

# **COMMISSION ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**



# **COMMISSION ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

**Annual Report**

**March 2009 – February 2010**



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## Message

Since its inception in 2006 under the Domestic Violence Act, the Commission on Domestic Violence has actively pursued projects and initiatives, which underscore the harsh realities of domestic violence. These projects and initiatives help to increase the awareness of Maltese society to the social scourge of domestic violence. Undoubtedly, a great deal of attention has also been devoted to the support and protection services provided to victims of domestic violence by a multi-disciplinary team of dedicated professionals.



Domestic violence is a crime against human dignity. It is not confined to any social or economic class and is treated as such within the legal framework on domestic violence, which includes the Domestic Violence Act, the Civil Code and the Criminal Code. The setting up of the Subcommittee on Legal Issues by the Commission will be, undoubtedly, instrumental in reviewing the law pertaining to domestic violence. Vulnerable members of the family, such as children and the elderly, are also at times victims of domestic violence who suffer abuse in silence and deserve the appropriate protection and support. Today we have established a network of services that strengthen the prospects of those victims wanting to escape from the horror and indignity of domestic violence.

The National Action Plan on Domestic Violence details a holistic approach to a multi-faceted crime whilst the European Social Fund project 'Dignity for Domestic Violence Survivors' is targeted at empowering victims of domestic violence and their inclusion within the labour market. This project will also lead to the development of coordination plans, including protocols for sectors involved in the field.

My sincere thanks to all the Commission members, who are working tirelessly in advocating for a life free from abuse and to all other professionals working within the field of domestic violence. It is only through close coordination and collaboration that we can fight against all forms of domestic violence and ensure a better future for its victims.

**Dolores Cristina**

Minister of Education, Employment and the Family



## Foreword

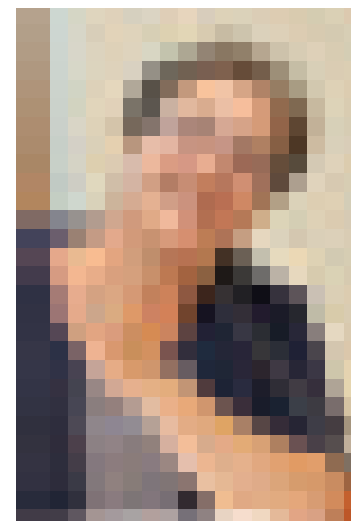
Once more I find myself typing these few words to foreword our Annual Report 2009-2010. This year has once again been as full as can be with work, activities, events, etc. all leading us slowly, step by step, to our goal. Whilst not wishing to blow the Commission's own trumpet I feel I have to say that considering our so few resources, we have done very well indeed.

This year marks the end of the first year of our second term and so we should be, and indeed are, bearing fruit, as is seen below. Once more I have to sincerely thank all the members of the Commission, including our indefatigable secretary, for their work and support throughout this year. Whilst we often wished we had more human resources with which to carry out our work, those which we did have did their best within each of their individual circumstances to give what they could when they could, resulting in this report jam-packed with the fruits of our labours. Thanks as always must also go to all the collaborating agencies and individuals. In unity has always been our strength.

This year has been dominated by our ESF project, Dignity for Domestic Violence Survivors. This has generated much administrative work and, it must be said, frustration for the Commission. Whilst it was very necessary in terms of having the funds available to carry out our various activities, as delineated in the report below, it must be stated that this comes at a price. And we have paid it, and continue to do so, as I believe do many other small organizations who receive such funding. It would be beneficial for the social welfare of our country, and the wellbeing for those who work in the sector, if a better way of doing this was found.

Although this report covers only until the end of February 2010, it is actually October 2010 as I write this... And although it is once more with pleasure that I write these few words, however this time it is also tinged with some sadness, since this is the last annual report that I will be presenting as Chairperson of the Commission on Domestic Violence. Unfortunately due to the pressure of work I have felt it necessary to resign, for my own health and sanity, and for the good of the sector, notwithstanding leaving half my heart behind. I therefore also use this foreword to wish well to my successor, Ms Joanna Xuereb, and to my colleagues of the last few years. May the Commission, with the help of all our collaborators, continue to do great things for the women and other survivors of domestic violence.

**Dr Marceline Naudi**  
**Chairperson**





# 1. Introduction

## 1.2 The Commission on Domestic Violence and its Remit

The Commission on Domestic Violence was established under Article 3 of the Domestic Violence Act, Chapter 481 on the 1st March 2006<sup>1</sup>. The main role of the Commission is that of advising the Minister responsible for social policy on all aspects of Domestic Violence, which is defined in the act as any act of violence, even if only verbal, perpetrated by a household member upon another household member and includes any omission which causes physical or moral harm to the other.

The terms of reference of the Commission on Domestic Violence are laid down under Article 4, of the said Domestic Violence Act. These are reproduced below.

“The Commission shall have the function of advising the Minister on all aspects of domestic violence and in particular on:

- (a) increasing the awareness and understanding of domestic violence and harassment and their consequences and on ways and means to reduce their incidence;
- (b) areas of domestic violence on which research is necessary or desirable;
- (c) strategies to expose domestic violence and to facilitate the intervention of public and private agencies and entities with respect to victims and perpetrators of such violence;
- (d) educating the public on all aspects of domestic violence;
- (e) ways to facilitate communication between public and private agencies and entities involved in action against domestic violence;
- (f) standards for care facilities for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence, including public or private shelter services or facilities;
- (g) standards and protocols for practitioners;
- (h) procedures for the effective co-ordination on a national level of the activities of public and private agencies and entities engaged in the giving of services on domestic violence issues including support services;
- (i) a comprehensive and co-ordinated plan for the collection of data concerning domestic violence for use by the courts, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, health care practitioners, social workers and other agencies and entities in a manner that protects the identity of victims of domestic violence;
- (j) developing a comprehensive plan for a multidisciplinary approach of active prevention and early intervention;
- (k) specialized training for professional groups involved; and
- (l) consulting and networking with other relevant national and international entities.”

The Chairperson and the members of the Commission are responsible for advising the Minister on the above.

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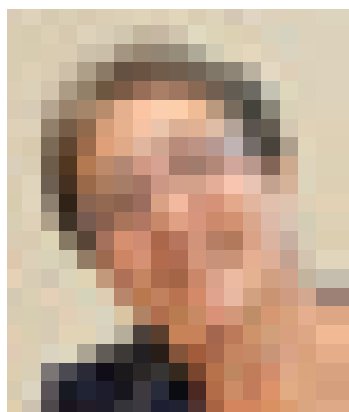
<sup>1</sup> Law can be accessed through [www.domestiviolence.gov.mt](http://www.domestiviolence.gov.mt)

### 1.1.1 Members of the Commission

The previous members of the Commission were reappointed for the next 3-year term which ends on 27 February 2012, together with an additional member.

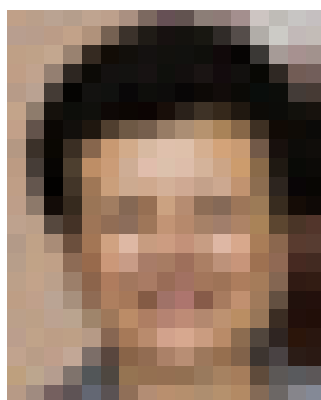
The Commission is therefore now composed of a chairperson and seven members. The members continue to enrich the Commission and its work with their own expertise and experience, varying from hands-on experience to policy, service provision, planning and research, and continue to learn from the field and from each other. Through its new member, the Commission can now liaise more closely with the health sector. As in previous years, Gozo was also represented on the Commission to ensure that Gozo's specific situation is addressed.

The Commission started the year, and its new term, with the following members, all of whom were still present by the end of the year:



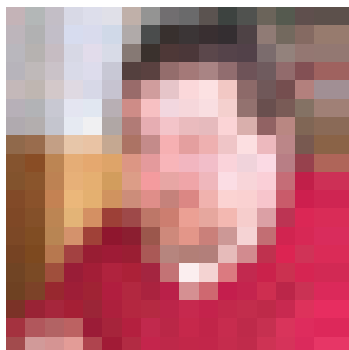
Dr Marceline Naudi Ph.D.(Manchester), M.A.(Bradford), B.A.

Dr Marceline Naudi has been involved in the field of domestic violence in Malta for many years and has been Chairperson of the Commission on Domestic Violence since December 2006. She is a social worker by profession, with many years experience in the field, in Malta, the UK and Ireland, and lectures in Social work at the University of Malta. Her areas of academic interest include domestic violence and gender equality as well as anti-oppressive practice more generally, including issues of race, disability and sexual orientation. She represents Malta at various forums in the EU and the Council of Europe in relation to domestic violence and violence against women.



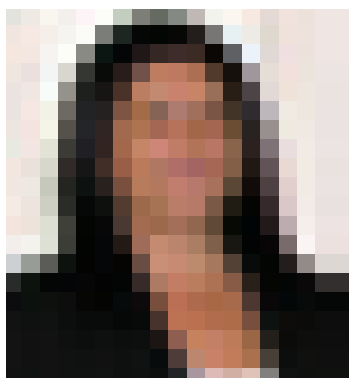
Ms Maria Attard M.A.T.C.

Ms Maria Attard is a teacher by profession. She has been active in the social arena in Gozo for many years and is currently Director of Dar Guzeppa Debono, a home for single mothers in Gozo. She has been a member of the Commission since it was first set up in 2006, and has represented the Commission at an International meeting of WAVE held in Austria in 2009. She has participated in several subcommittee meetings for services development but will now be sitting on the subcommittee for awareness raising.



Dr Albert Bell Ph.D.), M.A., B.A (Hons.), B.A. (Gen.).

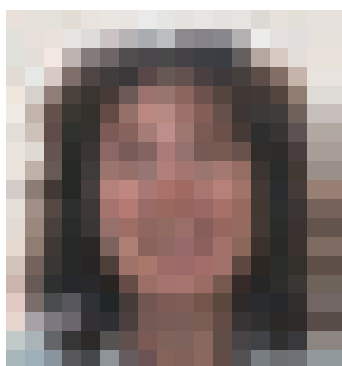
Dr Albert Bell is a sociologist and lectures at the Department for Youth and Community Studies within the Faculty of Education, University of Malta. He has held various posts in the social welfare and criminal justice field and is presently a member of the Board of Directors of the Foundation of Social Welfare Services and Chairperson of the Foundation for Education Services (FES). He has chaired the Commission on Domestic Violence Subcommittee on Research and Data Collation since the Commission's inception. His research interests include youth subcultures, youth and social policy, sociological theory, addictions, juvenile delinquency, youth justice, social deviance and criminal behaviour.



Inspector Louise Calleja Dip in Mngt. Studies, MBA (Grenoble)

Inspector Louise Calleja holds a Diploma in Management Studies from the University of Malta and a Masters degree in Business Administration from the Grenoble Graduate School of Business (GGSB). She has been a member of the Commission on Domestic Violence since January 2007 and is presently chairing the task group for the creation of the sexual assault response team (SART).

Inspector Calleja joined the Malta Police Force in 1988, and has been actively involved in the area of domestic violence since 1999, following her promotion to police Inspector. She lectures on domestic violence at the Police Academy.



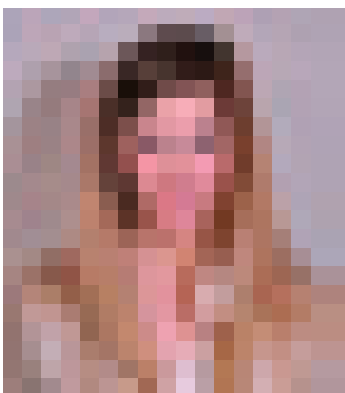
Dr Taygeta Firman M.D.

Dr. Taygeta Firman is a medical doctor by profession, since 1985 and is currently working in the Public Health Regulation Division. She has worked in various areas including speciality areas of public health and health care services. She also obtained the degree of Master of Business Administration (Henley management college) in 2005. She has been a member of the Commission on Domestic Violence for the past year and is the appointed WHO focal point for violence in Malta.



Sr Joan Garner RGS. MQR.

Sr. Joan Garner was born in Malta in 1943. She joined the Good Shepherd Sisters in 1964 and has worked in the Appostolate of the Good Shepherd Sisters, for the last 43 years with teenagers and families with social problems, and women who experienced domestic violence. She was head of Dar Merbhabik, a shelter for women experiencing domestic violence, for several years. She has been a member of the Commission since it was first set up in 2006 and also participated in meetings of the subcommittee on awareness raising.



Dr Roberta Lepre' B.A., LL.D

Dr. Roberta Lepre' is a warranted advocate with a special interest in human issues and their relative economic implications. Following her departure from the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality, wherein she gained experience in various spheres including legal advice and analysis, policy development and implementation and EU project management, she founded Weave Consulting, a boutique firm which provides consulting and training services in Equality, Diversity Management, Corporate Social Responsibility and EU Funding.

Additionally she is the Director of Victim Support Malta, a non-governmental organization which provides support to victims of crime, including victims of theft and burglaries, domestic violence and sexual abuse. She has been a member of the Commission on Domestic Violence since it was first set up in 2006, and chairs the Subcommittee on Awareness Raising.



Mr Cornelius Mulvaney Dip.Family Therapy (UK); CQSW (UK)

Mr Cornelius Mulvaney was born in Malta on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 1949, and is married with four children and a grandfather of four. He has worked as a social worker for the past twenty nine years mainly within the health sector, including a good number of years in the psychiatric field. He has contributed to the setting up of the child's guidance clinic and the young persons' unit, and following a one year course in the UK where he obtained the diploma in family therapy he also set up the family therapy unit. His social work experience includes working within the child protection services at Agenzija Appogg, and for these last ten



years he has been involved in social work within Boffa Hospital specializing in cancer care and treatment.

He has been a member of the Commission on Domestic Violence since it was set up in 2006 and also participated in the meetings of the Subcommittee on Service Development.

The Commission is also supported by Ms Doris Vassallo, DPA, who performs the functions of Secretary to the Commission. She joined the public service in 1988 and is currently secretary to the Umpire within the Department of Social Security, Ministry for Education, Employment and the Family. She holds a Diploma in Public Administration from the University of Malta. She has been secretary to the Commission and its subcommittees since it was set up in 2006.

### **1.1.2 Premises**

The Commission continues to be based in two rooms at Block C Beltissebh Floriana. One room is used as the administrative centre whereas the other houses the reference library. The Commission has continued to gather films, books, theses, reports and other relevant documents for this Library. All items have now been catalogued with the intention of opening the facility from March 2010 on a weekly basis as a reference library for those requiring information related to domestic violence. The Commission has also continued to furnish its premises as necessary.

## **1.2 Summary of work carried out**

### **1.2.1 Commission Meetings**

Between March 2009 and February 2010 the Commission met eleven times, as follows:

	<u><b>Date</b></u>	<u><b>Attendance</b></u>
Meeting 03/09:	Tuesday, 17 March 2009	7/8
Meeting 04/09:	Tuesday, 14 April 2009	7/8
Meeting 05/09:	Friday, 15 May 2009	7/8
Meeting 06/09:	Thursday, 25 June 2009	4/8
Meeting 07/09:	Tuesday, 28 July 2009	5/8
Meeting 08/09:	Tuesday, 01 September 2009	5/8
Meeting 09/09:	Friday, 09 October 2009	6/8
Meeting 10/09:	Tuesday, 27 October 2009	7/8
Meeting 11/09:	Friday, 11 December 2009	5/8
Meeting 01/10:	Friday, 29 January 2010	6/8
Meeting 02/10:	Friday, 19 February 2010	7/8

The duration of each meeting was approximately two to three hours. The majority of the meetings were held at Block C Beltissebh Floriana whilst that of June 2009 was held at *Dar Guzeppa Debono* in Ghajnsielem, Gozo.

### 1.2.2 Subcommittees convened by the Commission

During the year under review the Commission convened various subcommittees and groups, as reported in more detail later in this report. These included:

- The Subcommittee on Service Development<sup>2</sup> – this subcommittee consists of workers in the field representing the various direct service providers and meets regularly to discuss standards, practice issues, problems and solutions. This subcommittee met five times during this period.
- The Subcommittee on Research and Data Collation<sup>3</sup> – this subcommittee consists of representatives of the research/data sections of various entities and Ministries that touch with the issue of domestic violence. This subcommittee met for seven times and also held an *Ad Hoc* meeting during the mentioned period.
- The Subcommittee on Awareness Raising<sup>4</sup> - this subcommittee was reconvened in August 2009 and consists of representatives from the public relations offices of the Ministry for Social Policy and the Foundation for Social Welfare Services (designated agency). The Subcommittee met three times during the mentioned period.
- Daphne Group<sup>5</sup>- this group consisted of representatives of various entities that touch with the field of domestic violence who were interested and eligible to apply for Daphne funding and was set up to facilitate the process of a joint application. This group ended in May 2009 following submission of its application for funds.
- Task Group for Seminar<sup>6</sup> – an *ad hoc* subgroup of the commission was convened to organize the practical elements of the Seminar held in November 2009.
- Task Group for the setting up of a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)<sup>7</sup> – this task group was set up in May 2009 and consists of representatives of the main stakeholders and is working on a proposal for the setting up of an effective and sensitive sexual assault response team to operate out of Mater Dei Hospital. The Task group held ten meetings during the reporting period.

In all, these entailed 38 meetings within the year being reported on, involving 40 different people.

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2 For subcommittee report see appendix B

3 For subcommittee report see appendix C

4 For subcommittee report see appendix D

5 For Daphne Group report see appendix E

6 For Seminar report see appendix F

7 For Sexual Assault Response Team report see appendix G

### 1.2.3 Other committees

The Commission was invited to form part of the Platform for Children organised by the Commissioner for Children, which brings together various organisations that work with/for children to create better networking and a stronger voice in policy making. Dr Marceline Naudi, Chairperson of the Commission on Domestic Violence was invited to Chair a seminar which was held on 19 January 2010 at *Dar San Guzepp*, Santa Venera (also attended by Sr Joan Garner). The Commission continues to be represented by Ms Maria Attard and Sr Joan Garner at the regular Platform for Children Meetings.

The Commission was also represented by Dr Albert Bell on the ‘Family Forum’ convened by the Permanent Secretary of the then Ministry of Social Policy, which met seven times during the period of reporting. At the final meeting held in January 2010, the Commission was represented by Mr Cornelius Mulvaney.

### 1.3 Activities attended locally

As in previous years, between March 2009 and February 2010, the chairperson and members of the Commission were again invited to attend and participate in a number of seminars, conferences and other activities, as listed hereunder. The Commission has attempted to be represented by at least one or more members, including the Secretary to the Commission, at the various activities it was invited to attend, however this has not always been possible. Participation in these activities continues to enable the Commission to maintain its profile and emphasize the importance of Domestic Violence as an issue in Malta, as well as gather useful information, and enable networking with national and international entities.

- Fifth annual conference organized by the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality at La Meridien Hotel, St Julians on Friday 6 March 2009 (attended by Dr Marceline Naudi, Sr Joan Garner, Ms Doris Vassallo).
- Seminar organized by the Commission for the Family in relation to a report on ‘Family Poverty and Social Exclusion with a special emphasis on children’ presented by Fr Charles Tabone and Ms Angela Abela on Friday 6 March 2009 (attended by Dr Marceline Naudi).
- ‘Kick-off’ meeting regarding demarcation of EU funds organised by the Office of the Prime Minister on Thursday 9 April 2009 (attended by Dr Marceline Naudi).
- Seminar entitled *B’Kuxjenza Socjali* organized by the Office of the Permanent Secretary held at ITS St Julians on Tuesday 28 April 2009 (attended by Dr Marceline Naudi and Dr Albert Bell).

- A consultation forum on the Fourth Gender Equality Action Plan organized by the Employment and Training Corporation at the ETC Conference Hall, Hal Far on Friday 12 June 2009 (attended by Dr Marceline Naudi).
- Senior Management Seminar ‘Moving Together’ on changes planned within the social services sector organized by Mr Frans Borg, Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Social Policy at the New Dolmen Hotel Qawra on Tuesday 21 July 2009 (attended by Dr Marceline Naudi).
- A congress entitled ‘The role of gender equality in the small states of Europe’ organized by the National Council of Women at the Palace Hotel Sliema on 25 and 26 September 2009 (attended by Sr Joan Garner).
- The Doha Colloquium organized by the Cana Movement on Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7 October 2009 (attended by Dr Marceline Naudi).
- Conference organized by Richmond Foundation entitled *Is-Sahha Mentali: Sfdi Lokali* held the Grand Hotel Excelsior, Floriana on Friday 9 October 2009 (attended by Dr Marceline Naudi).
- Service Area Day organized by the Domestic Violence Services within *Agenzija Appogg* (partly funded by the Commission) which was held at St. Joseph Retreat Home, Rabat on Friday 16 October 2009 (attended by Dr Marceline Naudi, Inspector Louise Calleja, Sr Joan Garner, Ms Maria Attard and Ms Doris Vassallo).
- Training on post-traumatic stress disorder organised by the Foundation of Social Welfare Services as part of a DAPHNE train the trainers programme, on Wednesday 21 October 2009 at the Foundation premises, Braille Street, Sta Venera (attended by Dr Marceline Naudi).
- Meeting organized by the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality to discuss the Commonwealth Plan of Action Mid-term review - Malta report, held at Gattard House Blata l-Bajda on Friday 23th October 2009 (attended by Dr Marceline Naudi).
- Training on different aspects of domestic violence organised by the Foundation for Social Welfare Services in collaboration with WAVE held at *Dar San Guzepp*, Sta Venera between Tuesday 24 and Thursday 26 November 2009 (one day attended by Dr Marceline Naudi – unfortunately no one else was available to attend the other days).
- Conference on the Family Court organised by the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs which was held at St James Cavalier, Valletta on Thursday 7 January 2010, and to which the Chairperson was invited to form part of one of the panel discussions.

- National Conference on the Family which was organised by the Office of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Social Policy and was held at New Dolmen Hotel, Qawra on Friday 22 and Saturday 23 January 2010 (attended by Dr Marceline Naudi, Mr Cornelius Mulvaney and Ms Maria Attard).
- Introductory meeting organised by Minister Dolores Cristina, Minister for Education, Employment and the Family and Dr Christopher Bezzina, Permanent Secretary held at the Ministry for Education, Employment and the Family Palazzo Ferreria, Republic Street Valletta on Monday 15 February 2010 (attended by Dr Marceline Naudi).

The Commission was also invited to a number of other conferences and seminars but was unfortunately unable to attend due to lack of human resources.

## **1.4 Other work**

The Commission continued to work on awareness raising, both with the general public and with specific professionals, and research as well as service and policy development, as detailed later in the report.

During the period of reporting the Commission gave at least five presentations to specific bodies and participated in at least ten media activities. Details of these are to be found in section three of this report.

### **1.4.1 International Work**

The Commission also represented Malta at various European Union and Council of Europe fora. Details of these appear later in the report (see section 5). The Chairperson was also invited to meet with various individuals from these bodies on their visits to Malta.

### **1.4.2 Projects**

The Commission was awarded funding from the European Social Fund (ESF) for the project ‘Dignity for Domestic Violence Survivors’ under which it has already carried out various activities, with several others planned (see section 5.1.1). This project ends in November 2011.

The Commission has further been involved in other ESF funded projects/applications which are detailed below.

## 1.5 Financial overview

In January 2009, the Commission was allocated a budget of €47,000 out of which the annual awarded honoraria of the chairperson (€2,329.37) and the members of the Commission (€1,747.03 each) were paid. The majority of the remaining €42,923 were utilized by the Commission for its various projects, including the following: a seminar with international speakers; contributions towards the topping up of funds which were set up in collaboration with other entities to provide police protection to people experiencing domestic violence when attending Court sittings and to provide support to domestic violence workers dealing with women experiencing mental health problems; additional material for the library and contributing towards the ESF project until its funds were allocated for the project<sup>8</sup>.

The Commission's budget was decreased by €20,000 to €27,000 in January 2010. As a result of this decrease, the Commission will have to forego certain plans and re-prioritise its work for the coming year.

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8 For Financial Statement see appendix A

## 2. National Action Plan on Domestic Violence

### National Action Plan

Following last year's published Action Plan, which was based on the Blueprint of the Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against women including Domestic Violence, the Commission continued to plan its work and prioritise accordingly.

#### 2.1 Legal and policy measures

	Action needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>review legislation – identify gaps in the protection of women from all forms of domestic violence;</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>1.1</b> Following last year's recommendations to the then Minister for Social Policy, the Commission is in the process of setting up a new subcommittee on legal issues to look at the process of legal aid, to review the law and to enable constant monitoring and evaluating.</p> <p><b>1.1.2</b> Last year's request to the MJHA to appoint a representative of the MJHA to be co-opted onto the Commission, with observer status, so as to improve liaison between the two ministries in relation to domestic violence, was refused. It is now being recommended that a specific official is appointed with honorarium.</p>	<p><b>Commission with the support of the relevant ministries</b></p> <p><b>Commission with the support of the relevant ministries</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>establish effective legal protection, including protection orders, for all women victims of violence, and regularly monitor and evaluate its effective implementation;</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>1.2</b> A call has been issued for the services of a 'focal point' in relation to data collation. Monitoring and evaluation of the various protection orders is to be included as part of their brief.</p>	<p><b>Commission/ Subcommittee on Research and Data Collation/Focal Point</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>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;</i></li> </ul>	

<p><b>1.3</b> This year the Commission has liaised with the Jesuit Refugee Service(JRS) in the compilation, printing and distribution of a leaflet in various relevant languages to help raise awareness on the issue of domestic violence and the services available among the refugee and asylum seeker community.</p> <p>The legal subcommittee will also be considering the issues under this heading, since it is clear that more work needs to be undertaken.</p>	<p><b>Commission/ new Subcommittee on Legal Issues</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>identify and put in place measures to increase the rate of reporting, prosecution and sanctions of perpetrators of domestic violence against women;</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>1.4</b> Recent student research has confirmed that not all police officers are aware of the guidelines issued a few years ago. The Commission is planning to request that the guidelines are re-distributed to all serving police officers, against signature.</p> <p>Awareness raising within the general public of the changes instituted as part of the Domestic Violence Act 2006 regarding prosecution and the rights of victims is ongoing through various media interventions by the members of the Commission. This will now receive a boost through the national awareness raising campaign as part of the ESF funded project.</p> <p><b>1.4.1</b> Gathering and Monitoring of data on reporting, prosecution and sanctioning of perpetrators is necessary</p>	<p><b>Commission/ new Subcommittee on Legal Issues</b></p> <p><b>Subcommittee on Awareness Raising/ ESF project</b></p> <p><b>Subcommittee on Research and Data Collation/ Focal Point</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>provide victims with legal aid, psycho-social support and guarantee protection for witnesses;</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>1.5</b> A review of the existing legal aid system is still pending, though it has been mentioned that the Justice Unit is working on this. The new ‘focal point’ will liaise with this unit and refer the information to the subcommittee on legal issues for their action.</p> <p><b>1.5.1</b> With regard to psycho-social support, the Commission has continued to raise the issue of the need of more human resources (social workers, psychologists) within the designated agency, <i>Agenzija Appogg</i>, with the relevant authorities. This issue will continue to be raised.</p> <p>The Commission also negotiated an agreement with Richmond Foundation to provide support to workers in the field dealing with domestic violence service users who have mental health problems, which has been renewed till end 2010.</p> <p><b>1.5.2</b> The fund set up last year between the Commission and the designated agency, <i>Agenzija Appogg</i>, to pay for private police protection to accompany witnesses and victims to court has been renewed for a further year.</p>	<p><b>Commission/ new Subcommittee on Legal Issues/Focal Point</b></p> <p><b>Commission</b></p>





<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>provide resources for an adequate number of safe shelters for women victims of violence who have to flee from violence, as well as for advocacy services and crises centres, and provide these services with the necessary human and financial resources;</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>2.3</b> The Commission is to continue to advocate for the above. The Commission partnered Victim Support Malta in a request for funds to set up a crisis centre, however this was refused. A new application is to be submitted.</p> <p>The Commission’s task group on a sexual assault response team (SART) is ongoing and working on a proposal to be made to the relevant authorities, hopefully within the next few months. Rooms for the SART have been promised within Mater Dei.</p>	<p><b>Commission/ Task Group</b></p>
<p><b>2.3.1</b> It is still being suggested that in the longer term, a proper evaluation of the training needs of staff working in this sector in Malta and Gozo is carried out, and recommendations made on how best to meet these needs. An initial identification of training needs has been carried out in the subcommittee on services development. The Commission also raised the issue of the need for better liaison regarding training activities with the Foundation for Social Welfare Services – this needs to be followed up.</p>	<p><b>Commission/ Subcommittee on Service Development</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>develop a coordinated 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;</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>2.4</b> The proceedings of the seminar held in November 2008 entitled ‘Working Together To Combat Domestic Violence’ for workers from different sectors, such as social workers, police, lawyers etc that touch with domestic violence were published. A second seminar was held in November 2009 entitled ‘An Integrated Approach towards Domestic Violence’, the proceedings of which were posted on our website. The usefulness of joint training was once again strongly emphasized by the participants.</p> <p>One of the planned activities of the ESF project awarded to the Commission is training for professionals in health care, justice, social welfare and education. This is planned to be carried out early summer 2010.</p>	<p><b>Commission/ Subcommittee on Service Development/ ESF project</b></p>
<p><b>2.4.1</b> The various subcommittees of the Commission provide fora for different sectors to interact and network; these will continue to do so.</p>	<p><b>Various subcommittees</b></p>
<p><b>2.4.2</b> A proper ongoing training plan, after a detailed evaluation of the gaps, still needs to be set up, in the longer term (see 2.3.1 above).</p>	<p><b>Commission/ Subcommittee on Service Development</b></p>

<p><b>2.4.3</b> The ESF project includes a training component which is going to be used to help develop draft protocols to regulate joint working between the various professionals. Depending on available resources within the Commission, it is hoped that feedback from the two seminars organised by the Commission will be integrated with the drafts to produce more holistic protocols. These would then need to be adopted by the various stakeholders.</p>	<p><b>Commission/ESF project</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>organise training on domestic violence against women for professionals (e.g. police, medical professionals, judicial officials etc.);</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>2.5</b> The Commission has continued to meet any requests for training (e.g. lecture for final year law students; training for Gozo MCAST students; training for seminarians; etc) this year we once again organized a seminar as mentioned above, and negotiated six free places with the organizers of a Grundtvig course held in Malta for workers touching on domestic violence.</p> <p>As stated above, the training component of the ESF project also includes sensitisation for professional groups (lawyers; police; teachers; social workers; health professionals; employment advisors) on domestic violence issues.</p>	<p><b>Commission</b></p>
<p><b>2.5.1</b> see also 2.3.1 above</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>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;</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>2.6</b> This year training was requested once more, and provided, for final year law students. Training was also provided for seminarians with the collaboration of <i>Agenzija Appogg</i>. Our plan to prioritise student teachers within this year of reporting has not been implemented. This still needs to be actioned.</p>	<p><b>Commission</b></p>
<p><b>2.6.1</b> In last year’s report it was suggested that in the longer term the Commission would initiate negotiations with various university departments to offer a post-graduate certificate course on domestic violence open to various professions. Members of the Commission who are also academic members of staff at the University will be meeting to discuss ways forward with this.</p>	<p><b>Commission</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>encourage at all levels the work of NGOs involved in combating violence against women, and establish active cooperation with these NGOs, including appropriate logistic and financial support;</i></li> </ul>	

<p><b>2.7</b> The Commission has continued to encourage and support the work of, as well as advocate on behalf of, NGO's, through: its subcommittee on service development; the domestic violence workers forum; the task group on a sexual assault response team; facilitating access to training; daphne group. It will continue to do this as well as deal with ongoing issues as they arise.</p>	<p><b>Commission/ various subcommittees</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>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;</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>2.8</b> The ESF project ‘Dignity for Survivors of Domestic Violence’ aims at increasing access to employment for women victims of Domestic Violence. This is being tackled through: training for various professionals on the availability of and accessing of various employment schemes; sensitisation of employment professionals on Domestic Violence; awareness raising campaign; etc.</p> <p><b>2.8.1</b> The subcommittee on service development has been monitoring public housing allocation and time lapse of receipt of social security benefits. The monitoring needs to be better structured and this will be undertaken by the ‘focal point’ once the person is in place.</p>	<p><b>Commission/ESF project</b></p> <p><b>Subcommittee on Service Development/Focal Point</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>encourage the establishment of nationally coordinated and locally based programmes for perpetrators. These programmes must have at their core the need for women’s safety and be organised in close cooperation with services for women victims.</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>2.9</b> This service already exists in Malta. NO further action is required for the time being.</p>	<p><b>None</b></p>

**2.3 Data collection**

	<p><b>Action needed</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>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</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>3.1</b> Over the past year, the Subcommittee on Research and Data Collation together with the Chair of the Commission has continued to work on the structure necessary for this to happen. The focal point was created on advice of the Commissioner for Data Protection to enable the harmonisation of the statistical data. Once the person is engaged the Commission will be able to give this the priority it deserves.</p>	<p><b>Subcommittee on Research and Data Collation/ Focal Point</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>use a methodology that allows for gender analysis and comparison with other member states of the Council of Europe;</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>3.2</b> Once the focal point is engaged they will be liaising with other entities within the Council of Europe member states to be able to provide data that is comparable across countries under the supervision of the subcommittee on research.</p> <p>The Council of Europe is in the process of drafting a legally binding convention which includes a research component, and the EU is considering the setting up of an observatory to monitor data from the member states. Hence this element of the action plan has further gained in importance and will need to be prioritized.</p>	<p><b>Subcommittee on Research and Data Collation/Focal Point</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>collect and disseminate good practices for preventing violence occurring in the family or domestic unit, protecting its victims and prosecuting the perpetrators</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>3.3</b> Whilst some initial work has been done in this respect, more needs to be done. The EU observatory mentioned above will also be including this element, so this will have to move up in importance.</p>	<p><b>Subcommittee on Service Development</b></p>

## 2.4 Awareness raising

	<p><b>Action needed</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>publicly denounce domestic violence against women as a violation of women's human rights and commit to taking action against it at the highest political level</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>4.1</b> The Commission's second presentation to the Parliamentary Social Affairs Committee on Domestic Violence in Malta had to be postponed due to the then suspension of parliament. A new date has not yet been set.</p> <p>However, the various publications issued in the year of reporting by the Commission were distributed to all Members of Parliament to attempt to increase awareness of the issues at a high political level. These included the commission's last annual report, a study on the perceptions of the Maltese public on Domestic Violence, and the proceedings from the 2008 seminar.</p>	<p><b>Commission</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>raise awareness on domestic violence against women 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;</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>4.2</b> The Commission has continued to respond to requests from the media to the best of its ability, and various members of the Commission have participated in television and radio programmes as well as been interviewed for print media.</p> <p>The awareness raising sub-committee has been reconvened.</p> <p>The ESF project includes a national media campaign and the tender for it has been issued.</p> <p>Ideally the Commission would like to have its own public relations officer to help in its work.</p> <p><b>4.2.1</b> With regard to educational curricula, see also 2.6 above.</p>	<p><b>Commission/ Subcommittee on Awareness Raising/ ESF project</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>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.</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>4.3</b> A date is being awaited to be able to give a second presentation to the Parliamentary Social Affairs Committee (see 4.1 above).</p> <p><b>4.3.1</b> A date for a session with the Gozo Curia was given but unfortunately the Commission was unable to attend. Negotiations are in process for another date to be fixed.</p>	<p><b>Commission</b></p> <p><b>Commission</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>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 domestic violence .</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>4.4</b> One of the activities requested in the tender document for the national awareness campaign as part of the Dignity for Survivors project, funded through ESF, is a football match with the players publicly supporting men against violence against women, through the wearing of the white ribbons.</p> <p>The tender has been issued and is planned to start in June 2010.</p>	<p><b>Subcommittee on Awareness Raising</b></p>

## 3. Awareness-raising

Raising awareness on domestic violence and its effects remains an important part of the Commission's work, though in the year of reporting our efforts have had to be somewhat muted. This will nonetheless continue to be considered a priority.

### 3.1 Presentations

Following the meeting the Chairperson had with Fr Jimmy Bonnici, Rector of the Maltese Seminary, it was agreed that the Commission would give two training sessions to the seminarians. These sessions took place on Wednesday 29 April 2009 and Tuesday 05 May 2009 and the talks were delivered by Dr Marceline Naudi, the chairperson of the Commission, and Ms Doreen Camilleri, Service Area Leader of the Domestic Violence Services of *Agenzija Appogg*.

Dr Marceline Naudi gave a presentation on Wednesday 9 September 2009 in relation to the EU DAPHNE programme to employees at the Foundation for Social Welfare Services on invitation by Mr Osvaldo Zammit from MEUSAC.

The chairperson was invited to deliver a talk to MCAST students on an invitation by MCAST in Gozo on Wednesday 18 November 2009. The seminar on Domestic Violence, was organized for all Gozitan students undertaking courses there.

Dr Marceline Naudi also delivered a two hour lecture to Fifth Year Law students at the University of Malta on Tuesday 16 February 2010, by invitation of Dr Ruth Farrugia, senior lecturer at Faculty of Law.

### 3.2 Communicating with Judiciary and the Courts

The Commission invited members of the Judiciary to attend a conference entitled 'An Integrated Approach towards Domestic Violence' organized to mark the International Day of Violence Against Women. One member of the Judiciary attended the seminar which was held on Friday 20 November 2009. The Commission is also liaising with Ms M' Lourdes Lautier Deputy Registrar, Family Court Registry and Mediation to organize a familiarization meeting of the Law Courts for the Commission and others. As stated above, Dr Marceline Naudi was invited to form part of a panel in which domestic violence was discussed as part of a family court conference organized by the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs. The conference was held in January 2010 and the audience consisted of the Judiciary and other professionals that are related to the work of the Family Court.



### 3.3 Awareness raising: General public

The Subcommittee on Awareness Raising was reconvened and started to meet to discuss the items to be included in the tender for the publicity campaign as part of the ESF project Dignity for Domestic Violence Survivors. Although in the period of reporting the Commission did not solicit participation in the media, it nonetheless responded to various requests for participation in events and interviews in the press, on radio and television, as listed below. General publicity in the media was thus kept to a minimum to respect the request from *Agenzija Appogg* not to have too much media coverage so as not to inundate the Domestic Violence Unit, which is still under-staffed, with an increase in referrals.

- Participation in a fête on Sunday 18 October 2009 organized by *Centru Parrokjali Iklin* together with *Dar MerhbaBik* with the aim of raising awareness on domestic violence.
- Participation through an interview for the article ‘More sensitive services being planned for sexual assault victims’ by Ms Claudia Calleja for the Times of Malta published on Sunday 02 August 2009 (Dr Marceline Naudi).
- Participation through an article ‘*Il-femicidju u l-Vjolenza Domestika*’ for *Il-Punt* in *ILLUM* published on Sunday 2 August 2010 (Dr Marceline Naudi).
- Participation in a programme ‘*L-Argument f’Nofs il-Gimgha*’ aired on RTK on Wednesday 9 September, 2009 hosted by Ms Anna Bonnano (Dr Marceline Naudi).
- Participation in the programme ‘Generation’ aired on Favourite Channel on Tuesday 13 October, 2009 (Dr Albert Bell).
- Participation in the programme ‘*Bla Agenda*’ aired on One TV on Saturday 31 October, 2009 hosted by Ms Josette Grech (Dr Marceline Naudi).
- Participation on a programme ‘*Malta Illejla*’ aired on NET TV on Thursday 12 November 2009 hosted by Ms Anna Bonnano (Dr Marceline Naudi).
- Participation on a radio programme ‘*Bil-Haqq u s-Sewwa*’ aired on Campus FM on an invitation by Ms Yvette Borg aired on Tuesday 15 December 2009 and repeated on the following Friday (Dr Marceline Naudi and Inspector Louise Calleja).
- Participation in the programme ‘1205’ aired on TVM on Tuesday 19 January 2010 and hosted by Mr Ray Calleja (Dr Roberta Lepre’).



- Participation in an online interview for the student journal Insite (Dr Marceline Naudi).

Press releases<sup>9</sup> were also issued by the Commission as indicated hereunder:

- The Commission issued a press release on International Women’s Day marked on 8 March 2009;
- The Commission issued a press release on Thursday 20 August 2009 on the femicides that took place in Malta;
- The Commission issued a press release on Friday 20 November 2009 after holding the seminar ‘An Integrated Approach towards Domestic Violence’.

### **3.4 Website**

The Commission’s website [www.domesticviolence.gov.mt](http://www.domesticviolence.gov.mt), which was set up in June 2007 as part of the Ministry’s website, includes information on the Commission and its activities as well as links to the laws related to domestic violence. It further contains links to websites of other organizations which deal with issues of domestic violence. The website is continually being updated. Within the year of reporting the last annual report was uploaded, as well as the proceedings of the Seminars organized by the Commission in November 2008 and 2009. The study on the Maltese Public’s Perceptions on Domestic Violence which was commissioned by the Commission to the National Statistics Office (NSO) was also uploaded. Other material uploaded on the website include press releases issued by the Commission and interviews for the press given by members of the Commission.

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<sup>9</sup> Press releases can be found on [www.domesticviolence.gov.mt](http://www.domesticviolence.gov.mt)



## 4. Service and Policy Development

Other than the work being carried out by the subcommittees on service and policy development, the Commission also held various meetings with key stake holders.

### 4.1 Meeting with Mr Frans Borg, Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Social Policy

The Chairperson and members of the Commission met with Mr Frans Borg, Permanent Secretary on Tuesday 17 March 2009 on his appointment as Permanent Secretary within the Ministry for Social Policy to discuss issues related to the field of domestic violence. The Chairperson gave a brief summary of the work the Commission does and the involvement of its members in the various subcommittees that enables it to work more effectively on issues related to domestic violence.

The aim of devising standards for services provided in the area of domestic violence was discussed. Mr Borg was also informed that the Subcommittee on Research and Data Collation was working on the harmonization of data collected by the various entities and that through funds obtained through an ESF project, a prevalence study will be commissioned to enable the Commission to have a clearer picture of the extent of the problem in this field. The shortage of social workers within the Domestic Violence Unit at *Agenzija Appogg* was raised once more as well as the consequence that due to this shortage of staff the Commission had to limit its work on awareness raising.

The long waiting list that exists for psychological services at *Agenzija Appogg* and the need for administrative help for the Commission were also discussed.

### 4.2 Meeting with Mr Joe Ebejer, Data Protection Commissioner

Dr Marceline Naudi, Chairperson of the Commission and Dr Albert Bell, Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Research and Data Collation had a meeting with Commissioner for Data Protection, Mr Joe Ebejer and two members of his staff. The meeting was held on Tuesday 5 May 2009.

The discussion of the meeting focused on the possibility of data sharing on service users between agencies. It was agreed that for this to be possible the Commission would need to devise a structure for the process, with a central person/agency (focal point), which would receive the data from the agencies, and process it accordingly. It was however clear that the responsibility for the data would remain with the Commission. It was further agreed that it was to start with data sharing amongst just two agencies.

The Commissioner for Data Protection suggested that once the structure was in place the way forward was for the Commission to write a formal request, naming the entities involved, and what data is to be shared, whilst giving the legal basis for this request, in that it is part of the Commission's remit as per the Domestic Violence Act.

#### **4.3 Meeting with Dr Therese Commodini Cachia, Chairperson Organisation for the Promotion of Human Rights (Malta) and Ms Philippa Arrigo**

On 19 January 2010, Dr Marceline Naudi met with Dr Therese Commodini Cachia and Ms Philippa Arrigo to discuss the report that was presented by Organisation for the Promotion of Human Rights (Malta) (OPHR) in relation to the publication 'Violence in the EU Examined'. Issues discussed included statistics and monitoring; training for police officers by outside trainers; the issue of teenage perpetrators and the issue of children witnesses of domestic violence; and the possibility of specific criteria for judiciary to guide their decisions on whether to concede to requests for withdrawal of domestic violence cases and barring orders.

#### **4.4 Meeting with the Designated Agency responsible for the provision of preventive, therapeutic and, or treatment programmes for persons experiencing domestic violence and perpetrators of domestic violence**

The Commission held a meeting on Wednesday 21 January 2010 with Ms Sina Bugeja, newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation for Social Welfare Services, Ms Yvonne Mallia, Operations Director, *Agenzija Appogg* and Ms Maryanne Gauci, Adult and Family Service Manager, *Agenzija Appogg*. The Chairperson and an additional three members, Dr Albert Bell, Sr Joan Garner and Dr Taygeta Tilney of the Commission attended the meeting. The discussion started by focusing on the issue of the need to recruit additional social workers in the Domestic Violence Unit within *Agenzija Appogg*. The Commission then informed the Foundation representatives that it was working on the harmonization of data and was in the process of recruiting a focal point who would be responsible for the collation of data from the various entities that deal with domestic violence cases. The issue of the evaluation of domestic violence services was also discussed and the Commission was informed that a Foundation wide evaluation was carried out which included the effectiveness of the services from the worker point of view. The Foundation was also intending to carry out the second part which will be from the clients' point of view. Training for social workers in the field was also discussed. It was suggested that occasional meetings will be held between the Commission and the person responsible for the training at the Foundation for Social Welfare Services, to be able to better co-ordinate our efforts in this respect. The Commission also suggested that it could be consulted in the drawing up of the annual operational training plans in relation to domestic violence. The issue of the case management software

was also discussed and the Commission was informed that the pilot project was in its final phase. The Commission also informed Ms Bugeja that a national awareness raising campaign was planned as part of the ESF project ‘Dignity for Domestic Violence Survivors’ and that it will be spread over almost two years so as not to inundate the services with referrals. The Commission further informed the Foundation that it was about to set up a Subcommittee on Legal Issues with the aim of reviewing the Domestic Violence Act and that it will be requesting a representative from the Foundation to sit on this. It was finally suggested that the meetings between the Chairperson of the Commission and Ms Maryanne Gauci, Adult and Family Service Manager, could be reconvened.

#### **4.5 Review of domestic violence law**

Following the *Ad Hoc* meeting held last year to look at the problems and issues being encountered in practice in relation to the law and legal matters, the Commission will be setting up a Subcommittee on Legal Issues to look at the law and suggest the necessary amendments to increase the law’s effectiveness. It is being suggested that the members of the subcommittee will include representatives from the Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs, Ministry for Education, Employment and the Family, the Office of the Attorney General and the Social Affairs Committee. The Subcommittee will be chaired by the Commission’s representative. These amendments will address the difficulties being faced in relation to the law by women attempting to escape domestic violence as well as by the frontline workers. The terms of reference are being drawn up and letters for nomination of members on the subcommittee will be sent in due course.

#### **4.6 Liaison with Entities**

##### **4.6.1 Liaison with the Domestic Violence Worker’s forum**

The Chairperson of the Commission continued to convene, in a personal capacity, regular meetings of the domestic violence worker’s forum (also known as ‘the shelters’ meeting’) which includes all the social workers employed in the sector, as well as representatives of the various shelters. Information is relayed through this forum, allowing for various practice issues to be raised and brought to the attention of the Commission.

##### **4.6.2 Liaison with Richmond Foundation**

One of the above-mentioned issues was the problem encountered by workers when dealing with a service user who has both domestic violence and mental health issues, as detailed in last year’s report. Social workers benefited throughout the year of reporting from the services of a mental health support

worker from Richmond Foundation when dealing with cases involving domestic violence and mental health issues as per the agreement broached last year. At the end of 2009, the Commission topped up the amount of hours to the original hundred hours of consultation. This arrangement will continue to be monitored and reviewed.

#### **4.6.3 Liaison with the Police Commissioner**

Following a suggestion by the Commission to have one specially trained police officer available per district to receive reports on domestic violence, the Commissioner for Police informed the Commission that each police officer is being trained to enable him/her to handle cases related to domestic violence as part of in-service training being given by experienced officers from within the police corp. The Commission welcomed the news that training for police officers was being further extended to twenty lecture hours as per the European Police College (CEPOL) regulations. This training will not only be given to new recruits but also to serving police officers.

Private police protection was welcomed by social workers and women to attend to court sittings. By the end of 2009, this service of private police protection was used on two separate occasions. The fund which was set up between *Agenzija Appogg* and the Commission to pay for private police protection where necessary and where other options were not appropriate or possible was topped up to cover the amount utilized in 2009. This service will also continue to be monitored and reviewed.

#### **4.6.4 Liaison with Jesuits Refugee Service**

The Commission in collaboration with the Jesuits Refugee Service (JRS) has published and issued leaflets in various languages to be given out to migrants.

Dr Naudi was also invited by the JRS to sit on an advisory board for a project on gender based violence which they are involved in together with other European countries called, 'Senperforto'.

# 5. European Union, Council of Europe and International Projects

## 5.1 European Social Fund

### 5.1.1 ESF 3.43 Dignity for Domestic Violence Survivors

The European Social Fund project ‘Dignity for Domestic Violence Survivors’<sup>10</sup> under the Cohesion Policy 2007-2013 Operational Programme II, Priority Axis III Empowering People for More Jobs and a Better Quality of Life, which was awarded to the Commission as the lead partner with the cooperation of several other organisations, started with the recruitment of a project administrator in September 2009 and has been ongoing since then. The award of this project has enabled the Commission to continue its work in the area. It will run till November 2011.

The project includes:

- Study on the Prevalence of Domestic Violence against Women in Malta and its Impact on the Employment Prospects of the Women: This started being undertaken in October 2009 and should be completed in August 2010. The results of this study, which will be the first of its kind in Malta, will enable the better development of policy and service planning and development in the field;
- Study visit abroad for domestic violence workers: This was undertaken in October 2009, with nine workers selected from the Domestic Violence Unit (*Agenzija Appogg*) and from the various shelters, visiting a shelter in the Czech Republic. This visit proved fruitful for the workers who were able to see different ways of working and learn from them;
- Development of standards for shelters to include provision for inclusion of victims of domestic violence within the labour market: This component is ongoing through the Subcommittee on Service Development. This will also be tackled through training which is scheduled for summer 2010;
- Development of co-ordination plans including protocols for sectors involved in domestic violence including:
  - police
  - government entities
  - health service providers
  - NGO’s –

This will be tackled through training meetings for the professionals involved, scheduled for summer 2010.

- National Media awareness campaign – A tender for the awarding of this component has been issued and will close in April. The campaign is planned to run from June 2010 to November 2011.

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10 For ESF3.43 Project report see appendix H

Unfortunately the project administrator tendered his notice of termination in December, citing health reasons. Although two calls were issued for a replacement within this period of reporting, the project remained without a project administrator. This created significant additional workload for both the chairperson and the secretary to the Commission.

### **5.1.2 Care Creates Change**

The Commission was approached by WasteServ Malta Ltd to be a partner for a project entitled 'Care Creates Change' under the Cohesion Policy 2007-2013 Operational Programme II, Priority Axis III Empowering People for More Jobs and a Better Quality of Life. The Commission was asked to be present on the day of the official launch of the project which was held on Friday 27 November 2009 at the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta. The Commission was represented at the launch by Dr Roberta Lepre'. The Commission also forwarded information with regards to entities and social workers working in the field of domestic violence for them to be contacted to take part in the activities of the project. Information about this project is relayed to the relevant domestic violence service practices by the Commission.

### **5.1.3 Economic Empowerment for Victims of Domestic Violence**

The Commission, together with Victim Support Malta as partners, submitted another ESF application 'Economic Empowerment for Victims of Domestic Violence' under the Cohesion Policy 2007 – 2013 Operational Programme II, Empowering People for More Jobs and a Better Quality of Life. Unfortunately, the project was not awarded funds.

## **5.2 DAPHNE III Programme, 2007-2013**

### **5.2.1 DAPHNE Meetings**

As Malta's representative for the DAPHNE programme, the Chairperson attended a meeting on 30 September 2009 in Brussels. The DAPHNE Programme awards funds for projects aimed at preventing and combating violence against children, young people and women and to protect persons experiencing violence and groups at risk. The meeting was held to approve the projects that were chosen for funding. As in previous meetings the issue that Malta is being discriminated against due to its small size was raised, as well as its resultant lack of 'local' agencies which would be eligible to apply for funds under this programme. Due to the shortage of funds subsequent meetings were not held and communication with the representatives of the various member states was through electronic mail.



### 5.2.2 Malta Application

The Commission once more convened a group of interested and eligible entities working in the field of Domestic Violence to put together a joint application under the DAPHNE III programme<sup>11</sup>. After several hurdles the group managed to submit its application for DAPHNE funds, but unfortunately was not successful.

### 5.3 Grundtvig 3

A Grundtvig training course ‘Acting on the Background for a higher Climbing Up of Women Survivors of Violence’ was held in Malta from Tuesday 05 May to Saturday 09 May 2009. Following negotiations between the Commission and the organizing agency, six free places were granted for Maltese workers from the domestic violence field. The participants nominated to attend the training sessions came from the various shelters in Malta and from *Agenzija Appogg*. The course was of interest to the participants since it explored several aspects of domestic violence. Whilst certain topics explored and discussed during the training were already familiar to the Maltese workers, other issues addressed in the seminar were quite new and had not been previously tackled.

Topics covered included the perpetrators and the effects and symptoms of domestic violence on children, as well as methods of abuse, such as organised crime, planned abuse, and the way perpetrators think and plan ahead. Of interest was the approach of understanding domestic violence from the perpetrator’s point of view with the perpetrator’s *modus operandi* being a focal point during the seminar. Through analysing and sharing personal experiences, a better understanding of the entire process of domestic violence from a tri-dimensional aspect was obtained. The focus was not just the victim but also the perpetrator and other relevant third parties, be it children, relatives or other professionals involved in the case. The ‘perpetrator’ was further explored within the parameters of crime and not just the relationship and the effect on the victim.

Sharing of experiences, policies and procedures related to work in the domestic violence sector with other participants from other countries was also found to be positive by the Maltese workers.

The organising agency expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the training sessions and expressed interest in future collaboration with the Commission.

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11 For DAPHNE report see appendix E

## **5.4 Council of Europe**

### **5.4.1 Committee meetings on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence**

Dr Marceline Naudi was nominated as Malta's representative to attend the Ad Hoc Committee meetings on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (CAHVIO). This committee meets on regular basis to work on the drafting of a convention that will eventually be legally binding in all Council of Europe member states. During the year of reporting meetings were held in Strasbourg in April 2009, May 2009, December 2009 and February 2009.

### **5.4.2 Meeting with advisor to the Council of Europe**

Dr Marceline Naudi had a meeting with Mr Nigel Warner, advisor to the Council of Europe to discuss issues related to the CAHVIO discussion on domestic violence. This meeting was held on 27 October, 2009.

## **5.5 European Union**

### **5.5.1 Meeting with Policy Assistant to EU Vice-President**

Dr Marceline Naudi, Chairperson of the Commission had a meeting with Ms Monica Westeren, Policy Assistant to EU Vice-President Margot Wallstroem was held on Wednesday 14 October 2009, as requested by the European Commission Representatives in Malta.

### **5.5.2 Conference on Measures and Strategies to Combat Men's Violence against Women**

Dr Marceline Naudi participated in the Conference organized by the Swedish Presidency on Measures and Strategies to Combat Men's Violence against Women. The conference, for experts, was held in Stockholm on Monday 9 November 2009. The conference was attended by representatives from all member states with the participation of speakers by officials from the Council of Europe and the United Nations.

### **5.5.3 Seminar on Victims**

Dr Marceline Naudi was invited to attend a seminar on Victims held in Madrid on Friday 15 January 2010 organized by the Spanish Presidency. The seminar focused on victims of terrorist actions and victims of violence against women including domestic violence. It was proposed that an EU observatory on violence against women is set up, as well as the European Protection Order.

At the same time a meeting was held for representatives of the EU member states who form part of the CAHVIO. The aim of the meeting was to attempt to encourage a common position by EU member states at the Council of Europe CAHVIO, which is preparing a convention on violence which will be binding in all Council of Europe member countries. The convention will also include the element of research and data collation.

#### **5.5.4 Meeting convened by the Spanish Ambassador**

The Chairperson of the Commission was invited to a meeting convened by the Spanish Ambassador at the start of the Spanish Presidency of the EU, on Monday 25 January 2010 to explain the Spanish Presidency's commitment to furthering gender equality. As part of this commitment the Ambassador is planning to organize a Seminar on the topic before the end of the presidency. Present for the meeting were representatives from the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality, the National Council of Women, the Malta Confederation for Women's Organisations and Women in Enterprise. The programme of the seminar was discussed, including a request for input on domestic violence by Dr Naudi. Communication on the seminar is ongoing.

#### **5.5.5 2010 European Year to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion**

The European Union has set this year as the 2010 European Year to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion and all member states are to organize a set of activities through EU funding. Individuals from various sectors of society were approached to act as ambassadors. Their role will be to be present in the various activities that will be organized during the year. Dr Marceline Naudi, Chairperson of the Commission was approached to be the Ambassador to represent domestic violence victims. In Malta the launch of the anti-poverty year was held on Wednesday 03 February 2010 at the Archeology Museum in Valletta. Each ambassador was asked to give a brief speech.

#### **5.6 WAVE Women Against Violence Europe**

WAVE is a network of European women's non-governmental organizations working in the field of combating violence against women and children. The Network sets out to promote and strengthen the human rights of women and children in general and to prevent violence against women and children in particular. The Commission on Domestic Violence accepted to be WAVE's focal point on the WAVE website.

The Commission was represented by Maria Attard at the 11<sup>th</sup> Wave Conference 'Stop Violence Against Women and Children' which was held in Vienna University of Technology on the 24-26 September, 2009 with participants from Europe, USA, Canada, Asia and Australia. The first day of the conference was taken

up by three panels each presenting a different aspect of the chosen theme: Panel 1 ‘International Measures to End Violence against Women’; Panel 2 ‘Rights of Migrant and Refugee Women – Victims of Violence’; Panel 3 ‘Violence Against Women and their Children’. The second day of the conference had as a main feature two panels: one presenting ‘Policies and Legislation on Violence Against Women’ and another one on ‘The Rights of Migrant and Refugee Women – Victims of Violence’. These were followed by workshops and a plenary session with reporting back and recommendations. An evening reception at the Rathhauskeller, hosted by Nicole Krottsch, Secretary for Women’s Affairs of Vienna’s Socialist Party, closed the day. The third day of the conference focused on Networking and how to keep expanding thus forming a worldwide network. The conference also had two supporting programmes: an exhibition on ‘Silent Witnesses: Stories of women killed as a result of domestic violence’ and a bazaar of Information material.

During the Conference contacts were made, inviting Rosa Logar and Marcella Pirone for the Commission’s next annual conference which was to be held in November 2009.

The Commission was also informed by WAVE CoCo foundation that area focal points were being set up. Malta was to form part of an area including Italy and it was agreed that Ms Marcella Pirrone from Italy will be the area focal point.

## **5.7 Questionnaires**

### **5.7.1 Questionnaire on Violence against Women by the United Nations**

The Commission on Domestic Violence was nominated as focal point for the UN database on domestic violence.

The questionnaire which required filling as the response of the Government of Malta to the United Nations Secretary-General’s coordinated database on violence against women was forwarded to the Commission by Mr George Sultana, Director (EU and International Relations) and was duly filled in.

### **5.7.2 WHO Questionnaire**

The WHO Regional Committee for Europe adopted a Resolution on the Prevention of injuries in September, 2005 (EUR/RC55/R9) and consequently requests regular country updates. The Subcommittee on Research and Data Collation met in an *Ad Hoc* meeting to discuss the questionnaire. Responses to the questions relevant to the Commission were given in the questionnaire, in collaboration with Dr T. Firman Tilney as the WHO focal point on the part of the Department of Health.

### **5.7.3 Council of Europe Questionnaires**

The questionnaire ‘Parliaments united in combating domestic violence against women – follow up of Resolution 1582 (2007) was duly filled.

### **5.7.4 Euromed Questionnaire**

EUROMED ‘Istanbul Questionnaire’, *Strengthening the Role of Women in Society* forwarded to the Commission by Ms Amanda Catania, Research and EU/International Affairs Officer at the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality was duly filled.

### **5.7.5 Questionnaire by Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2005-2015**

A Survey Questionnaire regarding a Mid Term Review (MTR) of the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2005-2015 (PoA) forwarded to the Commission by Ms Amanda Catania, Research and EU/International Affairs Officer at the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality was duly filled.

### **5.7.6 Reports by the Council of European Union Working Party on Social Questions**

The Chairperson was asked to give comments on the Draft Council Conclusions on ‘The Eradication of Violence Against Women in the European Union’ by the Council of European Union Working Party on Social Questions. These reports were forwarded by Mr Vincent Cauchi, Assistant Director (EU and International Affairs, Policy Development and EU Affairs). Comments and suggestions were duly made.



## 6. Research and Statistics

The Subcommittee on Research and Data Collation<sup>12</sup> continued to meet on a regular basis during this reporting period. The main thrust of the work this year was twofold: firstly it continued to refine its proposal for the prevalence study so that a tender document could be issued under the ESF project which clearly delineated what was being requested; and secondly it liaised with the Commissioner for Data Protection on the setting up of a structure that would enable the harmonization of data through the agency sharing of data.

As a result of its work the fieldwork of prevalence study is currently being finalized and a preliminary report should be available shortly. The structure for data collection and harmonisation requires the engaging of a ‘focal point’, and this post was advertised in the local press towards the end of this period of reporting. Someone should be in place at the beginning of next.

The Commission also published the study it had commissioned on ‘The General Public’s Perception of Domestic Violence’ in November 2009<sup>13</sup>.

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12 See appendix C for full report on Subcommittee on Research and Data Collation

13 A copy of this publication is available on [www.domesticviolence.gov.mt](http://www.domesticviolence.gov.mt)





## 7. Conclusion

This report marks the close of the first year of the second term of the Commission on Domestic Violence which was set up in 2006 as a result of the 'Domestic Violence Act'. As has been evidenced above, this year was filled with activity and we are finally seeing some of our dreams realized and our efforts starting to bear fruit. Soon (August 2010) we will have the results of the prevalence study which will give us a realistic picture of the situation and help us give advice to policy makers based on research evidence. Soon (May 2010) we will have a 'focal point' in place, which will help us gather realistic statistics of those who do report abuse. Soon (July 2010) we will have draft protocols for inter-agency working for consultation and approval by the various stake holders. Standards for service continue to be drafted by the front line workers and the service users' representatives. And of course our long-planned national awareness campaign will soon be launched (summer 2010). Much of this work has been made possible by the hard work that has gone into, and still goes into, negotiating with the authorities over the ESF funding of our project 'Dignity for Domestic Violence Survivors'.

Having listed our (soon-to-be) dreams-come-true, it also needs to be said that, of course, as always, there are still many things that were hoped for that did not come about. Once more I find myself having to state categorically that one of my own personal disappointments remains that, notwithstanding our raising the issue of the need for more human resources in the domestic violence field at every opportunity, this need has still not been met. Our national publicity campaign is due to start in a few months time and this will undoubtedly result in an increase of referrals to the social work agencies. And yet their resources have not been increased. This is of great concern since this means they may be put in a position where they have to institute a waiting list, which will be anathema to women seeking help. Once a woman has plucked up the courage to come out and seek help they must find that help, otherwise they may never seek help again... And this is certainly NOT what we have been working for these past four years!

So, once more, I make a plea – do not let all our good work go to waste! Give the field the resources it needs to provide a decent service to all those people who seek a chance of a better future, a future free from abuse, a future which is their basic human right.

Over to you!

# Appendix A

**Financial Report  
Breakdown of Item 5477  
Domestic Violence Commission  
up to and including 31.12.09**

<b>Budget</b>	<b>€47,000.00</b>
<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount paid</b>
Seminar	€5,879.16
Printing of Reports	€3,580.50
Honoraria 2008	€12,811.55
Overtime Secretary	€1,127.04
Printing of leaflets in collaboration with Jesuits Refugee Service	€ 473.00
Expenses re study visit as part of ESF project & adverts	€11,233.42
Library	€287.40
Refurbishment of premises	€448.41
Fund in collaboration with FSWS for Private Police Protection	€121.70
Fund in collaboration with Richmond Foundation	€35.83
UNIFEM contribution	€569.99
Writing of application for DAPHNE programme	€826.00
Writing of application for ESF Project in collaboration with	
Victim Support Malta	€413.00
Travel expenses for conferences abroad	€2,359.76
Conferences in Malta	€66.00
Stationery	€180.94
Member's travel expenses	€194.68
Miscellaneous	€366.20
	<b>€40,974.58</b>
<b>Balance left</b>	<b>€6,025.42</b>

# Appendix B

## Commission on Domestic Violence Subcommittee on Service Development

### Annual Report March 2009- February 2010

Mr Cornelius Mulvaney Dip.Family Therapy (UK); CQSW (UK)

From March 2009 to February 2010 the Subcommittee on Service Development met six times on the following dates: 14 April 2009, 09 June 2009, 10 September 2009, 30 November 2009, and 22 January 2010.

The current members of the subcommittee are:

Dr Marceline Naudi (Chairperson)

Ms Christine Camilleri (*Dar Tereza Spinelli*)

Ms Doreen Camilleri (Service Area Leader, DVS, *Agenzija Appogg*)

Mr Ashley Cumbo (YMCA)

Ms Pamela Demicoli (*Dar MerhbaBik*)

Ms Sandra Falzon (Former Service User)(resigned January 2010)

Ms Pauline Mercieca (*Ghabex, Agenzija Appogg*)

Mr Cornelius Mulvaney (Commission on Domestic Violence)

Ms Stephanie Muscat (*Dar Guzeppa Debono, Gozo*)

Mr Peter Paul Portelli (*Centru Hidma Socjali, Gozo*)

Ms Josette Stensen (*Dar Qalb ta' Gesu'*)(sometimes replaced by Ms Caroline Caruana Azzopardi)

Ms Doris Vassallo (Secretary)

It is to be noted with satisfaction that despite the members' work commitment this subcommittee met regularly every two months, managing to meet five times during the year 2009/10 and continued to work on previous and new issues.

These included the following:

- 1) Police protection for victims/social workers attending Court** - The fund for the Special Police Protection Services was set up in collaboration with *Agenzija Appogg*, and renewed for a further year in December 2009. It was agreed that in cases where police protection for the victim was required, social workers were to discuss the case at Domestic Violence Unit and the latter were to make the necessary arrangements. Should there be a disagreement then the Chairperson of the Commission would be referred to.

- 2) **Support for Workers dealing with women who have mental health problems** - The Commission negotiated an agreement with the Richmond Foundation to pay for hundred hours of support worker time to social workers dealing with domestic violence cases involving mental illness. This service started on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2009, and was renewed for a further year in December 2009.
- 3) **Training** - Services and standards get always higher through the organization of courses for social workers working in this field of domestic violence, and others interested in the matter. May 2009 saw once again the start of the Grundtvig Training programme on domestic violence. The Commission negotiated six free places for social workers in the field which was held in Malta.

Training was a main issue in all the subcommittee meetings since ongoing training is the sure road to increase knowledge, promote thinking and strengthen services and standards. Training needs were therefore identified through the contribution of the subcommittee members after consulting with their respective teams/agencies. These included: assessment tools; best standards of practices in Domestic Violence, preparing professionals and clients to witness in court etc.

- 4) **Policies** - Work continued on harmonizing minimum standards regarding shelter policies. These included the ones on: a) application and assessment; b) confidentiality; c) termination and refusal; d) standards and procedures. The importance of both staff and resident being properly informed of their significance was emphasised.
- 5) **Housing** - The committee continued to discuss the problem of Housing that women suffering from domestic violence come to face when they unjustly lose their place of residence, or had to find alternative accommodation after spending some time in a Shelter. Good practice and information was shared for the benefit of workers and women.

This work included the gathering of data related to the number of women searching for alternative accommodation; the number already registered with housing and the time taken for the processing of application and allocation, if any, of new premises; and how many women rented a place and the price being asked. This data once collected was to be discussed with the Housing Authority in order for the latter to take possible action in terms of policy governing such cases.

- 6) **Social Security** - Another matter taken up by the subcommittee was the organization of a meeting with one of the Assistant Directors at the Social Security department in order to discuss financial matters concerning women who had suffered domestic violence and were trying to make it on their own. Information gathered at this meeting was shared within the group and certain common procedures agreed to.

- 7) **Study Visit** - The award of the ESF project, 'Dignity for Domestic Violence Survivors', included funds for a study visit for nine workers in the field of domestic violence in Malta to a Shelter for women and children in the Czech Republic. This was availed of in October 2009.

## Conclusion

The Subcommittee on Services Development and Standards wish to thank the Domestic Violence commission chairperson, Marceline Naudi for her incessant urge to promote policies that strengthen services and standards in the work being carried with and for women experiencing domestic violence. This has been of great encouragement to this committee that meets to look into aspects surrounding this grave situation and to discuss how certain levels of work need to be strengthened and improved so as to attenuate as far as possible the severe pain and suffering of families where domestic violence dominates.

The committee members have worked hard to put their thinking and ideas in action and their efforts have been well rewarded.

# Appendix C

## **Commission on Domestic Violence Subcommittee on Research and Data Collation**

### **Annual Report March 2009- February 2010**

Dr Albert Bell BA., BA (Hons.), MA., Ph.D.

Right from the outset of the Research and Data Collation Subcommittee's setting up in September 2007, the Subcommittee prioritised three specific actions - (a) the replication of a 2003 study titled "*Domestic Violence against Women: Perceptions of the Maltese General Public*" conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO); (b) the undertaking of a benchmarking domestic prevalence survey that documents the extent and nature of domestic violence in Malta; and (c) the building of a data collation infrastructure that allows for the harmonisation and rationalisation of domestic violence routine administrative data.

These actions stem and reflect the Subcommittee's remit to assist the Commission on Domestic Violence to demarcate evidence-based pathways for the development of services targeted towards the betterment of the prospects and life chances of domestic violence survivors.

It is indeed gratifying to report that relatively shortly after the Subcommittee's institution very strong headway has been made on all these three priority actions, such that I can now report closure in respect of the replication of the NSO study on the Maltese public's attitudes and perceptions on domestic violence and or near-closure on the domestic violence prevalence survey. Important steps have also been made in the period under review in respect of building the requisite focal point structure for routine domestic violence data. All this could not have been achieved without the commitment, dedication and acumen of the trans-disciplinary and resolute team involved in the Subcommittee.

From March 2009 to February 2010 the Subcommittee was comprised of the following members:

Dr Albert Bell – (Commission on Domestic Violence) – Chairperson

Dr Marceline Naudi – (Commission on Domestic Violence)

Dr Maja Miljanic Brinkworth (MSOC) (resigned October 2009)

Ms Joslyn Magro Cuschieri (NSO)

Insp. Trevor Sammut (Malta Police)

Ms Christine Agius Marchand (FSWS)

Mr Joseph Deguara (IMU, MSOC)

Dr Jonathon Mamo (Health Division, MSOC) (replaced by Dr Audrey Vella)

Mr Francis Xavier Mangion (Courts of Justice, MJHA)

Ms Doris Vassallo (MSOC) - Secretary

Over the period under review, the Subcommittee convened eight times at the Commission's premises at Beltissebħ, Floriana on the following dates: 5<sup>th</sup> May 2009; 9<sup>th</sup> June 2009; 8<sup>th</sup> July 2009; 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009; 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2009; 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2009; 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010; and 25<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Each meeting extended to approximately two hours. Dr Maya Miljanic Brinkworth (who had formed part of the Subcommittee since its inception) resigned from her capacity as MSOC's delegate to the Subcommittee in October 2009. A replacement was still pending by the end of the period under report. Dr Jonathan Mamo has been replaced by Dr Audrey Galea as the Health Division's representative on the Subcommittee.

As was noted in the Commission's previous annual report, the data collection process related to the follow-up study on perceptions on domestic violence in Malta was completed by NSO in December 2008. Throughout the period under review a number of *ad hoc* meetings were held between members of the Subcommittee and the commissioned party (NSO) to ensure a thorough and concerted reporting exercise that effectively documented the aims and objectives of the study, the definitions used, the survey's methodology and research procedure, the constraints of the study and its findings (including qualified comparisons with the 2003 report). This report (including an executive summary) was published in November 2009 and disseminated to stakeholders and experts in the sector together with the Commission's 2008-2009 annual report and 2008 annual conference proceedings.

The report has proved to be an eye-opener on trends related to the Maltese general public's perceptions on domestic violence and has provided a pivotal platform for informing the Commission's on-going national action plan particularly in respect of developing a scientifically-grounded preventive and awareness-raising campaign on domestic violence.

Throughout the period under review strong development was also registered in relation to the development, commissioning and execution of a national study on the prevalence of domestic violence against women in Malta and its impact on the employment prospects of victims of abuse. ESF funds were secured by the Commission to this effect, and following a public call for tender and a subsequent adjudication exercise, M.Fsadni and Associates were commissioned to undertake the study. The prevalence study is based on a previously tried and tested research instrument developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) with some adaptations developed in consultation with Subcommittee members to reflect an employment focus and other local socio-cultural dimensions that necessitate specificity.

Various *ad hoc* meetings and on-line exchanges were held with the commissioned party in the process of developing a Maltese translation of the research instrument. These meetings were also crucial to resolve procedural issues related to the data collection phase of the survey (including the sampling strategy to be utilised), the training needs and materials for interviewers and to identify avenues for the eventual analysis, presentation and reporting of findings. The field work exercise commenced on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2010 and is planned to be completed by the end of March 2010. This was preceded by a piloting exercise (which helped to ascertain the validity and feasibility of the research instrument and to take corrective

action where necessary), interviewer recruitment and interviewer training. A final report, documenting the survey's findings is targeted for mid-August 2010. It is anticipated that the report will be published and disseminated (subject to availability of funds) in the last quarter of 2010. These findings should prove crucial for future service development initiatives and prevention campaigns as the country will now be in a position to have a more concerted and precise picture of the magnitude of domestic violence in Malta. The need that this incipient prevalence survey serves as the requisite platform for future follow-up studies to provide for a longitudinal analysis of related trends cannot be over-emphasised.

Throughout the period under review, the Subcommittee also continued to pursue efforts to secure the introduction of a centralised routine domestic violence data collection and analysis structure. Building upon the progress registered in previous years (particularly in relation to the identification of existing data sets that lend themselves well to integration), during this period, further groundwork was made to secure that a data focal point structure reaches fruition. One important step in this direction was the information gleaned from meetings with the Chairperson of the National Commission on Drug and Alcohol abuse (which had set up a similar structure in the addictions field in previous years) and the Data Protection Commissioner. The latter was crucial in so far as identifying the action required to ensure that the Commission's focal point structure is attuned and meets the requisite legal and ethical obligations. Following these meetings, terms of reference for an official who would take a leading role in the setting up and management of the focal point structure were developed and sent to the pertinent Ministry officials for their approval. A call was issued towards the end of this reporting period for an official, with a post-graduate specialisation in the social field.

The Subcommittee's efforts for the forthcoming year shall thus centre on the setting up of a national domestic violence routine data infrastructure and the publication and dissemination of the prevalence survey report which is presently close to completion. Moreover, given that the Subcommittee is now near to reaching closure on the projects it prioritised in previous years, it should also be opportune for the Subcommittee (under the Commission's guidance) to carve out new priorities that reflect the research needs of the sector.



# Appendix D

## **Commission on Domestic Violence Subcommittee on Awareness Raising**

### **Annual Report March 09- February 10**

The Commission on Domestic Violence reconvened the Subcommittee on Raising Awareness on the 31 August 2009. Since the Commission's terms of reference include raising awareness, through EU funding from the European Social Fund, the project 'Dignity for Domestic Violence Survivors' includes a component related to this. Raising awareness activities as part of the ESF project will emphasise the connection between domestic violence and women's unemployment. This will be aimed at the public in general as well as to targeted professionals, including employers, in order to enhance co-operation between all the relative players and promote zero tolerance to domestic violence amongst the Maltese population.

The Subcommittee on Awareness Raising was comprised of:

Dr Roberta Lepre', (Commission on Domestic Violence) - Chairperson

Sr Joan Garner, (Commission on Domestic Violence)

Dr Marceline Naudi, (Commission on Domestic Violence)

Mr Kurt Guillaumier, (MSOC)

Ms Marianne Gauci, (FSWS)

Mr. Lawrence Zammit (Secretary/Project Administrator)

The Subcommittee met three times on 31 August 2009, 12 October 2009 and on 09 November 2009 and during these meetings the contents of the tender for the publicity campaign were discussed. Various activities were suggested aimed at reaching all age groups and all strata of society. In order to avoid an influx of cases on the service providers, the activities will be staggered throughout the whole period.

These will include amongst others:

- Billboards
- Roadblock adverts
- Bus shelters
- Football match
- Participation in radio and television programmes, as well as 'spots'
- Articles in magazines and newspapers
- On-line communication

The subcommittee also suggested that a key expert on domestic violence will be part of the tendering team so that it will help the contractor in formulating the wording of the adverts or articles and will also be able to participate in media programmes.

# Appendix E

## Report 2009/10 on the Daphne Group convened by the Commission on Domestic Violence

Dr Marceline Naudi Ph.D.(Manchester), M.A.(Bradford), B.A.  
Convenor

The Daphne Group met a couple of times during the period of reporting to give the final touches to the 'Breaking the Cycle: Dealing with the effects of domestic violence' project document which was submitted in April 2009. The group then met again for a post-mortem meeting so as to be able to learn from the experience.

The members of the Daphne Group were:

Dr Marceline Naudi (Chairperson)  
Ms Doris Vassallo (Secretary)  
Ms Charlotte Busuttil, FSWS  
Ms Jessica Pace, FSWS  
Ms Renee' Laiviera, MCWO  
Ms Lydia Sciberras, MCWO  
Mr Mark Briffa, *Fondazzjoni Suret il-Bniedem*  
Sr Rosalinda Seychell, *Dar MerhbaBik*

The partners in the project were:

### Associate partners:

Commission on Domestic Violence (MT)  
Foundation for Social Welfare Services (MT)

### Partners

*Dar MerhbaBik* (MT)  
Malta Confederation of Women's Organisations (MT)  
Služby Dobrého Pastýře – Good Shepherd Services (CZ)  
Women's Aid (UK)  
Kinderrechtenhuis vzw (Belgium)

### Lead Partner

*Fondazzjoni Suret il-Bniedem* (MT)

The identified target groups were: Young children and adolescents; Mental health service users; and Individuals with a disability.

The project submitted included the following activities:

- Study visits
- Train the trainer conference
- Final conference
- Dissemination workshops
- Development of a website
- Development of training pack

The project was relevant to the Daphne III priority area '**Violence committed against particularly vulnerable categories of women, young people and children**' and was planning to provide professionals with the expertise necessary to equip them with specialised knowledge in order to be in a better position to offer services to their clients generally, and in particular to vulnerable categories who are dually impaired in that they are disabled, and/or experiencing mental illness as well as being victims of domestic violence.

At the post-mortem meeting specific members contribution was acknowledged and appreciation shown. It was agreed that should there be another attempt to put in a joint application better commitment and participation would be needed from all the members, rather than the few.

Unfortunately the project application was not successful.

# Appendix F

## Commission on Domestic Violence

### An Integrated Approach towards Domestic Violence – 2009

#### Seminar Report

Dr Marceline Naudi Ph.D.(Manchester), M.A.(Bradford), B.A.

Ms Maria Attard M.A.T.C.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009 the Commission on Domestic Violence organised a one day seminar entitled *An Integrated approach towards Domestic Violence*<sup>14</sup> to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The seminar was held at the Grand Hotel Excelsior, Floriana and was attended by participants from different organisations involved directly and indirectly in Domestic Violence issues, including social workers, police, lawyers and magistrates.

The seminar started after a welcoming address by Dr Marceline Naudi, Chairperson of the Commission, and Chair of the Seminar, who highlighted the importance of working together for the provision of better service to people escaping or living with domestic violence.

As an introduction to the topic a short film '*Defending our Lives*', which included some graphic footage on incidents of domestic violence, was screened for the participants. The aim was to ensure that all participants were aware of the gravity of domestic violence and the importance of an integrated response from the services concerned.

This was followed by the first keynote speaker Mag.a Maria Rösslhumer from WaVe, Austria speaking on '*Bridging Gaps - multiagency cooperation in tackling violence against women and their children*'. Mag. Rosslhumer was invited to Malta to speak at the seminar by the Commission on Domestic Violence. She shared the Austrian experience of an integrated response to domestic violence. This was followed by questions from the floor.

After a short coffee break, the second presentation was given: '*Murder Prevention in Domestic Violence*' by Detective Sergeant Sharon Stratton and A/Detective Inspector Anthea Richards from the Metropolitan Police, London. DS Stratton and DI Richards were also invited by the Commission to share their experience of working in an integrative manner with other professionals and agencies on cases of domestic violence. Their title reflected one of the main messages of their presentation, that is, that unless timely interagency intervention is taken then domestic violence cases will end up as homicides. They stressed the importance of training in recognising the signs of violence when responding to an incident,

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14 For the full proceedings of the Seminar please access [www.domesticviolence.gov.mt](http://www.domesticviolence.gov.mt)

and they presented a checklist to help police officers in assessment of the situation. This was once again followed by questions from the floor.

Both key note presentation generated interesting discussion from the floor, which was then continued in the workshops held in the afternoon. The workshops were based on a case study presentation and a discussion on how it would/should be tackled. Care was taken to ensure that the various professionals present at the seminar were represented within each of the various workshop groups to encourage inter-agency working. This was followed by a plenary<sup>15</sup> with the various groups giving feedback.

A speech by the Honourable Minister Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs followed the plenary, and the concluding speech was delivered by the Honourable Minister John Dalli, Minister for Social Policy.

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15 For feedback from the workshops please access [www.domesticviolence.gov.mt](http://www.domesticviolence.gov.mt)

# Appendix G

## **Task Force for the setting up of a Sexual Assault Response Team**

Ms Joyce D'Amato BA (Hons) Youth and Communication Studies  
Insp Louise Calleja Dip in Mngt. Studies, MBA (Grenoble)  
Dr Marceline Naudi Ph.D.(Manchester), M.A.(Bradford), B.A.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2009 the Commission for Domestic Violence, under the patronage of the then Ministry of Social Policy, convened a group of professionals in their own respective field to propose to the authorities concerned a mechanism to improve systems to respond to sexual assault survivors.

Meetings were held on 05 May 2009, 29 May 2009, 26 June 2009, 22 July 2009, 01 September 2009, 15 September 2009, 28 January 2010 and 09 February 2010.

The members of the task group were as follows:

Insp Louise Calleja (Commission on Domestic Violence) Chairperson  
Dr Marceline Naudi (Commission on Domestic Violence)  
Ms Anne Cachia (MSOC) (resigned in July 2009)  
Ms Joyce D'Amato (MJHA)  
Dr Raymond Galea (Gynecologist)  
Ms Maryanne Gauci (FSWS)  
Ms Renee' Laiviera (MCWO)  
Dr Roberta Lepre' (Victim Support Malta)  
Ms Antoinette Martin (Psychologist)  
Ms Doris Vassallo (Secretary)

Since the advent of the rape crisis movement in the early 1970's women and men have organised themselves to end sexual violence and to provide comprehensive, quality services for survivors of sexual assault. Malta does not exist in a vacuum from the rest of the world, therefore the Commission on Domestic Violence, in its advisory role to the Minister concerned on all aspects of the problem of domestic violence, highlighted that this phenomenon needs to be exposed and addressed in a concrete and professional manner. The Commission raised the issue of additional concern that victims of sexual assault are often discouraged from accessing help, possibly because of the fragmentation of the services available, as well as the possible traumatisation and victimisation by the system with the result of lack of empowerment on the part of the victim to seek further treatment and pursuance of the relevant legal rights.

Professionals from the Ministry for Health and Mater Dei Hospital, *Agenzija Appogg*, the Police, Victim Support Malta, the Malta Council for Women Organisations and the Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs (see list of members above) are working together to find the most efficient manner of providing a specialised service to respond effectively and sensitively to victims of crimes of a sexual nature and gender based violence amongst which: date rape, stranger rape, sexual assault and sexual abuse from a known partner.

The main undertaking of this Task Force is to present a proposal/business plan for coordinating an efficient and holistic service package to deal with the sensitive nature of such situations. This would include the related health services, law enforcement, prosecution and advocacy/support services for the victim. A formalised and coordinated approach was sought, to bring together public and private entities and non-governmental associations to provide survivors of sexual assault with the necessary and immediate services while avoiding duplication of resources which are very limited in these spheres.

The proposal is for a sexual assault response team consisting of a forensic nurse, a gynecologist, a psychologist, a police inspector, a social worker and Victim Support Malta to be on call. When a survivor of sexual assault, presents in hospital, they would be immediately triaged by the forensic nurse in a dedicated room within Mater Dei Hospital while the SART (sexual assault response team) is informed. The on-call SART members would respond promptly to the hospital call to provide a medical and forensic examination and provide crisis intervention and advocacy/support for the survivor. Ongoing longer term support would also be provided through the Victim Support Malta.

One sexual assault case is one too many, therefore a holistic professional approach may help and additionally end the shame of the many survivors of such assaults. The social validation and legitimization of the traumatic experience may help to transform the physical attack from a shameful, horrifying experience into one of strength. This is not to say that sexual assault is ever a positive experience for any human being, but that it is possible to transcend the victimization and its damaging consequences.

The proposal was almost complete by the end of the period of reporting and it is planned that it will be presented to the authorities before the start of summer.

# Appendix H

## **Report on the ESF project 3.43 Dignity for Domestic Violence Survivors**

Dr Marceline Naudi Ph.D.(Manchester), M.A.(Bradford), B.A.  
Project Leader

After many communications with the Planning and Priorities Coordination Department (PPCD) within the Office of the Prime Minister regarding the grant agreement, the project ‘Dignity for Domestic Violence Survivors’ finally started in August 2009 with the recruitment of the project administrator.

The first completed activity of the project was a study visit for nine workers in the domestic violence field. The aim of the study visit was to learn how other shelters for victims of domestic violence in European countries empower their residents and promote social inclusion through employment and self-employment, including through the setting up of co-operatives in their operations. Through the project’s foreign partner, the study visit took place in the Czech Republic. The study visit was organized by the Commission in collaboration with the representative of the Good Shepherd Sisters who is responsible of the Shelter in the Czech Republic. The participants’ feedback on their return was positive and it enabled them to learn from the initiatives that the workers take for residents in shelters to integrate in society.

Another activity of the project is a study on the prevalence of domestic violence in Malta. Currently, the only statistics which are available are those of people who report incidences of domestic violence either to the police or to *Agenzija Appogg*. Nothing is known about those who do not report. Hence this study will give an indication of the actual prevalence of domestic violence as well as the existence or otherwise of a link between domestic violence and non-employment of women. Following a call for tender the study was awarded to M. Fsadni & Associates. Various meetings and email communications occurred to finalise the data collection tool and the methodology, as well as the training to be given to the interviewers. The collection of data is now almost completed, and an interim report was presented at the end of February 2010 as was agreed in the tender contract. The results of the prevalence study should be presented to the Commission by August 2010. The Subcommittee on Research and Data Collation worked on this activity.

The largest component in the project is the media awareness campaign, and the tender for this was published in February 2010, closing in April. The campaign is planned to start in summer 2010 and will end in November 2011. The Subcommittee on Awareness Raising worked on this component of the project. The media awareness campaign will focus on domestic violence and the importance of labour market participation for victims of domestic violence. The message that domestic violence cannot be accepted has to be delivered to perpetrators and also to the general public.



A further component in the project is training for the various professionals who touch with the domestic violence field. These include legal professionals, health professionals, educational professionals, social workers and employment advisors. The training will be focusing on two main elements: sensitization to the issue of domestic violence; and information on accessing employment for survivors of domestic violence. The final session will be on the drafting of protocols to guide inter-professional work in the field of domestic violence. The training is planned for July 2010.

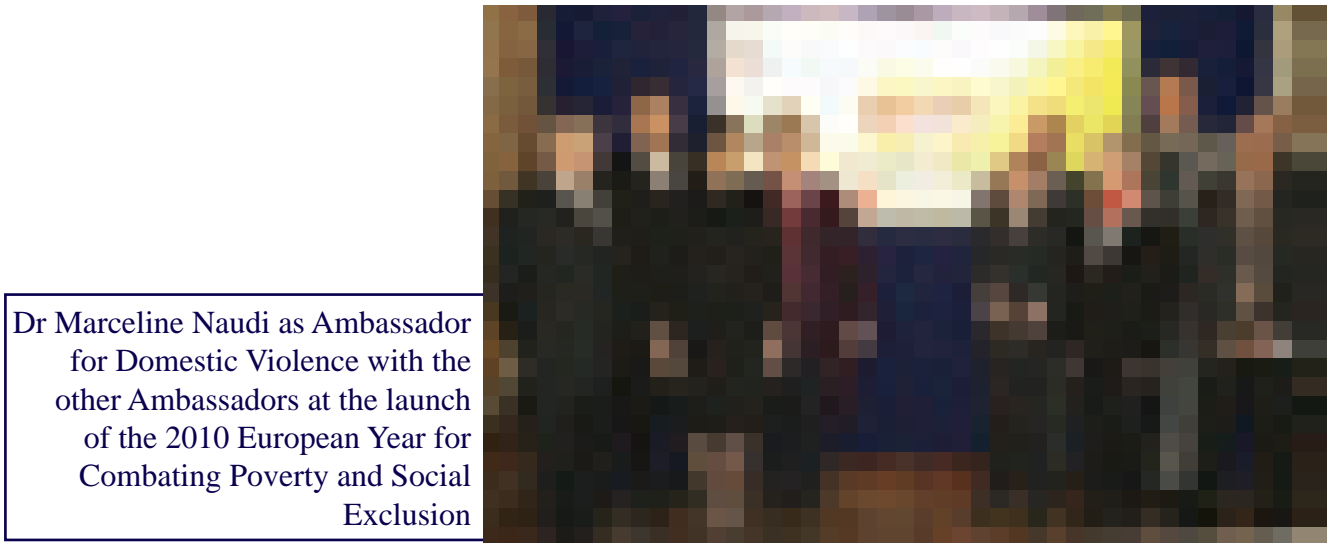
Unfortunately the project administrator left the project end of January due to health reasons. Due to various requests for clarification on the part of the Line Ministry a replacement was not in place by the end of this reporting period.

Notwithstanding the various project activities which are ongoing, the Grant Agreement remains unsigned to date.

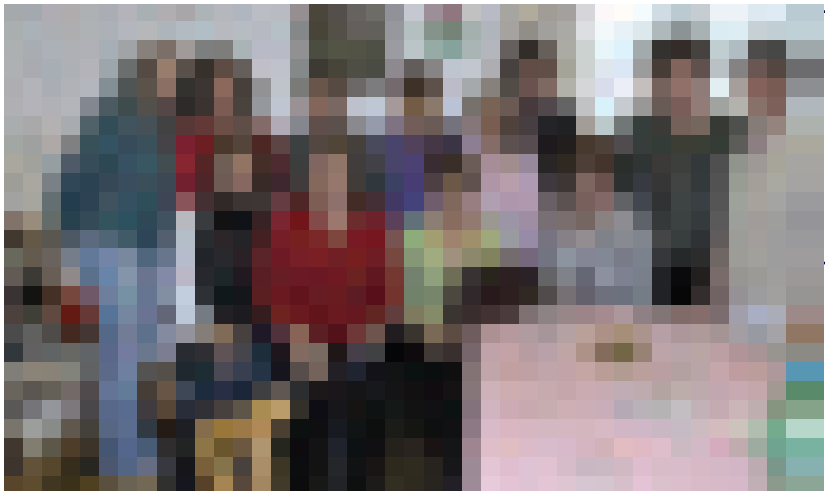


Dr Marceline Naudi, Chairperson participating in the discussion programme Bla Agenda hosted by Ms Josette Grech on One TV

A Grundtvig training course ‘Acting on the Background for a higher Climbing Up of Women Survivors of Violence’ was held in Malta from Tuesday 5 May to Saturday 9 May 2009

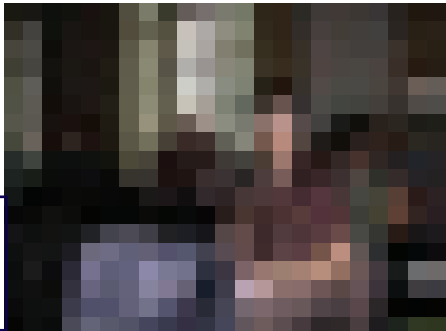


Dr Marceline Naudi as Ambassador for Domestic Violence with the other Ambassadors at the launch of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

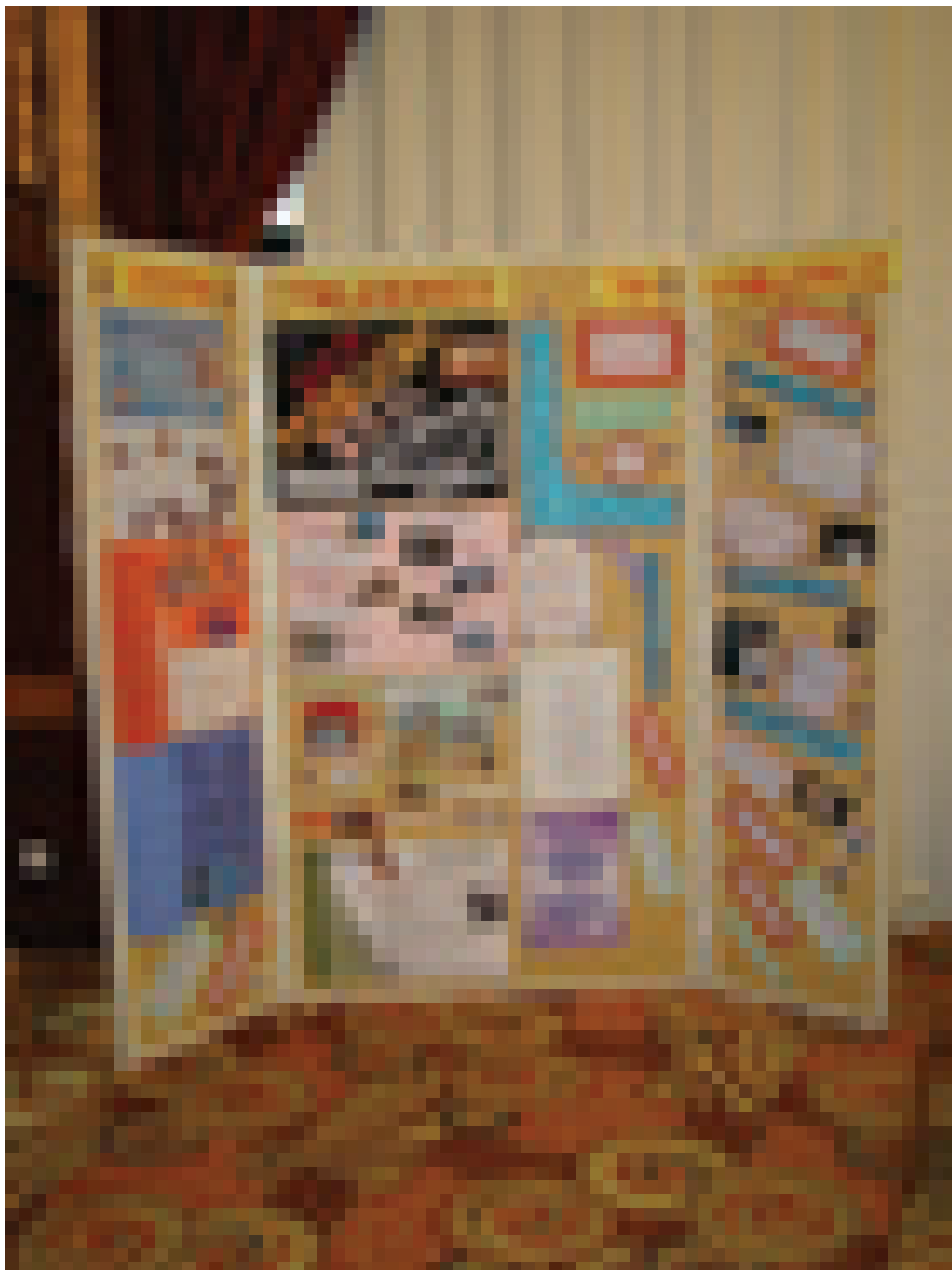


Workers from the Domestic Violence field who participated in a Study Visit in the Czech Republic in October 2009 as part of the project ESF 3.43 Dignity for Domestic Violence Survivors

Ms Maria Attard at the 11th Wave Conference ‘Stop Violence Against Women and Children’ which was held in Vienna University of Technology on the 24-26 September, 2009

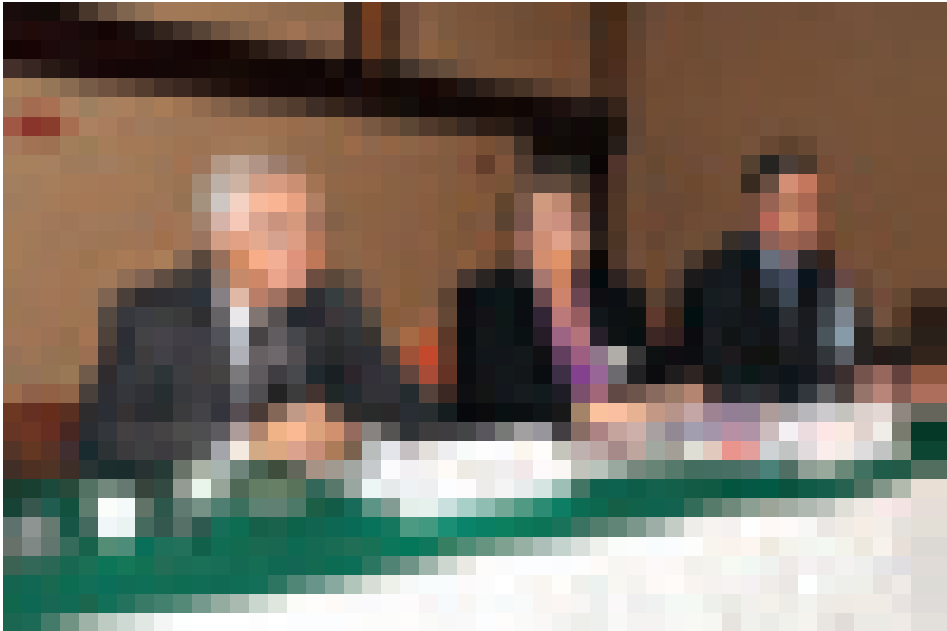


Participation in fête on Sunday 18 October 2009 organized by Centru Parrokjali Iklin together with Dar MerhbaBik with the aim of raising awareness on domestic violence.





**Seminar ‘An Integrat  
organised by the Co  
on Friday 20 Novem**



# Integrated Approach towards Domestic Violence' Commission on Domestic Violence November 2009

