

Breaking the Cycle of Violence

Sharing the results - Final conference

Sliema, Malta - 25th September 2020



Background

Breaking the Cycle of Violence is an EU co-funded project working on the issues of awareness raising and interventions with particular groups of people in Malta to ‘break the cycle’ of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence’. It ran from 2018-2020 and was managed by the Commission on Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence, after having been transferred by the Human Rights and Integration Directorate.

The final conference, initially scheduled for November 2019 and then March 2020, provided an opportunity for relevant actors and stakeholders to hear the results of the research element of the project, and to hear from the partner organisations about the impact of the project on their organisations and their work with vulnerable groups of people.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, there was a smaller attendance at the conference than planned. To mitigate this, the conference was videoed and will be available on the website of the project.

Report of conference proceedings

1. The conference opened with messages from three key stakeholders in advancing the work on combatting gender-based violence and domestic violence.

The speakers Hon. Dr Edward Zammit Lewis, Minister for Justice, Equality and Governance, the Hon. Rosianne Cutajar, Parliamentary Secretary for Equality and Reforms and Ms. Andreana Friggieri, Commissioner on Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence identified the following developments as being part of the progress on the issues in Malta:

- Progress has been made on the many interlinking issues involved in addressing domestic and gender-based violence.
- There is an increased use of the services available to support victims in Malta.
- There is now a memorandum of understanding between the police service and APPOĠĠ, the social work service.
- A reformed police service is due to be in operation by the end of the year. This will involve a specific unit for domestic and gender-based violence services, hubs in different towns providing a similar service and training of the officers staffing these units and hubs.
- The issue of free legal aid to victims has been addressed.
- We need to continue working on the attitudes and beliefs about relationships, the gender stereotypes, and the power relations and dynamics in intimate relationships – either partners or within families.



- There's an increasing awareness of the issues around elder abuse and abuse within same sex relationships.
- A common feature for all victims of abuse is shame.
- We know that there is a behavioural shift needed, as well as the cultural shift in attitudes.
- And we need to address the issue of rehabilitation when we are looking at changing behaviours of perpetrators.

All three speakers acknowledged the ongoing work of CDV and the project's contribution to the national strategy, which is currently being reviewed, for the purpose of developing the next national strategy on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.

2. Katya Unah, from the Commission on Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence then outlined the project objectives and the results achieved. The project was a complex linking of actions around awareness raising; prevention and identifying tools for changing attitudes, knowledge, and behaviours. A key element was research into 'what works' to change attitudes, knowledge and behaviours of people.
3. Dr Andreana Dibben then took the conference through the research results. A complex research design assessing the impact of different training and awareness raising interventions for the different target groups was implemented across the period of the project. The target groups included: children, young people, survivors of domestic violence and members of particularly vulnerable groups and the general public.

The research report was made available to the conference participants and is also available on the project webpage.

Key findings of the research indicate that the interventions delivered by the partners had impact and the activities could become part of mainstreamed efforts in the future strategy of the CDV – change of attitudes, knowledge and behaviours is possible. The programmes of the sessions with the different target groups were developed into training packs which are available on the project website. This ensures that the trainings may be replicated and thus the outputs of the projects are continued after the project lifetime.

4. The final part of the conference was a panel discussion exploring the contribution of the project partners to the overall project and possible future actions and collaborations.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions the CRPD team were not able to be physically present for the discussion, but presented their contribution in written form, read out by the chair of the panel.

The other project partners from Malta Girl Guides, Migrant Women Association of Malta, Malta LGBTIQ Movement and Programme Sebħ all reflected on the impact of the involvement in the project for their organisation. This impact included:

- Intimate partner violence can be harder to disclose within small communities including LGBTIQ, disabilities and within migrant community. Having a double issue to contend with and high levels of shame were expressed.
- All the project partners spoke about the benefit to their participants of having space and time to discuss, explore and reflect on their own experiences – whether of relationships broadly or of experiences of abuse within relationships or the home.

- The project was very useful in raising the issues, increasing the knowledge of the participants and ‘breaking’ the silence on the issue within the ‘community’.
- The project also had an impact on the organisations – in terms of services offered, openness to discussion of the issues, and identifying areas where the organisations could design further work on the issue.
- There was a multiplier effect within the communities in that the BCV participants could then become agents for the issue within their circles and groups.
- The networking opportunity of the project was a benefit to the partners – meeting with the other project partner staff, with the CDV and with researchers.
- While it didn’t actually come to pass, the possibility of developing further collaboration actions between the project partners was identified; and there is an openness to creating some joint learning opportunities across the partners to progress the work and thinking on intersectionality in Malta.

The discussion moved then to identifying possible future actions and developments. These included:

- With time and funding the partners would like to design future projects on the intersectional spaces between the specific issues they address.
- Further research is needed on the specific experiences of people with disabilities, LGBTI and migrant people and domestic and intimate partner violence.
- It would be useful to develop training on the overlap with other organisations and with the professionals working on DSGBV.
- The issues around beliefs and attitudes about LGBTI people, people with disabilities and migrants has an impact on the services provided in situations of abuse.
- Physical accessibility and language barriers need to be addressed in the police and social services.
- The CDV is developing the next national strategy and the consultation with groups will be important so that specific actions, messages, research can be included in the action plan.
- Training for teachers and working with the Association of Employers were identified as key partners in next steps.
- Multi-agency work was identified as important – linking the different commissioners – for Children, Domestic Violence, Police, and for the different agencies which have roles in addressing the needs of people – e.g. disability and social services agencies.
- The barriers to social inclusion of the project partners on the grounds of age, ethnicity sexual orientation, gender identity, disability and sex - and how these add to the vulnerability to violence needs to be explored further in Malta. Given the person’s status is already impacted through structural inequalities it is important to identify what additional supports, knowledge, information is needed.
- Further work is also needed on developing trust in the system – so that no negative consequences as a result of reporting impact on the person’s life. For example, legal status, living arrangements for person with disabilities, ‘coming out’ to employers.
- Finally, the system and process around sheltered accommodation needs to be reviewed, further developed and funded to be more comprehensive and meeting international standards of good practice.

The conference closed with a networking lunch.

THE PROJECT



36 months
(1st January 2018 – 31st December 2020)



Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC)
Programme (2014-2020)



€350,000
(80% EU Funds, 20% National funds)

THE OBJECTIVE

To identify the behaviours and attitudes towards violence in targeted groups and the need to break the cycle of violence by changing behaviours contributing to VAW, gender stereotypes/ inequalities and promote gender equality

THE PARTNERS



L-Università
ta' Malta



CRPD



Migrant Women
Association Malta



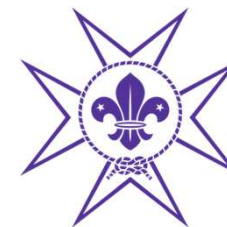
malta girl guides

fondazzjoni
sebh



APPOĠĠ

Għat-Tfal, Familji, u l-Komunità



THE *scout* ASSOCIATION
OF MALTA

THE ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Launch Event
- ✓ Mentoring sessions with victims of VAW
- ✓ Mentoring sessions with target groups
- ✓ Online training packs
- ✓ Train-the-trainer weekend
- ✓ Youth Ambassadors Weekend
- ✓ Information Sessions with HR, Advocates & Public Service Employees
- ✓ Research: University of Malta
- ✓ Research: Telephone Surveys
- ✓ Awareness Raising Campaigns



PHOTO : DOI - Jason Borg

LAUNCH EVENT

Ex-Equality Minister Helena Dalli (now European Commissioner for Equality) giving her address during the launch of the project.

SESSIONS WITH VICTIMS & TARGET GROUPS

- ✓ 16 Information Sessions
- ✓ 16 Mentoring Session
- ✓ 46 One-to-one sessions
- ✓ 4 Award Ceremonies

12

Victims of violence

9

Migrant Women

10

LBTI Women

15

Women with disabilities

Victims of
DV

Women with
disabilites

LBTI women

Migrant
Women

ONLINE TRAINING PACKS BY TARGET GROUP LEADERS

TRAIN THE TRAINER WEEKEND

✓ 29 LEADERS



✓ 49 YOUTH AMBASSADORS

YOUTH AMBASSADORS WEEKEND



INFORMATION SESSIONS

- ✓ 4 Human Resources sessions
- ✓ 1 Human Resources Gozo session
- ✓ 1 Chamber of Advocates session
- ✓ 1 Public Service Employees session

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA RESEARCH

Researchers:

- ✓ Dr. Andreana Dibben
- ✓ Dr. Marie Briguglio
- ✓ Dr. Janice Formosa Pace



BREAKING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE:

AN IMPACT EVALUATION REPORT

Dr Andreana Dibben

Dr Marie Briguglio

Dr Janice Formosa Pace

FEBRUARY 2020



Co-funded by the Rights, Equality
and Citizenship (REC) Programme
of the European Union



L-Universit ta
ta' Malta



MINISTRY FOR JUSTICE,
EQUALITY AND GOVERNANCE

TELEPHONE SURVEYS

Representative sample: by age, gender and geographical region

PRE-CAMPAIGN SURVEY

✓ 1000 respondents

POST-CAMPAIGN SURVEY

✓ 1004 respondents

Some findings:

First action towards public act of violence against women:

- ✓ Call the police: 38% (pre-) vs 43% (post-)
- ✓ Not take action: 26% (pre-) vs 18% (post-)
- ✓ Shout out: 12% (pre-) vs 13% (post-)
- ✓ Talk to perpetrator and state it is not okay: 9% (pre-) vs 8% (post-)
- ✓ Talk & help the victim: 5% (pre-) vs 8% (post-)
- ✓ Don't know: 5% (pre-) vs 6% (post-)

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BREAKING THE
CYCLE
OF VIOLENCE
against women

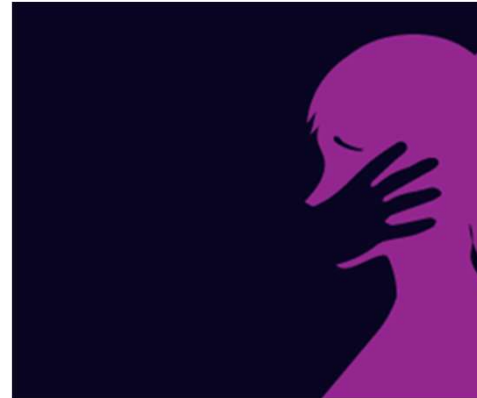
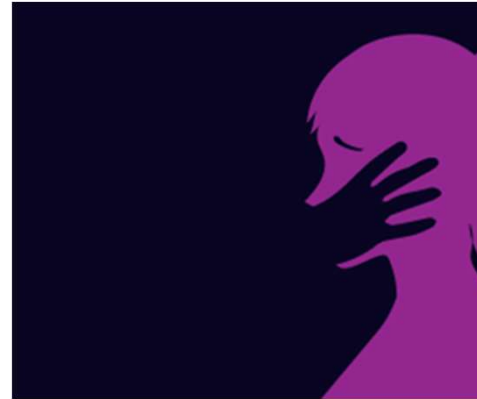


This project is co-funded by the *Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC)* Programme of the European Union



MINISTRY FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
AND EQUALITY

AWARENESS RAISING – INTRANET



AWARENESS RAISING – COVID 19

THE CONCLUSION

- ✓ Improved data availability
- ✓ Awareness Raising
- ✓ Changing attitudes and behaviours towards VAW
- ✓ Empower participants of training to speak up against VAW
- ✓ Empower target groups & victims
- ✓ Ultimately, to prevent violence & increase rate of reporting