aujourd'hui pour protéger les victimes. A Vienne, les parlementaires ont appelé de leur vœu la rédaction d'une Convention cadre pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, et en particulier la violence domestique faite aux femmes, qui devrait proposer un cadre juridique global et adresser spécifiquement la violence fondée sur le genre. Les travaux que nous mènerons au cours de ces deux jours nous permettront certainement de revenir sur cette proposition.

Je reste pour ma part convaincu qu'il ne faut pas sous-estimer l'impact

qu'a eu la campagne dans nos parlements nationaux. Sans la campagne du Conseil de l'Europe, nous n'aurions certainement pas réussi à mettre la question de la lutte contre la violence domestique à l'égard des femmes à l'ordre du jour de nombreux parlements. Sans cette campagne, la sensibilisation de nombreux parlementaires n'aurait pas pu avoir lieu. Grâce à cette campagne, des voix se sont élevées, de nouvelles lois ont été débattues et votées pour mieux lutter contre cette violation des droits de la personne humaine. Je voudrais ici rendre hommage à tous les parlementaires qui se sont élevés, quelquefois seuls, souvent avec courage, contre la violence domestique faite aux femmes, au risque de bousculer certaines coutumes que nous ne saurions cautionner.

En conclusions, permettez moi de rappeler qu'adopter les lois, définir des standards, assurer l'application des lois votées, sont des prérogatives essentielles des parlements. Les parlementaires sont et resteront des acteurs de premier plan pour mettre en place le cadre juridique qui permettra de mieux protéger les femmes victimes de violence domestique, de sanctionner les auteurs, de prévoir les dispositifs qui pourront mieux prévenir cette violation des droits de l'homme, mieux promouvoir l'égalité entre les femmes et hommes.

Monsieur le Secrétaire Général, l'Assemblée parlementaire continuera à être à vos côtés pour soutenir les efforts du Conseil de l'Europe pour lutter contre la violence domestique faite aux femmes tant au niveau national qu'à l'échelle européenne. L'Assemblée parlementaire s'engage résolument pour promouvoir une société plus juste, plus égalitaire, où la violence fondée sur le genre est tout simplement inacceptable. Les parlements se sont unis depuis 2006. Aujourd'hui plus que jamais, ils sont déterminés à le rester et à s'allier avec les représentants des gouvernements, des autorités locales et régionales et les ONG pour mener à bien ce combat.

Je vous remercie pour votre attention et nous souhaite de fructueux travaux. ★

## Discours: M. Valerio Prignachi

### Président de la Commission de la cohésion sociale du Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux du Conseil de l'Europe

Mesdames, Messieurs les Ministres, Monsieur le Secrétaire Général, Mesdames, Messieurs,

J'ai l'honneur de représenter aujourd'hui le Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux du Conseil de l'Europe, qui, à côté des volets gouvernemental et parlementaire, s'est associé avec les villes et les régions à la campagne du Conseil de l'Europe « Stop à la violence domestique ».

A travers les membres du Congrès et les associations nationales de collectivités territoriales, les municipalités d'Europe ont répondu avec enthousiasme à l'appel du Président à participer à la campagne et ont multiplié les initiatives (que je développerai ultérieurement).

Sous le slogan « Villes et régions mobilisées » nous avons sensibilisé l'opinion publique et les acteurs locaux. Nous avons fait prendre conscience à chacun de ses responsabilités afin d'éradiquer un phénomène qui frappe indépendamment de l'âge, du groupe social et du style de vie, mais proportionnellement davantage les femmes vulnérables (ou ayant des besoins particuliers comme celles porteuses de handicap).

Par des campagnes d'affichage dans les rues, les bâtiments publics, les bus et des débats avec les acteurs concernés, de nombreuses villes et régions à travers l'Europe ont mis la violence domestique sur la place publique et ont démontré leur volonté de s'impliquer.

#### Lois et normes – régions à pouvoirs législatifs

De nombreuses initiatives intéressantes ont été identifiées au niveau local et régional pour lutter contre la violence domestique faite aux

femmes, mais celles-ci sont loin d'être généralisées.

La problématique évoquée par M. Wille trouve ainsi un écho tout particulier auprès du Congrès. Elle s'adresse aux régions qui sont en capacité d'édicter des lois et des normes. Certaines régions ont voté des lois spécifiques sur la violence domestique.

#### Autonomie locale

Directement confrontées aux conséquences de la violence faite aux femmes, les villes et les régions développent – souvent en coopération avec les ONG – des services pour assurer la protection et la prise en charge des victimes. Elles mettent ainsi en œuvre des mesures adoptées au niveau national. Dans certains pays la loi impose, en effet, aux villes d'une certaine taille de créer des refuges pour les femmes et les enfants ayant subi la violence domestique et fait ainsi porter la responsabilité et la charge sur les collectivités.

Permettez-moi à cet égard de citer la Charte européenne de l'autonomie locale<sup>1</sup> (signée et ratifiée à ce jour par 43 pays européens), qui énonce et rappelle les grands principes de l'autonomie locale, et définit la nature et l'étendue des pouvoirs des collectivités locales. Le rapport explicatif de la Charte souligne que « le droit d'exercer certaines fonctions est dépourvu de sens si les collectivités locales sont privées des moyens financiers leur permettant de les remplir ».

Le renforcement de l'autonomie locale est une condition pour proposer des services aux victimes.

1. Ouverture à la signature : 15/10/1985 ; entrée en vigueur 1/9/1988 ; 44 signature, 43 ratifications

**Convention-cadre européenne  
pour lutter contre la violence faite  
aux femmes**

Mesdames, Messieurs,

Après avoir joint nos efforts durant ces deux années pour porter au grand jour un phénomène souvent caché dans l'intimité des foyers, nous

sommes réunis aujourd'hui pour envisager notre action future.

J'accueille favorablement l'idée d'une convention globale qui contribuerait notamment à renforcer la prévention et la protection des victimes. Celle-ci étant d'abord entre les

mains des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux, j'appelle le Conseil de l'Europe à associer le Congrès à la rédaction et à la mise en œuvre d'un tel instrument juridique.

Je vous remercie. ★

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CAMPAIGN TO COMBAT  
VIOLENCE AGAINST  
WOMEN, INCLUDING  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:**

ASSESSMENT OF THE FIRST EUROPEAN  
CAMPAIGN





## Keynote speech: Ms Hilary Fisher

### Chair of the Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence

Today and tomorrow in this Closing Conference of the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence Against Women, including Domestic Violence* we have an opportunity to acknowledge and reflect on what has been achieved during the Campaign. The Committee of Ministers took a very important step and demonstrated considerable political will when they decided to call for a campaign on violence against women and to set up the Task Force<sup>1</sup>.

That high level support has continued during the Campaign. From the opening conference in Spain attended by many government ministers, and where the prime minister of Spain, Mr Zapatero, pledged to contribute to the eradication of violence against women, to the participation of government ministers, parliamentarians, high level officials and others in today's Closing Conference. Support has also been forthcoming throughout the Campaign from the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, as well as the President of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights.

It is crucial to recognise the importance of this leadership role. For without strong political will and commitment at the highest level we will not succeed in eradicating violence against women.

#### The Blueprint

Across Europe women face violence throughout their lives, in the home, the community and the workplace. Violence against women is not confined to any particular culture,

country or religion. Research indicates that one-fifth to one-quarter of all women have experienced physical violence at least once during their adult lives and more than one-tenth have suffered sexual violence involving the use of force. 12%-15% of all women over 16 have experienced domestic violence and many more continue to suffer physical and sexual violence after separation<sup>2</sup>.

It was with the daily experience of women in mind that the Task Force drafted the Blueprint, which became the road map for the Campaign. With a primary focus on domestic violence the Blueprint used the definition of violence against women elaborated in the *Council of Europe Recommendation Rec (2002)5 on the protection of women against violence* and clearly denounced violence against women as a women's human rights violation.

It laid out the Campaign's aims, objectives and messages, its target groups and main actors and called for action by member states in four thematic areas: legal and policy measures, support and protection for victims, data collection and awareness raising. Each area contains detailed objectives against which member states were invited to assess their national situation, identify existing gaps and tackle the challenges with appropriate measures and action.

The Blueprint also called for the active involvement of all the entities of the Council of Europe, intergovernmental, parliamentary and local and regional as well as the different levels of decision-making within member

1. During the Third Summit of the Council of Europe (Warsaw, 16-17 May, 2005),

2. Stocktaking study on the measures and actions taken in Council of Europe member States to combat violence against women, Council of Europe, 2006, p.8.

states, recognising the importance of working at all levels to combat violence against women. The success of this approach can be seen in the way members of these different entities engaged, individually and jointly, in a wide variety of activities to implement the Campaign. Some of which we will hear about during this conference.

National and international NGOs who run services for women victims of gender-based violence also supported the Campaign: attending seminars organised by the Council of Europe, using it as a new impetus for their advocacy and policy work, actively lobbying for change at national level and raising awareness of the Campaign messages.

Five intergovernmental regional seminars were organised on the four thematic areas of the Campaign to further the knowledge base on current developments and good practices in preventing and combating violence against women. Two studies were also undertaken to identify the minimum standards and principles in the provision of support services and to improve data collection by providing guidelines for governments on how to set up administrative data systems.

#### **We have learnt from the Campaign:**

That we have increased our knowledge of violence against women, links have been made and networks developed and we have raised awareness.

That not all member states participated – while most member states responded positively and engaged in the Campaign, to a greater or lesser extent, a number did not appoint a focal point or only very late, which limited the impact of the Campaign across the Council of Europe.

That a number of states needed more time to prepare and allocate adequate resources to a national campaign. Consequently some member states have only recently begun their campaigns or will be running one as a follow-up to the Council of Europe Campaign.

That there was only limited engagement of men – gender balance in national delegations attending intergovernmental activities was difficult to achieve for most member states, as

their staff working on this issue were predominantly, if not entirely, female. This indicates that issues of gender equality, particularly that of violence against women, are still perceived as women's issues, and thereby run the risk of being marginalised in political decision-making.

#### **The work of the Task Force**

For over two years the Task Force has followed national and international developments to prevent and combat violence against women. We have participated in the expert seminars, looked into the many current policies and practices that exist to tackle violence against women and taken note of any changes in national law and policy.

It is clear that despite the progress that has been made during the Campaign violence against women continues to be widespread in every member state of the Council of Europe and impunity for perpetrators remains; there is a lot more that needs to be done.

The Task Force Final Activity Report has concentrated on how to achieve long-term sustainable change. It goes beyond the focus of the Campaign on domestic violence to include other forms of violence in order to address violence against women holistically reflecting women's experience. It identifies current challenges, highlights measures taken in several member states in legislation, support services, raising awareness, and data collection to discern general trends and good practice in preventing and combating violence against women. It makes comprehensive recommendations, which you will hear about in detail in the presentation by the Vice Chair of the Task Force later this morning.

The root causes of violence as well as prevailing attitudes and behaviours need to be addressed and challenged through education, awareness raising and training. Justice systems need effective measures that provide real protection from and for all acts of violence against women. Specialised services that empower women victims and help them make informed choices need to accompany legal measures. These services need to be

adequately staffed, equipped, trained and accessible, which in consequence, means adequately funded. Solutions need to be developed for the financial problems which many women face who want to leave or have left abusive relationships or families. And data needs to be collected to inform and improve policies and practices.

To address these challenges the Task Force has identified several key elements that underpin successful approaches to combating violence against women that are interlinked and from which all actions by governments should flow:

- ▶ It is essential to begin with a position that recognises and acknowledges that violence against women is gender-based violence, the result of a serious **imbalance of power** between women and men and is an obstacle to achieving gender equality. And that it is a **human rights violation** and states have an obligation to exercise **due diligence** to prevent, investigate and punish all acts of violence, whether perpetrated by the state or private persons, and provide protection to victims. An approach based on this understanding will help to ensure that both the root causes of violence and its consequences are tackled – essential for its eradication.
- ▶ If efforts to combat all forms of violence against women are to be successful they must be supported by **political will** at the highest level to ensure that sufficient financial and other resources are allocated to protect women and ensure the provision of adequate support services. Unfortunately, all too often the necessary political will is absent. High level political will is also needed to ensure governments play an active role in challenging and changing attitudes that stigmatise, legitimise and help perpetuate violence against women
- ▶ Taking an approach, which is **comprehensive, long-term**, holistic, multi-disciplinary and coordinated across all sectors, is essential to combat violence against women, recognising the important role and

expertise that women's NGOs have in the provision of services. A National Action Plan with a comprehensive strategy to address all forms of violence against women, which includes legislation, policy and practice as well as awareness raising, training and data collection, with a co-ordinating body to monitor implementation can help ensure such an approach is used. However at present National Action Plans often do not address all forms of violence against women comprehensively nor do they have sufficient financial and other resources to ensure their effective implementation.

- ▶ Putting measures in place to ensure effective **implementation** is a prerequisite for successful action. No matter how good a law or policy is, if it is not implemented, because, for example, the police, judiciary and other professionals are not appropriately trained or insufficient resources have been allocated, then it is virtually meaningless. Lack of implementation has led to widespread impunity for perpetrators across Council of Europe member states. It deters many women from reporting violence and clearly shows that member states are violating women's right to protection and support. It is im-

perative to monitor implementation and collect data to evaluate how well laws; policies and practices are being implemented.

### Conclusion

This Campaign has been a significant step by the Council of Europe in its fight to combat violence against women, but to achieve long term success the momentum it has created must be maintained.

At present not every state in the Council of Europe acknowledges its obligations of due diligence under international law and many states that do, continue to fall far short of meeting their obligations. It is for this reason that the Task Force is recommending to the Committee of Ministers a comprehensive binding legal human rights instrument that holds member states of the Council of Europe directly responsible for the protection of women against violence.

Such a legally binding instrument to combat violence against women should be a broad human rights treaty covering all forms of gender-based violence against women throughout their life time and its paramount objectives should be the prevention of gender-based violence, the protection of victims and the prosecution of perpetrators. It should not be restricted to one form of violence protecting

only some women based on their relationship to the perpetrator. States have an obligation to protect women from all forms of violence and the convention should reflect this.

Both the Organisations of American States and the African Union have adopted legally binding conventions on all forms of violence against women. The Council of Europe Recommendation (2002)<sup>5</sup>, the first international instrument to propose a comprehensive and co-ordinated strategy to prevent violence against women and to protect victims, covering all forms of gender-based violence against women, it forms a good basis for a convention.

The Council of Europe has a unique opportunity to play a leading role in the protection of women's human rights by using a similar comprehensive approach and adopting the first European human rights treaty to prevent and combat violence against women.

The Council of Europe has shown considerable political will throughout this Campaign and we are asking that you continue to show it, to be bold and visionary and lead the process to develop a comprehensive binding human rights convention on all forms of violence against women to achieve real lasting change for all women and girls across Europe. ★

## Keynote speaker: Mr José Mendes- Bota

### Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe

Dear Secretary General, Dear Ministers, Dear colleagues, Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to address this audience today and present the main results of the parliamentary dimension of the Campaign. In my capacity as Assembly Rapporteur, I have been in charge of the preparation of a mid-term report (October 2007) and will be responsible for submitting to the Parliamentary Assembly in October this year a final evaluation report on this Campaign. In my capacity as contact parliamentarian for Portugal, I also experienced the implementation of this Campaign in my parliament, and at grass-root level.

As mentioned earlier by Mr Wille, the participants in the final conference of the parliamentary dimension of the Campaign meeting in Vienna on 30 April 2008 invited the Council of Europe to “draw up a European Framework Convention to combat violence against women, including domestic violence and to involve parliamentarians and NGOs in the drafting process”.

#### How did we reach this conclusion ?

Parliamentarians have carried out a lot of awareness-raising activities during the Campaign, we have organised numerous seminars, hearings, conferences, and have publicly denounced domestic violence against women as an affront to human rights which is too often tolerated in our societies.

However, I firmly believe that the core business of parliamentarians is about changing laws and making the necessary legal changes to ensure that victims are protected, perpetrators prosecuted and prevention promoted.

This is the reason why the Parliamentary Assembly, following the report prepared by the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, decided in its Resolution 1582 (2007) to identify seven key measures that are minimum standards to be reached throughout Europe. Our Committee also had several consultations with the Commissioner for Human Rights, the Deputy Secretary General and NGOs on this issue. And precisely because these minimum standards are far from being reached in many of our member states, because addressing a recommendation to member states is no longer sufficient, we parliamentarians reached the conclusion that a stronger international instrument needs to be drafted.

#### Reaching the minimum standards : a long way to go

But let me recall the seven minimum legislative standards identified and monitored by the Parliamentary Assembly:

- ▶ making domestic violence against women, including marital rape, a criminal offence;
- ▶ regarding violence perpetrated between partners and/or former partners as an aggravating circumstance in penal law;
- ▶ setting up sufficient numbers of safe emergency shelters;
- ▶ making provision to remove violent spouses or partners and to take out protection orders against perpetrators ;
- ▶ guaranteeing effective access to the courts and to protection measures for victims;
- ▶ allocating sufficient budgetary resources for the implementation of the law in this field;

- ▶ monitoring the application of laws on violence against women passed by parliament.

In the past months, the Committee has assessed the impact of the Campaign on the national parliaments and looked at the current legislation regarding the seven key measures identified by the Parliamentary Assembly. A questionnaire was sent to all national parliaments. 39 national parliaments representing 80% of the population of the 47 Council of Europe member countries as well as Canada contributed to this analysis.

My intention was not to point out the bad pupils but to highlight what still needs to be done.

Several conclusions can be drawn :

- ▶ the situation varies considerably from one country to another. This is a fact that needs to be taken into consideration if we seek to reinforce the legal provisions at European level.
- ▶ Although quite a few countries score very high in meeting the seven criteria, only Canada meets them all simultaneously, and Canada is not a member of the Council of Europe.

### **Domestic violence against women in national law**

More than 60% of Council of Europe member states have made domestic violence against women, including marital rape, a separate criminal offence.

There have been various successes: 11 countries have adopted the Council of Europe definition of domestic violence as it stands and the Campaign has enabled some of the 50 Contact Parliamentarians to pass, or begin drafting legislation in this area, for example in:

- ▶ Azerbaijan
- ▶ Moldova
- ▶ Monaco
- ▶ Slovenia.

### **Shelters for victims**

We have a duty to ensure that victims have protection arrangements readily available to them and do not have to flee a country or go to the other end of a country in search of help.

We think that:

- ▶ shelters should be free of charge;
- ▶ shelters should be operating 24/7;
- ▶ shelters should be available for women together with their children;
- ▶ shelters should be in a secret location, so that violent men cannot track down their partners or ex-partners to threaten or hurt them.

22 countries stated that shelter provision covers the whole country (13 countries still fall short of that, the other ones did not answer).

Concerning the requirement to provide one place per 7,500 people: according to the replies, only 8 countries meet that target.

### **Removal of a violent spouse from the home**

Concerning the removal of a violent spouse from the home, we are facing a trend in Europe which is a further reason for satisfaction. It is a sign that attitudes are starting to change.

### **Proper access to justice**

Proper access to justice means that the victim can lodge a complaint, get free legal and psychological support and that the cases are prosecuted (if necessary, ex-officio).

This also means that the State takes all measures necessary to implement the law and draft an action plan to put in place concrete measures.

Proper access to justice involves not only availability of infrastructure but also properly trained personnel in the police, justice and health systems.

Training of personnel and those with official responsibilities also plays a part in changing attitudes.

One of the best ways of changing attitudes is to make children aware of the problem.

### **Allocation of financial resources**

Allocation of financial resources was clearly a difficult question for many respondents.

Funding is often thinly scattered whereas the Parliamentary Assembly suggested that countries should allocate 1 Euro per inhabitant to the fight against violence against women.

Some countries have made substantial efforts.

Some good practices were also identified. In “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, at the initiative of the Women’s Parliamentary Club, the Assembly unanimously adopted in March 2007 an amendment to the law on games of chance, providing that 10% of the funds generated by games of chance and lotteries be reserved for a special fund for combating domestic violence.

If our parliaments are unconvinced of the financial effort required to provide assistance mechanisms and to finance prevention measures, it is perhaps worth reminding them of the financial and human costs of domestic violence to our societies.

### **Review of implementation of legislation**

There is a range of mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of legislation. What is really surprising is that 53% of the replies said there was no parliamentary body responsible for monitoring the implementation of legislation.

As parliamentarians, we hold legislative power and have a duty to check that legislation is being implemented.

Each parliament should at least have a multi-party subcommittee or a working party composed of representatives of the relevant parliamentary committees (social affairs, equality, legal affairs, the budget, etc.) to carry out an annual evaluation of implementation of measures enacted by Parliament.

I want to stress here that some of the key criteria are not fulfilled in more than 50% of the Council of Europe member states, for example:

- ▶ Criminalisation of violence between partners and former partners, if possible as a separate offence and/or aggravating circumstance in penal law;
- ▶ One place in a safe shelter per 7500 inhabitants;
- ▶ Appointment of a monitoring body for the implementation of the legislation;

This means that today, when we are closing the Campaign and patting

ourselves on the back, much remains to be done.

### **A Framework Convention on the most serious forms of violence against women is needed**

I want to highlight that positive trends could be highlighted in the course of the Campaign. A salutary change in mentality is emerging. However, urgent reforms are still needed in many countries.

As recalled recently by the Committee on Equal Opportunity for Women and Men, “the Council of Europe should continue to play a pioneering role in promoting equality between women and men in all the member states”<sup>3</sup> – and this is particularly valid for violence against women. We need to take the lead on the issue and we need to draft a comprehensive human rights treaty – protecting the fundamental human rights of women and girls in the private sphere. There seems to be a broad consensus that a Council of Europe Convention should cover the three “Ps” (prevention, protection, prosecution) and should encompass an independent, efficient monitoring mechanism. The material scope of this Convention is, however, not yet fully defined and still discussed among expert bodies and NGOs. Let me reflect some of the

3. See para. 2 of the draft Recommendation in Doc.11612, Empowering women in a modern, multicultural society (Rapporteur : Ms Ingrida Circene, Latvia, Group of the European People's Party)

ideas discussed last week at our Committee meeting. Our suggestion would be to draft a Framework Convention on gender-based violence limited to the most widespread and most serious forms of violence against women, such as:

- ▶ domestic violence
- ▶ sexual assault
- ▶ forced marriages
- ▶ so-called “honour-crimes”
- ▶ female genital mutilation.

I will consider these guidelines in the report on the final evaluation of the Campaign that I am currently preparing and that will be submitted to the Parliamentary Assembly at the October 2008 part-Session.

### **Conclusion**

Parliaments have broken the silence, from the Atlantic to the Caucasus. This Campaign has had a real impact on national parliaments. But the battle against domestic violence is a long-term one. Despite the progress we have achieved, the parliamentary action backed by the Parliamentary Assembly must not stop there. There are still shadowy areas on which existing provision needs evaluating. This is a cause that requires ongoing, attentive and persistent action. Parliamentarians need to be very tenacious to get general principles translated into concrete measures.

What is certain is that by launching the Campaign and co-ordinating its parliamentary dimension, the Parliamentary Assembly and national par-

liaments have demonstrated their ability to promote human rights, deliver concrete results and contribute actively to the implementation of a Council of Europe Campaign. I wish that this dynamic process and the commitment expressed by the parliamentarians to the Domestic Violence Campaign will continue in the years to come.

There are quite a few other specific topics on which the Campaign has barely touched, like the offence of stalking, a pan-European hotline of the 112 (European emergency number) or domestic violence in immigrant communities in Europe. PACE members have already undertaken to work on some of these specific issues, like “marital rape” or “domestic violence in migrant communities”.

I regard the Parliamentary Assembly as a unique working platform for exchanging our experiences and reinforcing our legislation. I therefore very much hope that the Campaign, which has generated unprecedented impetus and awareness in national parliaments, can now bear fruit in the form of concrete initiatives involving parliamentary co-operation, in particular through assistance programmes. We have built up a large base of information and good parliamentary practices and I would now like to see us putting them to constructive use Europe-wide.

Thank you for your attention. ★

# VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:

ANALYSIS OF THE MEASURES AND ACTION  
TAKEN BY COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
MEMBER STATES





## Keynote speaker: Ms Carol Hagemann- White

**Council of Europe  
Consultant, Professor,  
Faculty of General  
Pedagogy and Gender  
Studies, University of  
Osnabrück, Germany**

### **I**ntroduction

Since the adoption of *Recommendation Rec (2002)5 on the protection of women against violence in Council of Europe member States* the CDEG has taken a series of steps to monitor its implementation. At this meeting, you will receive an advance print of the latest report, based on the data from the monitoring framework, as well as on the results of the regional seminars in the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*. In addition, research results and documents that have become available on the internet, such as CEDAW reports (with shadow reports of NGOs), National Plans of Action, and information from international NGOs with expertise in the field were also mined for information on new developments in good practice.

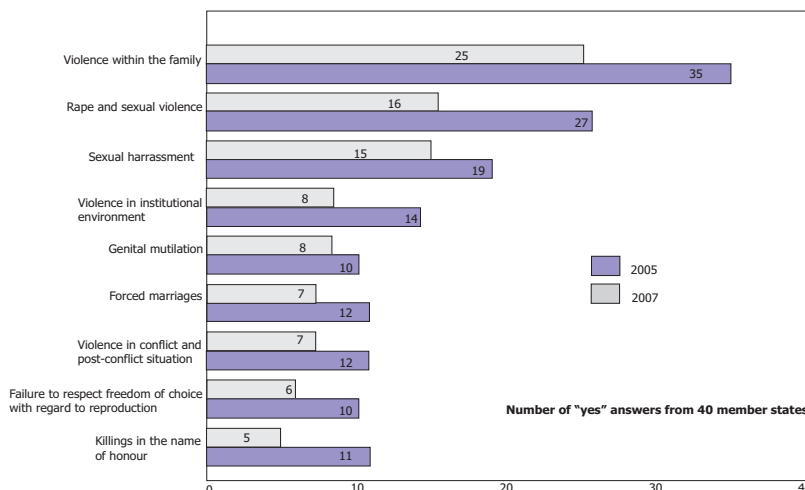
The *Steering Committee for Equality between Women and Men (CDEG)* has decided to ask for reporting every two years. The monitoring questions were first circulated in June 2005, and two analytical studies have been prepared using these data. The questionnaire was then refined and made available for online reporting in October 2007. A total of 40 member states (out of a possible 47) provided data within a four-month period. The results provide a benchmark for measuring progress towards implementation.

### **1. Progress towards coherent overall policies**

The most striking change over the previous report is the increase in number and scope of National Action Plans, most of which have been published, and many of which have a clearly defined time frame or period within which specified actions are to be completed. 22 member states fulfil the conditions of publication and a time frame, as opposed to 15 reporting in 2005/6 and only 5 identified in 2003. A total of 32 now report that a National Action Plan has been established, and several more comment that it is has been or is being drafted.

The scope of the National Action plans has also increased. Information was received from 35 states. The overall number of types of violence included has risen to an average of 4.3 of a possible nine (up from 3.9). Twelve states include 6 or more forms of violence in their national strategy. In particular, there has been a significant increase in the number of National Action Plans that address rape and sexual violence (27 as against 16 in the previous report). There has also been an increase of activity in all areas: For example, the number of action plans addressing killings in the name of honour has more than doubled (from 5 to 11).

**Forms of violence in action plan**



These data indicate significant progress in developing broad and multi-agency policy frameworks. Notably, 32 member states have a governmental co-ordinating body for implementation and evaluation. Information on budget lines for the activities, however, continues to be spotty. Although 31 member states confirm that there is funding on the national level, only 13 are able to cite a figure for this, and most say that data are not available due to decentral funding structures. While there can be advantages to organizing services locally, there needs to be some system of overall inspection or reporting. Otherwise, the risk is high that regions can be underserved without this coming to government attention, and in consequence the state fails to exercise due diligence in protecting all citizens from human rights violations, regardless of where they happen to live.

To sum up: Over the past two years there has been clear progress towards developing coherent and **comprehensive strategies** to address violence against women in its multiple aspects; not only has the number of Plans of Action and their scope increased, but there are also more concrete steps defined in their elaboration. However, budget lines are rarely well-defined and often missing.

**2. Prosecution, protection and sanctions**

23 out of 40 member states responding declare each and every form

of violence cited in the questionnaire to be a criminal offence. However, this has different meanings. States with a longer tradition of addressing domestic violence have tended not to add a special offence to their criminal law, but aim to ensure sanctions by removing procedural barriers, such as rules that restrict what constitutes a public interest crime and or that refer some violations to private prosecution. Following this model, Estonia reformed its code of criminal procedure in 2004 to abolish private charges entirely.

Although most member states now consider all forms of violence against women a criminal offence, this does not necessarily mean that such acts will be punished. In 32 out of 40 countries the public prosecutor can initiate criminal proceedings in all cases of violence in the family. However, several states also confirm that violence in the family can be prosecuted only in more severe cases. In actuality, the public prosecutor in most, if not all, countries has discretionary power to pursue or drop a case. That is: While the prosecutor may be **able** to initiate proceedings in all cases, there may be additional rules (such as the victim's co-operation or consent) that limit prosecution to the cases perceived as more severe.

Exchange of information and practical experience shared at the regional seminars of the Council of Europe Campaign illuminated the high relevance of different legal systems, procedural traditions and institutional cultures in framing effective legal

redress for victims, deterrence and punishment for perpetrators. Arrest without a court warrant and fast-track prosecution may work well in some countries, but be unacceptable in others. Judges or prosecutors may be directly involved in police work, or may see cases only on paper after police have completed their investigation. Criminal law, civil law and police law can be used differently to arrive at similar goals. Thus, while certain fundamental principles can be applied cross-nationally – in particular, the law should never make exceptions permitting “private” abuse, nor should the burden of prosecuting human rights violations ever be placed on the victim – at present, monitoring cannot describe real implementation.

In the future, agreements are needed on data in the policing and judicial systems that permit monitoring **outcomes**: What proportion of violations that come to the attention of the police are prosecuted, and what is the conviction rate? This could be accompanied by transparent criteria for the decision **not** to prosecute. Scotland, for example, after reviewing the unsatisfactory level of prosecution of sexual offences, is now asking prosecutors to document an objective test of “no reasonable prospect of a conviction” before deciding not to go forward. Such agreements might open the door to new and more informative indicators of progress. There is a need to develop European standards on when prosecution and sanctions should be in the public interest; Rec-

ommendation (2002)<sup>5</sup> does not make this sufficiently clear. It is not enough to say “There is usually too little evidence”: The police must be instructed on how to gather more and better evidence; photographing the crime scene, for example, has been shown to be very effective even if the victim is too intimidated to testify.

To protect women from the risk of further violence, nine member states use a police ban evicting the perpetrator from the home. In most states, the main instrument is a court-decreed protection order, which may or may not be available as an emergency measure. While almost every member state is able to remove an endangered child from the home, protection orders for women are less well entrenched. Most frequent (in 36 out of 40 member states) are restraining orders telling the man not to use violence, but orders to keep physical dis-

tance from the victim are less frequent.

To sum up: Progress is visible in **criminal sanctions**, policing and prosecution, although these changes are not large. There seems to be a development towards adapting the idea of protection orders to the context of various legal systems, but ease of access (including rapid decision) and enforcement should be looked at more closely to assess their practical value.

### 3. Services

The monitoring framework asks about services for women endangered by domestic violence, for women who have suffered rape or sexual assault, for children who witness violence against their mothers, and for perpetrators with the aim of changing their behaviour. Specialised services were chosen as indicators for the readiness and ability of member states to protect

women from violence. It was striking to see how many states are unable to give information on the number of shelters, or the number of places within shelters, or both. From a European perspective, lack of information from the most experienced member states slows down the process of setting common minimum standards.

The level of services seem to be stagnating in many countries, although there are significant gaps in provision almost everywhere that would call for an increase. Relatively few member states report a significant increase in shelter places. Still, in the countries with lowest provision levels there has been an increase, and today 35 (rather than 29) member states offer such aid around the clock. Although the data were sometimes incomplete or based on estimates, the following table illustrates the range of shelter provision level among member states.

Table 1: Number of shelter places relative to population

Country	Number of places	Proportional places per 10000 population
Luxembourg	165	3.42
Norway	772	1.63
Netherlands	?	1.50**
Andorra	12	1.48
Ireland	568	1.29
Liechtenstein	4	1.13
Slovakia	517	0.95
Austria	772	0.93
Germany	7342	0.89
Slovenia	180	0.89
France	5541	0.87
Sweden	800*	0.87
Malta	34	0.83
Croatia	316	0.71
Denmark	355	0.65
Iceland	20	0.64
Spain	2896	0.64
United Kingdom	3765	0.61
Lithuania	?	0.56**
Belgium		0.48**
Portugal	500	0.47
Bosnia & Herzegovina	126	0.33
“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”	60	0.29
Switzerland	200	0.26
Estonia	34	0.25
Finland	125	0.24
Italy	700**	0.18
Cyprus	12	0.15
Hungary	110	0.11
Romania	210	0.10
Georgia	31	0.07
Turkey	350	0.05
Bulgaria	30	0.04

\* Estimate based on middle value

\*\* Figure from 2005/6 report

Three points are worth noting from this table. First, among the countries with the highest level of provision, along with member states that have a long history of building serv-

ices, there are already some who joined the Council of Europe after 1990, while there are old member states in the group with the lowest provision. Second, the most striking commonality among the “top ten” is that almost all of them **also** use the

police ban to evict the perpetrator from the home on the spot and without delay. Clearly, evicting perpetrators, while providing safety and preventing the violence from continuing, does not eliminate the need for shelters, but the two measures are

complementary. Third, the middle group includes countries with a strong policy history against violence and a well-organized shelter movement. We are fortunate to have a recent detailed geographical study of service provision in the United Kingdom<sup>1</sup> showing considerable regional variation, suggesting that decentralized service provision may contribute to relatively low numbers relative to overall population. But protection from human rights violations is the right of every woman, regardless of where she lives.

The increase in services for victims of sexual assault and rape is small, but they seem to be more accessible and more often free of charge. Few member states have strategies for outreach and support for children independent of their mothers' decisions to stay or leave. There has been no spread of services addressing perpetrators into further countries, and many projects are small and isolated.

To sum up: In this area, there is reason for concern: **Services** were the starting point and catalyst of awareness and action on violence against women, and they do not seem to be profiting from the concerted European effort to the degree that should be expected, if at all. Perhaps the hesitancy of governments to attach a budget line to their Plans of Action is significant here: Violence against women cannot be confronted and eliminated without devoting substantial resources to the work.

#### 4. Awareness-raising, education and training

**Awareness-raising** and educational activities have been a focus of activity, doubtless spurred on by the Council of Europe Campaign. Specific campaigns were launched in a number of countries. The proportion of member states that actively disseminate information on women's rights and protection against violence has risen to 38, and 29 states do this on a regular basis.

With respect to training the various professions, there seems to be a shift of emphasis towards in-service training with the aim of ensuring that new protocols, procedures and practices are actually implemented. The increase is greatest for teachers, but it is present in all professions except social work, where the frequency of further training was already fairly high. In its new Family Violence Prevention Act, Slovenia has legislated that practitioners in the areas of police, health, social security, education, work and family "must, in the framework of lifelong education, improvement and training regularly educate themselves in the field of violence"; also codifying the obligation to provide such training. Creating a legal obligation to train and be trained removes any implication that competence are in doubt: Like First Aid, it can be seen as just something everyone should learn – and as a field in which one's knowledge may be out of date and need refreshing.

To sum up: The Council of Europe Campaign has doubtless pushed **awareness-raising** forward across Europe, and this is feeding into **training** of professionals to respond to the problem. In-service training, in particular, is increasing both in the number of member states and the range of professionals included. The most effective strategy is to combine solid basic knowledge during initial training with in-service modules that teach how to handle specific situations later; this is most frequently being done with the police and with social work. Consistent strategies of training for other professionals are less frequent and will need attention in the future. The knowledge base exists, as well as a considerable store of knowledge-based training materials. Directing more resources to serv-

ices could benefit training as a side effect, since adequately resourced services provide the personnel for high-quality training close to practitioners' needs.

#### Conclusions

Overall, the monitoring data suggest that the Recommendation Rec(2002)5 is functioning as a **common framework** for the great majority of its member states. It articulates guiding principles and formulates practical challenges, without defining obligations and procedures too narrowly. Violence against women is a deeply-rooted and many-faceted problem. Numerous local factors play a part in shaping strategies. Thus, it is to be expected that steps forward will differ according to circumstances as well as depending on the perceived urgency of specific areas of practice. The numerous activities that emerge during reporting, presented in the Campaign, or published in the internet and in the press, also work to mobilise a political will to eliminate violence against women, and the data on indicators suggest that a process of converging visions and policies across the European landscape is underway.

The combination of an energetic and high-profile Council of Europe Campaign with a systematic process of monitoring of implementation (including publication) seem to have created a climate in which member states take responsibility for developing a coherent and sustained policy, rather than – as was typical of most countries in the past – being satisfied with a series of single measures for specific problem areas. If this momentum can be maintained, it should support the process of testing models of good practice and their possible transfer. This will contribute to developing standards and ensuring a more consistent quality of life across Europe. ★

1. Maddy Coy, Liz Kelly & Jo Foord: Map of Gaps: The postcode lottery of violence against women support services. London 2007



PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE  
ACTION BY THE COUNCIL  
OF EUROPE AND ITS  
MEMBER STATES

TO PREVENT AND COMBAT VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN





## Keynote speaker: Ms Dubravka Šimonović

### Vice-Chair of the Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence

**M**r. Chairperson, Your Excellences,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Today, on behalf of the Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence, I will present our proposals for future action by the Council of Europe and its member states.

At the outset, I would like to stress once again that the 2005 Action Plan adopted at the Third Summit of Council of Europe contains a very clear commitment of all its member states – to take measures to combat violence against women, including domestic violence.

In addition to the Blueprint of this Campaign, under this commitment the Task Force was mandated to evaluate the effectiveness of current measures at national and international level and to make proposals for revising these measures or for adopting new measures for preventing and combating violence against women.

Mr. Chairperson,  
Mr. Secretary General,

Conclusions and recommendations of the Task Force are before you.

All recommendations of the Task force are based on the recognition that:

- ▶ Violence against women is gender-based violence.
- ▶ Violence against women is a major obstacle to the achievement of substantive equality between women and men.
- ▶ Violence against women is a human rights violation.

#### **I. Recommendations of the Task Force at international level**

First, I will start with the recommendations of the Task Force at the international level to prevent and combat violence against women.

We are recommending three measures:

- ▶ Elaboration of a European human rights convention to prevent and combat violence against women
- ▶ Appointment of a Special Reporter on violence against women
- ▶ Introduction of violence against women watch – the Femicide watch

#### *1. European human rights convention to prevent and combat violence against women*

Let me start with the Convention.

If you recall, at the Launching Conference of this Campaign in Madrid, as the then Chairperson of the Task Force I posed the question:

“Do we need a stronger European legal instrument on the prevention of violence against women or stronger implementation mechanisms, or both?”

At that time no one responded.

Today, at the end of this Campaign and at the end of its work, the Task Force is saying: yes, we need a stronger European legal instrument on the prevention of violence against women and stronger implementation mechanisms.

The Task Force is putting before the 47 Member States of the Council of Europe a proposal for the elaboration of a new comprehensive legally binding human rights convention to prevent and combat violence against women.

The elaboration of such a convention would be the critical next step in fulfilling the already agreed Third Summit commitment to combat violence against women, including domestic violence.

The new convention would be a human rights instrument based on the

recognition that violence against women is a human rights violation, and that, consequently, States have the responsibility to act with due diligence to prevent this type of violence, to protect its victims, to award them compensation and to prosecute and punish the perpetrators of such violence.

Its main objectives should be the prevention of gender-based violence, the protection of victims and the prosecution of perpetrators.

The new Convention should be a gender-specific one in order to address the specificities of gender-based violence against women, that is directed against a woman because she is a woman and that affects women disproportionately.

The scope of this Convention should cover all forms of gender-based violence against women throughout their lifecycle.

It should protect women against physical violence, sexual violence and psychological violence, including violence among partners or former partners in cases of domestic violence, as well as female genital mutilation, forced marriages and crimes allegedly committed in the name of honour.

It should also be acknowledged that similar instruments already exist at the international level and in the framework of other regional organisations, but at the European level such a women's human rights treaty is missing.

The Organisation of American States was the first international organisation to adopt, in 1994, a legally binding instrument to combat all forms of violence against women – the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women “Convention of Belém do Pará”.

The African Union adopted in 2003 the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, which explicitly calls for the protection of women from violence – in private and public life – as a form of guaranteeing the right to life, integrity and security of the person.

At the United Nations level, based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights whose 60th anniversary we celebrate this year, we have adopted the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Covenant on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights but also a gender-specific Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, that has been ratified by all the Council of Europe member states.

At the European level women and men are protected by the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Social Charter, but neither of them specifically address violence against women that is a major obstacle to the achievement of substantive gender equality.

Therefore, at the European level there is a need for a gender specific human rights instrument that will complement other key gender-neutral human rights instruments and provide adequate protection of women against all forms of gender-based violence, including domestic violence against women.

The proposed gender specific European convention on violence against women would fill the gap at the European level, also mirroring the international standard of protection established through the United Nations CEDAW Convention. The last three cases on violence before the United Nations CEDAW Committee under the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW Convention against two Council of Europe Member States also indicate the need for a new instrument for protection of women against violence at the European level.

It is also very important to acknowledge that such a European legally binding convention on the protection of women against violence will continue, and will upgrade the process already started with the adoption of the Council of Europe Recommendation Rec (2002)5 on the protection of women against violence. The current monitoring framework under this Recommendation, that member states are already observing, will be strengthened under this new convention into more effective monitoring by

an independent monitoring body that should also include contributions from NGOs and independent human rights institutions.

## *2. Special Rapporteur*

The second proposed international measure is setting up the office of a Special Rapporteur on violence against women for Europe. He or she should work in collaboration with the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights as well as with the proposed monitoring body of the envisaged Council of Europe convention to combat violence against women.

The purpose of this mandate would primarily be to place particular emphasis on the nature and specificities of violence against women in Europe.

The elaboration of the mandate should benefit from the experience of the two existing regional mandates – Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights appointed in 1994 and the Special Rapporteur on Rights of Women in Africa appointed in 1998, as well as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, appointed in 1994.

## *3. Introducing Violence against Women Watch – the Femicide Watch*

The powerful logo of the Campaign's poster is: “It starts with screams and must never end in silence”.

Unfortunately, it too often does.

In many cases women are murdered by their husbands, ex-husbands, intimate partners or relatives.

Only a few member states gather statistical data on the number of women murdered by their husbands ex-husbands, intimate partners and relatives. Such data reveals the most blatant violation of women's human rights – the right to life.

In order to prevent such violence Council of Europe member states should institute a method for collecting specific data regarding the number of such murders per year, disaggregated by age, ethnicity and relation between the perpetrator and the victim.

Each of such murder cases should be carefully analysed in order to identify protection failure with the aim to improve and develop further preventive measures at the national level.

In the collection, analyses and publication of such data member states should include participation of NGOs working in this field.

## II. Recommendations of the Task Force at the national level

### 1. Comprehensive approach

Gender-based violence should be approached by an integrated, multi-disciplinary and comprehensive policy.

It is of the utmost importance to bring together the implementation of different fields of law such as criminal law and criminal procedure law, civil law, family law, child protection and immigration law – in order to ensure a comprehensive and harmonized legal approach and protection of a woman victim of violence in an integrated manner.

The implementation of different laws requires an efficient co-operation between the different actors involved, such as the police, judiciary and other statutory agencies and social services as well as women's NGOs that provide services for women victims of violence as well as other service providers that provide health and other services.

Since national legislation is mostly gender neutral a national Action Plan to combat violence against women is an effective method to put a comprehensive and co-ordinated policy into practice.

Moreover, necessary resources should be provided in order to ensure its effective implementation.

### 2. Assistance to and protection of victims

States should ensure that all support services take a gender perspective. They should ensure the safety, security and dignity of the victims, as well as respect and empowerment the victims.

Member states should develop the minimum standards for the provision of specialised services which include:

- ▶ At least one free national helpline covering all forms of violence against women, operating 24 hours a day, providing crisis support in all the relevant languages;
- ▶ Safe accommodation in specialised women's shelters available in every region ensuring one family place per 10.000 of population;
- ▶ Protection orders, barring orders, non-molestation orders.

### 3. Raising awareness, education and training

Awareness raising activities and campaigns need to both inform the public of the persistence of the problem of violence against women, to inform women of their rights and to provide them with the essential information for their protection.

The education and training of all the relevant professionals should include basic knowledge about violence against women.

Clear protocols and guidelines for all the personnel in their respective fields that outline the standards staff are expected to follow, should be provided to support and reinforce training.

### 4. Data collection

Member states should – at minimum – collect data disaggregated by sex, type of violence, age and relationship of the perpetrator with the victim, as well as compile statistics on reporting and conviction rates in incidents of violence against women, including the number of protection orders issued.

Council of Europe member states should set up national observatories to systematically collect and analyse administrative and population-based data, produce indicators that can support decision-making and policy development as well as monitor and evaluate the implementation of policies and intervention measures.

National observatories should be independent and should co-operate with relevant governmental and statutory agencies at regional and national levels, NGO observatories and NGOs working on violence against women and other organisations di-

rectly involved in combating violence against women.

As a visible output, national observatories should produce annual reports.

### 5. The role of men

Member states should ensure that national action plans or other measures directly engage men in the process of eliminating violence against women, for example in their role as leaders or professionals, working closely with women's organisations.

Men are still majority decision makers in the majority of the Council of Europe member states and as such they have to recognise violence against women as a human rights violation and the responsibility of states to prevent such violence.

### Conclusion

Mr Chairperson, your Excellencies, distinguished government representatives – the Task Force Recommendations on actions needed to effectively combat violence against women are before you.

As the Task Force, we have concluded our work with a clear understanding that a lot more needs to be done. It was not an easy task. During the past 18 months we have had 7 meetings and during two of them we have benefited from the guidance of the Secretary General Mr. Terry Davis. We are also very grateful for the excellent service provided by our Secretariat.

You have noticed that we are not proposing to continue our work.

Instead of this type of work that was appropriate for this particular task, we hope to see, in the near future, the establishment of a strong independent monitoring body under a comprehensive European human rights convention to prevent and combat violence against women, taking over and building on our recommendations.

Thank you. ★



# NATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL ACTION

TO PREVENT AND COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST  
WOMEN WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE  
COUNCIL OF EUROPE CAMPAIGN



## Speech: Ms Jadranka Kosor

**Deputy Prime Minister  
and Minister of Family,  
Veterans' Affairs and  
Intergenerational  
Solidarity, Croatia**

**M**adam Chairperson, Excellences,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

I had the privilege to participate at the 2006 Madrid Conference where this Campaign was launched.

Over the past two years I have worked on its implementation in the Republic of Croatia and I am glad to contribute to this important Closing Conference that is also an assessment and action oriented one.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Council of Europe and its Task Force for providing us with the Blueprint of this Campaign and with the Proposals for future action by the Council of Europe and its member states.

Today, we should applaud all positive steps taken, but we should also recognise a need for further measures to prevent and combat violence against women.

With respect to the proposed international measures, Croatia supports the proposal for a new European Convention to prevent and combat gender based violence against women with a strong monitoring body.

We are also supporting the proposal for establishment of a European Femicide Watch.

I propose that we start our work on this proposal immediately and that the Council of Europe elaborate guidelines for setting up this mechanism.

My country would also, in principal, endorse the idea of a Special Rapporteur on violence against women that would work in collaboration with the Commissioner for Human Rights.

We shall carefully study all other recommendations and use them for further improvements at the national level.

Madam Chairperson,

Let me now inform you on the conduct of this Campaign in the Republic of Croatia. Our full report was sent to the Council of Europe and today I will briefly point out some of our important activities or achievements.

In January 2006 a National Committee was set up which I had the privilege to chair.

Our slogan was *There is no Excuse for Violence* and the Campaign was based on the main principle – every woman has the right to be free and safe from violence.

An important regional seminar of this Campaign entitled “Active Participation of Men in Combating Domestic Violence” was held in Zagreb on 9-10 May 2007.

Its outcome showed that positive attitudes of boys and men of all ages towards non-violent behaviour should be encouraged. Men should speak out against gender-based violence and become an active agent for change.

Under the Croatian Campaign a significant contribution was made by strong statements from prominent public figures like Prime Minister Ivo Sanader and President Stjepan Mesić among them.

We have also organised a round table on “Economic Violence against Women” and a round table on “Systematic financing of civil society organizations providing direct protection to victims of family violence”.

Madam Chairperson,

The Croatian Parliament has just adopted the Act on Free Legal Aid, which entitles the victims of violence to free legal aid.

The Guide for Media Reporting on Family Violence was also adopted.

We have also broadly distributed the amended Address Book of Institutions, Organizations and Other Bodies Providing Assistance, Support and Protection to Victims of Family Violence.

The Government also approved the Act on Family Benefits that is providing fathers with more options for a paternity leave.

The Act on Gender Equality and the Antidiscrimination Act are currently under revision.

I would like to underline the efforts to protect women with disabilities as especially important, since they are particularly frequently victims of family violence. For this reason, the Republic of Croatia is paying special attention to the legal protection and protection from violence and abuse of women with disabilities in its National Strategy for Equalizing Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities 2007-2015.

Madam Chairperson,

Since a comprehensive approach is crucial to combat violence against women and domestic violence, during this Campaign we have elaborated and adopted a new National Strategy

for Protection against Family Violence for the period 2008 – 2010.

The National Strategy comprises 49 measures in six areas, each area covering an analysis and assessment of the situation, objectives and measures and planned activities with indicators, implementation schedules and required financial resources.

The Strategy envisages support available to civil society organizations working on the protection of the victims of violence, and the support for providing shelters for the victims of family violence.

Also envisaged by the National Strategy are the education of professionals working in the area of protection against family violence, the psycho-social treatment of the perpetrators of family violence, and special measures for easier employment of the victims of family violence.

In order to improve data collection we have outlined a new reporting format for the police: "Report on intervention in cases of family violence". The purpose of the form is to increase the quality of reporting and data collection.

During the Campaign a network of counselling centres for victims of

family violence was established at the county and local level.

On the National Day of Combating Violence against Women, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2007, a wreath was placed in the building of the Municipal Court in Zagreb, and additional postage stamps were introduced for voluntary purchase with a recognizable logo of the Campaign. The stamp was printed in the edition of 50,000 samples and financial resources collected from the sale of the stamp were donated at the end of the year to organizations managing shelters for victims of violence.

Also, under the auspices of the Croatian Government, on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women a new shelter for women and children was opened by the Autonomous Women's House Zagreb.

Let me conclude. Under this Campaign we have achieved significant results but a lot more needs to be done if we want that every woman enjoy the right to be free and safe from violence. In a truly democratic society no woman is subject to violence.

Thank you. ★



## Speech: Mr Stefan Wallin

### Minister of Culture and Sport and Minister in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland

**H**onourable Chairperson, Dear Colleagues and Participants,

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to speak at this conference. I want to warmly thank the Council of Europe for inviting us here and most of all, for launching this Campaign. We have been able to note good results in many countries. The Campaign has strengthened the work to reduce violence and produced new information about effective approaches and practices.

I want to share with you our experiences in promoting the Council of Europe Campaign. In Finland, the Campaign was started at a time when we already had several programmes to reduce violence under way. In that situation we considered that it would be important to try to influence people's attitudes towards violence. Therefore we started a media campaign that is targeted in particular at men and decision-makers. It is also supported by the Parliament of Finland, which has arranged a seminar for decision-makers. In connection with the seminar a great number of MPs, altogether 140 out of the total 200, expressed their support to the Campaign. They made an imprint of their hands on a sheet with the text "Members of Parliament Against Violence in Intimate Relationships".

We all know that violence against women is a theme that extremely strongly appeals to feelings. Speaking about it often gives rise to repression and opposition. This is because violence perpetrated by a person close to one hurts very much. So much that many people do not even want to admit that such violence exists. Speaking about violence against women greatly also affects men. It is

partly a question of a feeling of guilt, as the perpetrators are mostly men.

In our attitude campaign we have addressed men from another perspective. We have signalled to them that they can and they must intervene in violence they witness. We have challenged men to take part in combating violence. We need men as allies in breaking the wall of silence and shame related to intimate partner violence. We need men that say no to violence against women. Men – and of course also women – that are in prominent positions may vitally contribute to changing public opinion. Allies are needed at all levels: within the family and circle of friends, in the neighbourhood, sport clubs, workplaces, everywhere.

We have noticed that attitude campaigns to combat violence against women often meet – at least in Finland – strong criticism. It is easily experienced that campaigns generalise violence as if it would concern all men, and thus make men feel guilty. The reception of our campaign has been different. I think that it depends on the approach we chose. We have wanted to strengthen empathy in men, and to encourage men to change their behaviour and assume greater responsibility.

I think that men could also be addressed more often as significant others who care for the wellbeing of women. I myself, for example, have two daughters. And I am certainly not the only man to say that I want my daughters to be able to live their lives free of violence. The work to combat violence against women is, indeed, largely work to improve the wellbeing of the whole of society.

In Finland the campaign in the media will be finished at the end of

this year. But further actions are already being planned. Prevention of violence against women is, for example, one of the priorities in the Government Action Plan for Gender Equality, that will be launched in a couple of weeks' time. And drawing up a programme to combat violence against women is being considered, among other measures.

At the level of the Council of Europe the *Campaign to Combat Vio-*

*lence Against Women, including Domestic Violence*, will be completed now in June. But there remains much to do to prevent the problem even after that. This also applies to those countries in which gender equality has been realised fairly well. There is indeed reason to think through how the prevention of violence against women could be reinforced in the future. I think that the recommendations of the Task Force give us very

comprehensive insights on how to go forward in this very important issue.

As a minister of sports I also must say that I share the concern of the Croatian minister about the issue of football: with all respect towards football, it is certain that the human values come first.

Thank you for your attention Mr Chair and participants. I wish you all a rewarding conference. ★

## Mr Fiorenzo Stolfi

### Minister for Foreign and Political Affairs, San Marino

**M**r President, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are extremely pleased and honoured to be with you here today for this Closing Conference of the pan-European *Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*, conducted by the Council of Europe.

The authorities of the Republic of San Marino, which I have the honour of representing, wish to express their particular approval of this major Campaign, which is now drawing to a close and has greatly boosted women's rights.

Thanks to the Council of Europe's firm commitment to human rights, the Campaign has helped increase public awareness of this terrible scourge. This fact is clearly illustrated by the determination of most member States to implement Recommendation Rec (2002) 5 on the protection of women against violence and the huge participation in the Parliamentary Assembly initiative entitled "Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women", adopted under Resolution 1512 (2006).

I well remember the launch of the Campaign in Madrid in November 2006, at the beginning of the San Marino Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. On that occasion a detailed chart was drafted showing the reality of the gender violence phenomenon in Europe. Today, after virtually two years of the Campaign, while violence against women is still a very serious social issue, major advances have been made towards appropriate solutions to the problem.

Thanks to a wide-open spirit of consultation, all member States have

been able to make practical contributions to the success of the Campaign, implementing practical schemes to deal with the phenomenon on various fronts and develop new prevention strategies.

As a hotbed for new initiatives, the Council of Europe has played a major role in this debate, retaining its status as a reference in this frontline battle in the defence of human rights.

The results of this Campaign will thus provide a solid starting point for the new international Campaign launched on 25 February last by the United Nations, on the theme of violence against women. I think it is very important that in this vital struggle the baton has now been passed on to such a frontline international organisation as the United Nations, which will now extend it to increasing numbers of countries.

In connection with San Marino's international contribution to tackling this problem, my country co-ordinated an encounter entitled "Stop violence against women – campaigning through regional co-operation", which took place on 4 June last in New York in the presence of the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, and the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, Asha-Rose Migiro. We were delighted to hear learn of the great success of this event, which attracted a large number of experts and diplomatic representatives for an in-depth debate on the subject.

Furthermore, spurred on by the Council of Europe, San Marino has greatly stepped up its own action to combat gender violence by conducting a major public awareness campaign embracing a wide variety of initiatives. The most important of these

was undoubtedly the draft legislation on the prevention and suppression of gender violence and violence against women, based on a report on the "Current situation of San Marino legislation on violence against women and guidelines for eliminating such violence and protecting victims". Just a few days ago, after protracted examination, the new proposals were put before Parliament.

Recognition of the gender violence problem in San Marino has facilitated appraisal of the extent of the phenomenon from the legislative point of view, which is necessary for a proper definition of how to reform and improve the requisite reference legislative framework for combating this terrible social scourge.

The highly exhaustive legislation in question guarantees that offences against women really will be prosecuted and punished, and also provides for the adoption of measures to support and protect victims.

The Campaign in San Marino has also included a series of schemes to improve health, social and police service provision and to promote fuller knowledge of the problem by the general public and civil society, including technical in-depth information on a number of specific related problems such as mobbing, stalking and violence against minors.

A special free hotline has been introduced known as *Telefono Rosa*, and a common training and information course is being run on a trial basis on the subject of violence against women, including domestic violence. The latter involves members of the law enforcement agencies, physicians and paramedics from the First Aid Service, GPs, welfare workers, psychologists and staff of the Minors' Department, the Elderly Persons' Department, the Home Care Department and the Mental Health Department. Participation in this project has considerably improved the standard of communication and co-operation among the various operators and departments, as well as the level of attention and care provided to victims.

As advocated by the Council of Europe, San Marino has decided not

only to protect women but also to concentrate on supporting and protecting minors. Our country considers such action vital if we are to succeed in the fight against gender violence, which is intimately linked to the family environment. San Marino has accordingly run various activities during the Campaign, including the special event on the theme of "Child victims of trafficking in human beings", organised by the United Nations in conjunction with the Council of Europe on the occasion of the 51<sup>st</sup> session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women on 1 March 2007.

In order to monitor the overall phenomenon of violence, the Government launched a systematic drive to gather data on gender violence at the beginning of the Campaign in November 2006. The data-gathering procedure is implemented by the health services, the socio-medical services, the *Telefono Rosa*, the law enforcement agencies and the courts.

The first annual report on violence against women, which was circulated last March (it had been preceded by three-monthly progress reports), has had a massive public impact. In fact, people had previously known little of the scale of the problem within the national territory, but now realised how widespread the phenomenon actually was, especially in connection with domestic violence, which has considerably increased in terms of cases reported.

27 May last also saw the publication of the results of a survey conducted among young people in San Marino concerning their views on violence against women. The questionnaire was drawn up by the Training Department of the University of the Republic of San Marino.

This survey, which was part of a wider project involving gender-specific data-gathering on young people, has proved particularly useful not only in providing a picture of the current state of San Marino youth but also for understanding the dynamics and prospects for the perception of the violence phenomenon, which re-

quires major efforts on the prevention front.

Youth participation was also promoted by a competition for young people between the ages of 14 and 20 on the themes of "Art helping combat violence against women", which highlighted widespread awareness of the problem among boys and young men. The prize-winning work of art was used for the major closing event of the Campaign in San Marino on 29 May last, together with a performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, chosen for its pan-European appeal.

Moreover, the mass media also contributed to the success of the Campaign, promoting the various themes and initiatives with announcements and a TV spot produced by the public broadcaster San Marino RTV. Furthermore, publicity and promotional material was produced during the Campaign and distributed throughout the territory, including three "brochures" providing in-depth information on specific themes.

On the occasion of International Women's Day (8 March), International Day of the Family (15 May) and International Day to Combat Violence against Women (25 November) a series of cultural events and debates were organised, attracting large audiences.

The public response to the awareness-raising activities conducted under the Campaign was remarkable in terms of both the level of participation and the range of activities, carried out in a spirit of co-operation and sharing with the State departments and the Public Administration, as well as the various voluntary associations.

Now that the Campaign is drawing to a close it is particularly important to maintain the momentum to focus attention on this serious problem, especially in terms of transposing the results into practical action.

In this connection, I fully agree with the Task Force to Combat Violence against Women when it advocates adopting a specific convention to combat violence against women as quickly as possible. As a binding instrument, a convention would be the optimum illustration of the political

will and determination of member States to eradicate this tragic and spreading phenomenon.

In the conviction that we must fully support the many draft resolutions and recommendations designed to fight the phenomenon of violence in all its forms, I welcome the recent adoption of recommendations in this field, including Recommendation CM Rec (2008) 1 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to member States on the inclusion of gender differences in health policy, which was adopted a few months after Recommendation CM Rec (2007) 17 on gender equality standards and mechanisms.

Mr President, Secretary General of the Council of Europe,

The Council of Europe's work is based on the shared values of dialogue, tolerance and, above all, respect for the fundamental human rights.

The Republic of San Marino undertook to provide energetic support for the pan-European Campaign, drawing on its profound conviction that to protect women from violence is to defend the fundamental rights of all individuals. This conviction has meant that the Campaign attracted the widest support and the largest number of initiatives ever seen in our country.

In this spirit I hope that all member States will continue their struggle for

gender equality, particularly in terms of combating violence against women.

I would take this opportunity, finally, to express my heartfelt appreciation of the work of the Secretariat, the successive Chairmanships of the Committee of Ministers and all the Council of Europe bodies involved in organising this Campaign. Thank you for motivating all the member States to take part in this major endeavour, which has intensified and consolidated in our citizens' collective consciousness the conviction that combating violence against women is and will continue to be a priority for us all.

Thank you for your kind attention. ★

## Speech: Ms Doris Bures

**Minister for Women,  
Media and Civil  
Service, Austria**

**E**steemed Chairman, Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues

I already had the opportunity to present the Austrian gender mainstreaming and equal opportunity policy within the scope of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men of the European Council meeting on 29 April in Vienna.

The Campaign carried out by the Council of Europe sends an unambiguous, common signal for zero tolerance concerning violence against women and children.

The entire federal government in Austria also takes this subject very seriously. Here, close cooperation exists between the individual departments and ministries.

However, before I go into detail about the measures and actions decided as part of the campaign, I wish to say a few words about the Austrian Protection against Violence Act.

Our highly effective Protection against Violence Act in Austria has been in force for more than 10 years. When it was signed into law in the year 1997, the Act assumed somewhat of a pioneering role on an international level and set an example that was followed by many other nations (such as Italy, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Germany, Luxemburg, Sweden, or Finland).

The entire central element at the time was to focus primarily on protecting the victim and to ensure that the protection of property was not considered more important than protecting the victim. It is not the victim who must flee from the perpetrator but the perpetrator is ejected from the realm of the victim. And the fact that the government now holds the perpetrator accountable and that the mis-

treated victim no longer has to file charges sets a clear signal as well.

Each province in Austria established Victim Protection Centers as an accompanying measure to the Protection against Violence Act.

These Centers offer victims a comprehensive range of support services, from psychological and legal help to support and advice during the court proceedings. They act as central hub and interface between the judiciary, the police, government agencies, and women's shelters.

Since the Act has been signed into law, the police have issued more than 40,000 expulsions and barring orders.

The intervention centers have assisted more than 50,000 victims of domestic violence in the past five years alone. This is an indicator of how effective the measure determined at the time is in the fight against violence.

Ten years later, the Austrian government has prepared a second Protection against Violence Act based on the experiences collected with the first Act. The second Act is soon to be ratified.

The option of having a court issue a three-month restraining order that prohibits the perpetrator from entering the shared domicile or coming close to the victim has proven to be very effective. However, the time period is frequently too short. The duration of the restraining order is therefore to be expanded to six months.

In addition to numerous improvements to civil law, changes are also made on a criminal law level. Just one example among many is the creation of a new statutory offense in case of a prolonged violent relationship, which makes it possible for the first time to capture the full scope of violence suffered over the course of many years.

A rash of gruesome crimes becoming known recently emphasize the necessity of such a statutory offense.

In addition to basic statutory conditions and the necessary expansion of the victim support system, numerous measures in the area of sensitizing and raising awareness have been the focal point during the past year as well.

The exhibition "Behind the Façade" in March 2007, targeting especially people in jobs that necessitates coming in contact with victims and issues dealing with domestic violence launched the European campaign on the government level

On the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Austrian Protection against Violence Act last fall, a large, international symposium with renowned national and international experts took place. Experiences were

exchanged and good practice examples were presented during this symposium. The need for improvements, however, was also pointed out, some of which have been integrated into the amendment soon to be ratified.

In addition to sensitizing in the educational arena, different campaigns targeting the public were also conducted within the scope of the European-wide campaign. For example, around Christmas, the first contact point for victims of domestic violence, namely the national Women's Helpline against Male Violence staffed around the clock was advertised more heavily. This campaign is now continued during the European Soccer Championship.

The involvement of men against male violence is also an important component in the fight against domestic violence. The White Ribbon

Campaign was therefore more heavily advertised in 2007 under the slogan "I only deliver my punches in the Ring."

In addition to the already mentioned campaign to make the Women's Helpline better known, the White Ribbon Campaign is also continued during the European Soccer Championship currently going on in Austria.

With my concluding words, I would like to express my gratitude for the international cooperation in such an important area.

Different countries enact different measures and can thus be catalysts for the implementation of best practice examples in our own countries.

I am now looking forward to receiving further suggestions and thank you for your time and attention. ★

## Speech: Ms Nyamko Sabuni

### Minister for Integration and Gender Equality, Sweden

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

“When needs are greatest, help is closest at hand,” as the Swedish saying goes. But this is not always true in reality. All those who are in urgent need of protection and support do not always have their needs seen or addressed.

As Minister, I cannot and may not talk about individual cases. However, nothing can forbid me from feeling concerned and angry. We must remember that behind every statistical figure, there is an individual.

Last year in Sweden, over 26 000 cases of abuse against women were reported. Every year, an average of 17 women are murdered by a man with whom they have or have had a close relationship. The cases of violence reported to the police account for just 20–25 per cent of all violence that is committed. Almost half of all women in Sweden have after the age of 15 been subjected to violence by a man.

The right not to be subjected to violence is a question of democracy and human rights. A woman who is subjected to violence is denied her human rights and she loses the opportunity to exercise her own powers to live her life. Our societies have a duty to protect these women.

Violence against women is also a problem for democracy. For those who are subjected to this kind of serious violations, there is no scope for becoming politically active and work for change.

Despite the fact that Sweden has come a long way in terms of gender equality developments, violence against women remains a widespread social problem and a serious type of crime.

Mr Chairman,

In November last year the Swedish government adopted a national action plan to combat men’s violence against women, violence and oppression in the name of honour and violence in same-sex relationships. Over 80 million Euros are allocated to implement 56 concrete measures during the period of three years. The measures lay the foundation for raising the level of ambition at national, regional and local level in the fight against this kind of violence.

The action plan has a comprehensive approach. Measures to help and support women subjected to violence as well as measures targeting the violent men are developed and quality assured. Special attention is given to children who witness violence. Individuals in vulnerable situations, such as women with disabilities, women with migrant background and women in drug abuse are highlighted in the action plan.

The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women is the ground that the Swedish action plan against men’s violence against women builds upon.

Another starting point is the perspectives and needs of the individuals who are subjected to such violence. The experiences of authorities and NGOs working against this violence have also been important in the elaboration of the action plan.

The action plan can be summarised in six established points:

**One: people subjected to violence need better protection and support.** All victims of crime must be treated in a professional manner, regardless of who they are or which part of the country they live in. The local authorities have a responsibility to ensure that victims of crime receive



the help and support they need. Support and protection must be given throughout the entire process, from the first point of contact, through legal proceedings, and afterwards.

**Two: we need to work more preventively.** Preventive work that is broad in scope and that is directed at both women and men, also those who are not directly affected in their everyday lives. Children and young people are important target groups. It is important to introduce early measures in schools and other places where girls and boys spend their time.

**Three: we must ensure enhanced competence, quality and efficiency in the legal system.** The justice and law enforcement-chain must function efficiently so that crimes are investigated and perpetrators prosecuted in a timely manner. Society's reaction and punishments must clearly reflect the seriousness of the violation that this kind of crime represents for the victims.

**Four: we must develop measures directed at the perpetrators of violence.** If we are to put an end to violence against women, the men who hit women must stop this behavior. All men convicted of this type of crime must be requested to take part in an appropriate treatment programme. Measures directed at men who use violence must be evaluated, developed and quality-assured.

**Five: we must have increased cooperation between various actors.** Increased cooperation within and between agencies and other actors is of vital importance if we are to ensure that women get the help they need. Regulations and routines must not hinder increased cooperation.

**And Six: we need more knowledge.** A new research programme will help to increase and deepen our knowledge in this area. And through awareness-raising measures and training we will develop skills at agencies and NGOs that come in contact

with people subjected to violence and the perpetrators of violence.

It is within these six areas that measures are taken and implemented.

We know that if we are ever going to put an end to men's violence against women it will require comprehensive, systematic and long-term work. Cooperation at the international level is vital. The international exchange of experiences is an important driving force and source of knowledge. I believe this Campaign has shown this and it is obvious that the Council of Europe can play a crucial role in combating violence against women.

Sweden is prepared to take the work within the Council of Europe one step further. We believe that a convention on combating violence against women, including violence in the name of honour, would be an important contribution to our strive to make rights real.

Thank you for your attention. ★

## Speech: Ms Galina Balmos

### Minister of Social Protection, Family and Children, Moldova

Ladies and Gentlemen!

This conference is an important step towards combating domestic violence in our countries. The coordination of efforts at the level of member states of the Council of Europe, the possibility to exchange experiences in the frame of Council of Europe Campaign "Stop Domestic Violence against women!" undoubtedly promoted the enforcement of work in this domain.

The Republic of Moldova from the very first years of its sovereignty has joined international documents addressed to combating domestic violence. It is also important to mention that in the context of priorities of the external policy of Moldova which are directed toward European integration, Moldova adhered to documents reflecting the necessity to combat violence against women approved by the Council of Europe.

In the context of international responsibilities and aims to foster the national development in Moldova a set of national documents were adopted that include combating and preventing domestic violence.

- ▶ The National Plan "Promoting gender equality in the society for 2006-2009r.r." (adopted by Government in 2006; include objective to preventing and combating violence against women, men and child)
- ▶ National Action Plan on Human Rights for 2004-2008 (adopted by Parliament in 2003, include chapter on Women's Human Rights / Elimination of Domestic Violence)
- ▶ National Strategy on Reproductive Health (adopted by Government in 2005)

- ▶ National Policy on Health care (adopted by Government in 2007)
- ▶ Strategy on National development for 2008-2011 (adopted by Parliament in 2007)
- ▶ Law on Preventing and Combating Family Violence, adopted by Parliament on 29.02.2008 (in the frame of Council of Europe Campaign "Stop Domestic violence against women!")

Additionally I would like to mention the enormous work that was done by the state structures and non-governmental organizations in promoting the Draft Law on Preventing and Combating Family Violence:

- ▶ 2000-2002 raising awareness of public opinion upon the problem of domestic violence;
- ▶ 2003-2005 elaboration of the draft law on preventing and combating family violence; organization of "Demographic and Health Survey" (2005), that includes a chapter on domestic violence;
- ▶ 2006-2007 approval and improvement of the draft law;
- ▶ 2006-2008 Participation in the Council of Europe Campaign "Stop Domestic violence against women!"
- ▶ 2008 Adoption of the Law on Preventing and Combating Family Violence

The Law on preventing and combating Family Violence stipulates a set of important regulations among which are determined the Institutional structures provided with responsibilities in this domain:

- ▶ Central specialized public administration authorities;
- ▶ Specialized local public authorities;
- ▶ Local public administration and social issue commissions;

- ▶ Centers/services for victim and aggressor rehabilitation;
- ▶ Other organizations with specialized activities in the field.

The Law also stipulates a concrete mechanism to solve the cases of family violence:

- ▶ The victim's right to protection
- ▶ Persons who may submit claims of family violence
- ▶ Submittal of claims
- ▶ Examination of the claims
- ▶ Protective measures
- ▶ Sanctions
- ▶ Funding

It's important to pay attention to the protective measures / protection order (art.15).

The court shall, within 24 hours of receipt of the claim, issue a protection order, to assist the victim, by applying the following measures towards the aggressor:

- Oblige the aggressor to temporarily leave the joint dwelling or to keep away from the victim's dwelling, without making any determination as to ownership of property or assets;
- Oblige the aggressor to keep away from the victim's person;
- Oblige the aggressor to refrain from contacting the victim, the victim's children or other dependants of the victim;
- Prohibit the aggressor from visiting the victim's place of work or residence;
- Oblige the aggressor, until the case is resolved, to contribute to the maintenance of his/her and the victim's children;
- Oblige the aggressor to cover the costs and damages caused by the aggressor's acts of violence, including medical expenses and the cost of replacing or repairing destroyed or damaged assets;
- Restrict the unilateral disposal of common assets;
- Oblige the aggressor to partake in a special treatment or counseling program, if the court determines this is necessary to reduce or eliminate violence;
- Establish a temporary visitation schedule for the aggressor's underage children;

- Prohibit the aggressor from keeping or handling fire arms.

The Government of the Republic of Moldova, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations and international structures, makes a lot of efforts in offering support and social protection to the victims of domestic violence. Today, in the country activates a number of structures rendering services to women and children victims of family violence:

- ▶ Shelter "Casa Marioarei" ( for victims of family violence), created by the NGO initiative;
- ▶ Shelter (for victims of human trafficking), created by the initiative IOM;
- ▶ A number of Centers providing social protection and rehabilitation for children victims of violence;
- ▶ A number of services/counselling in family problems;
- ▶ Tel. 902 all around the country registers all the claims of the citizens including claims on Family Violence cases.

On the actual stage, in the country there's a work carried out to create a concept of data base enhancing all the social services in this domain (on the example of two regions). It's important to mention that a process of elaborating a unified referral system for victims of domestic violence has started.

An important aspect in analyzing the phenomenon of domestic violence and elaboration of adequate instruments is *data collection of cases on domestic violence*. In Moldova for the data collection on domestic violence are responsible the structures of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, that operate with a set of indicators: slight and hard corporal punishment, murders, number of claims, and number of registered family brawlers. Considering the necessity in coordination of actions among all the responsible structures and the systematization of data collection as well as the experience of our foreign colleagues, in Republic of Moldova has started the process of elaboration of unified automatic system of data collection on domestic violence ( with the support of

international organizations and in collaboration with colleagues from Romania). A system of data collection on social protection of children is being elaborated including domestic violence.

An important direction in preventing domestic violence is *information of the population*. On extant of several years in the country are held different events directed towards raising awareness of the population that domestic violence is a violation of human rights. Since 2001 in Moldova was carried out the International Campaign "16 days of Activism against Gender Violence" in partnership with NGOs, state structures and international organizations (OSCE mission to Moldova, UNFPA, UNDP, Soros Foundation, and others).

In the framework of the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*, was organized a number of events: broadcasting /radio programs, round tables, spreading of informational materials, discussions with different groups of society. It's important to highlight the influence of the Campaign "Stop domestic violence against women!" on the situation in Moldova:

- ▶ Advocacy in adopting of the Law on Preventing and Combating Family Violence;
- ▶ Adopting the Declaration of Parliament to supporting of
- ▶ the Council of Europe Campaign
- ▶ Assistance in elaborating the national referral system of domestic violence cases ( considering the minimum standards for services)
- ▶ Raising awareness within different groups of society including the officials
- ▶ Developing collaboration between state structures and non-governmental sector

In the context of those mentioned above is to mention that the government of the Republic of Moldova is eager to continue making efforts on preventing and combating domestic violence. Today, the focus is on providing the realization of the *Law on Preventing and Combating Family Violence*:

- Adjusting the national legislation with the law;
- Developing the mechanism of implementation of laws;
- Setting up a centralized system of data collection;
- Creation of a referral system for victims of domestic violence;
- Developing a net of qualitative services on assistance and protec-

tion of the victims of domestic violence;

- Developing a system regarding the work with perpetrators/aggressors.

The most important direction still remains the work on public awareness in this domain as an unacceptable behavior within the family.

In the end I would like to express my gratitude to the organizers of the Campaign and the Conference for the possibility to participate in the conference and exchange experience regarding prevention and combating domestic violence.

Thank you for your attention. ★

## Speech: Ms Marjeta Zaçe

**Deputy Minister of  
Labour, Social Affairs  
and Equal  
Opportunities,  
Albania**

**H**onorable representatives of the Council of Europe,  
Honorable colleagues from the member states,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me that on behalf of the Government of Albania to begin by thanking you for inviting us to such an important meeting in relation to violence against women, including domestic violence, as well as for the valuable contribution that the Council of Europe has provided for its member states in this regard.

In the framework of legal obligations towards its own citizens, the Government of Albania, taking also into consideration the recommendations of the Council of Europe Campaign, has undertaken various legal initiatives with the aim to improve the national legislation through drafting and implementing policies that lead to notable social and economic improvements in the life of each individual in particular, and of the society in general, as well as for setting up and strengthening the executive and monitoring structures of these policies.

It is of great importance to emphasise the fact that in the recent years due to the measures undertaken by the Government of Albania, domestic violence and violence in general are not anymore a phenomenon hidden under “the tradition” or considered “as a private domestic problem”.

As a result of public awareness and law existence one may acknowledge the increase of the cases reported to the police as domestic violence or violence against women which for the sake of being realistic does not recognise age limits, gender, ethnic or religious belonging, economic situation, incapacity or geography. A number of 184 women and children have been

registered as individuals requiring the state’s protection from domestic violence and during this time for 74 of those cases the police has sought the issuance of a court protection order.

Being aware of the situation, the Albanian Government has realised a number of political documents at the rank of strategies designed as part and at the same time as indicators of the political and official response towards domestic violence, violence against women and other social pathologies that violence causes to people in need and those excluded, have raised the awareness of the population in regard to the violence in general and the need to report such acts.

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities has placed the family in the centre of its policies for the decrease of poverty, especially families consisting of many members, those with women acting as the head of family, those with parents and children with limited capacities, of the Roma and Egyptian community by finalising the National Strategy on Gender Equality and the Action Plan against Domestic Violence in close cooperation with the civil society and different donors. The ultimate goal of this Strategy is to prevent and fight domestic violence as a social obstacle that interferes with the development and the welfare of our society and therefore to provide support for its victims.

The prioritisation of the gender issues and human rights of women was perceived strongly during 2006-2007, through the Incentive Programmes for the employment of women, due to the specific in itself that these jobseekers have in their category, who are women in need such as heads of families, Roma women, vio-

lated women, trafficked women, unqualified women and often, even in an old age, and who find it very difficult to be integrated in the labour market.

Only by the implementation of this programme, during the last year resulted in the employment of about 1500 women and girls in the whole country, apart from those employed via the intermediance of the employment offices, or because of the economic development in the country.

For the first time a law for the prevention and elimination of domestic violence and protection of its victims is included in the Albanian legislation. The protection that this law guarantees lies not only in marital relationships, but also in those including the other family members as well. According to this law, the civil courts may put protective measures for the victims through a quick and affordable procedure and these are the protection orders.

Being part of this active Campaign of the Council of Europe to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence, the Albanian Government commits itself seriously in an inclusive campaign with the participation of the Council of Ministers (MOLSAEO), the Albanian Parliament and non-governmental organisations which work in this area for raising the people's awareness regarding the importance of the prevention

of domestic violence and violence against women. The highest representatives of the Albanian Government have been the ideators of this campaign. Assessing the importance of the campaign as a big political action against domestic violence, the country's Prime Minister Mr Sali Berisha declared the year 2008 as the year against domestic violence. The Head of the Parliament of Albania has been personally engaged in many concrete activities of the national campaign of the war against violence towards women and more concretely against domestic violence in relationships. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities has played an important coordinating and monitoring role during all this action, by mobilising all the institutions responsible for the implementation of legal obligations, organising sensibilisation and awareness raising campaigns, training employees of local government, NGOs etc almost in all the country about the phenomenon of violence as well as for the measures that the Albanian Government has undertaken in the protection of victims of violence and their rehabilitation.

The Government's approach in resolving this issue is more of a guarantee for the prevention of harm. I can say that it makes the main guarantee. Domestic violence, being a global

issue, has seriously drawn the attention of the United Nations and its agencies, international specialised organisations and institutions. Its prevention has become an integral part of the Objectives of the Millennium's Development, and in this framework, Albania as well, which shares common concerns when it comes to fighting domestic violence and violence against women as part of Europe, should step forward in its effort against this phenomenon, and in order to win this battle, it is not enough to look for the responsibilities regarding anything and anytime only from the state and its institutions. Domestic violence is a widespread phenomenon in the Albanian society, and as a result the war against it should be considered as a responsibility of all actors and factors, state institutions, community and individuals.

The fight against domestic violence and violence against women is indispensable in today's developments and one of the key conditions for fulfilling the European standards which stand permanently on the Albanian's agenda of Integration within the European Union with the ultimate goal of achieving democracy in the country for our citizens.

Thank you for your attention and support. ★

## Speech: Ms Ivanka Hristova

Deputy Minister of  
Labour and Social  
Policy, Bulgaria

**M**ister Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

For me it is a pleasure to be amongst you once again as a representative of the Bulgarian Government and to take part in the Conference dedicated to the successful end of the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*.

During the period since the start of the Campaign in November 2006 in Madrid, all of us, the participants in the Campaign have carried out numerous activities aimed at decreasing and preventing this degrading act referred to as domestic violence.

With the official opening of the Bulgarian national campaign on 8 March 2007, a number of concrete activities were outlined and measures were taken aimed at the effective combating of domestic violence against women. We, the Bulgarian participants in the national Campaign, set ourselves the goal of reaching the highest possible increase in information and awareness of Bulgarian society. In order to achieve this goal we organised different discussions, meetings, conferences and other initiatives aimed at achieving the recognition of the problem of domestic violence by institutions, media and citizens.

I am proud to be able to state that Bulgaria is one of the few countries to adopt in 2005 a Protection against Domestic Violence Act /PADVA/ which regulates the rights of persons who have been victims of domestic violence, the protection measures and the procedure for the application of the latter. Responsibility under this Act does not rule out the civil or penal liability of the perpetrator. The effectiveness of this Act is currently being

studied and for this purpose an inter-institutional working party has been established with the participation of representatives of ministries and non-governmental organisations. With the development of a new draft act for amendment and supplement of the main Act and the Penal Code, all conditions for the correct observation of Recommendation (2002) 5 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the protection of women against violence will be in place.

In implementation of § 2 of the Final Provisions of the PADVA, on 19 October 2006 the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria approved the Programme for Prevention of and Protection against Domestic Violence, which was developed by an interinstitutional working party composed of Government experts. The working party also prepared a guide with advice for victims on receiving quick and effective protection in case of domestic violence (a copy of the guide in English is available to participants). In correspondence with the Programme, an around-the-clock telephone hotline was opened for giving information to victims of domestic violence. Funding is also envisaged for starting temporary shelters for victims of domestic violence in every regional centre.

From the beginning of 2005, Bulgaria is also implementing the first National Action Plan for the Promotion of Equality between Women and Men adopted with a Council of Ministers Decision. The Plan is prepared in conformity with the Beijing Action Platform adopted at the IV World Conference of Women in Beijing in 1995 and is an instrument for the application of state gender equality

policy in all fields of social, economic and political life.

On the occasion of the International Day of the Family – 15 May the Ministry of Health carried out a campaign for providing specialised psychological assistance to victims of domestic violence. The initiative was fulfilled with the support of the Council of Europe Campaign and in implementation of the obligations stemming from the Council of Ministers Programme for Prevention of and Protection against Domestic Violence 2007-2008. For the first time in Bulgaria at the national level there was free of charge psychological and health assistance for victims of domestic violence. For this to be achieved, 21 health institutions in the country provided free specialised psychiatric assistance to victims of domestic violence. Also to mark 15 May there was a national children's drawings competition on the subject "I Love My Family". The competition was part of the initiative dedicated to the International Day of the Family and was also a part of the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*.

On 12 December 2007, in Sofia, the National Conference 'No' to Domestic Violence took place with the partici-

pation of representatives of the Government and non-governmental organisations as well as a Council of Europe representative. The main topics mentioned during the discussions were related to the present measures and actions carried out for the prevention of and counteraction against violence against women. The key role of the state was once again stressed as a guarantee for the realization and implementation of different state policies and programmes in this field.

On 10 April 2008, in the Bulgarian Parliament there was a round table at which the current situation regarding the problem of domestic violence was presented from a point of view of the mechanisms for provision of assistance to victims. The discussions featured members of the parliament and representatives of the Government and non-governmental organisations. A book containing the main presentations will be published with the structure of legislative initiatives of the executive power and good practices of NGOs.

All these measures carried out within the framework of the Bulgarian national Campaign show the will and efforts of the Bulgarian Government

and the other participants in the national Campaign for the prevention of and addressing the domestic violence problem.

I would like to take this opportunity to assure you that the Bulgarian national campaign for combating violence on women shall not be closed officially and the representatives of the Government, the Parliament and the non-governmental organisations, shall continue to work for this good cause. We have already outlined new concrete measures and one of them is the development of standards and mechanisms for creating shelters for women who have suffered from domestic violence which are an important factor for the provision of physical, emotional and mental inviolability and security for women and children.

In conclusion, allow me to express my deepest conviction that we all shall continue to work in the right direction in order to find the best solutions for overcoming and eradicating this still existing heavy scourge of society that is crippling the dignity of thousands of women and mothers worldwide.

Thank you for your attention. ★



## Speech: Ms Astri Aas Hansen

### State Secretary of the Ministry of Justice and the Police, Norway

**M**ister Chair, dear colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, it's a pleasure to be here in Strasbourg.

We in Norway appreciate very much the initiative taken by the Council of Europe by launching this Campaign.

The Campaign has given us a valuable insight into how other member states deal with violence against women. It has given us a great opportunity to share lessons and experiences.

Allow me to draw your attention to the Norwegian government's main activity during the Campaign period; the launching of a new action plan to combat domestic violence.

The action plan called "Turning point", was launched in December 2007.

"Turning point" is a key element in our efforts to combat violence against women. It includes action plans to combat sexual and physical abuse of children, forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

Ladies and gentlemen – what are the main aspects of this Action Plan? Firstly – one of the goals is to ensure that services for the victims of domestic violence come higher up on the municipal political agenda.

A special challenge is to strengthen and reinforce local agencies and help ensure that the various services are working towards the same goal. Municipalities have a statutory duty to provide appropriate services for their citizens. However, far from all the municipalities and support services have procedures and binding agreements to ensure cooperation on domestic violence cases. The measures in the action plan aim to promote cooperation at the local level, to the benefit of users.

We wish to incorporate the good lessons that have been learned from short-term projects into the established services. We will continue to need enthusiasts and development projects, but this work must be incorporated into the **ordinary** support services to the greatest possible extent so that services do not vanish when projects come to an end.

Secondly – domestic violence often causes serious physical and mental harm to victims that may, in extreme cases, lead to a loss of life. We will therefore make a major effort to strengthen protection for victims. The police play a central role in this effort, but they are highly dependent on close cooperation with other helpers and services in order to be able to provide good protection for victims. Such cooperation must be based on a common understanding of which situations may trigger a danger of violence and threats for victims.

One important measure in this plan therefore entails studying murder and manslaughter cases in which the perpetrator is the present or former partner of the victim. Only by understanding these connections will we be able to identify the risk factors and develop good protective measures.

Thirdly – The police force is assigned a very central role in our efforts to combat domestic violence.

From January 2008, every police district in Norway is instructed to have a domestic violence coordinator in full time position. In addition the greater districts are instructed to establish domestic violence units.

The fourth aspect of our Action Plan is the perpetrators of violence. In our opinion successful prevention of domestic violence must include a focus on the person committing the violent act. The action plan points out that punishment alone is not the right solution for violent men.

Male inmates who are perpetrators of violence will be offered treatment by the ordinary health services and various programmes run by the Correctional Services with the aim of changing their behaviour. These programmes include group therapy based on the Alternative to Violence model, stress management groups and anger management groups.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the use of technical aids in the fight against violence against women – the fifth aspect in the Action Plan.

On 1 January 2004 the police initiated a nation-wide system of mobile

violence alarms. Used in combination with other measures, mobile violence alarms are intended to give persons under threat of violence greater freedom of movement and help prevent violence and threats.

As a tool to improve the situation for victims of violence by limiting the action of the offender, the government has decided to introduce a pilot project on the use of electronic moni-

toring of persons who have breached a ban on visits. The project is based on work on electronic tagging done in other countries.

Mr. Chair,

Today's conference is the Closing Conference of the Council of Europe Campaign to combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence. But the valuable work that we do in this field will continue.

One of the important issues we will address is the recommendation to start work towards a European human rights convention to prevent and combat violence against women.

From our side, Norway will support this process, and will work constructively with all member states and relevant stakeholders to this end.

Thank you for your attention! ★

# PARLIAMENTARY ACTION

TO PREVENT AND COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST  
WOMEN WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE  
COUNCIL OF EUROPE CAMPAIGN



## Speech: Ms Carina Hägg

**Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on violence against women, Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe, Contact Parliamentarian for Sweden**

**H**ow would you assess the parliamentary dimension of the Campaign in your capacity of Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on violence against women?

In my capacity of Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on violence against women, I had the opportunity to follow very closely the launch and the implementation of the parliamentary dimension of the Campaign. The Sub-Committee held its first hearing on the Campaign in the Swedish parliament in March 2006. Having this Sub-Committee, and the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men steering the parliamentary dimension of the Campaign was very helpful to ensure that all national parliaments were involved in the Campaign, thanks to the link we could establish with the national delegations to the Parliamentary Assembly.

My colleagues already mentioned the wide range of activities that have been carried out during the Campaign by national parliaments. This Campaign allowed us to tackle many different issues. In my opinion, domestic violence against women needs to be approached globally. This is why I have initiated in the past months a series of seminars and activities in the Swedish parliament on:

- ▶ crimes perpetrated in the name of honour;
- ▶ the situation of Roma and Sami women victims of domestic violence;
- ▶ forced marriages;
- ▶ men's violence on handicapped women;
- ▶ the cost of domestic violence for the Swedish society;
- ▶ the protection of the identity of the women victim by the Register Office;

- ▶ the integration of the fight against gender-based violence in the Swedish Development Co-operation Programmes (SIDA).

Thanks to the Campaign, a lot of parliamentary expertise was collected and I think that there is now a better understanding of what is domestic violence, of the seriousness of the problem and the extent of the problem in Europe. We now need to ensure that the Campaign of the Council of Europe can be prolonged. I would therefore strongly support the proposal that assistance programmes, including at parliamentary level, be organised by the Council of Europe to help member states to increase their activities in this field.

*Is the Parliamentary Assembly going to pursue its work in the field of domestic violence against women?*

Our Sub-Committee on violence against women will definitively closely follow this issue. The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men is already working on issues that are linked to specific forms of violence against women. Reports on "The urgent need for action on so-called 'honour crimes'" and "marital rape" are currently under preparation. A motion has also been tabled to address the situation of migrant women facing domestic violence. These reports will help to ensure that combating violence against women remains on the political agenda. I am sure that this is only a beginning. In the course of the campaign, we identified several other issues that would also need to be explored.

*What is your feeling on a legal international instrument that could be proposed by the Council of Europe?*

First of all, I share the view expressed by Thomas Hammarberg, Commissioner for Human Rights, and I believe that there is a need for a Convention. In my opinion, this comprehensive convention needs to be gender-based and must take into account the specificity of violence perpetrated against women and girls. I also want to stress that this instrument must be effective, with a strong, independent monitoring mechanism.

I was very pleased that Mr Mendes Bota mentioned this morning that a Convention on gender-based violence could at least include the most widespread and most serious forms of violence against women, such as:

- ▶ domestic violence – and I, like the Assembly, define domestic violence as violence against a partner or former partner, cohabiting or not;
- ▶ sexual assault (this includes, of course, rape and “marital rape”;

- ▶ forced marriages;
- ▶ so-called “honour-crimes”;
- ▶ female genital mutilation.

I hope that the Council of Europe, under its Swedish Chairmanship, will be able to push forward this proposal and to initiate the drafting of this instrument. The Parliamentary Assembly will prepare in autumn a report on the assessment of the Campaign and will also express a clear position on this proposal. ★

## Speech: Ms Darinka Stantcheva

Member of the  
Parliamentary  
Assembly, Council of  
Europe, Contact  
Parliamentarian for  
Bulgaria

*What made the parliamentary dimension specific?*

After the adoption of Resolution 1612 in June 2006, all national parliaments were invited to appoint a contact parliamentarian. The network of contact parliamentarians also appointed regional co-ordinators. I had the honour to be appointed contact parliamentarian for Bulgaria and also regional co-ordinator of a region covering South East Europe.

*“Parliaments united”: how strong was this parliamentary network?*

It was the first time that the Bulgarian parliament took part in a Pan-European Campaign organised by the Council of Europe in such a way. We, contact parliamentarians, had the challenging task to mobilize parliamentarians of the 47 member states of the Council of Europe and to raise awareness among our colleagues on this issue. I am very happy to say that in Bulgaria, we had very positive feedback from current and former parliamentarians – and members of the Bulgarian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly also contributed to the regional seminar we organised in Sofia in November 2007.

I found it useful to work in such a European network. We could meet on several occasions, many of us where also at the same time members of the Parliamentary Assembly where they would regularly meet. It was quite impressive to see that 50 contact parliamentarians in 49 parliaments and parliamentary international organizations supported the campaign (notably in 45 Member States of the Council of Europe) and worked in 6 regional groupings. Regional seminars were organised in 2007 in Strasbourg, Helsinki, Vienna, Paris and

Sofia and fostered an exchange of good parliamentary practices.

I hope that this group dynamic can be prolonged. We can learn a lot from each other and this learning opportunity is precisely made possible by the Council of Europe. At the final conference in Vienna last month, the contact parliamentarians proposed to initiate parliamentary co-operation programmes.

We also had the active contribution of the observer parliaments to the PACE, in particular Mexico and Canada, and also a fruitful co-operation with the Interparliamentary Union, the European Parliament and the Nordic Council. This is very important if we want to speak with one voice across different institutions.

This Campaign was a unique and very interesting experience, which enabled the Parliamentary Assembly to develop new working methods and communication tools to involve national parliaments, such as a specific website and a periodic newsletter.

*Do you share the view that, thanks to the Campaign, many awareness-raising activities were proposed by the national parliaments?*

An impressive number of parliamentary activities have been developed in many member states in the past two years, among others:

- ▶ parliamentary hearings;
- ▶ adoption of solemn declarations during the plenary sessions of the parliament;
- ▶ submission of questions to governments;
- ▶ translation and dissemination of key materials of the campaign, in particular the handbook prepared by the Parliamentary Assembly

which is now available in 14 languages;

- ▶ awareness raising activities within parliaments;
- ▶ adoption of new laws and regulations.

National delegations to the Parliamentary Assembly were mobilized. For example the French delegation organised a parliamentary colloquy in Paris last month to review the current situation in France and which further measures would be needed to improve the legislation.

*Is more networking needed at European and national level?*

This networking was a very positive experience. At the Final Conference in Vienna, the participants invited the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and national parliaments to continue networking with parliamentarians from

the 47 member states. I hope that this proposal will be taken over by our Rapporteur Mr Mendes Bota and be approved by the Parliamentary Assembly in October 2008. I believe that such networks are also very helpful in better involving national parliaments and member states in Council of Europe work.

I would also like to stress that the Parliamentary Assembly put a great emphasis on ensuring that a good co-operation exist with the representatives of the government, local and regional authorities and NGOs. Combating domestic violence requires joint efforts of all of us to adopt the right measures and ensure that they can be implemented. In fact, I think this is an area where we could still improve our co-ordination efforts. In this respect the more informal meeting organised last year with focal points, contact parliamentarians,

members of the local and regional authorities and NGOs was very fruitful. The programme of that event was based on subject-matters and allowed a lot of interaction between different players. While it is important that each "dimension" of the campaign develops its own network and working methods, it is important that we all come together in the end to share our experience and make change happen. For even if this is the Closing Conference of the Campaign, this should not be the end of our efforts to stop domestic violence against women. I believe that our active contribution is still needed, and we have only made the first step.

I would like to thank, once again, all of you who made it possible to raise awareness in the national parliaments and contributed to change laws and attitudes and look forward to further fruitful co-operation. ★



## Speech: Ms Nursuna Memecan

**Member of the  
Parliamentary  
Assembly, Council of  
Europe, Contact  
Parliamentarian for  
Turkey**

**L**adies and Gentlemen,

In my presentation today, I will talk about certain aspects of the Campaign and mention some of the things that have been achieved in Turkey.

I would like to start by reiterating that domestic violence against women is an affront to human dignity and an embarrassing violation of human rights. Only when all women live in dignity will it no longer be necessary to repeat this statement.

Like many women around the world, Turkish women have been suffering and continue to suffer from different types of domestic violence. But the good news is that the problem is recognised at all levels of leadership in Turkey and many immediate measures in line with European Union and Council of Europe standards are being taken. Our Prime Minister is personally involved in the combat at all levels and even took part in TV awareness-raising spots praising all women, mothers, sisters, wives and daughters. Our co-ordinating body, the General Directorate for the Status of Women is pursuing a number of projects.

The combat must begin by the provision of and compliance with a fair legal background to secure the rights of women and afford them protection.

Second, the status of women has to be strengthened. Women should be encouraged to take part in various activities in society; they must be given basic and sound education. They have to be made more aware.

At the same time, men have to become aware of the new social rules. They have to realise that the world is changing from patriarchal societies to equality-based societies. They have to be educated and prepared, too.

In the course of the implementation of the parliamentary dimension

of the Council of Europe Campaign, it became obvious that we wanted to reach parliamentarians, almost 80% of whom are men! The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men had already organised a parliamentary hearing in Iceland on this issue in September 2005 and has worked closely with the White Ribbon Campaign since 2006. This raised awareness among the contact parliamentarians on how men can contribute to the success of the Campaign. Parliamentarians who are responsible for changing the law can also contribute to changing mentalities.

As for the legal framework, Turkey has accomplished much in recent years. The Turkish Parliament introduced a number of key measures in the recent law on women's rights. The changes introduced were based on universal norms in women's rights, or rather human rights relating to women's issues.

For instance, previously the terminology used to refer to females had differentiated between girls, women and wives. The crimes committed against these three 'different' females had been punished differently. The penalty for sexual assaults on girls had been less than the penalty for assaults against married women or wives, since an assault on a married woman was considered not just an assault on her but also on the honour of the family. Under this approach, a person assaulting an unmarried female was given a lesser penalty.

In the latest law this error has been corrected and all females are referred to as 'women' without consideration of their marital status.

Mr Mendes Bota, rapporteur on the mid-term evaluation of the Council of Europe Campaign, pro-

posed in October 2007 that one of the Assembly actions should focus on the involvement of men. The Parliamentary Assembly decided to launch on 25 November 2007 a pan-European initiative called 'Men get involved against domestic violence' which was carried out in many national parliaments.

The majority of perpetrators of domestic violence are men. Also, men hold most of the positions of power in the political, economic and social spheres. They therefore have a special responsibility and a leading role to play in combating violence against women. I would like to pay tribute to all our male colleagues in the Parliamentary Assembly who contributed so much to make domestic violence a human rights issue.

As part of the Parliamentary Assembly initiative to involve men, I took part in March 2008 in a debate on the role of men against domestic violence organised in Brussels, together with Kent Olsson from Sweden and Raul Romeva i Rueda, Member of the European Parliament, with the participation of Axelle Red, singer and Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF.

In the debate I talked about the educational projects designed to involve Turkish men in the combat against violence.

The main target groups for education are policemen, soldiers, health professionals and religious leaders. The educational programmes are nationwide and involve thousands of men. For practical reasons, smaller educational teams are given training which they can pass onto others in their organisations.

In the police force, 270 policemen completed their 5-day seminars in 2007 to become teachers of the "Combating Violence Against Women" Project. The 5-day seminar began teaching modern educational methods – ranging from role-playing to brainstorming techniques, and included ways of raising class participation and advice on the use of interactive videos.

Participants were given a 200-page educators' handbook, which has chapters on various violence-related

issues, covering a description of the different types, comparative statistics, the legal background, procedures to be followed in police stations, dealing with victims, the concept of equality, and the consequences of domestic violence.

Since early 2008 they have been teaching other policemen in their regions. In Ankara alone, thousands of policemen have already received their training from these teachers in a period of just one month. The class size is between 20 and 25. All the policemen are provided with a 110-page course book including a CD-Rom with a short video of a live case, detailing the procedures to be followed and sample forms to be filled out when dealing with the case. They are also given a smaller booklet setting out procedures. The aim is to provide this training to 3,000 policemen in Ankara and 15,000 policemen nationwide in 2008. The total number of policemen who will eventually have received this training is 40,000.

I spoke with a couple of policemen who taught the class and also with some students. They all admitted how little they had known about the issue before attending the classes. Like most of their fellow students, they had viewed it as a trivial matter and were convinced that it would be a waste of time. The most striking moment of the class was when they realised that the victim could have been their mothers, sisters or daughters. They were surprised to discover that violence was not just physical assault. Constant insults, economic deprivation, or sexual aggression were also considered to be violence. 'Even a single slap to the woman's face' was considered a crime. They were not to judge or spare the 'honour' or 'unity' of the family but concentrate on the crime that had been committed. Furthermore, it was irrelevant to question the women about the reasons that had led to the violence. They began questioning the acceptability of the macho jokes and boasts of their colleagues. This has been a major step forward from the typical, socially-accepted 'He is your husband, he can beat you and love you, too' approach.

They were all proud to have received the training and considered themselves more modern citizens and more professional than their colleagues. Now that they were informed and aware of the significance of the problem they wanted to help improve the programme.

They pointed out the need for similar training for prosecutors. Prosecutors are the first point of contact in the legal action taken against the perpetrators. However, it would appear that most look for 'physical' evidence in order to take serious action in the case. The policemen believe that the anti-violence programme would be more successful if prosecutors were given similar training.

The General Directorate for the Status of Women has also co-ordinated the preparation of similar training material for military personnel. This material has been incorporated into the coursework of soldiers serving in the military and will be taught to 450,000 soldiers every year.

Another group of men to be involved in the educational programmes is the religious workers. Course material is being prepared backing up the arguments with religious values. The education programme is scheduled to begin in May 2008. The material will be part of Friday preaching in mosques.

A training programme is also being scheduled for health-care personnel. 500 educators will be given training in teaching the course material to 75,000 people in the health-care sector. This will ensure that health-care personnel have much greater awareness in dealing with victims of both physical and psychological abuse.

One last group of men who are not involved in any of the educational programmes are the perpetrators themselves. Quite rightly, current legislation, the courts and the police treat them as criminals. In some cases, the family court judge may order the perpetrator to follow a rehabilitation course in an institution for anger management or stress control. In many other cases, they are prohibited from returning to their homes and are expected to learn in time.

However, I personally believe that we should discuss and develop strategies to involve the perpetrators in efforts to eradicate domestic violence. Exposing them to similar educational measures may help many of them change their abusive behaviour and prevent domestic violence. Support groups may be formed for men who need help.

The world will be a better place when men and women learn to respect each other's rights.

I support the proposed Council of Europe convention. The convention should be able to address the multiple causes of the problem and thus needs to be a human rights convention having a very broad scope.

I would like to thank the Council of the Europe for taking this subject so

seriously and dealing with it so thoroughly.

This Campaign has raised awareness all over Europe and inspired us all.

I would also like to thank the Secretariat of the Committee for their invaluable contribution to the Campaign.





# LOCAL AND REGIONAL ACTION

TO PREVENT AND COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST  
WOMEN WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE  
COUNCIL OF EUROPE CAMPAIGN



## Speech: Ms Claudette Baldacchino

**Member of the  
Committee on  
Sustainable  
Development of the  
Congress of Local and  
Regional Authorities,  
Council of Europe**

**I**f we dream we will struggle to achieve a Europe with a more humane face: the need for gender budgeting

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, representative of the Maltese Government,

Allow me to call this conference a success story. So many examples, so many benchmarks of good practices have emerged. Yet, still, there is so much more to do by our generation for the present generation, because the **FUTURE IS NOW!** And that is why if the next generation is to embark on a vision of a social Europe in which gender equality becomes an integrated aspect of its values and social environment it is this present generation that must act to make it possible. And that is what we are doing today. We are paving the way for our generation and for future generations.

Local and regional authorities are agents for change because they have the knowledge about local and regional needs and are in pivotal positions to ensure that services provided are designed around the needs for the enhancement of the **WELL BEING** of their communities. Local and regional authorities are closest to the citizens and their communities and it is at grass-roots level that the principles of subsidiarity can be meaningfully applied.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour and a privilege for me to present to you the case of Malta, one of the smallest members of the Council of Europe, with regard to the elimination of violence against women. Local Councils in Malta are still in their infancy. Just 15 years of local government. We have made a great difference towards the well-being of our communities, but let me

put things into perspective. Issues such as domestic violence are not within the remit of Local Councils. Nevertheless, Local Councils in Malta can still be agents for a change in culture, mentality and traditions which are oppressive for our communities.

Together with the Commission Against Domestic Violence which is a national body appointed by the Government, the Local Councils Association which represents the 68 Local Councils in Malta launched, in January 2008, a **BUS SHELTER CAMPAIGN**. The Campaign was based on the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*. The campaign continued throughout the month of January throughout Malta and Gozo. Leaflets related to the Bus Shelter Campaign were sent to all Local Councils in Malta and Gozo to be distributed to the general public from their end.

The media was also targeted and we set the ball rolling to hit **BIG TIME**. Newspapers, radio and TV stations were all media that helped in passing on the message of **REACHING OUT**.

The **BUS SHELTER CAMPAIGN MADE AN IMPACT**.

Social workers working on domestic violence cases had commented that the Bus Shelter Campaign had an impact in that the victims who came to seek help from the service during the campaign stated that they could identify themselves with the poster and that this was the final impetus for seeking help.

According to the statistics there was a 2% increase when comparing January and February of 2008 with 2007. Although one cannot be 100% sure that they are directly correlated, the increase is still there.

The same was done with the Malta White Ribbon Campaign and the material was distributed to the general public from their end.

The Local Councils Association also took part in a walkathon to raise funds for the shelter GHABEX which caters for victims of domestic violence. Apart from the public in general, participants in this walk also included mayors, deputy mayors and councillors as well as chief executives of local councils. The GHABEX Centre was set up in 2000 to provide emergency shelter to women and children. Its main aim is to provide women and their children with a safe place away from direct personal harm. The shelter caters for around 100 victims at any one time. Statistics in Malta show that the domestic violence unit deals with an average of 1000 cases of domestic violence a year. It is to be noted that these figures are just those of victims that come forward for help and it is not known how many suffer in SILENCE. It is also to be noted that cases of domestic vi-

olence increase at Christmas, Easter and during the summer holidays due to more drinking and partying and closer contact between families.

Malta is no exception, domestic violence exists, and Local Councils have a role to play.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let us dream to have a Europe with a more humane face. We must dream because when we dream we strive to make that dream reality. What we must not do is to dream on. Local and regional authorities should be the first promoters of ZERO TOLERANCE towards violence within families including children and the elderly.

However FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES are essential and let us start to target and promote GENDER BUDGETING at local, regional and national level.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let us dream that REACHING OUT becomes a reality. We are living in an era of globalisation where innovation and technology are high on each and every one's agenda. The

media, radio, TV and newspapers are important – but what about the web – the INTERNET?

Let me appeal to those of you present here today: go and spread the word to the almost 200 000 local and regional authorities represented at the Congress of the Council of Europe to invest – use the technology – the web ... so many youths, and others spend hours and hours chatting, using blogs and many other platforms on the Internet.

Spread the word so that Local and Regional Authorities too make use of technology as a tool for eliminating violence. If each and every local and regional authority dedicates at least half an hour a week, allowing people to come forward towards the web, this would also mean reaching out in a different way. This is indeed a dream which can become reality – a dream for a struggle for a better EUROPE for a better WORLD.

Thank you. ★



## Speech: Ms Britt-Marie Lövgren

**Member of the  
Committee on Social  
Cohesion of the  
Congress of Local and  
Regional Authorities,  
Council of Europe**

**L**adies and Gentlemen!

My name is Britt-Marie Lövgren. I come from Umeå, a city with 112 000 inhabitants in the north of Sweden. In Umeå, just like in the whole of Europe, men's violence to women was for a very long period an underestimated problem but the issue is now on the political agenda and I hope it will remain so and that the debate will be intensified.

According to the World Health Organization at least one out of every three women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime – with the abuser usually someone known to her. Men's violence to women and children is a crime against human rights. It is an immense global social problem and the most extreme example of the prevailing imbalance of power in the relationship between women and men. Violence against women and their children is also a serious obstacle to equality between women and men.

To meet this problem, at least partly, in Umeå we have chosen a model which is based upon cooperation between authorities on different levels: It's a matter of bringing together health care experts from the regional level, social workers and volunteers from women's shelters from the local level. The national level brings knowledge from the university and experts from the judicial system and the police. This is a good way of gathering competence. It is, I think, extremely important to professionalize this kind of activity. This must not be subjected to thoughts, beliefs and guesswork. The problems must be apparent, must be visible.

One issue in Sweden is that so many different actors have their own

part of responsibility for this very major social problem. Every single actor is important and is doing a good job. But the lack of a comprehensive view has indeed been an obstacle. The natural conclusion was: cooperation between these actors in society is necessary. We call it the Centre against violence.

This model is unique for Sweden and probably also in most other countries. Basically, it is built up from an efficient reception service and a centre with all necessary competences – and different professional groups are available or can be made contact with through the centre. This means access to psychologists and other medical staff, to social workers, to sociologists, to policemen and – when needed – access to different representatives from other parts of the judicial system.

The woman that has been exposed to violence must feel that when she can come to the centre she will get the help that she and her children need. She must also feel that her initiative won't entail a big risk for them. Women and children only need to go to ONE place instead of going around all over the place. Women and children only need to give evidence ONCE, and it is all recorded and secured for future evidence, if necessary. This relieves them from having to relive the trauma every time they otherwise would have met new staff.

So, the centre has one part for children, one part for women and one part of the centre deals with men.

The most important issue as concerns the treatment of violent men is to ensure that they take responsibility for their actions. They have to understand that the entire responsibility for the violent actions lies with the person

who carries them out. These men must give up their excuses and explanations for their violence; stop understating its importance and stop blaming the woman, for example, by stating that she provoked him to violence. Men must realise the consequences of their violence and stop frightening and damaging their families.

Serious social problems – and men's violence to woman is for sure a serious problem – must be treated with knowledge and ability in order to be solved in a sensible and justified way. Resources are needed and resources must be disposed – and it is a political task to get this done. A priority.

A matter of vital importance is that of housing. It's not possible for the beaten woman to leave the violent man if this issue is not solved.

For many years now a women's shelter, financed by the local taxpayers, has been run in Umeå by volunteers who built up an organisation to offer women and their children a temporary address. Men are not welcome to this shelter, and the women's identity is protected. This has literally been a lifeline for many women. The women's shelter works together with the Centre against violence. The shelter also offers legal advice free of charge. This is made possible by volunteers, who are based at the Law school of Umeå university. There are

also groups where one can meet and share experience to move forward, seminars for awareness-raising. The shelter offers a safe and friendly environment to the children who often join their mothers to live there temporarily.

Also, one night per week, the shelter offers advice and self-help groups specifically for those who have been victimised by incest. The shelter is closed for other visitors that night to ensure that the women can meet without the fear of being further victimised by shame and guilt.

We have also started working on issues of preventive work amongst young men, in the schools of our city. The young can meet in groups and discuss and question the predominant view on manhood/macho ideals and what it is to be a man. In this way we shift focus to where real change is needed. Young men can through this work change their values and grow up to be non-violent men.

In a new study from the University of Umeå in Sweden, the cost for one individual was calculated. In this case a man physically abused his female partner over a period of 20 years. Costs were summarised at approximately 250 000 Euro.

Measures that limit men's violence to women are of course most important from a social and humanitarian point of view. But they are also profitable in an economic perspective.

There are certainly reasons to remember and mention this often.

I would like to end by saying: Zero tolerance of violence is the only alternative.

A good democracy is worth nothing less.

Thank you for listening!!!

*Note:*

In the year of 2006, the shelter had about 330 new women (who had not been in touch with the shelter earlier) who contacted the shelter for help in some way.

In the year 2007, the shelter had contact with 350 women, 33 of these women were not from Sweden. (271 of these were new contacts.) Statistics on people who lived in the shelter 2007 were a total of 32 women and children 22.

Support talks at the shelter: a total of 1096

Support talks on the phone: a total of 1291

Parts of this includes:

- ▶ 111 for abuse
- ▶ 7 death threats
- ▶ 10 rapes
- ▶ 20 psychological abuses

Also, many questions on legal advice – at least 80 calls on these matters.

82 times when the shelter volunteers offers help and joins the women to police, court, hospital etc., if they are afraid to go themselves. ★

# GOOD PRACTICES

TO PREVENT AND COMBAT VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN



## **Keynote speaker: Ms Carolyn Hannan**

**Director, Division for  
the Advancement of  
Women, Department  
of Economic and Social  
Affairs, United Nations**

**I** am honoured to participate in the Closing Conference for the Council of Europe's *Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*. I congratulate the Council of Europe on this important initiative which constitutes a significant good practice in itself.

The work of the United Nations on violence against women – in the context of the in-depth study on violence against women, and the General Assembly resolution 61/143 – has highlighted the same critical points raised during this conference yesterday and today. Violence against women is a complex and pervasive global phenomenon. It is now well-established that such violence stems from historically unequal power relations between men and women and pervasive discrimination against women both in the private and public spheres. Violence against women occurs in all countries of the world, in different settings, and women are exposed to forms of violence across their life cycle: beginning from before birth to old age. Although data availability is poor and uneven, it is estimated that, on average, one in three women is subject to violence at some point in her lifetime.

Violence against women is a violation of women's human rights with far-reaching consequences for the victims, their children and communities, and for society as a whole. Women who experience violence suffer a range of health problems. Their ability to earn a living and to participate in public life is diminished, and their access to, or ability to get or further their education, is compromised.

The direct and indirect costs of violence against women to society as a whole include lowered economic pro-

duction, reduced capital formation, resources required for programmes for victims/survivors of violence, as well as costs associated with social instability through inter-generational transmission of violence.

Violence against women undermines the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, including those in the areas of poverty eradication, education, child health, maternal mortality, HIV/AIDS and overall sustainable development.

The topic for this morning's session is good practices to prevent and combat violence against women. As part of the Campaign, Council of Europe member States were urged to make significant progress in the areas of legal and policy measures, support and protection for victims, data collection, and awareness-raising. They were encouraged to collect and disseminate good practices in the areas of prevention, protection and prosecution.

The four areas of action align closely with the categories of promising practices identified in the 2006 in-depth study on all forms of violence against women of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (A/61/122/Add. 1 and Corr. 1): law; service provision; and prevention. The study also highlighted the urgent need for data collection on violence against women. I would therefore like to share some of the guiding principles of good practices elaborated in the Study, as well as some of the Division for the Advancement of Women's ongoing work in this area.

The Secretary-General's study noted that good or promising practices have been developed by many States to meet their human rights ob-

ligations to address violence against women. The most promising practices in all areas involve a clear demonstration of political commitment to eliminate violence against women, as evidenced by statements by high-level government officials, backed by action and the commitment of resources by the State. In addition, promising practices involve women fully and to use their experiences of violence – including the complexities that arise from multiple discrimination – as the starting point for developing laws, policies and programmes, awareness-raising, education and outreach efforts, and data collection.

There are some generic aspects of good or promising practices that can be extracted from a variety of experiences around the world. Common principles of such practices include: clear laws that make violence illegal; targeted policies, protocols and procedures to support implementation of these laws; strong enforcement mechanisms; effective and well-trained personnel; the involvement of multiple sectors; and close collaboration with local women's groups, civil society organizations, academics and professionals. These elements of good practice were elaborated at an expert group meeting convened by the Division in 2005, as part of the preparatory process for the Secretary-General's study. The report of the meeting, which is available on the Division's website, provides examples of such good practices.

Collaboration and coordination between Governments, NGOs and civil society organizations are vital in the development of effective practices to eliminate violence against women. Examples include alliances and coalitions between Government and NGOs that draw on the experience and expertise of the most active and informed partners – women's groups and networks – in designing and implementing programmes. Coordination and networking between State sectors, such as the justice system and the health, education and labour sectors, is widely seen as good practice. The formation of strategic coalitions and alliances between groups working

on violence against women and those working on other issues, such as HIV/AIDS, women's economic empowerment and other aspects of social justice, is also good practice.

The work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women – in monitoring implementation of the Convention in the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women (CEDAW) with regard to violence against women, as well as under the Optional Protocol – enhances State accountability for the promotion and protection of women's human rights, including their right to be free from violence. The Committee's recommendations to States in concluding observations, synthesize the standards for compliance that constitute the elements of good practice. The Committee expects that States parties:

- ▶ Address all forms of violence against women as a form of discrimination against women that seriously inhibits women's ability to enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedoms on the basis of equality with men and constitutes a violation of their human rights.

The Committee also expects that States parties:

- ▶ Address all forms of violence against women in a comprehensive and holistic manner, including through a range of critical actions: enactment and enforcement of laws criminalizing such violence; reform of discriminatory laws that increase women's vulnerability to violence; gender-sensitivity training for parliamentarians, legislators, the judiciary, law enforcement personnel and health service providers; improvement of women's access to the justice system including through legal aid; establishment and proper funding and monitoring of services and shelters for victims; and implementation of awareness raising campaigns and public education programmes to change attitudes.

The Committee further expects that States parties:

- ▶ Enhance the knowledge base through: systematic data collection and research on all forms of violence against women, including on the root causes of such violence to strengthen capacity for preventing it; assessment of trends; and monitoring of the impact of programmes and policies established to address violence against women, including evaluation research to determine good practice. The Committee draws attention to the need for addressing all forms of violence and for targeted support to certain groups of women and the elimination of their vulnerability to violence.

Discussion of good or promising practices in tackling violence against women must always bear in mind that responses emerge in particular contexts and circumstances, often building on and learning from what has been tried before. As experience grows, existing practices may be eclipsed by innovations and new insights that offer even more promise in efforts to prevent and redress violence against women. Opportunities for exchanging and sharing experiences between different stakeholders within countries, across regions and at global level are essential for building a virtuous cycle of learning, innovation and improvements.

Last month, the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, convened another meeting of experts on good practices in legislation on violence against women, to analyze different legislative approaches; assess lessons learned in regard to laws and legislative reforms on violence against women; and identify effective approaches and recommended strategies for legislation. The experts developed guidelines and a model framework for legislation on violence against women. The outcome of the expert group meeting, which is expected to become available later this summer, will also contribute good practices for the Secretary-General's database on violence against

women, which is currently under development.

The availability of accurate and comprehensive data has been acknowledged as crucial for guiding legislative and policy reforms; ensuring adequate provision of targeted and effective services; monitoring trends and progress in addressing and eliminating violence against women; and assessing the impact of measures taken. Based on work done during the preparatory phase of the Secretary – General's Study, in October 2007 the Division convened an expert group meeting on indicators to measure violence against women, in cooperation with the United Nations Statistics Division and the Economic Commission for Europe, and in collaboration with the four other United Nations regional commissions. The meeting proposed four prevalence indicators for use at the international level. It emphasized the role of national statistical offices in collecting data and building global-level indicators on violence against women. This work will be taken forward over the coming year by both the United Nations Statistical Commission and Commission on the Status of Women.

On 25 February 2008, the Secretary-General of the United Nations announced his global campaign to end violence against women and girls. This campaign, which will run from 2008 until 2015, the target date for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, provides opportu-

nity for a range of stakeholders to work together to stop violence against women and girls. A high-level event will be convened in 2010. The Secretary-General's campaign is focused on three key areas – significantly enhanced global advocacy, strengthened efforts and partnerships at the national and regional levels, and United Nations leadership by example. The Secretary-General announced his intention to continue to work closely with women's groups and networks. He will form a global network of male leaders to assist in mobilizing men and boys in the struggle to end violence against women. The secretary-General noted that the media have a critical role to play in efforts to end violence against women. The United Nations is currently developing an Action Plan and campaign materials. In this context, the experience of the Council of Europe in its campaign over the past 20 months serves as an important good practice example and can provide guidance for the work at global level. Similarly to the approach in the Council of Europe, a Steering Group has been established to guide the development of the campaign.

The Council's campaign has galvanized awareness of the global nature of the pandemic of violence against women and girls; strengthened political commitment for action; demonstrated the impact of such violence on the ability of women and girls to enjoy their human rights. It has united a range of stakeholders to take action.

While work on violence against women has gained momentum, it nevertheless persists everywhere. At this closing conference, which everyone is in agreement is only the end of the beginning of the efforts to end violence against women, it is important to identify and creatively build on the gains made, scale up efforts and ensure sustained positive impact on the lives of women and girls.

It is positive that one of the recommendations being discussed in the Council of Europe today is a convention on violence against women. I believe that, in keeping with the global focus on all forms of violence against women in the United Nations – in the on-going work of the General Assembly, the in-depth study of the UN Secretary-General and the campaign of the Secretary-General – the focus of the convention in the Council of Europe should not be restricted to some forms of violence but should cover violence against women and girls in all its forms.

Identifying and broadly disseminating good and promising practices is one important element of scaling up and strengthening work on eliminating all forms of violence against women. I look forward to the presentations of concrete examples and the discussion to follow today, as well as to continuing close cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe on this critical issue.

Thank you. ★

## Speech: Ms Karin Nordmeyer

### Representative of the Conference of INGOs enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe

**M**adam Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great honour for me to act as a panelist in the Closing Conference of the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence* and at present to represent the Conference of INGOs: the 400 international non-governmental organisations enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe.

The Conference of INGOs, one of the Council of Europe's four pillars, is composed of a wide range of different types of INGOs: from "service-provider" NGOs "advocacy-groups" and various other types of organised CSOs. It varies from fully funded INGOs to non-financed small INGOs. This in fact provides a wide range of high professional expertise and contributes to all areas of the work of the Council of Europe.

The Conference of INGOs took part in the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence* mostly with different awareness-raising activities about violence against women, including domestic violence: with well attended conferences, seminars and workshops around Council of Europe member States. As well we have been active in drawing the attention of many decision makers to this issue. The Conference of INGOs has stated clearly that domestic violence is no longer to be acknowledged as a private matter but a serious human rights violation and a crime.

The Conference of INGOs in their own capacity was not alone involved in the Campaign – many INGOs were active in lobbying their respective governments to set up and implement

effective legal measures to combat violence against women. NGOs especially pointed out the fact that the lack of implementation of legal instruments helps perpetrators not to be prosecuted.

Special attention was given to the increase of domestic violence and other forms of violence in conflict and post-conflict situations. NGOs from the Balkans have specifically reported that these various forms of violence appear to be related to the heavy international presence in that region. They asked the Conference of INGOs for their support in the process of implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.

INGOs also have been active at local level in the context of their daily work to support and protect victims, to assist in providing services. They told us stories about the lives of victims of violence who are not "poor weak women" but who somehow were able to survive under very difficult circumstances.

The publicity material of the Campaign was excellent. The posters, flyers and bookmarks were not only very helpful and used extensively by the INGOs but written in plain language so as to appeal directly to the local people.

Looking at the goals of the Conference of INGOs pointed out at the Launching Conference in 2006, we today see the significant progress made by the participants of the Campaign:

Firstly Council of Europe member States show to us the clear political will to protect women from gender-based violence, and secondly we see that national action plans to combat and prevent violence against women



are in place in nearly all member States.

There is still a huge need to increase the number of safe shelters. Many women, especially in remote areas, do not have any chance to “escape” from their perpetrators. This has a strong influence on the number of complaints and cases reported to the police. If women do not have the chance to find a safe place to live they will not risk speaking about their situation.

The Conference of INGOs also noticed inadequate funding for NGOs as the main obstacle in service providing matters.

This problem may be addressed in Parliaments and with Finance Committees when comparing the enormous costs violence against women creates in our societies. Concrete data available to show clearly the situation

in facts and figures can be helpful to support the case.

The Conference of INGOs especially welcomes the new initiative in the framework of the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic violence* which looks deeply into the role of men in combating violence against women – it reminds men of their responsibilities to stop violence against women and it helps promote empathy in men. In that regard the real challenge for the future will be a fundamental change in mind-sets and attitudes. We need non-violent men as role models and are aware that many decision makers are men. It is a fact that men are real in the position to change male attitudes.

Media could assist tremendously in changing images and gender stereotyping in the investigative media and

we need to urge media to follow ethical norms and stop.

I will end by saying that as a future action of the Council of Europe the Conference of INGOs will support the preparation of the first European human rights treaty to prevent and combat violence against women. The treaty will include an effective and independent monitoring mechanism.

The Conference of INGOs, especially the Gender Equality Grouping, will contribute to such a treaty from the beginning of the elaboration process.

To make a difference in the lives of many women in Europe we definitely need such a legally binding European convention to prevent and combat violence against women. ★

## Speech: Ms Gita Sahgal

**Head of Gender Unit,  
Amnesty International**

Amnesty International congratulates the Council of Europe on the *Campaign to combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*. As many speakers stressed yesterday, this Closing Conference is the only the end of the beginning.

Violence against women in the family is the silent scream, which too often, remains unheard. Through your Campaign, you have acknowledged that scream and begun to find ways hear both the pain of the victims and the experiences of the survivors and advocates who are working to end it.

The four pillars of this Campaign, its regional and local, as well as inter-governmental components; and its openness to partnering with civil society organizations, serve as a model for such work. On behalf of my colleague Jill Heine and myself, I would like to say how honoured Amnesty International has been to have worked on this campaign with you as we developed our own campaign.

We were asked to identify good practices – but looking at the impressive materials that you have produced, you have already undertaken considerable work in this area. And you have begun to address underlying inequalities while promoting and fulfilling human rights.

Amnesty International believes that that this work will be consolidated through a comprehensive human rights treaty on the rights of women and girls to be free from all forms of gender-based violence.

Amnesty International's work has shown that it is important to identify locations of violence since domestic violence is often reinforced by violence in the community and by the

state. Our research has thrown up numerous, troubling examples of a cultural tolerance for violence among police, prosecutors and Judges. States have the duty to respect human rights themselves and to be diligent in holding the perpetrators accountable whether they are state or non-state agents.

That is why a treaty must reiterate the view of the Committee of Ministers in its Recommendation Rec (2002) 5 that gender-based violence must be handled in an integrated manner, whether it is police rape, marital rape, sexual harassment in the workplace or the slave like conditions endured by many migrant workers. Our research on European countries has thrown up examples of all these violations. Amnesty International agrees with the recommendations of the Task Force, which has emphasized a comprehensive approach.

So called 'honour killings', forced marriage and female genital mutilation, should also be situated within a broader spectrum of gender-based violence, as Amnesty International has done when discussing these issues in reports. Particular forms of gender-based violence have come to light because of the courage and determination of women human rights defenders, some of whom are themselves at risk. Only a few years ago, these issues were not recognized as violations.

That is why it is essential that governments work with advocates in Europe and abroad, who already have suggestions for prevention, prosecution and protection. Many advocates who already do cross-border work have developed civil protection measures such as using writs of habeas corpus in order to rescue women who

have been abducted, even when they have been taken abroad.

If specific issues are considered of high importance, then they should be used to illustrate the kinds of violations that would fall within the scope of a future Convention rather than creating a closed list which would limit its application.

Solutions adopted by governments should not themselves be discriminatory. For instance, policies that appear to serve an agenda that limits immigration rather than protecting the human rights of women, may prevent those most in need from gaining access to their rights.

Women without secure citizenship status are among the most vulnerable to abuse. That is why Amnesty International recently launched a report on the issue of domestic violence survivors who are destitute and cannot access a place in a refuge because they have no recourse to public funds.

One of the best ways to enhance good practice is to create good processes by which advocates and survivors can talk to each other and governments can talk to both. A treaty monitoring body would provide such a forum.

Coalitions to end violence have produced excellent information on which governments can make evidence-based decisions. As mentioned yesterday, in one state, a Coalition produced a 'Map of Gaps' which showed that there is still much to do to

make emergency services available and accessible across the country.

Amnesty International activists in several countries, asked their local governments – in municipalities across the country – what provisions they had made for women facing violence. They found that there were marked differences in provision from one municipality to another. These findings helped focus government attention and political will on emergency and other services.

In many parts of Europe, funding for services provided by voluntary organizations falls desperately short of requirements. Yet many of these services are examples of excellent practice and good value for money.

As mentioned yesterday, surveys on funding for women's rights have pointed to two worrying trends. These have also been reported to Amnesty International by our contacts and partners in women's rights organizations. One is that organizations offering direct services are often struggling to find funding as money shifts elsewhere – possibly to educational and prevention measures. The other is that some direct services such as refuges, are having to apply for funds to provide resources for trafficked women rather than for women fleeing domestic violence.

Yet violence remains one of the drivers of migration. As you are all well aware, work to protect women from being trafficked and work to end

domestic violence should support and reinforce each other rather than one kind of funding being traded against another.

Women should not have conditional access to services depending on whether they cooperate with the police and prosecution or not.

It is essential that long term solutions are found to housing shortages. Some states have created policies which give women access to housing in the public sector. There are also programs which build affordable housing with public and private sector finance. These are issues which the Council of Europe could usefully explore. Cultural events such as your photo – exhibition, help to raise awareness. Amnesty International has held interactive art events asking the public to imagine a world without violence against women.

I ask you to imagine a world where the night holds no terror. A world where women walk freely, where no man thinks he owns a woman and can force his will on her, a world where your house is not burned down, where people do not risk their lives to creep across borders in the dark, where the engine of migration is hope not fear, where children do not endure unimaginable brutalities. Imagine that peaceful night – and renew your commitment to struggle for it in every waking day. ★



**EFFECTIVE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF  
NATIONAL MEASURES**

TO PREVENT AND COMBAT VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN



## **Speech: Ms Violeta Murauskaite**

**Secretary of the  
Ministry of Social  
Security and Labour,  
Lithuania**

**M**r/Madam Chair, Ladies and gentlemen, Dear colleagues,

First of all, on behalf of the Republic of Lithuania let me express our gratitude for this significant event.

We have seen many efforts and some progress in increasing global awareness and advocacy as well as the development of standards and norms to address the issue of violence against women. However, regrettably, despite the efforts, this problem still prevails in all its forms. The effective fight requires concrete actions from both national and international actors. Therefore we very much support all international and regional efforts aimed at preventing and responding to this serious violation. In this regard let me express our appreciation to the Council of Europe for the initiative taken in November 2006 in Madrid to start a Europe-wide campaign on combating violence against women.

Today I am happy to be here and to have an opportunity to evaluate our achievements, to share best practices and to discuss future perspectives. In this context, let me present the Lithuanian experience in the fight against gender-based violence.

As a result of commitments taken at the Madrid conference, in December 2006 the Government of Lithuania approved the National Strategy for Combating Violence Against Women and the Action Plan for years 2006-2008.

The main priority of our National Action Plan is effective prevention of violence against women, especially domestic violence. Our actions during the Campaign were first and foremost aimed at public awareness raising, trainings of the police, social workers, teachers, mass media and other

groups, dissemination of information in all Lithuanian municipalities.

One of the moving moments of our national Campaign to Combat Violence against Women was to break down the public silence. Furthermore, we intended to change stereotypes - to stop blaming women because of provoking conflicts which end with the violence in the family and to change thinking that nothing could be done to take off the offender from the family, but not the victim.

A particularly effective element of our Campaign was organising the buses that were circulating in the cities and municipalities with social advertising posters encouraging women to speak up and seek assistance.

Another priority of the National Action Plan is provision of a complex set of assistance to victims of domestic violence in all the country. We develop the possibilities of psychological, legal, social, medical assistance, including free phone consultations accessible 24 hours a day. During the last 2 years the number of shelters for victims of domestic violence women has increased up to 29.

As another positive example of national initiatives combating domestic violence, the recent amendments of the Civil Code deserve to be mentioned. Just a few days ago (3 June) our Parliament adopted amendments of the Code establishing a clear legal requirement that in case of domestic violence the offender, but not the victim, should leave home and family. This was a result of a long and fruitful cooperation between women NGOs and state institutions.

In our view relevant attention is also to be paid to the work with perpetrators. We have already made the first

steps towards development of Men's crisis centres and application of alternative sanctions to violent men. In Lithuania the first Men's Crisis Centre was established in 2001. However, work with perpetrators remains quite a new subject in Lithuania and much has still to be done. This year we supported six new initiatives aimed at establishing more crisis centres for men. Methodology for work with perpetrators is also under preparation.

I feel that much is being done, nevertheless, much remains to be done.

Mr./Madam Chair, Dear colleagues,

Violence against women, including domestic violence, is undoubtedly a violation of human rights. The phenomenon of violence costs money and leaves scars in the souls and lives of many people. The wound made by the word or a hint or a kick by your husband or friend, your Mammy or Dad, or another person, whom you know or don't know, could make a deep damage that could not heal all your life.

Today we are closing the Campaign against violence. I believe that today's event is not the end of our fight. It is rather the continuation of our work with new strength and better understanding among all forces combating this violation: governments, civil society and international bodies. This must be our long-term goal that both women and men should feel safe and respected in the societies and at home.

Thank you. ★



## Speech: Ms Sadagat Gahramanova

Deputy Chair of the  
State Committee for  
Family, Women and  
Children's Issues,  
Azerbaijan

**D**ear Mr./Ms. Chair, dear participants, ladies and gentlemen,

I am very honored to greet you today on behalf of the Azerbaijani Government at the Closing Conference of the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*. I would like to note that the Campaign played a great role for the reinforcement of Governments' efforts for the elimination of violence against women in member States and the development of new strategies. Our joint activity and recommendations of the Council of Europe helped to better understand the core reasons of the violence against women, including domestic violence, regardless of religion, culture and race.

We also consider that violence against women, including domestic violence is a serious violation of women's rights and fundamental freedoms. In May of the current year we celebrated the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the concession of rights for women along with men. 90 years passed and during this period a range of statutory acts were adopted on promotion of human rights and namely on the rights of women. But today we are still discussing violence against women and try to find out the solution of this problem. Azerbaijan actively supports this Campaign and considers that civil initiative and support of the Government can improve the situation in this sphere and make our societies healthier. The Recommendations of the Council of Europe in the relevant sphere were very important for us on the assumption of that the Council of Europe is the organization playing a significant role in the sphere of the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including

women's rights and the fight against violence.

Within the framework of the Campaign, wide-range awareness-raising activities have been conducted in all regions of the country among different strata of the population. As a result of these activities the number of cases of violence against women has relatively been reduced.

The success of the Campaign in Azerbaijan is ensured by national plans of action, coordination of activities between the governmental and non-governmental sector, legislative amendments, close cooperation with parliament and establishment of necessary infrastructure.

One of the important steps in this direction is Draft Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Fight against domestic violence" that was prepared by local and international experts and received approbation of all governmental and non-governmental organizations. The Draft Law has been submitted to the National parliament for consideration. We believe that the adoption of the Law will provide the effective implementation of national actions on continuation of the Campaign.

A special budget has been allocated for further activities on prevention of violence against women and assistance to the victims of violence.

At present, the projects aimed at prevention of violence are being implemented in Azerbaijan by governmental, non-governmental and international organizations as well. The Project "XXI century without violence against women" that is actively supported by the first lady of the country, Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva and implemented by the State Committee for Family, Women and Children

Affairs and the United Nations Population Fund includes mechanisms and actions on prevention and elimination of cases of violence. Those are:

- ▶ Enlightenment of population;
- ▶ Establishment of rehabilitation centers and hotlines for victims of violence;
- ▶ Collection and analysis of data;
- ▶ Training of children and youth to non-violent behavior;
- ▶ Training of experts in law-enforcement bodies and institutions of justice as well as employees of healthcare system;
- ▶ Penitentiary institutions – work with women and men prisoners.

The Project will cover all regions of the country.

Great consideration is given to increasing the status of women and their professional skills. Talking about violence against women in Azerbaijan it is worth mentioning the existence of refugees and IDPs in the country, half of which are women and children. This is the main risk zone where women and children experienced hard psychological and social stress. In spite of it, Government of Azerbaijan takes all necessary steps for reintegration of this group to the society and improvement of their welfare.

In conclusion, I join in all suggestions and proposals of representatives of member states making statements before me. I would like to call upon all members to further cooperate in the relevant sphere. We believe that this

work must not be limited with two years. Taking into consideration the seriousness and importance of the problem, it would be advisable to continue our activities within the Council of Europe and I support the initiative on elaboration of the European Convention on protection of women against violence that would give a new pulse to the activities on elimination of violence against women not only in the family, but in all spheres of life.

Taking this opportunity, I once again express my gratitude to the Council of Europe for its support to member States in the field of fight against domestic violence against women.

Thank you for your attention. ★

## Speech: Mr Miguel Lorente Acosta

### Government Delegate for Gender-based Violence, Ministry for Gender Equality, Spain

**E**ffective implementation of national measures to prevent and combat violence against women – The experience of Spain

#### STOP VAW

- ▶ Prevention
- ▶ Masculinity and men
- ▶ Improve professionals answer
- ▶ Protection and integral attention to women
- ▶ Knowledge management

#### VAW: SOME FEATURES

- ▶ **Extension:** 15-71 % (OMS, april 2008)
- ▶ **Social sensibility:** 2,8% (Spanish social barometer, 2000-2007)
- ▶ **Reported cases:** 10% (Macroencuesta, 2006)
- ▶ **Data from VAW:** 10% (Macroencuesta, 2006):
  - Health
  - Psychology
  - Police
  - Judicial
  - Social

=>Fragmented, dispersed, unconnected

Unknowledge vs misknowledge

#### Perception

- ▶ Prevention
- ▶ Masculinity and men
- ▶ Improve professionals' answer
- ▶ Protection and integral attention to women
- ▶ Knowledge management

=> Stop violence against women

#### Knowledge management

To get knowledge from:

- ▶ Experience
- ▶ Good practices
- ▶ Individuals

To share this knowledge to benefit:

- ▶ Individuals
- ▶ Group (society)

Digital Platform: National Unit for analysis and knowledge management  
=> knowledge

Unknowledge and misknowledge vs knowledge. ★

## Speech: Mr Duško Minovski

### State Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

Distinguished Madams and Sirs,

Allow me to present the overall national response for prevention and combating **domestic violence** in the Republic of Macedonia. Due to the prevalence and magnitude of domestic violence as a severe form of violence against women, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia has paid and initiated systematic and serious steps in elimination of this form of violence. Therefore, this presentation will be addressing only the measures that the Government of Macedonia together with all relevant stakeholders has undertaken so far, as well as the measures foreseen within the first strategic document – National strategy for protection from domestic violence.

So let me give you a short preview of the national legislation which regulates domestic violence in the country.

The normative regulation of the relations associated with domestic violence in our country is of a recent date – 2004. The established system of protection incorporates three main components: criminal system of protection, temporary protection measures and protection measures. With this, the Republic of Macedonia has joined the countries which are providing parallel protection in the civil and criminal justice system.

A characteristic of the existing legal regulations, both in civil and criminal legislation, is their harmonisation with the international standards and recommendations in this sphere, which require introduction of comprehensive legal regulations, that is, incrimination of domestic violence and introduction of temporary protection measures of the domestic violence victims. Furthermore, it is important to stress that these two

regulations (civil and criminal) are connected, so that they are complementary and mutually non-excluding.

In our country, domestic violence is incriminated within the existing criminal offenses in criminal law, without making a distinction of domestic violence as a separate criminal offense. The aim of this solution is to treat domestic violence as all other criminal offenses due to its seriousness. Furthermore, our legislation is prescribing more severe punishments for the offenders – which separate domestic violence as a specific crime. Moreover, the criminal offenses related to domestic violence in the Criminal Code are not part of the criminal offenses against marriage and family.

The main aim of the temporary measures of protection is to provide direct and fast help to the victim. These measures are declared by the basic civil courts in urgent procedure. However, as it apparently happens, their application considerably depends on the escalation, or scope and type of violence. Thus, in a case of a serious injury or a series of incidents of high intensity, the combination of temporary measures and criminal prosecution may yield the most efficient results. Part of the temporary measures of protection are forbidding certain behavior of the abuser, such as restraint order for the home, school, working place or any other designated place regularly visited by another family member; prohibition to harass, disturb, telephone, contact or communicate in any other way etc. Parts of them are implying certain behavior, such as: sustenance of the family, mandatory attendance to appropriate counseling etc.

It's important to stress that the incrimination of domestic violence does not exclude the use of the temporary protection measures and vice versa.

The reforms in the legislation addressing family in 2004, entailed introduction of a number of individual protection measures. In this sense, the Center for Social Work and the civil society organisations that work on eradicating and preventing domestic violence were given a legal opportunity to build the necessary co-ordinative protection system.

The basic aim of the protection measures is provision of security and protection of the victim from any future violence, that is, help to overcome the consequences of the suffered violence, and creation of the necessary conditions for her reintegration into the social environment. These measures normally imply provision of security and protection not only to the victim, but also to the other family members that are secondary victims. In this regard the victim is provided with psychosocial support, health care, provision of every type of legal aid and representation etc. I like to emphasize also the provision of the necessary accommodation of the victim of domestic violence in duration of at least 6 months, with a possibility for its extension for additional 6 months is an important step toward prompt and effective protection of the victims.

I think that all of you will agree that the national legislation – although it created a solid basis for the eradication and prevention of domestic violence, was only a starting point for building the needed multi co-ordinated approach of all relevant stakeholders. Therefore, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and other relevant stakeholders over the last four years have undertaken necessary interventions in the following areas:

- ▶ Unification of civil and criminal system of protection;
- ▶ Establishing of the needed system of protection;
- ▶ Education of professional structures;
- ▶ Prevention.

### **Unification of civil and criminal system of protection**

Aiming at promotion of the legislation within the civil and criminal justice system and improving the response of the relevant institutions, the following results were achieved:

- ▶ Specified procedure for proposing, issuing and continuation of the temporary protective measures, as well as procedure for implementation and reporting on the temporary protective measures;
- ▶ Bylaw "*Procedure for means of implementation and monitoring of the temporary protective measures*," enacted by Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
- ▶ Practical Guide for Civil Justice Actors published;
- ▶ Developed common understanding for provision of evidence to support domestic violence cases among representatives of the Ministry of Interior (inspectors in charge to prosecute this time of crime), investigative judges, public prosecutors, and criminal judges;
- ▶ Exhausted list of evidence needed to support all forms of domestic violence cases;
- ▶ Amendments to the Criminal Code developed.

### **System of protection**

The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and other relevant actors were actively involved in the establishment of the system of protection for the victims of domestic violence. The focus in this regard was put on the effective operationalisation of the measures of protection elaborated above.

In this direction the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy has established six national shelters for victims of domestic violence, covering the whole territory of the Republic of Macedonia. The Ministry has established and supported the operation of a national SOS line within the existing citizen organisation.

Beside the establishment of the shelters and national SOS line, on a policy level, the following results were achieved:

- ▶ Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs enacted bylaw "Procedure for means of implementation and monitoring of the measures for protection of family and victims of domestic violence undertaken by Centers for social welfare";
- ▶ Institutional forms and standards of operation which are allowing provision of services were developed;
- ▶ Bylaw for standards for establishment and operation of social protection institution "Center for domestic violence victims" was developed and enacted;
- ▶ Amendments of Family Code and Law for Social Protection were prepared and are in the process of adoption.

### **Education of professional structures**

Recognising the need for education of professional structures which are dealing with cases of domestic violence, our Ministry has developed a multidisciplinary training concept for work with victims of domestic violence and established pool of trainers from different institutions such as: Centers for social welfare, police, health institutions and civil society organisation providers of direct services for the victims. Prior to this, two cycles of trainings and TOT for work with victims were organised (2004-2006). After the pool of trainers was established, the concept was applied and promoted through multidisciplinary trainings in seven cities in the country at the end of 2007.

### **Organisation of activities on the field of prevention**

In 2005 the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy has launched a national campaign for the promotion of legal solutions regarding domestic violence.

Beside this, preventive activities have included participation in the 16 Days of UN Activism for the Fight against Violence against Women, as well as other media, education and information campaigns, including a documentary about domestic violence victims, "Living in the Shadow". Most campaigns are organised by civil

society, although National Campaigns, with the cooperation of the Ministry of interior, Ministry of Health and MLSP, were conducted in 2005 and 2006.

It's important to stress that the above elaborated processes were initiated and carried out in close cooperation with relevant organisations from the civil sector in our country such as the Association for emancipation, solidarity and equality of women of Republic of Macedonia – ESE.

And at the end, I would like to inform you that the Government of the Republic of Macedonia this April – as a result of the efficient co-operation of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society – has adopted a National strategy for protection from domestic violence for the period 2008-2011.

The national strategy for protection against domestic violence presents the basic strategic document in Macedonia, which aims at identifying the strategic directions and priorities for the elimination and preven-

tion of this type of violence and identification of the responsible institutions for their implementation.

The general goals of the Strategy for protection against domestic violence is decreasing domestic violence and improvement of the quality for protection with systematic measures in the areas/domains of prevention, intervention, education, follow-up and inter sector coordination.

The specific goals or priority areas incorporated within the strategy are the following:

- ▶ Establishment and development of multi-sectoral coordinative approach for protection of victims of domestic violence
- ▶ Prevention of the domestic violence issues through the educational process;
- ▶ Continues education of professional structures;
- ▶ Improvement of the system for protection (measures of protection) of the victims of domestic violence;

- ▶ Improvement of the civil protection system (temporary measures of protection);
- ▶ Improvement of the criminal protection system;
- ▶ Introducing a system of documenting and reporting on cases on DV by all the relevant institutions;
- ▶ Establishment of mechanisms for implementation of the strategy.

Each of these goals comprehends series of individual results which need to be achieved through the organisation of concrete activities by relevant and responsible actors (ministries, institutions, civil society organisations).

Furthermore, I would like to inform you that we have already started with the implementation of the National strategy with joint efforts of governmental and civil sector. In the same direction, a joint proposal for implementation of the strategy was recently submitted to the UN trust fund. ★

## Speech: Ms Snežana Lakićević Stojačić

State Secretary of the  
Ministry of Labour and  
Social Policy, Serbia

In Serbia, the *Council of Europe Campaign to combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence* was launched with delay given that the country was at that time undergoing a period of extraordinary elections, political campaigns, focused to other direction, as well as of extended negotiations among political parties for formation of the coalition government. The fact that the state budget could not be adopted until the new Cabinet was established was an obstacle resulting in the availability of only minimum funds, which was not a sound basis for the implementation of the Campaign.

Nevertheless, certain activities have been carried out.

NGOs contributed significantly to the Campaign as they have been considerably involved in the development of local communities coordinated action model to prevent and curb domestic violence (NGO Autonomous Women's Centre). Also, the Campaign covered the representation of the Austrian model of protection of women from violence.

In the Parliament, the activities have been related mostly to activities of the Gender Equality Committee, which held planning and measures implementation sessions. On the World Day Against Violence Against Women, a Round Table meeting was held, moderated by the Speaker, with attendance of officials and civil servants of relevant ministries, experts and committee members.

In January 2006, a process of drafting a National Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality Policy and Improvement of the Position of Women, in line with the United Nations Beijing Platform for Action. The plan covers the following areas:

Women and Decision-Making; Women and Economics; Women and Health; Women and Education; Violence Against Women, and Women and the Media. Alongside the Gender Equality Council and various experts, the drafting of this Document gathered 33 women's NGOs. The Plan is foreseen for the period 2008-2010. As it was not adopted by the Government, it has still been under the process of adoption, and expected to be endorsed immediately after the completion of the parliamentary elections (May 2008) and formation of the new Cabinet.

When new Government was set up in 2007, a new Department was introduced into the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, alongside the already existing Gender Equality Council, as a body within the Government. In October 2007, when Serbia held the presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, a major National Conference was organised (within the *Campaign to combat Violence Against Women, including Domestic Violence*) on the fight against violence against women, which discussed the need to promote a legislative framework of protection of women from violence, necessity to strengthen the capacities of anti-violation protection system for women, research and improvement of the quality of documentation and statistics, and the requirement to raise public awareness on violence against women. This Conference was opened by the President of Serbia, Boris Tadić, and special envoy, Head of Council of Europe's Office in Belgrade, Denis Huber. On the opening day of the Conference extensive advertisement was published in the national daily newspapers with the motto of the

Council of Europe, warning of dangers of violence against women and the necessity to combat it. The

Conclusions of the Conference serve as a basis for further actions within all

relevant bodies, mechanisms and systems. ★



## Speech: Mr Tigran Sahakyan

**Adviser to the Minister  
of Labour and Social  
Affairs, Armenia**

The modern concept of human development, new types and standards of civil society are impossible without woman's freedom. A huge obstacle on that way is violence against women. Essentially in such cases women lose their freedom. They occupy a dependent position in economic, political and social life. As a result not only the woman suffers but also the family, the society and the state.

There are numerous documents adopted by the Council of Europe, the United Nations Organization, however the problem still remains unsolved.

Only two centuries ago violence against women was considered a very private problem. Nowadays it is on the agenda of almost every government.

During recent years the Republic of Armenia made steps in the direction of ensuring gender equality, eliciting violence, which are in compliance with the policy of democratic, social and legal state.

Our country ratified a number of conventions, and one of the priorities of our activities is ensuring implementation of their provisions.

Today the government is implementing the national program on improving the status of women and enhancing their role in society. It is aimed at ensuring rights and fundamental freedoms of women, eliciting the phenomenon of violence through introduction of mechanisms of awareness, prevention, rehabilitation and reformation of the legislation. In 2005, a law on "Social Assistance" was adopted, which establishes the forms, period and mechanisms of assistance for the victims of violence.

In 2007, a gender expert examination of the legislation was carried out, on the basis of which an interdepart-

mental group is drafting a law "On Domestic Violence".

At present the draft of the law "Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities" is in the process of development.

In 2006-2007 on the initiative of the RA Ministry of Labour and Social Issues with participation of the State Statistical Center and NGOs 3 surveys were carried out which reflect the problem of violence against women in the family and at work.

This year the UN project "Against Gender Violence in Southern Caucasus" was launched, which will contribute to the situational analysis, improvement of legislation, collection of statistical data, enhancement of participatory process, increasing public awareness.

As far as protection and assistance of victims of violence is concerned, it must be noted that Armenia still has many unsolved problems in this field. At present with the NGO support 3 "hot lines" and a critical center are functioning in Armenia. From 2009 a project on services for victims of violence will be financed with the budget funds.

Each year campaigns on "16 days of awareness against gender violence" are carried out by international organizations, NGOs and state structures on the national, regional and community levels.

The 2007 Council of Europe campaign on "Combating Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence" was a great incentive for the activities held in the Republic. The Government of the Republic of Armenia joined the campaign.

In the framework of the Campaign, research on finding out the phenomenon of violence against women (including domestic violence) and a

needs assessment was carried out on the whole territory of the Republic, the results of which provide an opportunity to design state policy and targeted projects on regions.

The action was quite effective, and the evidence of it is the final conference on the campaign, held in Yerevan on May 20, 2008, which had a wide public review.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Issues took responsibility for coordinating activities of financing organizations, state and non-governmental structures of the sphere with the view of transition to more targeted activities.

Preventing violations of person's rights in the society, eliciting the phenomenon of violence is possible only due to joint efforts. The objective of every country is to unite resources, present will and readiness.

The Republic of Armenia is on the way of achieving those objectives.

After acquisition of freedom the first strategic program, which indicated the main directions of the state policy regarding women was the RA Government "National Program on Improving the Status of Women and Enhancing their Role in the Society in the Republic of Armenia for 1998-2000", which was followed by 2004-2010 National Program.

Those two documents are aimed at ensuring women's rights, fundamental freedoms and guarantees of their participation in the state governing bodies and protection of maternity and child health in the Republic of Armenia. In the above-mentioned strategic programs the problem of combating violence against women in the country is presented in separate chapters, mentioning issues of legislative

reforms, introduction of corresponding assistance and prevention mechanisms. As far as national legislation on violence is concerned, it should be noted that this field is regulated by a number of legal acts, in particular by the RA Criminal Code, Civil Code, Family Code and the RA Law "About Social Assistance", which specifies types, duration and mechanisms of assistance provided by the State to victims of violence.

In 2008 activities aimed at social protection of victims of violence and prevention of violence were added to the regulatory issues of the RA Ministry of Labour and Social Issues.

The results of the gender expert examination of legislature implemented by the Ministry in 2007 showed a need for a new Law "About Domestic Violence", which is being drafted now.

As far as protection and support of victims of violence goes, we can say that Armenia has much to do in this field. However from 2001 activities initiated by NGOs have been carried out and developed until now, though not with the whole scale.

At present there are 3 "hot lines" and one Family Critical Center in Armenia.

In respect to the collection of statistical data on victims of violence we should note the following:

By 2006 different NGOs have carried out surveys on eliciting the phenomenon of violence against women in the country.

In 2006-2007 on the initiative of the RA Ministry of Labour and Social Issues with participation of the State Statistical Center and NGOs 3 surveys were carried out addressing violence against women in the family and in the work place. They provide an opportu-

nity to carry out legislative reforms and in the coming years we will not only have a new law but also mechanisms for collection of state statistic data.

The RA Government has joined the Council of Europe Campaign "Stop Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence" with a slogan "Do not keep silence, do not tolerate, respond and join the campaign".

Responsible persons for the campaign have designed a corresponding Action Plan, which includes a number of measures: meetings with representatives from international and NGO sectors, interested organizations, collection, translation, multiplication dissemination of materials, publication, dissemination of brochures, posters and their placement on corresponding web sites.

In the whole territory of the country a survey on need assessment has been carried out, its results are being analyzed. It will further contribute to the development of the state policy and implementation of addressed projects.

Round table discussions with participation of interested bodies, specialists, representatives from NGOs, mass media were held in the capital and in all regions of Armenia. During those meetings participants were provided with corresponding informative and methodological materials.

We are also planning to organize an international conference.

A number of international organizations have supported the campaign: UNDP, UNFPA, OSCE, USAID and Armenian Branch of Support fund of Open Society Institute.

Thank you for your attention. ★

## Speech: Mr José Mendes-Bota

### Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe

**D**ear Deputy Secretary General, Dear Ministers, Dear colleagues, Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to address again this audience in my capacity as Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Equal Opportunities of Women and Men. I would like to convey the apologies of my colleague Ms Curdova, who had to stay in the Czech Parliament for an important vote.

In my presentation of yesterday, I underlined the need to adopt minimum standards in each member State. However, adopting laws is not sufficient to ensure that implementing measures are carried out. Parliamentarians have an essential role to ensure that the measures contained in the adopted laws are in effect implemented. This is the message I would like to convey in this panel.

First, I would like to, once again, recall that the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men shares the view that a European Framework Convention on violence against women and an independent monitoring mechanism would help to check the effective implementation of national measures.

Second, I would like to emphasise that effective measures can only be implemented at national level if all actors work together to ensure that standards are adopted and implemented: I am here referring to the parliament when laws need to be adopted, to the government when action plans need to be drafted and resources mobilised, to the local and regional authorities and NGOs when services need to be provided at the local level. This requires a cross-cutting approach. Synergies are necessary, synergies are vital to identify and lift the obstacles that make good

measures badly or insufficiently implemented. At the parliamentary level, I would strongly encourage all national parliaments to set up monitoring mechanisms which should include representatives of the relevant parliamentary committees (social affairs, equality, legal affairs, the budget, etc.) and to carry out an annual evaluation of implementation of measures enacted by Parliament. Such an evaluation should include hearings with representatives from the government, the local and regional authorities and the NGOs to exchange points of views.

We have been calling on the Council of Europe on several occasions these past two days to draft a European Framework Convention to combat violence against women, including domestic violence. However, if we want a good convention to be drafted, we need to ensure that the parliaments and the governments are both aware of the issues at stake. Violence against women first needs to be recognised as a gender specific issue. This is the strong message we need to send out today. Second, combating violence against women is a transversal issue. Not only ministers for equality, but also the ministers of justice, home affairs, and finance need to be involved in this action.

*In the meantime, what could the Parliamentary Assembly propose to monitor the effective implementation of measures at national level ?*

Let me put forward some ideas proposed by the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men:

► At the Final conference of the parliamentary dimension of the Campaign that was held in Vienna, the contact parliamentarians and par-

ticipants invited the parliaments of the member states to continue the work of adopting and/or supervising the application of laws to combat domestic violence against women or, at least, to adopt and/or supervise the application of the seven key measures set out by the Parliamentary Assembly in Resolution 1582 (2007). As I mentioned yesterday, many countries do not meet all criteria and we need to keep the pressure up.

- ▶ Second, the network of contact parliamentarians, which proved to be a very useful tool during the Campaign, should continue to work, connected with the national delegations to the Parliamentary Assembly. I believe that this network is a useful platform to exchange information, best practices and better solve the problems that are common to many national parliaments. We need to adopt parliamentary strategies to reinforce our capacity to change laws and change mentalities.
- ▶ Thirdly, the Council of Europe should be instrumental in ensuring that countries with less developed legislation can benefit from the countries with a more advanced legislation. With the financial support of member states, the Council of Europe could launch gender-specific assistance and co-operation programmes.
- ▶ Finally, we need more co-operation between the different actors and agencies at national level. We will do our utmost to encourage national parliaments to foster such co-operation at national level. This is the key to success.

▶ Let me conclude my statement by stressing the fact that the Parliamentary Assembly will adopt in autumn a report on the final evaluation of the Campaign. The Assembly will address a recommendation to the Committee of Ministers with concrete proposals, and I do hope that the Committee of Ministers will act on them.

I wish that the parliamentarians across Europe will remain united, because women deserve to live free from violence. I wish that the Council of Europe will be able to provide a framework that ensures more protection, more prosecution, more prevention. An effective implementation of measures, both at national and European level, is needed to break the cycle of violence which is still hurting and killing too many women.

Now, that I have finished my job, let me do my duty. Starting with some quotations.

First: "When a woman puts herself in disorder, and does not fulfill her duties at home, she must be submitted to slavery, including, at the service of her husband's creditor's. The husband is allowed to get married again."

Who wrote this? King Hamurabi, in his famous Code, XVII century before Jesus Christ.

Second: "A woman must adore her man, as God he is. Every morning, for nine consecutive times, she must go down on her knees, and ask- My Lord, what do you wish me to do?"

Who wrote this? Zaratustra, the Persian philosopher, VII Century before Jesus Christ.

Third: "Nature only makes women, when it cannot make men. A woman is, in fact, an inferior man."

Who wrote this? Aristoteles, the Greek philosopher, IV Century before Jesus Christ.

And I could continue quoting many other statements about women's inferior condition, including in some religious sacred texts.

But, as we are in France, I will end by quoting "Le Ménagier de Paris", the famous treaty on moral conduct, XIV Century after Jesus Christ: "*When a man is contradicted in public by a woman, he is entitled to beat her, and break her nose so that, disfigured, she will be ashamed to show her face*"

Why am I bringing this up? To explain why only 28% of the Spanish population is aware of violence against women, as Mr. Miguel Lorente informed us. And why our society appears so insensitive to the continuing violations of women's rights.

This is something which has deep roots. For centuries there has been an unbalanced power relationship between men and women. This explains why the public news channel in Portugal, showed a piece about Eastern European prostitutes coming to the Euro Cup that is taking place in Switzerland and Austria, as if this were the most natural thing in the world.

This reminds us about the Athens Olympic Games, Germany Fifa Cup, and many other big sporting events, where thousands of women and girls are forced into prostitution managed by international mafias.

That is also violence against women, and a shame on our society. And that is why this battle cannot end here, this day, this week, this year!

Thank you for your attention. ★

**CLOSING  
OF THE CONFERENCE**



## Closing speech: Ms Maud De Boer-Buquicchio

Deputy Secretary  
General, Council of  
Europe

I am very pleased to be here today for the Closing Conference of the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*. This Campaign, which was launched at a high-level Conference in Madrid in 2006, has been one of the most successful Council of Europe Campaigns in recent years.

Let me give you some reasons why.

First, the powerful visual image has reached nearly all Council of Europe member states. The posters have been seen in many cities across Europe and the TV spot, which has won two international prizes, was aired in more than 50 national and European television channels. Our Campaign has attracted much media attention which has ensured the multiplication of the work initiated by the Council of Europe. And the successful publicity work carried out within the Campaign has been vital in raising awareness about violence against women all over Europe.

I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank all those in the Council of Europe Secretariat who were involved in the preparation and implementation of the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*, for their excellent work.

Second, as we have heard today, the Campaign has been successful in bringing about change in all member states which participated in it.

Whenever and wherever I bring up the issue, I only meet with strong support. There is no longer denial at political level, or resistance to act.

Third, the Council of Europe Campaign has led to important improvements in protecting victims and pre-

venting violence against women all across Europe.

The Campaign's infrastructure with its three dimensions, intergovernmental, parliamentary and local and regional has united decision-makers at all levels to co-operate to fight this violation of human rights. The important work of national focal points and high-level officials, contact parliamentarians and active local and regional decision-makers, in co-operation with women's non-governmental organisations, has been crucial to the success of this Campaign. I should like to thank all of you for your contribution.

This Closing Conference is not only the end of the Campaign, but it also concludes the work of the Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence, which was set up by the Secretary General in early 2006. During its two year mandate, the Task Force has convened seven meetings, prepared the blueprint for the Campaign and assessed international and national measures to combat violence against women. Its task has not been easy.

Yesterday, the Chair of the Task Force, Ms Hilary Fisher, and the Vice-Chair, Ms Dubravka Šimonović presented the conclusions of their work. These included recommendations for future action.

Significant progress to protect victims and to prevent violence against women has been made in many of our member states during the Campaign. Legislation has improved as member states have introduced protection orders and taken initiatives to criminalise domestic violence. Unfortunately, support for victims and their protection, are still widely lack-

ing. The road towards the development of a co-ordinated and well-resourced service infrastructure for women victims of violence is still long. In most member states, data collection on victims of violence against women is not systematic. This data would be readily available in various administrative recording systems such as the health, judiciary and social welfare system. The most frequently collected type of data comes from police statistics.

During these two days we have also had the possibility to hear about national examples of various national measures and achievements from the representatives of the member states. In addition, we have heard examples of national campaigns which have aimed for a stronger implementation of the 2002 Council of Europe Recommendation on the protection of women against violence.

As regards future action, I firmly believe that the Council of Europe should embark in the negotiation of a comprehensive convention to combat violence against women. This convention should cover the famous “3Ps”, that is the prevention of violence, the protection of victims and the prosecution of perpetrators. The key issue will be the scope of application of this convention. Personally, I believe that the convention should cover more than domestic violence, but equally be very clear as to which form of gender-based violence it wants to cover. We should avoid generalities, and vague calls for action. What we need are clear, precise and comprehensive provisions. I hope the Governments will find a consensus to act on this and to act quickly. Victims cannot wait.

During the course of this Campaign, I have said many times that “women suffering from violence are

not only victims of abuse, they are also victims of indifference and victims of neglect”. Eighteen months on, it would have been ludicrous to claim that we have put an end to abuse, but I believe that we have put a dent into indifference and neglect. Even more importantly, the Campaign has shown us what needs to be done and how to protect women from violence. There is only one way forward: we have a political and moral obligation to act. As Minister Sabuni and the Secretary General said yesterday, the end of this Campaign should be the beginning of even more resolute action against violence against women.

At the end of the day, it all boils down to an issue of equality. Gender-based violence is the ugliest and most destructive consequence of gender-based discrimination. Let’s – together – put an end to it! ★



## Allocution de clôture: M<sup>me</sup> Maud de Boer- Buquicchio

Secrétaire Générale  
Adjointe

Je suis très heureuse d'être aujourd'hui parmi vous pour la Conférence de clôture de la *Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique*. Cette campagne, qui a été lancée lors d'une conférence de haut niveau à Madrid en 2006, s'est révélée l'une des campagnes les plus réussies organisées par le Conseil de l'Europe au cours des dernières années.

J'aimerais vous présenter quelques raisons de ce succès.

Tout d'abord, l'image dramatique illustrant la campagne a été diffusée dans presque tous les Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe. Les affiches ont été vues dans de nombreuses villes d'Europe et le spot télévisé, qui a remporté deux prix internationaux, a été diffusé par plus de 50 chaînes nationales et européennes. Notre campagne a attiré largement l'attention des médias, qui ont fait office de multiplicateurs pour les initiatives lancées par le Conseil de l'Europe. Et les actions publicitaires efficaces entreprises dans le cadre de la campagne ont joué un rôle essentiel pour la sensibilisation du public à la violence à l'égard des femmes dans toute l'Europe.

J'aimerais donc profiter de cette occasion pour remercier de leur excellent travail tous les membres du Secrétariat du Conseil de l'Europe qui étaient impliqués dans la préparation et la mise en œuvre de la Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique.

Deuxièmement, comme nous l'avons entendu aujourd'hui, la campagne a réussi à provoquer des changements dans tous les Etats membres qui y ont participé.

Toutes les fois et partout où j'aborde cette question, je rencontre un soutien fort et unanime. Il n'y a plus de déni de ce phénomène au niveau politique, ni de réticence à agir.

Troisièmement, la campagne du Conseil de l'Europe a été à l'origine de progrès importants dans toute l'Europe concernant la protection des victimes et la prévention de la violence à l'égard des femmes.

L'infrastructure de la campagne avec ses trois dimensions – intergouvernementale, parlementaire, locale et régionale – a permis à des décideurs à tous les niveaux de coopérer pour lutter contre cette violation des droits de l'homme. Le travail important des points de contact et des hauts-fonctionnaires nationaux, des parlementaires de référence et des décideurs locaux et régionaux concernés par ces questions, en collaboration avec les ONG féminines, a été essentiel pour la réussite de la campagne. Je tiens à vous remercier tous pour votre contribution.

La conférence de clôture n'est pas seulement la fin de la campagne, elle conclut également les travaux de la Task Force du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique, qui avait été mise sur pied par le Secrétaire Général au début de 2006. Pendant son mandat de deux ans, la Task Force a organisé sept réunions, préparé les documents de la campagne et évalué les mesures internationales et nationales prises pour lutter contre la violence à l'égard des femmes. Sa tâche n'a pas été facile.

Hier, Mme Hilary Fisher, présidente de la Task Force, et Mme Du-bravka Šimonović, vice-présidente, ont présenté les conclusions de leur

travail, qui comprenaient des recommandations pour de futures actions.

Au cours de la campagne, des progrès importants ont été accomplis dans nombre de nos Etats membres en ce qui concerne la protection des victimes et la prévention de la violence à l'égard des femmes. La législation a été améliorée, certains Etats membres ont introduit des ordonnances de protection et pris des mesures pour ériger les violences au sein de la famille en infractions pénales. Malheureusement, l'aide et la protection accordées aux victimes demeurent largement insuffisantes. Il reste encore beaucoup à faire avant la mise en place d'une infrastructure de services coordonnés et disposant de ressources suffisantes pour les femmes victimes de violences.

Dans la plupart des Etats membres, la collecte de données sur les femmes victimes de violences n'est pas systématique. Ces données seraient faciles à trouver dans les registres et dossiers de certaines administrations, comme

celles de la santé, de la justice et de la protection sociale. Les données recueillies proviennent le plus souvent des statistiques de la police.

Au cours de ces deux jours, nous avons aussi pu entendre les représentants des Etats membres présenter des exemples des différentes mesures prises et réalisations effectuées au niveau national. En outre, nous avons eu connaissance de campagnes nationales qui visaient une mise en œuvre renforcée de la recommandation du Conseil de l'Europe de 2002 sur la protection des femmes contre la violence.

En ce qui concerne les actions futures, la Task Force du Conseil de l'Europe a identifié clairement le besoin d'une convention pour lutter contre la violence intrafamiliale afin de donner un caractère contraignant aux mesures contenues dans la recommandation du Conseil de l'Europe de 2002. J'espère que les gouvernements parviendront à un accord pour mettre en œuvre rapidement cette recom-

mandation. Les victimes ne peuvent pas attendre.

Pendant toute la campagne, j'ai répété de nombreuses fois que les femmes qui souffrent de violences ne sont pas seulement victimes d'abus, mais qu'elles sont aussi victimes de l'indifférence et de l'oubli. Il serait ridicule de prétendre qu'en dix huit mois nous avons mis fin à ces abus, mais je crois que nous avons commencé à ébranler le mur de l'indifférence et de l'oubli. Plus important encore, la campagne nous a montré ce qu'il faut faire et comment protéger les femmes de la violence. Il n'y a qu'une façon de procéder, nous avons une obligation politique et morale d'agir.

En fin de compte, tout cela nous ramène à la question de l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes. De toutes les conséquences de la discrimination sexuelle, la violence fondée sur le sexe est la plus abominable et celle qui cause le plus de dégâts. ★

# PARTICIPANTS

**List of participants/Liste des participant(e)s**

## Member states of the Council of Europe/États membres du Conseil de l'Europe

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Mr Koço Barka  
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*[Apologised/Excusé]*

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*[Apologised/Excusé]*

Mr Tigran Sahakyan  
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### Austria/Autriche

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Federal Minister for Women, Media and Civil Service, Vienna

Ms Silvia Thaller  
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*[Apologised/Excusée]*

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*[Apologised/Excusée]*

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**Committee of Ministers/Comité  
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**Parliamentary Assembly of the  
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Assemblée parlementaire du  
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Mr Paul Wille

Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly

Mr José Mendes-Bota

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*Slovenia*

Ms Danica Ferlan

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**Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (Congress) / Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux du Conseil de l'Europe (Congrès)**

Mr Valerio Prignachi

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Commissaire aux Droits de l'Homme**

Mr Thomas Hammarberg

Commissioner for Human Rights  
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**Council of Europe Committees/Comités du Conseil de l'Europe**

**Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence/Task Force pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique (EG-TFV)**

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Ms Rosa Logar

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**Steering Committee for Equality between Women and Men (CDEG)/  
Comité directeur pour l'Égalité entre les femmes et les hommes (CDEG)**

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gender issues, State Committee for Family  
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*[Apologies/Excusée]*

**States having Observer Status with the Council of Europe/États ayant le statut d'observateur auprès du Conseil de l'Europe**

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**Japan/Japon**

**Mexico/Mexique**

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**United States of America/  
Etats-Unis d'Amérique**

**International organisations and institutions/Organisations et institutions internationales**

**Commission of the European Communities/Commission des Communautés européennes**

*[Apologised/Excusé]*

**Council of the European Union/  
Conseil de l'Union européenne**

*[Apologised/Excusée]*

**European Parliament/**

**Parlement européen**

**Organisation for Security and co-  
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Organisation pour la sécurité et la  
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**World Health Organisation (WHO)/Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS)**

**Nordic Council of Ministers/  
Conseil nordique des Ministres**

Ms Carita Peltonen  
Senior Adviser, Copenhagen, Denmark

**European Youth Forum/  
Forum européen de la Jeunesse**  
*[Apologised/Excusé]*

## United Nations/Nations Unies

**United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)/Bureau du Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux Droits de l'Homme (HCDH)**

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**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)/Commission économique des Nations Unies pour l'Europe**

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*[Apologised/Excusée]*

**United Nations International research and training institute for the advancement of women (INSTRAW)/Institut international de recherche et de formation pour la promotion de la femme (INSTRAW)**

**United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) / Le Fonds de développement des Nations Unies pour la femme (UNIFEM)**

**United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)/Fonds des Nations Unies pour la population (UNFPA)**

**United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)/Division des Nations Unies pour l'avancement de la femme (DAW)**

Ms Carolyn Hannan  
Director, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, New York

**United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)/Commission de la condition de la femme des Nations Unies (CCF)**

## Conference of INGOs enjoying Participatory Status with the Council of Europe / Conférence des OING dotées du statut participatif auprès du Conseil de l'Europe

**Gender Equality Grouping/  
Regroupement « égalité-parité  
hommes-femmes »**

Ms Karin Nordmeyer  
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Ms Anje Wiersinga  
Vice-President of the Gender Equality Grouping, Representative of the International Alliance of Women (IAW), Zeist, The Netherlands

## NGOs active in preventing and combating domestic violence/ONG qui travaillent afin de prévenir et combattre la violence domestique

**Amnesty International**

Ms Gita Sahgal  
Head of Gender Unit, London, United Kingdom

Ms Jill Heine  
Legal Adviser, Peter Benenson House, London, United Kingdom

**Animus Association Foundation**

Ms Radostina Belcheva  
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**Autonomous Women's House,  
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Ms Neva Tolle  
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Ms Sanja Bezbradica  
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**European Womens Lobby/  
Lobby européen des femmes**  
*[Apologised/Excusé]*

**Souyz crisis centres**

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**“Women against Violence Europe”,  
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Mr Terry Davis

### Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe/Secrétaire Générale Adjointe du Conseil de l'Europe

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M. Guillaume Parent

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*Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (Congress)/Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux du Conseil de l'Europe (Congrès)*

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*Office of the Commissioner of Human Rights/Bureau du Commissaire aux droits de l'Homme*

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M. André Bernhard

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Ms Raphaëlla Mannheim

Ms Barbara Holm

Ms Elisabetta Von Hoening

Ms Anna Greppi

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**BLUEPRINT  
OF THE COUNCIL  
OF EUROPE CAMPAIGN**



# Blueprint of the Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence

prepared by the Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including domestic violence (EG-TFV) and adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 June 2006

## Outline of the Campaign

### I. Introduction

Violence against women is the result of an imbalance of power between women and men, leading to serious discrimination against women, both within society and the family. Violence in the family or domestic unit occurs in every Council of Europe member state despite positive developments in law, policies and practices. Violence against women is a violation of human rights, the very nature of which deprives women of their ability to enjoy fundamental freedoms. It often leaves women vulnerable to further abuse and is a major obstacle to overcoming inequality between women and men in society. Violence against women is a detriment to peace, security and democracy in Europe.

States have a responsibility to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all their citizens. Therefore, states must ensure that they have taken all reasonable measures to prevent, investigate and punish all forms of violence against women, including in the family and domestic unit. Violence against women is a complex issue, particularly when it occurs within the home, which can be compounded by the response of authorities to whom women turn for help.

While the specific approaches of governments to violence against women will vary depending on particular country situations, all require a multifaceted response. This needs to address both the root causes of violence and its consequences, as well as challenge attitudes and behaviours and extend to legal, policy and practical measures.

A recent Stocktaking Study prepared by the Council of Europe<sup>1</sup> pointed out that not all member states provide adequate resources for victims of violence, collect national data on the number of cases of violence occurring in the family or domestic unit that come to the attention of the police and/or health services and track neither referral nor judicial outcomes in a systematic process. Thus, there is no baseline from which the effectiveness of legal and other measures for combating violence against women can be measured.

To this end, member states of the Council of Europe are urged to prioritise preventing and combating violence against women, including violence in the family or domestic unit and are encouraged to become actively involved in implementing this Council of Europe Campaign that calls for strong commitment at the national level.

### II. Definition

In accordance with the definition contained in the appendix to *Recommendation Rec (2002) 5 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the protection of women against violence*, the term “violence against women” is to be understood as any act of gender-based violence, which 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 private life. This includes:

1. Stocktaking Study on the measures and actions taken in the Council of Europe member states to combat violence against women, 2006.

“violence occurring in the family or domestic unit”, including, *inter alia*, physical and mental aggression, emotional and psychological abuse, rape and sexual abuse, incest, rape between spouses, regular or occasional partners and cohabitants, crimes committed in the name of honour, female genital and sexual mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, such as forced marriages.

This definition is used for the purpose of the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*.

### III. Main theme

Bearing in mind the Action Plan adopted during the 3rd Summit of the Council of Europe and Recommendation Rec (2002) 5 of the Committee of Ministers, the theme of the Campaign will be: *Prevent and combat violence against women occurring in the family or domestic unit (domestic violence)*.

### IV. Aims of the Campaign

The aims of the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence* are:

- ▶ to raise awareness across the Council of Europe member states that violence against women is a human rights violation and encourage every citizen to challenge it;
- ▶ to urge states to demonstrate political will by providing adequate resources to deliver concrete results in ending violence against women;
- ▶ to promote the implementation of effective measures for preventing and combating violence against women, through legislation and national action plans for the implementation of Recommendation Rec (2002) 5 of the Committee of Ministers and to regularly monitor the progress achieved;

### V. Objectives

Protection of women against violence in the family or domestic unit should be placed at the highest political level in all Council of Europe member states, and should conse-

quently be allocated the necessary financial resources. All member states should be committed to preventing this type of violence, to protect its victims and provide adequate services, legal redress and compensation as well as to prosecute, punish and provide treatment to the perpetrators. In addition, member states should raise awareness of this problem with all available means, in particular through the media and educational curricula.

Patriarchal culture is an important force in legitimising power inequalities between women and men. It is therefore essential that member states address discriminatory traditions and attitudes as well as gender stereotypes as root causes of violence against women.

Low income, unemployment and poverty are major risk factors for violence against women in the family or domestic unit. Therefore, states should take effective measures to promote economic independence of women.

Member states should commit themselves to elaborate and implement concrete and effective measures for preventing and combating violence against women as contained in Recommendation Rec (2002) 5 through legislation and national plans of action and, at the end of this Campaign, to report on progress achieved.

All measures contained in this Recommendation are equally important and should be fully implemented. Recognising the different stages of member states in implementing this Recommendation, member states are urged to make significant progress during the Campaign in the following areas:

#### a. Legal and policy measures

- ▶ review and amend, where necessary, national legislation in order to identify and fill gaps in the protection of women from all forms of violence occurring in the family or domestic unit, repeal laws that discriminate against women and criminalise any act of such violence against women including rape between spouses;

- ▶ establish effective legal protection, including protection orders, for all women victims of violence, and regularly monitor and evaluate its effective implementation;
- ▶ ensure that immigration laws and administrative procedures do not prevent women from leaving violent relationships due to fear of deportation, loss of legal status or revoked custody over the children;
- ▶ identify and put in place measures to increase the rate of reporting, prosecution and sanctions of perpetrators of violence against women occurring in the family or domestic unit;
- ▶ provide victims with legal aid, psycho-social support and guarantee protection for witnesses;
- ▶ develop risk assessment and safety planning as standard procedure in crime prevention to prevent violence against women, and ensure special attention is given to high risk victims who face repeated incidents of violence.

#### b. Support and protection for victims

- ▶ provide the necessary resources for free 24-hour helplines staffed by adequately trained personnel and other emergency services for all women victims of violence;
- ▶ provide adequate support and advocacy services, that meet quality standards, to all victims of violence and empower women and ensure that services are accessible to all women, including socially excluded women and recent migrants, refugees, women from ethnic minority groups and those with disabilities;
- ▶ provide resources for an adequate number of safe shelters for women victims of violence who have to flee from violence (one place in a women’s shelter per 7 500 inhabitants) as well as for women’s advocacy services and crisis centres in all regions of the country and provide these services with the necessary human and financial resources;
- ▶ develop a co-ordinated, well-resourced multidisciplinary specialist sector to increase capacity building across core national and

local agencies such as health, justice, social welfare and education, in order to provide women victims of violence with immediate, comprehensive and coordinated support;

- ▶ organise integrated training on the continuum of violence against women for professionals who deal with women victims of violence occurring in the family or domestic unit (e.g. police, medical professionals, judicial officials, etc.);
- ▶ include the issue of violence against women as a violation of women's human rights and a public health issue in the education curricula of all studies and training for judicial and security personnel, health care professionals, social workers, teachers and others;
- ▶ encourage at all levels the work of NGOs involved in combating violence against women, and establish active co-operation with these NGOs, including appropriate logistic and financial support;
- ▶ provide financial support, housing, independent rights to residence as well as training and employment to women victims of violence to enable them to freely decide whether or not to leave their violent partner;
- ▶ encourage the establishment of nationally co-ordinated and locally based programmes for perpetrators. These programmes must have at their core the need for women's safety and be organised in close co-operation with services for women victims.

#### c. Data collection

- ▶ ensure the systematic collection of statistical data disaggregated by sex, by type of violence as well as by the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim in all fields. This collection should be carried out by national statistics offices or other bodies (e.g. national observatories on domestic violence);
- ▶ develop and use a methodology that allows for gender analysis and comparison with other member states of the Council of Europe;
- ▶ collect and disseminate good practices for preventing violence occur-

ring in the family or domestic unit, protecting its victims and prosecuting the perpetrators at national, regional and local level.

#### d. Awareness-raising

- ▶ publicly denounce violence against women occurring in the family or domestic unit as a violation of women's human rights and commit to taking action against it at the highest political level;
- ▶ raise awareness on violence against women occurring in the family or domestic unit using all available means, in particular through the media and educational curricula to challenge prevailing gender stereotypes, and discriminatory cultural norms and public opinion about its acceptability;
- ▶ encourage national and community leaders and opinion formers to publicly acknowledge the gravity of violence against women occurring in the family or domestic unit, to condemn its perpetration and the use of custom, tradition or religion to excuse it;
- ▶ translate, if they have not done so, into their national language(s) and disseminate Recommendation Rec (2002) 5 and its Explanatory Memorandum;
- ▶ support specific awareness raising initiatives aimed at men in order to mobilise them to take an active part in eliminating all forms of violence against women, including violence in the family or domestic unit.

## VI. Messages

### *Combating domestic violence calls for joint public action*

Violence against women occurring in the family or domestic unit (domestic violence) continues to be a serious problem that extends to all Council of Europe member states, regardless of culture, religion, times of peace, conflict or disaster. It takes on many forms and is too frequently tolerated. Therefore, urgent action is required by governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities and international governmental organisations as well as civil society to stop violence against

women occurring in the family or domestic unit.

### *Domestic violence is a human rights violation*

Violence against women occurring in the family or domestic unit should not be regarded as a private matter. Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. Therefore, states have the responsibility to act with due diligence to prevent this type of violence, to protect its victims, to award them compensation and to prosecute and punish the perpetrators. Consequently, states have an obligation to take all reasonable measures to ensure that women are not exposed to violence and provide protection for those at risk as well as redress for victims. Culture, custom, family or religion should never be used as an excuse for turning a blind eye to human rights violations against women in the home.

### *Domestic violence seriously injures women and damages the whole of society, including future generations*

Many women in many countries die as a result of violence occurring in the family or domestic unit. Furthermore, the physical and psychological health of the surviving victims is seriously affected. This type of violence also has serious consequences for the families as well as society as a whole and is often perpetuated from one generation to another. Violence against women, over and above the personal and social consequences, has a high economic cost (medical care, psychological treatment, absenteeism, less productivity at work etc.). Ending violence against women in the family or domestic unit is the responsibility of everyone. Being silent means complicity.

### *Domestic violence calls for men's active participation to combat violence against women*

During this campaign, active participation of men in activities aimed at combating violence against women should be encouraged. Men have the responsibility to stand up and challenge violence occurring in the family or domestic unit. To this end, they

have an important role to play and can bridge the gap to other men as well as encourage them to speak out against such violence.

### VII. Target groups

The Council of Europe will work with a variety of partners and target groups to deliver the *Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*. These include:

- ▶ Heads of State
- ▶ Heads of Government
- ▶ Ministers of national governments
- ▶ Presidents of parliaments
- ▶ Members of parliament
- ▶ Members of regional and local authorities
- ▶ International intergovernmental organisations
- ▶ International and regional women's and human rights non-governmental organisations
- ▶ National opinion formers
- ▶ Local community leaders
- ▶ Regional and national business leaders
- ▶ Law-enforcement officials
- ▶ Members of the judiciary

- ▶ Social and health-care workers and state-run social services organisations
- ▶ National women's NGOs providing support services to women
- ▶ Education professionals and groups
- ▶ Trade unions
- ▶ All women
- ▶ Women victims and survivors
- ▶ Men as agents of change
- ▶ Youth audience
- ▶ Youth workers

### VIII. Slogan

The slogan of the Council of Europe Campaign is "Stop domestic violence against women".

### IX. Duration

Preparations for the Council of Europe Campaign began at the beginning of 2006. A high-level conference to launch the Campaign, with participants from governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities, international intergovernmental organisations and NGOs was organised in the Spanish Senate in Madrid,

Spain, in November 2006 (around International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November and marking the beginning of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence). The Campaign will end in the first half of 2008.

### X. Division of responsibilities

The implementation of the Campaign is carried out involving the Committee of Ministers through the Directorate General of Human Rights – DG II (Equality Division) for the intergovernmental dimension of the Campaign, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe for the parliamentary dimension and the Congress of Regional and Local Authorities of the Council of Europe for the local and regional dimension. Furthermore, this Campaign is carried out in partnership with governments and parliaments of the member states, international intergovernmental organisations as well as NGOs involved in the protection of women against violence.

## Action to be carried out in the framework of the Council of Europe Campaign

The Council of Europe Campaign includes two implementation levels through which the Campaign is carried out. The first level includes activities directly carried out by the Council of Europe, reflecting its intergovernmental, parliamentary and local and regional dimensions. The second level consists of national campaigns and national activities carried out by the member states of the Council of Europe at national, local and regional level.

### I. Council of Europe activities

#### a. A launching conference

A high-level conference to launch the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence* with participants from governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities, international intergovernmental organisations and NGOs was organised

on 27 November 2006 in the Spanish Senate in Madrid, Spain.

*The Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence* had recommended that the launching conference of the Council of Europe Campaign be organised at the highest political level and with wide participation of NGOs working in this field.

#### b. Media and campaign activities

The launching Conference of the Campaign was given wide media coverage throughout Council of Europe member states.

#### c. Regional seminars

Five high-level seminars will be organised in the requesting Council of Europe member states highlighting the different objectives of the Campaign. Member states are encouraged to undertake this activity.

#### d. Activities to be carried out by the Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) and Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe will implement the parliamentary dimension of the Campaign. Similarly, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities will implement the local and regional dimension of the Campaign.

#### e. Setting up a special Campaign website

A special Web site devoted to the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence* was created at <http://www.coe.int/stopviolence/>, providing detailed information on the campaign and its activities. The Web site also provides information on national activities and campaigns and provides a link to national campaign websites. In addition, it serves as an interactive forum for



exchanging information and good practices.

*f. Dissemination of Campaign material for member states and Council of Europe Information and Field offices*

- ▶ Campaign material was distributed to participants at the Council of Europe's launching Conference and will be further distributed to participants at regional seminars as well as to the Council of Europe's Information and Field Offices.
- ▶ Campaign material will be distributed to NGOs and the general public by the Council of Europe Secretariat.

## II. Activities organised by the member states

### a. Setting up Focal Points

Each member state will appoint a high-level official and a focal point for the purpose of the Council of Europe Campaign as well as for national campaigns. The high-level official will champion the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*, with the support of a Focal Point. Focal Points should be supported by a national Task Force on violence against women occurring in the family or domestic unit which should include women's NGOs and others working to combat violence against women. The role of the national Task Force is to support the delivery of member states' national campaigns to combat violence against women, including violence in the family or domestic unit.

It should be advisable that this Focal Point appointed by national authorities would be a person holding responsibilities at national level in the field of combating violence against women. National Focal Points will contribute to the Council of Europe Campaign by providing information and making available national good practices to combat violence against women which will be published on the Council of Europe website. The

Council of Europe will encourage member states with experience and expertise in legislative, policy and other measures to share their knowledge with other member states to support the national campaigns.

Focal Points are encouraged to disseminate campaign material as widely as possible for all requesting actors at national level, in particular social and health care workers, the police, the judiciary, policy makers and NGOs working to combat violence against women.

Each member state will inform the Council of Europe Secretariat about the appointment of a national Focal Point. Subsequently, information concerning all 46 national Focal Points will be published on the Council of Europe's Web site.

### b. Campaign Action Plans

National Task Forces are encouraged to develop their own National Campaign Action Plan based on the Blueprint. The following steps should be included:

- ▶ Analysis of the country situation to identify success and gaps in combating violence against women.
- ▶ Collection and/or organisation of existing data to develop a baseline national information sheet.
- ▶ Define concrete activities based on the objectives in the Blueprint to fill the gaps.
- ▶ Earmark appropriate resources, identify time-frame, etc.
- ▶ Campaign Action Plans should be shared with the Council of Europe for information and exchange.

Member states are invited to submit to the Council of Europe Secretariat an interim report by 2 July 2007 and a final report on activities and concrete results of their national campaigns in 2008 for consideration by the Task Force. In accordance with its mandate, the Task Force will evaluate progress at national level and establish instruments for quantifying developments at pan-European level with a view to drawing up proposals for action.

### c. Key Opportunities for Campaigning

- ▶ Date: 8 March. Significance: International Women's Day

International Women's Day is a key opportunity to organise public events and carry out media work in partnership with women's organisations in the field of violence against women occurring in the family or domestic unit. All member states participating in the Council of Europe Campaign are invited to prioritise this type of violence as their theme for International Women's Day 2007 and 2008 and to promote the messages of the Campaign.

- ▶ Date: 15 May. Significance: International Day of the Family

International Day of the Family provides an important opportunity to highlight violence against women in the family or domestic unit. Member states are invited to organise public campaigning and media activities to speak out against such violence.

- ▶ Date: 25 November-10 December. Significance: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and the 16 Days of Activism campaign provide an opportunity for media action and campaigning. Member states participating in the Council of Europe campaign are invited to speak out publicly on violence against women occurring in the family or domestic unit and join women's non-governmental organisations and others at the national level that are participating in the 16 Days of Activism to campaign together on ending violence against women.

Member states are also invited to use key national dates to publicly highlight the Campaign and to issue joint statements during Committee of Ministers' meetings over the course of the Campaign.

## Campaign material

### *Printed material produced*

- ▶ posters
- ▶ factsheets
- ▶ bookmarks
- ▶ folders
- ▶ booklets
- ▶ stickers
- ▶ calendars

### *Audiovisual material to be produced subject to the availability of funds*

- ▶ television and radio spots
- ▶ public service announcements
- ▶ video packages
- ▶ photographic exhibition
- ▶ video

- ▶ web animation
- ▶ web viral

The Campaign material produced is available at the Council of Europe website devoted to the Campaign at <http://www.coe.int/stopviolence/>.

## Timetable

### *Year 2006*

- ▶ The blueprint for the *Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence* was finalised by the Task Force during its second meeting on 25-27 April and adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 June.
- ▶ The Launching conference took place in the Spanish Senate in Madrid, Spain, on 27 November.
- ▶ A special Council of Europe website devoted to the Campaign was set up at <http://www.coe.int/stopviolence/>.

- ▶ Council of Europe member states have been requested to appoint high-level officials and national focal points and to launch national campaigns as far as possible in 2006.

### *Year 2007*

- ▶ Regional seminars will be organised in the Council of Europe member states.
- ▶ National campaigns will continue to be carried out and launched by those member states which have not yet done so.

- ▶ Interim national reports on Campaign activities will be submitted to the Task Force for consideration.

### *Year 2008*

- ▶ Closing conference of the Campaign will be organised.
- ▶ Final national reports on Campaign activities will be submitted to the Task Force for consideration.
- ▶ Final activity report of the Task Force (including evaluation of the Council of Europe Campaign) will be adopted. ★

# Programme de la Campagne pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique

préparé par la Task Force pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique (EG-TFV) et adopté par le Comité des Ministres le 21 juin 2006

## Cadre général de la campagne

### I. Introduction

La violence à l'égard des femmes découle de rapports de forces inégaux entre femmes et hommes et aboutit à une grave discrimination envers le sexe féminin tant au sein de la société que de la famille. La violence au sein de la famille ou du foyer existe dans tous les États membres du Conseil de l'Europe, malgré les progrès intervenus en droit ainsi que dans les politiques et les pratiques. La violence à l'égard des femmes est une violation des droits de la personne humaine, dont la nature même prive les femmes de leur capacité de jouir des libertés fondamentales. Elle rend souvent les femmes plus vulnérables à de nouveaux sévices et fait sérieusement obstacle à la possibilité de surmonter les inégalités entre les hommes et les femmes dans la société. La violence à l'égard des femmes porte préjudice à la paix, à la sécurité et à la démocratie en Europe.

Il incombe aux États de respecter, de protéger et de réaliser les droits de la personne humaine de tous leurs citoyens. En conséquence, les États doivent veiller à prendre toutes les mesures raisonnables visant à prévenir, instruire et sanctionner toutes les formes de violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris au sein de la famille et du foyer. La violence à l'encontre des femmes, notamment lorsqu'elle s'exerce au sein du foyer, est un problème complexe, qui peut encore être aggravé par la réaction des autorités auxquelles les femmes demandent de l'aide.

Chaque gouvernement a une approche spécifique de la violence à l'égard des femmes en fonction de la

situation particulière de son pays, mais toutes les approches doivent comporter plusieurs aspects : il faut s'attaquer à la fois aux causes profondes de la violence et à ses conséquences, essayer de faire évoluer les mentalités et les comportements et prendre des mesures juridiques, politiques et pratiques.

Un bilan dressé récemment par le Conseil de l'Europe<sup>2</sup> montre que les États membres ne fournissent pas tous des ressources suffisantes pour les victimes de violences, ne recueillent pas tous des données nationales sur le nombre de cas de violence au sein de la famille ou du foyer signalés à la police et/ou aux services de santé et ne recherchent pas tous de façon systématique les résultats des renvois devant les tribunaux ni les décisions judiciaires rendues. L'on ne dispose donc pas d'une base de départ à partir de laquelle il serait possible de mesurer l'efficacité des mesures juridiques et autres prises pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes.

Les États membres du Conseil de l'Europe sont appelés à donner la priorité à la prévention et à la lutte contre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence au sein de la famille ou du foyer, et sont encouragés à participer activement à la mise en œuvre de la Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe qui demande un engagement fort au niveau national.

### II. Définition

Conformément à la définition figurant dans l'annexe à la *Recommandation Rec (2002) 5 du Comité des Ministres aux États membres sur la*

2. Étude du bilan des mesures et actions prises pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes dans les États membres du Conseil de l'Europe, 2006.

*protection des femmes contre la violence*, le terme de « violence envers les femmes » désigne tout acte de violence fondé sur l'appartenance sexuelle qui entraîne ou est susceptible d'entraîner pour les femmes qui en sont la cible des dommages ou souffrances de nature physique, sexuelle ou psychologique, y compris la menace de se livrer à de tels actes, la contrainte, la privation arbitraire de liberté, que ce soit dans la vie publique ou dans la vie privée.

Cette définition s'applique, notamment, à :

« la violence perpétrée au sein de la famille ou du foyer », et notamment les agressions de nature physique ou psychique, les abus de nature émotive et psychologique, le viol et l'abus sexuel, l'inceste, le viol entre époux, partenaires habituels, partenaires occasionnels ou cohabitants, les crimes commis au nom de l'honneur, la mutilation d'organes génitaux ou sexuels féminins, ainsi que les autres pratiques traditionnelles préjudiciables aux femmes, telles que les mariages forcés.

Cette définition est utilisée aux fins de la *Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique*.

### III. Thème principal

Ayant à l'esprit le Plan d'action adopté lors du 3<sup>e</sup> Sommet du Conseil de l'Europe et la Recommandation Rec (2002) 5 du Comité des Ministres, la campagne aura pour thème : *Prévenir et combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes au sein de la famille ou du foyer (violence domestique)*.

### IV. Buts de la campagne

La *Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique*, a pour but de :

- ▶ sensibiliser l'opinion publique dans les États membres du Conseil de l'Europe au fait que la violence à l'égard des femmes est une violation des droits de la personne humaine et encourager tout citoyen à la combattre ;

- ▶ presser les gouvernements à manifester leur volonté politique en offrant les ressources nécessaires pour pouvoir présenter des progrès tangibles vers l'élimination de la violence à l'égard des femmes ;
- ▶ promouvoir l'application de mesures efficaces de prévention et de lutte contre la violence à l'égard des femmes au moyen de la législation et de plans d'action nationaux pour mettre en œuvre la Recommandation Rec (2002) 5 du Comité des Ministres et évaluer régulièrement les progrès accomplis.

### V. Objectifs

La protection des femmes contre la violence au sein de la famille ou du foyer devrait être placée au plus haut niveau politique dans tous les États membres de Conseil de l'Europe et devrait, en conséquence, bénéficier des ressources financières nécessaires. Tous les États membres devraient s'engager à prévenir ce type de violence, à en protéger les victimes, à prévoir des services adaptés, des recours juridiques et des réparations ; ils devraient également s'engager à poursuivre et sanctionner les auteurs de violences et à leur procurer un traitement. Les États devraient en outre sensibiliser le public à ce problème par tous les moyens disponibles, notamment les médias et les programmes d'enseignement.

La culture patriarcale contribue beaucoup à légitimer les inégalités de pouvoirs entre les femmes et les hommes. Il est donc essentiel que les États membres s'attaquent aux traditions et attitudes discriminatoires ainsi qu'aux stéréotypes de genre en tant que causes profondes de la violence à l'égard des femmes.

Un faible revenu, le chômage et la pauvreté sont des facteurs importants de risque de violences à l'égard des femmes au sein de la famille ou du foyer. C'est pourquoi les gouvernements devraient prendre des mesures efficaces pour promouvoir l'indépendance économique des femmes.

Les États membres devraient s'engager à préparer et mettre en œuvre des mesures concrètes et efficaces pour prévenir et combattre la violence

à l'égard des femmes, telles que celles contenues dans la Recommandation Rec (2002) 5, au moyen de dispositions législatives et de plans d'action nationaux, et à la fin de la campagne ils devraient rendre compte des résultats obtenus.

Toutes les mesures figurant dans la Recommandation Rec (2002) 5 sont d'égale importance et devraient être pleinement mises en œuvre. Les États membres se trouvent à des stades différents de la mise en œuvre de la Recommandation, mais chacun est vivement encouragé à accomplir, pendant la campagne, des progrès réels dans les domaines suivants :

#### *Mesures juridiques et politiques*

- ▶ revoir et modifier, si nécessaire, la législation nationale, pour déceler et combler ses lacunes en matière de protection des femmes contre toutes les formes de violence au sein de la famille et du foyer, abroger les lois discriminatoires à l'égard des femmes et incriminer tout acte de cette violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris le viol entre époux ;
- ▶ mettre en place une protection juridique efficace, incluant notamment des ordonnances de protection pour toutes les femmes victimes de violences, et suivre et évaluer régulièrement sa mise en œuvre effective ;
- ▶ veiller à ce que les lois sur l'immigration et les procédures administratives n'empêchent pas les femmes de mettre fin à une relation violente par crainte d'être expulsées, de perdre leur statut juridique ou de se voir retirer la garde de leurs enfants ;
- ▶ préparer et mettre en œuvre des mesures destinées à faire augmenter la proportion des cas de violence au sein de la famille ou du foyer qui font l'objet d'un signalement, donnent lieu à des poursuites contre l'auteur et aboutissent à sa condamnation ;
- ▶ procurer aux victimes une aide juridique et un soutien psychosocial et garantir la protection des témoins ;
- ▶ développer l'évaluation des risques et l'organisation de la sécurité en

tant que procédure standard de la prévention de la criminalité pour prévenir la violence à l'égard des femmes et garantir qu'une attention particulière est portée aux victimes à haut risque qui sont exposées à des actes de violence répétés.

#### *Soutien et protection des victimes*

- ▶ fournir les ressources nécessaires au fonctionnement de lignes téléphoniques d'urgence gratuites et disponibles 24 heures sur 24 avec du personnel spécialement formé ainsi qu'au fonctionnement d'autres services d'urgence pour toutes les femmes victimes de violences ;
- ▶ fournir un soutien approprié et des services de défense des droits des femmes, qui répondent à des normes de qualité et donnent aux femmes la capacité d'agir, et veiller à ce que ces services soient accessibles à toutes les femmes, y compris aux femmes en situation d'exclusion sociale, aux femmes migrantes récemment arrivées, aux femmes réfugiées, aux femmes de minorités ethniques et aux femmes handicapées ;
- ▶ fournir les ressources permettant de disposer d'un nombre suffisant de foyers sûrs pour les femmes victimes de violences qui doivent les fuir (une place en foyer pour 7 500 habitants) ainsi que de services de défense des droits des femmes et de centres de crise dans toutes les régions du pays et doter ces services du personnel et du budget nécessaires ;
- ▶ mettre en place un secteur spécialisé multidisciplinaire coordonné, pourvu des ressources nécessaires, pour créer des moyens renforcés, aux niveaux national et local, dans des services clés tels que la santé, la justice, la protection sociale et l'éducation, afin que les femmes victimes de violences bénéficient d'un soutien immédiat, complet et coordonné ;
- ▶ organiser une formation intégrée sur la gamme complète des violences à l'égard des femmes, à l'intention des professionnels qui s'occupent de femmes victimes de violences au sein de la famille ou du

foyer (par exemple, police, professionnels des soins de santé, services judiciaires, etc.) ;

- ▶ faire figurer la question de la violence à l'égard des femmes en tant que violation des droits de la personne humaine et question de santé publique dans les programmes d'enseignement de toutes les études et formations du personnel judiciaire, des forces de sécurité, des professionnels des soins de santé, des travailleurs sociaux, des enseignants, etc. ;
- ▶ encourager à tous les niveaux l'action des ONG qui luttent contre les violences à l'égard des femmes et instaurer avec ces ONG une coopération active comprenant un soutien financier et logistique approprié ;
- ▶ fournir un soutien financier, un hébergement, un droit de séjour indépendant ainsi qu'une formation et un emploi aux femmes victimes de violences, afin qu'elles puissent décider librement de quitter ou non leur partenaire violent ;
- ▶ encourager la mise en place de programmes pour les auteurs de violences, coordonnés au niveau national et répartis au niveau local. Ces programmes doivent être centrés sur la nécessité de garantir la sécurité des femmes et être organisés en étroite collaboration avec les services d'aide aux femmes victimes.

#### *Collecte de données*

- ▶ assurer la collecte systématique de données statistiques ventilées par sexe, type de violence et relation entre l'auteur et la victime dans tous les domaines. Cette collecte devrait être faite par le Bureau national des statistiques ou d'autres organismes (un observatoire national de la violence domestique, par exemple) ;
- ▶ développer et utiliser une méthodologie permettant une analyse de genre et une comparaison avec les autres États membres du Conseil de l'Europe ;
- ▶ collecter et diffuser les bonnes pratiques en matière de prévention de la violence au sein de la famille ou du foyer, de protection des victimes

et de poursuite des auteurs, aux niveaux national, régional et local.

#### *Sensibilisation*

- ▶ dénoncer publiquement la violence à l'égard des femmes au sein de la famille ou du foyer en tant que violation des droits humains des femmes et s'engager à la combattre au plus haut niveau politique ;
- ▶ sensibiliser le public à la violence à l'égard des femmes au sein de la famille ou du foyer en utilisant tous les moyens disponibles, notamment les médias et les programmes d'enseignement, afin de renverser les stéréotypes de genre actuellement répandus, les normes culturelles discriminatoires et la tolérance de cette violence par l'opinion publique ;
- ▶ encourager les dirigeants nationaux et locaux et les faiseurs d'opinion à reconnaître publiquement la gravité de la violence à l'égard des femmes au sein de la famille ou du foyer et à condamner sa perpétration ainsi que le recours à la coutume, la tradition ou de la religion pour la justifier ;
- ▶ faire traduire, si ce n'est déjà fait, dans la ou les langues nationales et diffuser la Recommandation Rec (2002) 5 et son exposé des motifs ;
- ▶ soutenir des actions de sensibilisation spécialement destinées aux hommes, afin de les inciter à participer activement à l'élimination de toutes les formes de violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence au sein de la famille ou du foyer.

## *VI. Messages*

### *La lutte contre la violence domestique nécessite une action concertée des pouvoirs publics*

La violence à l'égard des femmes au sein de la famille ou du foyer (violence domestique) continue d'être un problème grave qui concerne tous les États membres du Conseil de l'Europe, indépendamment de la culture et de la religion, de la paix, des conflits ou des catastrophes. Elle se manifeste sous de nombreuses formes et est trop souvent tolérée. Les gouvernements,

les parlements, les autorités locales et régionales et les organisations internationales intergouvernementales ainsi que la société civile doivent donc se mobiliser d'urgence pour mettre fin à la violence domestique.

*La violence domestique est une violation des droits de la personne humaine*

La violence à l'égard des femmes au sein de la famille ou du foyer ne doit pas être considérée comme une affaire privée. Elle porte atteinte à leurs droits de la personne humaine et à leurs libertés fondamentales et les empêche, partiellement ou totalement, de les exercer. Il incombe par conséquent aux États d'agir avec la diligence voulue pour prévenir ce type de violence, protéger les victimes, les indemniser et poursuivre et sanctionner les auteurs. Les États sont donc tenus de prendre toutes les mesures raisonnables pour garantir que les femmes ne sont pas exposées à la violence et assurer la protection de celles qui sont en danger ainsi que l'indemnisation des victimes. La culture, la coutume, la famille et la religion ne doivent jamais servir de prétexte pour fermer les yeux sur les violations des droits humains des femmes à la maison.

*La violence domestique blesse gravement les femmes et nuit à la société tout entière, y compris aux générations futures*

De nombreuses femmes, dans de nombreux pays, meurent des suites de la violence au sein de la famille ou du foyer. En outre, la santé physique et psychologique des victimes survivantes est gravement compromise. Ce type de violence a aussi des répercussions importantes sur les familles et sur la société dans son ensemble et se perpétue souvent d'une génération à l'autre. La violence à l'égard des femmes, en plus et au-delà des conséquences personnelles et sociales, a également un coût économique élevé (soins médicaux, traitement psychologique, absentéisme, baisse de la productivité au travail, etc.). Mettre fin à

la violence à l'égard des femmes au sein de la famille ou du foyer est l'affaire de tous. Le silence est un acte de complicité.

La violence domestique nécessite la participation active des hommes pour lutter contre la violence à l'égard des femmes

Pendant la campagne, il convient d'encourager la participation active des hommes aux activités destinées à combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes. Les hommes doivent se mobiliser et combattre la violence au sein de la famille ou du foyer. Ils ont un rôle important à jouer dans cette perspective et ils peuvent faire le lien avec d'autres hommes et les encourager à s'élever contre cette violence.

### VII. Groupes cibles

Le Conseil de l'Europe mènera sa *Campagne pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique*, en collaboration avec divers partenaires et groupes cibles :

- ▶ les chefs d'État,
- ▶ les chefs de gouvernement,
- ▶ les ministres des gouvernements nationaux,
- ▶ les présidents de parlements,
- ▶ les parlementaires,
- ▶ les élus locaux,
- ▶ les organisations internationales intergouvernementales,
- ▶ les organisations non gouvernementales internationales et régionales de femmes et de défense des droits de la personne humaine,
- ▶ les faiseurs d'opinion nationaux,
- ▶ les dirigeants locaux,
- ▶ les chefs d'entreprises régionales et nationales,
- ▶ les membres des forces de l'ordre,
- ▶ le personnel des services judiciaires,
- ▶ les travailleurs sociaux, les professionnels de santé et les organisations de services sociaux gérées par l'État,

- ▶ les ONG nationales de femmes fournissant des services de soutien aux femmes,
- ▶ les professionnels et groupes du secteur de l'éducation,
- ▶ les syndicats,
- ▶ toutes les femmes,
- ▶ les femmes victimes et survivantes,
- ▶ les hommes en tant qu'acteurs du changement,
- ▶ les jeunes,
- ▶ les éducateurs.

### VIII. Slogan

Le slogan pour la campagne du Conseil de l'Europe est « Stop à la violence domestique faite aux femmes ».

### IX. Durée

La préparation de la Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe a commencé au début de l'année 2006. Une conférence de haut niveau a été organisée pour lancer la campagne, avec des participant(e)s des gouvernements, des parlements, des autorités locales et régionales, d'organisations internationales intergouvernementales et d'ONG. Elle s'est tenue au Sénat espagnol de Madrid en novembre 2006. La campagne se terminera à la fin du premier semestre 2008.

### X. Partage des responsabilités

La mise en œuvre de la campagne est assurée par le Comité des Ministres, par l'intermédiaire de la Direction générale des droits de l'homme – DG II (Division Égalité), pour la dimension intergouvernementale de la campagne, par l'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe pour la dimension parlementaire et par le Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux du Conseil de l'Europe pour la dimension locale et régionale. Cette campagne est en outre menée en partenariat avec les gouvernements et les parlements des États membres, des organisations internationales intergouvernementales et des ONG œuvrant pour la protection des femmes contre la violence.

## Actions à mener dans le cadre de la Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe

La Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe comportera deux niveaux de

mise en œuvre qui sont ceux auxquels la campagne sera menée. Le premier

niveau comporte les activités directement menées par le Conseil de l'Eu-

rope, reflétant ses dimensions intergouvernementale, parlementaire ainsi que locale et régionale. Le second niveau consiste en campagnes et activités nationales organisées par les Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe aux niveaux national, local et régional.

## I. Les activités du Conseil de l'Europe

### a. Conférence de lancement

Une conférence de haut niveau a été organisée pour lancer la *Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique*, avec des participant(e)s des gouvernements, des parlements, des autorités locales et régionales, d'organisations internationales intergouvernementales et d'ONG. Elle s'est tenue au Sénat espagnol de Madrid en novembre 2006.

La *Task Force pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique*, avait recommandé d'organiser la conférence de lancement de la Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe au niveau politique le plus élevé et d'y associer largement les ONG travaillant dans ce domaine.

### b. Médias et campagnes

La conférence de lancement de la Campagne a bénéficié d'une large couverture médiatique au sein des Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe.

### c. Séminaires régionaux

Cinq séminaires de haut niveau seront organisés dans les Etats membres qui en feront la demande pour mettre en lumière les différents objectifs de la campagne. Les Etats membres sont encouragés à participer à cette activité.

### d. Activités à organiser par l'Assemblée parlementaire (APCE) et le Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux

L'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe mettra en œuvre la dimension parlementaire de la campagne. De même, le Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux s'occupera de sa dimension locale et régionale.

### e. Création d'un site Web spécialement consacré à la campagne

Un site Web spécialement consacré à la *Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique*, a été créé pour donner des informations détaillées sur la campagne et ses activités. Il permet également de se renseigner sur les activités et les campagnes nationales et comporte des liens vers les sites Web des campagnes nationales. De plus, il sert de forum interactif pour échanger des informations et des bonnes pratiques. Ce site peut être consulté à l'adresse <http://www.coe.int/stopviolence/>.

### f. Diffusion des documents de la campagne auprès des Etats membres, des Bureaux d'information et des Bureaux extérieurs du Conseil de l'Europe

Les documents de la campagne ont été distribués aux participants lors de la conférence de lancement et lors des séminaires régionaux ainsi qu'aux Bureaux d'information du Conseil de l'Europe et à ses Bureaux extérieurs.

Les documents de la campagne seront distribués aux ONG et au grand public par le Secrétariat du Conseil de l'Europe.

## II. Activités organisées par les Etats membres

### a. Création de points de contact

Chaque Etat membre désignera un(e) fonctionnaire de haut niveau et un point de contact aux fins de la campagne du Conseil de l'Europe et des campagnes nationales. Le/la haut(e) fonctionnaire se fera le champion de la *Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique*, avec l'aide d'un point de contact. Les points de contact devraient être soutenus par une Task Force nationale sur la violence à l'égard des femmes au sein de la famille ou du foyer, qui devrait comporter des ONG de femmes et d'autres ONG engagées dans la lutte contre la violence à l'égard des femmes. Le rôle de la Task Force nationale est de soutenir la mise en œuvre de la campagne

nationale pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence au sein de la famille ou du foyer.

Il est souhaitable que ce point de contact désigné par les autorités nationales soit une personne exerçant des responsabilités au niveau national dans le domaine de la lutte contre la violence à l'égard des femmes. Les points de contact nationaux apporteront leur concours à la Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe en communiquant des informations et en faisant part des bonnes pratiques en vigueur dans leur pays, qui seront publiées sur le site Web du Conseil de l'Europe. Le Conseil de l'Europe encouragera les Etats membres disposant d'une expérience et de compétences en matière de mesures législatives, politiques et autres à partager leur savoir avec d'autres Etats membres, qui pourront s'en inspirer dans leurs campagnes nationales.

Les points de contact sont invités à diffuser les documents de la campagne aussi largement que possible au niveau national, auprès de tous les acteurs qui en feront la demande, en particulier auprès des travailleurs sociaux, des professionnels des soins de santé, de la police, des services judiciaires, des responsables politiques et des ONG luttant contre la violence à l'égard des femmes.

Chaque Etat membre informera le Secrétariat du Conseil de l'Europe de la nomination d'un point de contact national. Par la suite, les informations concernant les 46 points de contact nationaux seront publiées sur le site Web du Conseil de l'Europe.

### b. Plan d'action des campagnes

Chaque Task Force nationale est encouragée à élaborer son propre plan d'action pour la campagne nationale en s'inspirant du programme général. Les étapes suivantes devraient être incluses :

- ▶ analyse de la situation nationale pour identifier les succès et les lacunes de la lutte contre la violence à l'égard des femmes ;
- ▶ collecte des données et/ou organisation des données existantes pour établir une fiche d'information nationale sur la situation de départ ;

- ▶ définition d'activités concrètes, fondées sur les objectifs définis dans le programme général, pour combler les lacunes ;
- ▶ prévision des ressources nécessaires, établissement d'un calendrier, etc. ;
- ▶ communication des plans d'action des campagnes nationales au Conseil de l'Europe pour information et échange.

Les États membres sont invités à soumettre au Secrétariat du Conseil de l'Europe un rapport intérimaire pour le 2 juillet 2007, puis un rapport final sur les activités et les résultats concrets de leur campagne nationale en 2008, pour examen par la Task Force. Conformément à son mandat, la Task Force évaluera les progrès accomplis au niveau national et élaborera des instruments permettant de quantifier les progrès observés au niveau paneuropéen en vue de formuler des propositions d'action.

*c. Dates clés pour faire campagne*

- ▶ Date : 8 mars. Signification : Journée internationale de la femme

La Journée internationale de la femme est une excellente occasion d'organiser des manifestations publiques et de collaborer avec les médias, en partenariat avec les organisations de femmes, sur le thème de la violence à l'égard des femmes au sein de la famille et du foyer. Tous les États membres participant à la campagne du Conseil de l'Europe sont invités à donner la priorité à ce type de violence comme thème de la Journée internationale de la femme en 2007 et 2008 et à promouvoir les messages de la campagne.

- ▶ Date : 15 mai. Signification : Journée internationale de la famille

La Journée internationale de la famille est une bonne occasion pour appeler l'attention sur la violence à l'égard des femmes au sein de la famille ou du foyer. Les États membres sont invités à organiser des campagnes publiques et des activités médiatiques pour s'élever contre cette violence.

- ▶ Dates : 25 novembre-10 décembre. Signification : Journée internationale pour l'élimination de la vio-

lence à l'égard des femmes et 16 Jours d'activisme contre la violence faite aux femmes

La Journée internationale pour l'élimination de la violence à l'égard des femmes et les 16 Jours d'activisme contre la violence faite aux femmes sont aussi de bonnes occasions pour des actions médiatiques et des campagnes. Les États membres participant à la campagne du Conseil de l'Europe sont invités à s'élever publiquement contre les violences à l'égard des femmes au sein de la famille ou du foyer et à s'associer aux organisations non gouvernementales de femmes et aux autres ONG nationales engagées dans les 16 Jours d'activisme, afin de faire campagne ensemble pour l'élimination de la violence à l'égard des femmes.

Les États membres sont également invités à utiliser les dates clés nationales pour mettre en lumière la Campagne et à faire des déclarations communes au cours des réunions du Comité des Ministres tout au long de la Campagne.

## Matériel de la campagne

### *Matériel produit à ce jour*

- ▶ affiches
- ▶ fiches d'information
- ▶ marque-pages
- ▶ dossiers
- ▶ brochures
- ▶ autocollants
- ▶ calendriers

### *Matériel audiovisuel à produire, sous réserve de disponibilité de financement*

- ▶ Messages à la radio et à la télévision
- ▶ Communications des pouvoirs publics
- ▶ Kits vidéo
- ▶ Exposition de photos

- ▶ Vidéo
- ▶ Animation Web
- ▶ Auto propagation par le Web (*Web viral*)

Le matériel de la campagne produit à ce jour est disponible sur le site Web du Conseil de l'Europe consacré à la campagne, consultable à l'adresse <http://www.coe.int/stopviolence/>.

## Calendrier

### *Année 2006*

- ▶ Le programme général de la *Campagne du Conseil de l'Europe pour combattre la violence à l'égard des femmes, y compris la violence domestique*, a été mis au point par la Task Force lors de sa deuxième réunion qui s'est tenue du 25 au 27 avril et a été adopté par le Comité des Ministres le 21 juin.
- ▶ La Conférence de lancement s'est tenue au Sénat espagnol de Madrid le 27 novembre 2006.

- ▶ Un site Web du Conseil de l'Europe spécialement consacré à la campagne a été créé ; il est consultable à l'adresse <http://www.coe.int/stopviolence/>.
- ▶ Il a été demandé aux États membres du Conseil de l'Europe de désigner un(e) fonctionnaire de haut niveau ainsi qu'un point de contact et de lancer des campagnes nationales, dans la mesure du possible dès 2006.

### *Année 2007*

- ▶ Des séminaires régionaux seront organisés dans les États membres du Conseil de l'Europe.
- ▶ Les campagnes nationales se poursuivront ou seront lancées par les États membres qui ne l'auront pas encore fait.
- ▶ Des rapports nationaux intérimaires sur les activités de campagne seront soumis à la Task Force pour examen.



*Année 2008*

- ▶ Une Conférence de clôture de la campagne sera organisée.
- ▶ Les rapports nationaux finals sur les activités de campagne seront soumis à la Task Force pour examen.
- ▶ Un rapport d'activité final de la Task Force sera adopté (comprenant une évaluation de la campagne du Conseil de l'Europe). ★







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**[www.coe.int/stopviolence](http://www.coe.int/stopviolence)**