



2014-2015

Commission on Domestic Violence Annual Report

COMMISSION ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Annual Report

March 2014 – February 2015

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Message

During the past years, we experienced an increase in the reporting of domestic violence cases, with as many as 4100 between 2009 and 2013. This reaffirms that we need to continue strengthening and investing in assistance and support services offered by the State to the victims.

Last year Malta ratified the Istanbul Convention dealing with preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. The Convention came into force in Malta as of 1st November 2014, with government sending out a clear message that violence is never justified.

My Ministry has been working with the Ministry for Home Affairs and the Police Academy so that police officers would get the necessary training on how to handle domestic violence cases.

Victims of violence and domestic violence must have full protection and we must thus see that nothing hinders the enforcement of the law.

Of course this is not enough. We must continue with our educational campaigns in order to instil a culture whereby violence, in whatever form, is never tolerated.

Minister Helena Dalli

Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties



Forward

The field of domestic violence continues to provide challenges and the Commission on Domestic Violence has risen to the occasion.

The members of the Commission together with the staff have worked hard as can be seen by the list of activities and achievements that have been carried out.

We are actively working hard in the area of awareness, both with the general public as well as the institutions, as well as the victims and perpetrators, and this is an on-going and active commitment. I am particularly proud of the implementation of the Sexual Assault Response Team SART, a continuing project which aims to be of service to victims of sexual violence in their moment of most dire need. We are also seeking to work in collaboration with other stakeholders who work with people experiencing domestic violence, in the area of awareness raising.

There are many new challenges, most prominently is the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, but we will rise to the occasion.

Dr Yana Micallef Stafrace
Chairperson

1. Introduction

1.1 The Commission on Domestic Violence

The Domestic Violence Act, Chapter 481, Article 3 establishes that the main role of the Commission is that of advising the Minister on all aspects of Domestic Violence. The Act defines domestic violence as any act of violence, even if verbal, perpetrated by a household member upon another household member and includes any omission which causes physical or moral harm to the other. The Commission is also guided through the terms of reference as listed in the Domestic Violence Act.¹

1.2 Members of the Commission

The Commission on Domestic Violence is composed of a chairperson and ten members, and they are nominated as per the Domestic Violence Act of the Laws of Malta. The chairperson and members are nominated for three years, and their expertise and experience enable the Commission to meet its targets in the field of domestic violence.

The present composition of the Commission on Domestic Violence is as follows:

Chairperson

Dr Yana Micallef Stafrace LL.D., Adv, Trib. Ecc. Melit.

Deputy Chairperson

Ms Renee' Laiviera Dip. ED (Melit), Dip. Pol. Stud. (melit)

Members

Ms Charlene Barbara

Ms Marouska Bonnici BA. (Hons) Social Work

Dr Rita Borg Xuereb Ph.D., M.Sc., RN., RM., Dip. Ed. (Adult), PQDip. (Mid. Ed.)

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

Dr Charles Cassar Ph.D ECP.

Dr Oriella DeGiovanni B.A. (Melit.), LL.D. (Melit.), Adv, Trib. Eccles. Melit.

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

Notary Dr Josef Masini Vento LL.D

Secretary

Ms Doris Vassallo DPA

¹ Terms of Reference Domestic Violence Act – Appendix A

The Commission is also supported by Ms Doris Vassallo, DPA, who performs the functions of Secretary to the Commission.

In April 2014, the Commission on Domestic Violence was assigned a full time Research Officer to support the Commission in awareness raising, education as well as policy and research initiatives in the field of domestic violence.

1.3 Commission Meetings

The Commission held ten meetings between 1 March 2014 and 28 February 2015, as follows:

Meetings 2014 - 2015	Date
Meeting 03/14:	14 March 2014
Meeting 04/14:	11 April 2014
Meeting 05/14:	09 May 2014
Meeting 06/14:	06 June 2014
Meeting 07/14:	11 July 2014
Meeting 08/14:	29 August 2014
Meeting 09/14:	17 October 2014
Meeting 10/14:	20 November 2014
Meeting 11/14:	18 December 2014
Meeting 01/15:	29 January 2015

The duration of each meeting was approximately two to three hours. The meetings were generally held at Block C Beltissebh Floriana.

1.4 Seminars held by the Commission

In order to continue to reach out to all stakeholders working in the field of domestic violence and also to act as a coordinated body to bring together all stakeholders in the field, two seminars were organised by the Commission in 2014. These are the following:

- **Seminar in June 2014**

Following focus groups carried out with the Malta Police and service providers working in the field of Domestic Violence, the Commission on Domestic Violence organised a half-day seminar for these professionals and experts to present findings emanating from the focus groups. (For a detailed account of this research refer to 'Research Report, 2014')

- **Annual seminar entitled 'Implementing the Istanbul Convention'**

The annual seminar was held on 27 November 2014. Stakeholders working in the field of domestic violence were invited to attend this seminar².

1.5 Committees under the remit of the Commission

During the year of reporting the Commission was instructed to set up committees by the Minister for the Family and Social Solidarity so as to oversee the SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) and the active implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

1.5.1 SART Management Board

On 1 March 2014, the SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) was launched. Its aim is to address Sexual Assault which is a violation of basic human rights and therefore a crime against an individual and society. SART was set up as a public social partnership between the Government and Victim Support Malta. The Commission is responsible to nominate the members of the SART Management Board whose terms of reference include:

- To ensure that Victim Support Malta (NGO) adheres to the contract
- To hold regular meetings with Victim Support Malta

² Seminar Report vide Appendix D

- To ensure that Victim Support Malta shall provide a report on a regular basis (monthly or as deemed necessary by the SART Management Board) which should include the evaluation form of each case
- To monitor the service provided by the Teams
- To meet with the professionals in the SART teams as required
- To propose changes, as needed, with the aim of improving the implementation of SART services
- To put forward proposals to the Commission on Domestic Violence aimed at promoting the services of SART
- To deal with any issues that might arise in the operations of SART

1.5.2 Interministerial Committee on the Istanbul Convention

In May 2014, following Malta's ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Prevention and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, an Interministerial Committee was set up with the terms of reference set out below:

- The objective of the IMC is to project the way forward so that Malta will be in line with Istanbul Convention.
- The **Istanbul Convention** is the most far-reaching international treaty to tackle this serious violation of human rights. It aims at zero tolerance for such violence and is a major step forward in making Europe and beyond a safer place.
- Preventing violence, protecting its victims and prosecuting the perpetrators are the cornerstones of the convention. It also seeks to change the hearts and minds of individuals by calling on all members of society, in particular men and boys, to change attitudes. In essence, it is a renewed call for greater equality between women and men, because violence against women is deeply rooted in the inequality between women and men in society and is perpetuated by a culture of tolerance and denial.

2. Awareness Raising and Participation in Local Activities

The chairperson, members of the Commission, the research analyst and the research officer participated in seminars, conferences, media programmes, delivered presentations and and took part in discussions Participation enables the Commission to gather useful information, enhances networking with national entities and emphasizes through awareness raising, the importance of Domestic Violence as an issue in Malta.

During this reporting year awareness raising was ongoing through the media, and through collaboration with other entities as explained below. The continuous awareness raising consisted of four main categories

- the awareness raising campaign ‘Violence knows no gender, sexual orientation, and age’
- the distribution of information material
- awareness raising in places of education and local activities, and
- participation in the media.

2.1 Awareness raising campaign: ‘Violence knows no gender, sexual orientation, and age’

The Commission on Domestic Violence chose the theme ‘Violence knows no gender, sexual orientation, and age as its main campaign topic for the year 2014. This theme was selected in order to raise awareness amongst the general public that domestic violence can affect everyone irrespective of their gender, sexual orientation, and age. Hence, this message aims at acknowledging any type of relationship abuse, and encourages all those who are aware of such violence or experience it, to take a stand against violence.

This awareness raising consisted of five different images and was held in collaboration with the NGOs Men against Violence, and Rainbow Support Service. The slogan on the posters included a text in Maltese and in English. The campaign was spread as follows:

- i. In June and July 2014, to coincide with the World Cup, posters were set up in bathroom facilities of bars, places of entertainment, and restaurants.
- ii. From July 2014, the campaign continued with the distribution of coasters with the same theme and images. The coasters were

distributed in bars, cafeterias, and restaurants in Malta and Gozo, as well as during seminars.

- iii. In November and December 2014 this campaign continued through bus shelter posters around Malta and Gozo. The timing coincided with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women which is marked on the 25 of November. The campaign was aimed at raising awareness against violence on women, while raising awareness that violence can affect any individual, in any type of relationship, and at any age.

2.2 Distribution of Information Material

The Commission on Domestic Violence firmly believes in the importance of reaching out the general public through relevant information with the aim of enhancing the understanding of the issue of domestic violence as well as how and where one can get help. Several stakeholders were involved in the different initiatives to disseminate information material as hereby listed:

- i. In August 2014, information leaflets about the issue of domestic violence, and posters 'Say No to Domestic Violence', as well as coasters from the coaster campaign were distributed to Social Security Area Offices in Malta and Gozo.
- ii. In September 2014, through the collaboration of the Association for Local Councils, and the Local Government Department the Commission on Domestic Violence distributed informational leaflets and posters 'Say No to Domestic Violence' to all Local Councils around Malta and Gozo.
- iii. In December 2014, the Commission on Domestic Violence created a business-card-size information card which lists the various services available and their contact numbers where persons experiencing domestic violence can seek help. These cards were handed to the General Police Headquarters, for the subsequent distribution to police stations and other relevant sections who come into contact with the victims. Through the police's cooperation these cards can then reach the victims reporting and asking for help.

2.3 Awareness raising in places of education and local activities

During the period of reporting, the Commission on Domestic Violence in collaboration with other entities focused on raising awareness in places of education which include the following:

- i. In May 2014, the Commission on Domestic Violence was invited by SOAR Support Group to participate in raising awareness on domestic violence for form 4 and form 5 students at the Santa Lucija Girls Secondary School.
- ii. In September 2014 the Commission on Domestic Violence participated for the first time at the MCAST Freshers' week in Paola, by the setting up of a stand. Through this initiative the Commission was able to reach the student population at MCAST with its awareness raising. Informational leaflets addressing dating violence and domestic violence, as well as posters, and coasters for the canteen were provided to the liaison person for further distribution among the students.
- iii. In October 2014 the Commission on Domestic Violence was present with a stand at the University of Malta's Freshers' week. This was done in collaboration with Malta Girl Guides, SOAR support group and, the Domestic Violence Unit at *Agenzija Appogg* and Men Against Violence. The awareness raising campaign consisted of reaching out to students and others on campus with material relating to domestic violence, dating violence and prevention, as well as the coaster campaign, where these coasters were distributed amongst students in the University canteen. Various students whose study area includes domestic violence, also approached the stand for further information and were provided with research information.
- iv. As from October 2014, the Commission on Domestic Violence in agreement with the Education Department, together with the Domestic Violence Unit of *Agenzija Appogg*, is setting up meetings and talks to raise awareness on the issue of domestic violence, dating violence, prevention as well as services available. These talks are being held across the State colleges and are aimed at psychosocial professionals.
- v. In January 2015, the Commission on Domestic Violence in collaboration with SOAR was invited by Sir Mikangelo Refalo Centre for Further Studies, (the Gozo 6th form and Higher Secondary

School) to deliver a talk on dating violence entitled ‘When dating goes wrong’ as part of a one-day activity seminar for the students.

- vi. In January 2015, the National Commission for the Promotion for Equality NCPE invited the Commission on Domestic Violence to join them in an activity organised by the Zabbar Local Council where a talk was delivered on domestic violence and prevention.
- vii. In February 2015, the Commission on Domestic Violence participated in a panel discussion organised by BETApsi student organization at the University of Malta entitled ‘Caged: the other side of love’.

2.4 Media Participation

During the year of reporting, awareness raising continued through Media participation which included:

- i. In November 2014, leading to the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson, members of the Commission, and the staff of the Commission were present on various radio and television programmes where the topic of domestic violence and prevention was discussed.
- ii. In December 2014 an article by the Commission on Domestic Violence, entitled ‘Investing in your future career and a self-empowered life, away from domestic violence’ was published on MCAST Link magazine.
- iii. In December 2014 an article by the Chairperson of the Commission on Domestic Violence, entitled ‘Marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women’ appeared on the magazine EDUKA, issued by the Young Women’s Christian Association Malta (YWCA, Malta).
- iv. In July 2014, the Chairperson of the Commission on Domestic Violence was asked to submit a comment for an article by the newspaper The Malta Independent.
- v. In November 2014, the Chairperson was asked to provide comments for an article by the newspaper Illum.

3. Financial Overview

In January 2014, the Commission was allocated a budget of €40,000³. The annual awarded honoraria for the year 2014 of the chairperson was €2,329.37. The honoraria of the members of the Commission was €1,747.03 each. The honoraria for the year 2014 of the Chairperson and the members was paid from this year's budget. The remaining budget allocated for year 2014 was utilized for its various projects, which included the following;

- i. seminars;
- ii. awareness raising material and
- iii. attending conferences abroad in relation to domestic violence.

The Commission continued to prioritize its work and activities for the term in review.

4. Website and Facebook

4.1 Website

The Commission's website can be accessed through www.domesticviolence.gov.mt. The posters used for the awareness raising campaign 'Violence knows no gender, sexual orientation and age' were uploaded on the website as an ongoing awareness raising regarding this theme.

4.2 Facebook

The Commission created its Facebook page in July 2014 to enable it to reach out the general public. This page is administered by the staff of the Commission and is continuously updated with material from awareness raising campaigns and also with links from other websites related to domestic violence. Through this Facebook page the Commission can inform the public about its awareness raising campaigns, and activities, as well as sharing relevant information as part of the awareness raising.

³ Financial Report – Appendix B

5. Meetings with Ministers

In April 2014, an introductory meeting was held with Minister Michael Farrugia, Minister for the Family and Social Solidarity. During this meeting, the Interministerial Committee on the Istanbul Convention was discussed. The Minister requested that a representative of the Ministry would also be appointed on this Committee.

In June 2014, the Commission moved from the remit of the Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity to that of the Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties. An introductory meeting was held with Minister Helena Dalli, Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties. Minister Dalli was presented with an update of the work carried out by the Commission.

6. Collaboration with Other Entities in Malta and Abroad

6.1 Collaboration with The Coalition Men Against Violence

This year Men Against Violence became a registered NGO. The Commission on Domestic Violence together with the stakeholders forming the coalition attended the meetings held by Men Against Violence. The Commission on Domestic Violence also kept contact with the NGO Men Against Violence beyond the coalition meetings as the NGO was involved in the Commission's initiatives on various occasions as explained in the different sections of this annual report.

6.2 Collaboration with Women's Rights Foundation

The Commission on Domestic Violence funded leaflets issued by the new NGO Women's Rights Foundation. Women's Rights Foundation (WRF) is a voluntary organisation whose primary focus is addressing domestic violence, sexual exploitation of women, including human trafficking and gender discrimination. This is done through their work in informing, educating and empowering women with regards to their legal rights in Malta. The Women's Rights Foundation aims at achieving this by: providing voluntary services to inform women and their children about their legal rights, protecting women's

rights through influencing laws, policy and practice, as well as preventing violence against women by raising public awareness and training.

6.3 Collaboration with Dar Merħba Bik

In July 2014, the Commission on Domestic Violence organised a one-day activity ‘Women’s Shelter Empowerment Activity’ at Dar Merħba Bik. A team of volunteers experienced in craft making and trainees from Gestalt Psychotherapy Course supported the women in making the activity an enriching one. The crafts made by the women at the shelter were exhibited at the Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity. The action research carried out by the Gestalt Psychotherapy course trainees was issued in a report which was presented to the Commission.

6.4 Collaboration with the Education Department

In August 2014, a meeting was held between the Commission on Domestic Violence and the Education Department to discuss the way forward regarding collaboration between the Commission and the Education sector. The Chairperson, and the Vice Chairperson of the Commission, and the research officer held this meeting with Mr George Borg, Director General, Directorate for Educational Services, and Ms Sandra Cortis, Service Manager, Student Services Department. At this meeting the representatives from the Education Department suggested that talks are provided to the colleges’ psychosocial professionals, which talks are now currently being carried out.

6.5 Collaboration with MCAST (Main Campus, Paola)

At the end of September, the staff at the Commission on Domestic Violence, together with a representative from the NGO Men Against Violence held a meeting with Mr John Bartolo, Director Information and Student Support Services and with MCAST Senior Counselor Ms Marthese Vassallo. During this meeting the possibility of raising awareness about domestic violence, dating violence and prevention in the MCAST institutes was discussed. Following this meeting the Commission was given the opportunity to write an article about domestic violence which was published in the MCAST Link magazine in December 2014. The awareness raising carried out with Men Against Violence and Rainbow Support Service was also promoted on the same magazine.

6.6 Collaboration with Women against Violence Europe Network (WAVE)

In October 2014 Malta was invited to attend a five day study visit in Vienna, Austria and all costs were covered by WAVE. The objectives of this study visit were to:

- exchange best practices
- exchange information on the countries' policies, legislation and services in relation to domestic violence and violence against women
- gain a better understanding of the implementation of the Istanbul Convention and
- exchange information on EU-funded projects on domestic violence

7. European Union, Council of Europe and International Conferences

The Commission on Domestic Violence was invited to participate in meetings and conferences abroad on the subject of domestic violence and related issues. The invitations were received from:

- COST Action 1206 Femicide across Europe
- the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)
- VUmc Academy
- WAVE Women Against Violence Europe
- Associação de Mulheres Contra a Violência
- European Institute on Gender Equality ⁴

⁴ Conferences report – Appendix C

8. Research Studies and Questionnaires

In January 2015, the Commission on Domestic Violence collaborated with **Women against Violence Europe Network (WAVE)** in compiling and updating Malta's information for the WAVE Country Report 2015.

In January 2015, WAVE contacted the Commission on Domestic Violence to participate in a survey organised by the World Bank. The report *Women, Business and the Law 2016* will focus on the Protection of Women from Violence and will cover sections on general legislation and policy, domestic violence, sexual harassment, services and protection orders.

In February 2015, the Commission on Domestic Violence was invited by The Public Policy and Management Institute (PPMI) in partnership with Deloitte to partake in an external evaluation of European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). This evaluation was designed as a learning exercise to enable EIGE to reflect on the lessons from the past and to strengthen the organization to meet the future challenges in the area of gender equality and violence against women. This was an online evaluation.

9. Electoral Proposals

The Commission on Domestic Violence has met up with various professionals and stakeholders to work on the implementation of the following electoral proposals:

“16.028 Naraw li l-liġi kontra l-Vjolenza Domestika tassigura l-mezzi biex il-vittmi u t-tfal jiġu protetti immedjatament.”

Electoral Proposal 16.028 aims at protecting the victims of domestic violence in an effective manner by amending current legislation and improving the current services available. It also aims at addressing the issue that at times, it is the victim who leaves the household instead of the perpetrator.

Malta's ratification of the Istanbul Convention supports the protection of victims.

“16.030 Biex verament inżommu jdejna fuq il-polz tas-soċjeta' jinħoloq programm apposta fejn tinżamm statistika dwar vjolenza domestika b'mod komprensiv bil-kollaborazzjoni tal-professjonisti u l-istrutturi li jaħdmu f'dan il-qasam.”

Electoral Proposal 16.030 aims at gathering data from the various stakeholders working in the field of domestic violence for harmonisation purposes. Such data is needed to better understand the local scenario so as to improve services in relation to domestic violence and also work on a co-ordinated approach with stakeholders. In 2014 the office of the Commission on Domestic Violence has harmonised data for year 2013 from the Malta Police, *Agenzija Appogg*, and the General Hospitals (through the Directorate for Health Information and Research). Dar Merħba Bik which runs a women's shelter also provides data.

Harmonised Tables

Table 1 - Services providing Data

Services	Number of Records	Number of Individuals*
Malta Police	1096	958
Domestic Violence Unit, <i>Agenzija Appogg</i>	837	763
Department of Health	30	30
Dar Merħba Bik	88	74
Għabex, <i>Agenzija Appogg</i>	71	66

*This refers to the number of persons who made a report/sought a service at least once

Table 2 - Availed of more than one Service

Availed of more than one Service	Number of Records
DVU* and Malta Police	71
DVU, Għabex, and Malta Police	13
DVU and Għabex	22
DVU, Għabex, and Hospital	1
DVU, and Dar Merħba Bik	27
DVU, Għabex, and Dar Merħba Bik	3
DVU, Dar Merħba Bik, and Malta Police	9
DVU, Dar Merħba Bik, and Hospital	1
DVU, and Hospital	1
DVU, Dar Merħba Bik, Għabex and Malta Police	1
DVU, Għabex, Malta Police, and Hospital	1

*DVU refers to Domestic Violence Unit

Types of Violence recorded**Table 3 - One form of violence recorded**

Types of Violence	Number of Records
Physical	643
Psychological	391
Emotional	99
Stalking	31
Sexual	3
Economic	1
Neglect	1

Table 4 – Multiple forms of violence recorded

Types of violence	Number of Records
Emotional and others*	541
Physical and others*	18
Economic and neglect	6

*Others refers any form of violence including physical and emotional

Table 5 - Victims' age groups

Age Group	Number of Records	Number of Individuals
0-10 years	23	22
11-17 years	67	56
18-30 years	347	301
31-40 years	417	350
41-50 years	366	316
51-60 years	216	194
61-70 years	100	93
71-80 years	22	21
81-92 years	11	7

*The original data collected by the Service Providers has been harmonized using an agreed set of variables which have also been approved by the Office of Information and Data Protection Commissioner

10. New Recruit

In April 2014, Ms Doreen Bonello has been appointed by the Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity as the Commission's research officer. Her responsibilities are as follows:

- Attend and actively participate in the Commission's meetings
- Assist in data collection, compiling data, and research relevant information to be used for awareness raising and planning purposes
- Participate in the planning of new activities
- Administer work related to the Commission's library
- Organise and participate in awareness raising campaigns on domestic violence prevention
- Participation in awareness raising sessions about domestic violence and prevention addressed to psychosocial professionals in colleges
- Participate in meetings with stakeholders
- Assist in the preparation and facilitation of seminars organised by the Commission on Domestic Violence
- Prepare and support the Commission's secretary in the production of the Commission's annual report
- Executes administrative and coordination tasks to carry out the Commission's operative work
- Liaise with the Commission's Chairperson to ensure proper implementation of projects and/or meetings
- Attend conferences/training locally and abroad on topics that are relevant to the Commission on Domestic Violence

Appendix A

Domestic Violence Act Chapter 481

Terms of Reference

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.”

Appendix B

Financial Report 2014

Item 5477

Annual Budget € 40,000

Honoraria 2014 and Tax	€ 18,412.60
Overtime	€ 790.42
Expenses related to Awareness raising	€ 10,847.10
Recovery of EU Funds re ESF 3.43 project	€ 14.79
Expenses related to the Office	€ 320.37
Expenses for conferences abroad	€ 5,579.75
Expenses for Seminar 2013	€ 1,593.29
Conferences in Malta	€ 100.00
Printing of Annual report 2013-2014	€ 979.40

Appendix C

Conferences

Cost Action 1206 Femicide across Europe: Working Group meeting in Iceland – 11-13 September 2014

The purpose of this meeting was for the members of the Management Committee to discuss the way forward on this Cost Action for the coming year. The Management Committee meeting was held on the 11 September 2014. The Working Group 1 on 'Definitions' met on the 12 and 13 September 2014 to discuss and finalize a working definition to be used for this Cost Action. Ms Katya Unah is a member of the Cost Action 1206.

The Second International Conference on Law Enforcement and Public Health (LEPH 2014)

Between the 5th and the 8th of October, 2014, Ms Doreen Bonello and Inspector Louise Calleja attended an International Conference in The Netherlands, organised by VUmc Academy. The conference focused on creating space to enhance communication between two sectors being law enforcement and public health, with a view to reduce and prevent crime including violence.

Women Against Violence Europe WAVE

On 17-18 November 2014, Inspector Louise Calleja and Ms Doris Vassallo attended the 16th Annual WAVE Conference which was organised by Women Against Violence Europe WAVE in cooperation with the Municipality of Vienna, Department of Women's Affairs and focused on future perspectives on preventing violence against women and children. The Conference was held in Vienna, Austria. The conference featured perspectives from relevant stakeholders from the United Nations, European Union, Council of Europe and the Austrian policy area, as well as speeches from the EU agencies, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).

4th International Conference on Survivors of Rape in Lisbon

Ms Katya Unah attended this conference between the 20th and the 22nd November 2014, and it was organised by Associação de Mulheres Contra a Violência - AMCV (Association of Women Against Violence) in collaboration with Rape Crisis Network Ireland - RCNI. Two training institutes were held prior to the conference; these focused on Crisis Centers structures, work and the intervention with the survivors and Traumatological consequences of sexual assault and intervention. The conference focused on European policies, best practices and rape prevention and for assisting women victims of rape.

Towards a common approach for the collection of administrative data on gender-based violence in the EU: focus on police and justice

Ms Katya Unah was invited by the European Institute on Gender Equality (EIGE) to attend this one day meeting held on 8 December 2014. The overall objective of the meeting was to discuss progress towards a common approach in the collection of comparable administrative data on gender-based violence in the EU, by focusing especially on the potential and applicability of police and justice sources of data.

Administrative data provide detailed information on how judicial, police, health and social protection services respond to prevention, protection, and prosecution of incidents of gender-based violence. Administrative data reflect what is recorded by an organisation interacting with a victim or perpetrator but they do not record the prevalence of gender-based violence in a Member State.

The results show that police and justice are the sectors that are most advanced in the provision and production of quality data on gender-based violence in the EU, and feasibility of improving and adjusting data collection for criminal statistics on gender-based violence exists at EU-level.

Appendix D

Commission on Domestic Violence

Implementing the Istanbul Convention

Seminar Report

The Commission on Domestic Violence organised its annual seminar marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on the 27th November, 2014 at the Ministry for Transport and Infrastructure, Project House, Floriana. The seminar was entitled **Implementing the Istanbul Convention**, which refers to the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence which came into force in Malta in November, 2014. Eighty-three participants coming from different organisations who are directly or indirectly involved with the issue of domestic violence attended this seminar. These participants included the Judiciary, police officers, social workers, lawyers, probation officers, members from the education sector and various other professionals.

In view of the Istanbul Convention's recent introduction in Malta, the seminar's focus was based on the following topics:

- (i) Strengthening Prevention Efforts and Service Provision
- (ii) Protection of Victims and Prosecution of Offenders

Furthermore the Convention's main pillars were discussed with the participants through three workshops entitled:

- (i) Prevention
- (ii) Protection
- (iii) Prosecution

Relevant feedback was gathered through these sessions, which was then documented for future reference for the implementation process.

Dr Yana Micallef Stafrace, Chairperson of the Commission on Domestic Violence welcomed the participants with an introductory speech and continued the chairing of the seminar.

The Hon. Minister Helena Dalli, Minister for the Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties delivered the opening speech of the seminar. In her speech the Minister spoke about the ongoing work towards the elimination of any form of violence. Reference was made to the Interministerial committee's work with regards to the Istanbul Convention, the service being provided by the SART (Sexual Assault Response Team), the ongoing awareness raising campaigns, as well as the importance of prevention and protection of victims.

The seminar consisted mainly of two presentations given by the keynote speakers. The first presentation by Dr Marceline Naudi focused on **'The Istanbul Convention: Strengthening Prevention Efforts and Service Provision'** whilst the second presentation by Dr Roberta Lepre` focused on **'The Istanbul Convention: Protection of Victims and Prosecution of Offenders'**

The workshops **Prevention, Protection, and Prosecution** discussed the following:

Prevention

- training of professionals,
- awareness raising
- the involvement of the media
- education and
- the role of NGOs.

Protection

- protection and treatment orders
- tagging mechanisms for perpetrators as a monitoring system
- the removal of the perpetrator from the shared home and violence prevention.

Prosecution

- ensuring effective investigations
- assessing the risk of further violence
- adequate protection of victims during prosecution and
- avoiding secondary victimisation during Court proceedings.

