

Report

# **Flying Team against Violence**

**Combating Honor Related Violence,  
Forced Marriage and Abandonment**

Policy, good practices and success factors in  
Cyprus, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden and Turkey

December 2012

## Colofon

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Utrecht, December 2012



Netherlands centre  
for social development



Financing: Daphne Funding, European Commission



Disclaimer: This publication has been produced with the financial support of the Daphne III Programme of the European Commission. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of MOVISIE and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission.

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Harmful Traditional Practices

Many women and men and boys and girls in Europe are victims of harmful traditional practices such as honor related violence and forced marriage, or are at risk of becoming victims. They often - but not exclusively – belong to migrant and refugee groups like for example Turkish, Moroccan, Iraqi, Iranian, Afghan or Somali communities. This particular group is also at risk of being abandoned in their - or their parents' - country of origin where they are forced into marriage. In other cases their parents feel they should be getting a more strict and traditional education in their country of origin.

Violence against and suppression of women, girls and boys, lesbians, gays, bisexuals or transgenders, often starts within the victim's own family and community and is based on conservative traditions and patriarchal opinions about the roles of men, women and sexuality. Within this moral framework, individuals have little autonomy to choose their own partner or decide how they want to live, as they run a risk of being exposed to violence or expelled from the family. In addition, sometimes family members feel forced to use violence because of the social pressure from the community; they themselves face social exclusion if they fail to control and guarantee the 'honourable' behaviour of individual family members.

To combat honor related violence, forced marriage and/or abandonment, professionals must have receive adequate training, and sufficient shelter and social services for victims and an effective prosecution are crucial. However, it is equally important to realize a change in mentality and behaviour within the family system and the community, to achieve that suppressing norms are discussed and rejected, and to make sure that traditions and behaviour that make girls and women (and boys and men) victims of violence and suppression and violate their human rights, are abolished. There is a need for tools for empowerment and resilience, both for individuals to stand up to their families and for parents to withstand community pressure.

Finally, the problems of honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment often have an international component, as many migrant families live in diasporas and still have strong relationships with relatives and communities in the home countries. Thus, these issues require an international effort.

## 1.2. Role of grass roots organizations and NGO's

Real and sustainable change comes forth from interaction between official help systems and communities, but the fundamental change of mentality and conduct of the family system has to come from within affected communities. And it does! Many grass root, migrant-, women's and non-governmental organizations are successfully working within communities to prevent and combat honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment. They aim to empower and support their peers to protect them from violence and pressure, and enable them to protect themselves. They also play an important role in providing support to the victims.

In many European countries numerous grass root-, migrant- and women's NGO's are organizing a range of activities in the fight against honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment. Grass roots organizations and NGO's mostly receive little and often temporary funding. This leaves them little opportunity to organize long term and structural approaches; to educate and support their (new) volunteers; to describe and publish their findings, their tools and good practices; to exchange results, experiences and questions with colleague organizations, especially on a European level. Thus, much of their knowledge and practical experience is lost along the way. Consequently, new organizations are left to re-invent the wheel, which means a continuous loss of expertise, energy, time and money.

### **1.3. European project 'Flying Team against Violence'**

In January 2011, MOVISIE and the foundations Kezban and Welsaen from the Netherlands launched the European project 'Flying Team against Violence, combating Honor Related Violence, Forced Marriage and Abandonment'. The following partners joined them: ALMAeuropa (Sweden), Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (Cyprus) and Papatya/Türkisch-Deutscher Frauenverein (Germany). Next to the European partners, the project attracted an associate partner in Turkey, as homeland of one of the largest groups of immigrants in Europe. Up to 2012, the Turkish partner was Kalkinma Atoyese (Development Workshop). Our new Turkish partner, Bağımsız Kadın Derneği (Autonomous Women's Association) officially joined in February 2012.

The project is financed by Daphne funding of the European Commission.

The 'Flying Team against Violence' promotes the activities of grass root organizations and NGO's that aim to abolish harmful traditional practices such as honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment. Main goal is to increase attention and support for the work of these organizations. Their work is infinitely valuable and mostly unappreciated.

Next to this, the project aims to unite relevant organizations in an international network to learn from each other, develop work methods and strengthen their position by joining forces.

An additional project aim is to inform stakeholders, politicians and policymakers about the work of grass root organizations and NGO's. At the end of the project, recommendations from grass roots organizations and NGO's for a successful and sustainable approach against honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment are presented to regional, national and European politics and policymakers.

The 'Flying Team against Violence' brings together good practices from grass root organizations and NGO's. Emphasis is on working 'bottom up', on the changes that are made within migrant and refugee communities; on the work of grass roots organizations and NGO's to achieve those changes; and on the collaboration between grass root organizations and official help systems.

For the project, each Flying Team-partner was asked to write a 'national report' on the situation in their respective countries. The reports include descriptions of several good practices from the project countries, as well as an inventory of success factors. The main focus is on awareness raising activities and activities challenging harmful traditional practices in the communities, or aiming to increase empowerment and tenability against (group) pressure and violence. In the reports the partners also formulate an impression of the national discourse and policy on honor related violence, forced marriage, abandonment and migration, including the political climate in their countries.

The findings in the reports are based on (work-related) experiences of the project partners, interviews with grass roots organizations and desk research. All the national reports are written in the respective languages of the project countries (the report from Cyprus is in English) and published on the websites of the partners.

This 'European Report' is a summary of the reports of the five countries.

To widely share the findings of the project, a toolkit is constructed with five good practices, one from each country, as well as a list of success factors. The 'Flying Team' has presented the toolkit at the national meetings that were held mid 2012 in every participating country (except Turkey, as associative partner in the project). The 'Flying Team' consists of representatives of grass roots organizations and NGO's, one person from each country. Grass root organizations, NGO's and stakeholders, policy makers and politicians were invited to attend.

#### **1.4. Report structure**

In the next chapter, the definitions of the terms 'honor related violence'; 'forced marriage' and 'abandonment' are discussed, as well as the importance of having clear definitions. The project partners found that the participating countries all use different terms and definitions.

Chapter 3 summarizes the national discourse and policy on honor related violence, forced marriage, abandonment and migration, including the political climate in the participating countries.

In chapter 4 conditions and success factors are described. The conditions and success factors are based on interviews with respondents working in grass roots organizations and NGO's. Despite differences between social and political context in the various countries, the answers were very similar.

Chapter 5 offers firstly an extensive description of five good practices, one from each participating country. Three of the good practices describe projects that focus on awareness and education; two describe projects that aim especially at young people who are in danger because their families disapprove their live style. One is directed towards girls and young women, the other at LGBT's (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender).

Secondly, this chapter gives a short description of all the good practices, described in the different country report.

In the last chapter the conclusions and recommendations are presented. The recommendations are particularly formulated for grass roots organizations and NGO's, national policymakers and other stakeholders, and European policymakers.

Finally, in the annexes you can find reports of the national meetings, and the address list of the organizations participating in this project Flying Team Against Violence.

## 2. Definitions

Honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment are alarming topics in the participating countries. But do the terms have the same meaning in these countries; in these different languages and within the different political and social context of each country? Reality shows that definitions and perspectives differ, and that in some countries there are no specific definitions at all. However, this doesn't automatically mean they have no policy against this type of violence.

Furthermore, some governments appear to use different definitions than the grass roots organisations and NGO's in their country.

### 2.1. The importance of definitions

In many respects, it is important to work with clear definitions. Clarity of terms is crucial, both in the identification and recognition of different forms of violence.

An important barrier in combatting honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment is the denial or downplaying of specific elements of the violence. Firstly, there is the negative impact (and danger) of not just one person, but of the whole social environment around this person. On top of this there is the background of the problem: the conviction to stick to conservative gender roles and the wish to control the group members' sexuality. All have to abide by strict stereotypical and gendered sexual norms.

Denial and trivialization are preventing governments from (appreciate the need to) develop an effective policy. It also disables victims, perpetrators or bystanders to open a discussion or debate about the violence, and develop (collective) solutions and strategies.

In short, clear definitions are necessary to be able to investigate the nature and extent of the violence, to be able to develop a policy and subsequently to monitor, evaluate and adjust this policy.

### 2.2. Differences and similarities

#### *Gender and human rights perspective*

The approach and discourse in a country and within governments often differs from the perspective of women's and grass root organizations. Many of the governments of the participating countries (except Sweden) haven't adopted a clear gender or human rights perspective and fail to consider the roots of the violence, patriarchal structures, gender inequality and the intolerance for sexual diversity in their analyses. However, for most grass roots organizations and NGO's the only way to achieve successful and sustainable solutions is through starting from these same gender and human rights perspectives (the rights of individuals).

#### *Honor related violence*

In Cyprus the term 'honor related violence' is not recorded as such. Crimes that are committed in the name of 'honor' are not classified and the players dealing with these issues do not use the term honor related violence. Most honor related violence cases are treated like domestic violence. The countries use the following working terms: domestic violence, violence against women, child abuse, sexual abuse, rape, and sometimes even trafficking in human beings. This situation probably constitutes the main reason behind the lack of data on specific forms of harmful traditional practices. In Turkey the

term 'honor related violence' is rejected by most feminist women's organizations because they observe that the word 'honor' is regularly used by society and by judges alike as a 'licence' or an 'excuse' for violence and murder. The Turkish government uses the terms tort 'or' custom killings, but often only in the case of violence within Kurdish communities. In Sweden, Germany and the Netherlands, the use of the term honor related violence is quite common. Organizations often choose terms strategically, either for political purposes or to better reach their intended target group. For example, in the field of prevention the most used term is 'domestic violence', but in the political realm the going term is 'honor related violence'. The Swedish partner in the Flying Team strongly advise to use the term 'honor related violence' rather than 'domestic' or 'gender-based violence' to make sure that affected target groups like LGBTs are not excluded from strategies and approaches against HRV.

A recurrent discussion between the project partner organizations was the one about terminology. In the Northern European countries (Sweden, Netherlands and Germany) the term 'honor related violence' is common, as well as actively promoted by several grass roots organizations and NGO's. In the Netherlands and Germany, however, some groups disapprove of the term, because of the already negative stigmatization of migrants and refugees in European society, whereas the problems are simply not recognized and discussed in other closed or strict conservative communities (like orthodox Christians and Roma and Sinti). In Turkey, mainly feminist organizations are protesting the term. According to them, violence has nothing to do with 'honor', which therefore shouldn't be used as a – legal - legitimization to commit violence. They prefer terms like 'violence against women' or 'harmful traditional practices', to emphasize mainly the struggle against social, economical and political inequality of women. In Cyprus, the terms 'domestic violence' and 'violence against women' are much more commonly used by organizations than 'honor related violence'. However, due to the fact that honor related violence is not specifically dealt in policies and legislation in Cyprus, there are not coordinated actions or organisations that combat this specific form of violence. Issues of honor related violence occur in the work of NGOs that provide specialised support to women victims of domestic violence. One of the organizations recommended that the government develops a clear definition of honor related violence.

### ***Forced marriages***

The notion of the term 'forced marriage' is a different one in each participating country. Although the definition of the term is similar (coercion to marry), the understanding of and focus on the problem can differ. In Cyprus, forced marriages are mostly referred to as marriages of convenience (which can be voluntary or involuntary), and perceived as political or fake marriages to acquire a residence permit. Sometimes, the issue of forced marriage is linked to human trafficking. In the Netherlands, Germany and Sweden the core characteristic of forced marriage is 'coercion'. In all the countries, there is an on-going discussion on how to objectively define or operationalize forced marriage in order to be able to differentiate between arranged marriages and forced marriages. In Turkey, forced marriages include mostly early or child marriages, and religious marriages (often with a considerable age different between the spouses). Economical, social and traditional reasons (including honor) form the background of these common practices.

### ***Abandonment***

Apart from the Netherlands, not many countries use the term 'abandonment' as an official phenomenon. However, the participating countries of the Flying Team-project, the partners, do recognize the existence of the problem among migrant communities. In the Netherlands, abandonment is treated as a form of domestic violence, as are honor related violence and forced

marriage. In Germany the term ‘abduction’ or ‘marriage-abduction’ is sometimes used and in the specific context that girls with migrant backgrounds are sent back or threatened by their parents to be sent back to their (or their parents’) country of origin, in order to control the girls’ behaviour. The term is linked to honor related violence and/or forced marriages. In the Turkish context the term ‘abandonment’ is new, but there is a poignant similarity with the situation of Turkish women who are left behind by their husbands when they move away (to another part of the country or abroad) to work, and after a while stop sending money to the family. The woman feels abandoned, as she depended on him economically. Due to social pressure, however, it is virtually impossible to get a divorce and marry another man.

The main difference between the European context and the Turkish experience is the legal position of women and children. In the European context the dependent residence status, which prevents women and children to return to Europe on their own, constitutes a large share of the problem, in the Turkish situation the problems are mostly in the economical dependency of women and the (social and legal) difficulties to divorce.

The similarity of the problem is in being forced to live in a certain situation against your will.

### **2.3. A selection of definitions**

Below, we offer definitions on all the different terms, based on widely used definitions from the participating partner countries from the Flying Team against Violence-project. To cover as many of the above-mentioned differences, next to definitions on honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment, we have included definitions of violence against women and domestic violence.

#### **Violence against women**

Violence against women includes any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life (*UN The Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination (CEDAW), 1979*)

#### **Domestic Violence**

Domestic violence includes any act, omission or behavior, which causes physical, sexual or mental injury to any member of the family by another member of the family. Members of the family are: (ex) partner, parents, children and/or other relatives or any person residing with the aforementioned persons. Examples of domestic violence are partner abuse, child abuse and neglect, elder abuse. Domestic violence is sometimes also referred to as “Family Violence”. It includes honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment.

#### **Honor related violence**

Honor related violence refers to mental or physical transgressions in the context of patriarchal family structures/communities/societies, that are carried out especially but not exclusively against women and girls, who are seen as the carriers of family honor. Boys and lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders are also known victims. The violence is rooted in the patriarchal desire to control women’s sexuality. Collective ideas and social pressure are important contributors to the problem. As women are held responsible for the education of the children, they are often the scapegoats when the

family honor is jeopardized by rumours. As a result, other women in the family sometimes take part in the oppression and even the violence.

Honor has its origin in conservative cultural conceptions about gender, power and sexuality. There are strong beliefs about virginity and chastity and the family's reputation and good name in the community largely depends on the actual or alleged behavior of the girls and women in the family. Discipline and control ranges from limitations in everyday life, like choice of clothes, social life and freedom of movement to influencing important choices in life, such as education, work, marriage or divorce. In its most extreme forms, rigid control can lead to threats of violence and actual violence, including murder.

### **Forced Marriage**

Forced marriage is the act of forcing a girl/woman or boy/man into marriage. The core concept is 'coercion'. There is a sliding scale of soft coercion in the form of social and psychological pressure, to forcing a son or daughter to get married by threatening with physical and/or psychological violence. The persuaders are mostly parents or other relatives, from the victim's family as well as the chosen partner's family.

### *Child marriage*

A child marriage is a marriage where one of the parties is under the age of 18 (in case of Germany 16). In the period before a child marriage, the child has often been subjected to serious pressure, including criminal coercion. In some countries criminal coercion is mentioned in the definition.

### **Abandonment**

Abandonment refers to a situation where a husband or a family sends one or more family members back to their country of origin, without their consent, or leaves them there during a longer period of time (mostly during holidays), while taking their passport and residence permit to prevent them from returning to their new homeland. There are several known reasons: the victim is at risk of violating the 'family honor' by his or her behavior, and by putting him or her under the care of the grandparents or other relatives, the family hopes they will be educated more traditionally and strictly. Sometimes husbands who abandon their wives (and/or their children) in their country of origin are in the process of marrying someone else.

### **3. Government policy and implementation: experiences and challenges**

All partner organizations in the project collected data through desk research and interviews with grass roots organizations and NGO's working in the fields of honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment. Some partners questioned policy makers, as well.

The key question was: what is the nature of the political and social discourse on the respective subjects and what is done about the problems?

This chapter briefly describes the discourse in the various EU member states and their policies on honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment. This includes: similarities and differences between the five participating countries, recent trends, policy versus practice, actions and comments of grass roots organizations and NGO's.

First, we describe the similarities and differences in political climate and approach, followed by a short description of the situations in the respective countries. The full descriptions of the situations in the participating countries are drawn up in the national reports, which are published on the websites of the partner organizations of the project Flying Team against Violence.

#### **3.1. Similarities and differences**

Thanks to the persisting efforts of grass roots organizations and NGO's, the issue of honor related violence and forced marriage is on the public and political agenda in most of the partner countries. However, there are many international differences in terms of (amount of) attention, definitions of the problems and type of actions.

##### **Stigmatizing**

In most countries, stigmatizing has a decisive influence with regard to the acknowledgment of, and debate and policy on honor related violence, forced marriages and abandonment. In one way or another, all grass roots organizations and NGO's have been struggling with the question of how to address and keep addressing these issues in public and in politics without turning them into 'Muslim issues', and without stigmatizing the victims as difficult and/or pitiful and/or expensive residents and the perpetrators as backward citizens. For this, NGO's and governments from the different countries have different strategies. Some only speak of domestic violence to avoid negative stigmatization, while others find it important to explicitly define the specific aspects of honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment to emphasize the need for a specific approach.

None of the countries has managed to prevent stigmatization altogether. In most of the European partner countries honor related violence, forced marriages and abandonment are only associated with migrants and refugees from non-western countries and ascribed to a supposed 'backward culture' or 'Islamic practices' or both. In this way, the issue is 'analysed' only superficially and measures can stay ineffective. An analysis of these issues is never complete without considering the origins of the respective harmful traditions, which are rooted in conservative ideas on male/female roles, sexuality, relationships/marriage, children, and in the dependency and social pressure within small closed off

communities. If these aspects are ignored, these issues won't be adequately understood and dealt with.

For victims of honor related violence, forced marriages or abandonment, stigmatization can lead to fear of sharing their problems with anyone, which will reduce the chance of possible individual or communal solutions.

In Sweden, the problem mainly lies with the operating shelter and care institutes. Only recently, these parties publicly argued that forced marriage as a concept was quite common among 'this target group' and that there was no reason to protest or reject it. This particular form of culture relativism strongly rebutted the Swedish government policy. In Cyprus and Turkey the concept of honor is very important, socially. It is not, as it is in Western Europe, something that is only important to specific groups of migrants or refugees. In Turkey, 'honor' as a motive for murder was reason for a mitigation of sentence, similar to a 'crime passionel' in the French jurisdiction, many years ago. Under EU pressure, legislation changed in Turkey. Now, honor related violence (defined as "tort", which means traditional violence) leads to stricter punishments. It is only determined if there is proof that the violence was decided and approved by the entire family. In Turkey, the stigmatization is very specific: honor related violence, they say, only exists in the Kurdish community; it is almost 'ethnicized', as if other groups of Turks never have this experience. This is one of the reasons for the feminist women's organizations in Turkey to replace the term 'honor related violence' with 'violence against women', and aim mainly at gender equality and (economical) independency of women.

In northern European countries the influence of grass roots organizations and NGO's on government policy has been reasonably successful, but over the past years the social and political debate on immigration, mostly in the media, has become 'tougher' and more 'stigmatizing' and 'Islamophobic'. The financial crisis in Europe has pushed back the debate on immigration and integration. The current public and political debate is much more focused on the economy, EU, euro, money and employment.

### **Approach**

Some countries have a comprehensive and coherent approach of honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment, including prevention, care, shelter and penal law. Other countries have very little or no policy at all on the issues.

One of the main targets of grass roots organizations and NGO's in the field is that a specific policy is developed or enhanced. They also specifically aim to support organizations and NGO's that are working to establish changes in their communities and who are counteracted by conservative migrant grass roots organizations.

Both Sweden and the Netherlands have a specific policy on honor related violence and forced marriage. The Dutch policy is part of the domestic violence program, but with specific goals and actions. The specific gender aspects of domestic and honor related violence are underexposed due to the choice of terminology. In the Netherlands, abandonment is a serious matter on the political agenda.

In Germany there is no clear distinction between domestic violence policy and honor related violence policy, but there is a specific policy on forced marriage with specialized programs and specific goals. In Cyprus and Turkey the honor related violence/forced marriage policy is part of the domestic violence policy, but in both countries the issues are mostly dealt with under family law and therefore referred to as family violence. In Cyprus, forced marriage is addressed under the Marriage Law, which

specifies that the free consent of both parties can never be granted when and if any of the parties have been coerced/forced to the particular marriage through honor. Also in Cyprus, the Aliens and Migration Law includes a specific article related to marriages of convenience, which has been shown to be of relevance for the issue of forced marriage in the framework of human trafficking.

Subsequently, the specific aspects of gender inequality fade and the policy basically serves to protect the family and the children as a whole. In Turkey and Cyprus the subject of 'violence against women' is a hard one to promote in politics. However, in Cyprus domestic violence is the form of violence against women that has received the greatest level of support by the Cyprus Government. In the last years there has been an increased effort by government authorities and NGOs alike to raise awareness on domestic violence and its consequences.

A (solid) national policy does not automatically guarantee an adequate approach. Available care doesn't always meet the requirements (yet) to be 'adequate' or 'accessible' or there is no sufficient follow up support after intervention. This is actually more or less true for all partner countries. Also, all countries should offer more and better professional training.

In Sweden, the ideas and competences of the executors are less than compatible. Turkey has a national policy against domestic violence saying that shelter should be available in all provinces, but many local administrations are unwilling to comply with this policy.

### **Criminal law**

In all partner countries a discussion is on about the criminalization of honor related violence/forced marriages/abandonment. It is agreed that criminalization will have a strong norm defining effect: 'this behavior is not acceptable'. However, executing a similar law is very difficult as the force and violence mostly take place within the family. Forced marriage is a criminal offence in all countries, but there has hardly been any prosecution. The discussion is about the operationalization of forced marriage, how to prove it and how to deal with the fact that a victim has to report her/his own parents with the police.

### **Legislation immigration and human trafficking**

In all European countries, immigration has been lawfully limited. Governments often use policies against honor related violence and forced marriage to limit immigration. In the opinion of the partner, this is a wrongful and ineffective use of legislation. It this doesn't efficient instrument to solve the problems, but it mostly violates the rights of victims and enhances the stigmatization of migrants.

One of the main findings of the study in Cyprus is the strong link between the issue of trafficking of women and forced marriage, suggesting the existence of a different context in defining the problem of forced marriages in the framework of human trafficking, which traditionally has been viewed within the family violence context. Forced marriage as a form of exploitation for trafficking of women needs to be explored further, especially about the numbers of women and girls who are abused and sexually exploited both by "marriage agencies", "mail – order bride companies" as well as "employment agencies" in Cyprus. The fact that the Anti-trafficking and Exploitation of Persons and Protection of victims Law 87(I)/ 2007, does not include forced marriage as a form of exploitation of trafficked women, seems to be a serious gap in the effective support of women, and therefore it is under revision for the inclusion, among other, forced marriage as a form of exploitation.

### **New policy developments**

In Sweden, attention for the position of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender members of migrant communities who are threatened within their communities because of their sexual preference is growing. In the government policy of the Netherlands, this group is becoming more and more visible, as it has been for some time with several interest groups. The other countries pay only limited or no attention to this group, both on a government and organizational level.

Thanks to a strong lobby of a few active grass roots organizations, the Netherlands is the only country with a specially developed specific policy on Abandonment. The phenomenon Abandonment is known throughout Europe but hasn't become a common policy theme. The project Flying Team against Violence is here to change this.

### **3.2. Politics and actions in the partner countries**

Below are brief descriptions of the policies of the partner countries. More information is available in the country reports<sup>1</sup>.

#### **Cyprus**

Cyprus does not have any legislation specifically addressing honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment. The Cyprus government takes domestic violence as a form of violence against women very seriously and they have a relatively comprehensive legal framework. However, this legal framework fails to incorporate other forms of violence, such as honor related violence (and/or forced marriage), and other harmful traditional practices and their links to gender (in)equality, social norms and stereotypes. In Cyprus, honor killings are not recorded as such, but usually treated as domestic violence or homicides. Honor is a way to justify gender inequality in patriarchal societies, which normalizes violence against women and girls inside and outside the family. 'Honor' is used to denounce socially 'unacceptable' sexual relationships, either a wife who has an affair, a daughter who has a boyfriend without her father's consent, or son or a daughter with a homosexual orientation. Despite the lack of systematic data on the prevalence of all forms of gender based violence in the Greek or Turkish Cypriot communities, honor related violence, forced marriage, semi-forced or arranged marriages probably exist in different forms in Cyprus affecting women and men from all socio-economic backgrounds, with migrant women and LGBT people in a particularly vulnerable position.

There is no specific law criminalizing forced marriage. However, there are a number of provisions in civil and criminal law that can serve to prevent and combat forced marriage or 'marriages of convenience' within the context of human trafficking (Art.154 of Criminal Code, the Marriage Law 104 (I) of 2003, Cyprus Aliens and Migration Law L. 29(I)/2009). In cases of family reunification, the age of 21 years is set as a strict limit for the entry of a spouse into Cyprus, in conformity with Council Directive 2003/86/EC of 22 September 2003. It has often been argued that setting strict age limitations for family reunification also offers a tool to prevent forced marriage.

Legislation in Cyprus, despite recent improvements, should be upgraded, renewed and closely monitored as current laws do not adequately cover other forms of gender based violence, including

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<sup>1</sup> The country reports can be downloaded from the websites of the respective project partners. See appendix 2 for the webaddresses.

honor related violence and forced marriage. Next to this, they are poorly implemented. Policy and legislation on gender based violence must include a range of forms of violence: domestic violence, sexual assault including rape, sexual harassment, stalking, honor related violence, forced marriage and trafficking.

In the area administrated by the Turkish Cypriots, the legislative framework around violence against women is very limited. The law does not specifically prohibit honor related violence, forced marriage or abandonment. Domestic violence is a criminal offence under a general assault/violence/battery clause in the criminal code, and the Family law contains none of these issues. The reporting rate of violence against women is generally low. Despite several active NGO's in the field of women's rights, there is no specific official agency to address the subject, nor a shelter (private or governmental) to support victims of gender based violence.

There are significant gaps in the victim support system. Firstly, there are no specialized, accessible, gender-sensitive and cultural-sensitive services for migrant women. There are no specific services for victims of honor related violence and forced marriage. The victim support system in Cyprus is mainly designed to support victims of domestic violence and trafficking. There is no systematic training of professional staff of all services dealing with violence against women, in all sectors including police, welfare, legal services, justice and health.

## Germany

In the controversial discussions about integration or its failure, the position of women in migrant communities is a prominent subject. Cases of honor-related violence and forced marriage are presented as indicators and proof of failed integration on the one hand – and on the other hand trivialized as marginal single events which could take place in almost any dysfunctional family – depending on the disposition of the speaker. Abandonment is problematized in the context of so-called vacation marriages or abduction to the country of origin as a last step of parents attempting to control their daughters or get them back on “the right track”.

Despite several known cases of honor killings, honor related violence is not a very prominent term in public or political discussions or in politics, while NGO's working in the field like Terre des Femmes, Papatya and others work hard to introduce and embed the term. Reasons for this could be that the term honor related violence is too abstract, but also the fear of being ‘politically incorrect’ or fuel racist stereotypes by adding one more category of violence. The public debate concentrates on honor murders on one hand and forced marriage on the other. An actual study on the authority of the government presented in autumn 2011 counted the incredibly high number of 3443 cases of forced marriages in one year. This result was surprisingly high even for professionals dealing with the issue in the field. The study only focused on known cases of forced marriage, the estimated number of unreported cases was not taken into account.

In March 2011, after a long debate, forced marriage became a specially defined offence (imprisonment for 6 months up to 5 years). Before this, forced marriage had been treated as aggravated coercion. The new legislation ensures that someone who is forced to marry abroad does not lose his/her German residence status. The attempt to bring someone to another country for a forced marriage (so-called vacation-marriages) is now punishable as the new legislation defines the offence at an early stage, that is, the attempt is penal even before a formal wedding has taken place. Despite these improvements the new legislation was again used to limit migration to Germany.

Victim support is provided on a national level and several federal countries have their own programs on shelter, training, support chains, etc.

## **Netherlands**

In the Netherlands, after an honor related violence incident in 1999 among a Turkish-Kurdish family, the Minister of Integration invited several migrant umbrella organizations to share their ideas on possible solutions and to organize debates within their communities on this type of violence. After that, thanks to NGO's like TransAct, one particular secondary school and some grass roots organizations, the issue of honor related violence was put on the political and public agenda, in 2003. Some politicians and various media parties dismissed the problem of honor related violence as 'medieval practices' that didn't belong in Dutch society and culture and the easy conclusion would be that 'such' people 'therefore' did not 'deserve' to be in the Netherlands. As a result, many migrants were reluctant to openly acknowledge and/or discuss the problems around honor related violence. However, this was not the general attitude of politicians and policymakers.

In 2005, an interdepartmental program 'Honor Related Violence' presented a coherent policy and approach, with consultation from migrant organizations and NGO's. The program was coordinated by the Justice Department and involved the departments of Housing, Communities and Integration, and of Health, Welfare and Sports. Aim was to integrate honor related violence as much as possible in the overall approach of and discussion on domestic violence, using the term 'violence in dependency relationships'. With this the interdepartmental program aimed to prevent stigmatization of migrants.

The actions against honor related violence focused on legal measures, information and professional skills for policy and services, special shelters, inter-institutional collaboration and prevention. Especially in the field of prevention, migrant organizations had an important role in organizing activities, aimed at changing the mentality and attitude within their communities with regard to honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment. Furthermore, provisions were made for victims of forced marriage and abandonment (information, proposal to include forced marriage in the criminal code, possibility for abandoned women and children to come back to the Netherlands and apply for a new residence permit).

The Interdepartmental Program Honor Related Violence ended December 2010. Since then, several changes can be identified in the approach of honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment; it changed from national to local policy, from prevention towards repression, and from specific to generic policy.

## **Sweden**

Due to incidents (murders), activities and campaigns of NGO's and grass roots organizations, honor related violence appeared on the public and political agenda. At the start, focus was solely on female victims. As of a few years (young) men and boys are also recognized victims of honor related violence (including those who are forced to commit honor related violence).

In 2009, the National Board of Youth Affairs published an official document about honor related violence ("Gift mot sin vilja"). The contents of this report partly convinced the government to develop clearer policies and allocated more resources for the struggle against honor related violence. All authorities, the police, the judiciary system, the schools, the hospitals, the social services and even,

for example, training courses for midwives, have included honor related violence as an important new element in their professional training programs. Honor related violence and forced marriage are now part of the regular curriculum of all public sector professionals in Sweden

In May 2012, the conclusion of a special investigation on forced marriage and the question whether or not it should be included in the Swedish Penal Code will be presented. In 2011, the Swedish government included information about forced marriage and how to act on the website of the Swedish Foreign Office. This development is fully in line with the developments in other authorities and their specific inclusion of honor related violence in all external communications.

An on-going discussion in Sweden is whether honor related violence should be included in the legislation on hate crimes. There are indications that show that there might be a parliamentary majority in favour of an inclusion of at least forced marriage and connected activities in the Penal Code.

The national government launches many projects and policies on honor related violence. However, not all agencies (like health agencies and Ungdomsstyrelsen) and political policies fully agree on a national level. Some local agencies disagree with the common approach and refuse to implement the measures that are proposed by the central government. Differences between the goals of politicians and of civil servants create a vacuum where policies are not fully implemented or even discarded.

On May 24<sup>th</sup> 2012, Göran Lambertz, member of the Swedish Supreme Court, presented his proposals regarding changes in the legislation on Forced Marriages.

The proposals are quite radical and apparently all political parties in Sweden are in favour.

The report states that it is impossible to render exact figures but in 2011 upon estimation at least 250-300 people in Sweden experienced a serious or reasonably serious risk to be married against their will. At least sixteen people were sent and held abroad during the same year with the intention of forcing them into marriage.

The report offers a number of suggestions on how to improve protection against child marriage, forced marriage and other involuntary marriages. Some of the recommendations are:

- The possibility to have a special exception for marrying under the age of 18 should be abolished.
- Child marriages are outlawed. It is a criminal offence to marry a child or initiate or organize early marriages. Also, several marriage-like relationships that are not legally valid (so-called informal marriage, usually in religious contexts) are included in the new law.
- A special penal provision on forced marriages is introduced, including 'informal marriages'. The recommended maximal punishment is four years imprisonment.
- The establishment of a permanent national unit to monitor, coordinate and support efforts to combat forced marriages and child marriages as well as honor related violence. The unit should be based in Östergötland County Administrative Board, which has extensive practical experience in the field.
- The National Health Board is instructed to initiate a surveillance project on forced marriages and child marriages, carried out by municipal social services.
- Clear requirements are directed towards religious groups that perform marriages and to people who want to be authorized to marry persons in religious groups. The marriage license must

include a clause for religious and marriage officials to prevent religious forced marriages or child marriages.

- The National Board for state support to religious communities should organize regular dialogues with religious communities about child marriage and forced marriage.
- A recommended method of family work in emergency situations will be developed.

The last couple of years Swedish NGO's have worked hard make it visible that LGBT-persons are victims of honor related violence and forced marriage and to create support structures for this target groups.

## Turkey

The fight against violence against women started in the 1980's with various activities and campaigns by women and their organizations. The struggle was institutionalized in the 1990's with legal arrangements and regulations. The Law No. 4320 on the protection of the Family; which was originally enacted in 1998 and amended in 2007 and 2011, represents an important milestone in terms of the protection of women victims of domestic violence including honor related violence. Women started to work with the state in different researches and projects. Shelters were established under the body of state, although not enough to deal with the numbers. A few shelters were realized through volunteer efforts of women organizations.

In 2006, a research was conducted about violence against women and children and honor killings. Proposals were formulated on the elimination of all violence against women as a state policy and inter-institutional collaboration for the implementation of possible solutions. However, the enforcement of the proposals has not been imposed and stated commitments haven't been carried out yet.

In the past 5 to 6 years, it seems that violence against women has increased and is acknowledged more by government and public. However, NGO's and women organizations speak of murder, rather than honor related violence. There is no mention of honor related crime in comprehensive legal definitions.

Lately, there has been a significant increase of attention for forced and early marriages, especially due to ample media attention. Unfortunately, new government proposals do not focus on the strengthening of the position of women, but rather the opposite.

Abandoning is not specifically addressed, but women's organizations have indicated that they are working on the negative results of abandonment.

## 4. Success factors of good practices

'What does it take to successfully combat honor related violence, forced marriage and/or abandonment?' This is the question the Flying Team project partners asked many different grass root organizations and NGO's in Turkey, Cyprus, Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands. Despite differences between the social and political context in these countries, the answers were quite similar. This chapter starts with a description of the necessary conditions for grass roots organizations and NGO's to be successful in their work. After this, we present a survey of the success factors of the good practices in combating honor related violence, forced marriage and/or abandonment and how to create the best possible circumstances.

### 4.1. Basic conditions for good practices

The interviewed grass roots organizations stated that the following external conditions enable them to perform satisfactorily: continuity and financial security for their projects, a range of sensitized stakeholders to identify the problems, a help-system with specialized and accessible aid, and a legal framework to support the work.

#### 1. Continuity and financial security

To be successful NGO's and grass root organizations need to be financially stable. One of the biggest challenges (and frustrations) for organizations is the lack of money to execute their programs. A secure financial basis means that less time and energy needs to be spent on fundraising. It also means that experiences and expertise of the organization will not be lost and results of projects will not fade over time if further implementation stagnates due to poor financial means.

Furthermore, there is the tendency the only new (innovative) projects are financed, while good practices need 'follow up financing' for further implementation and dissemination.

#### 2. Sensitized stakeholders

A key factor for successful work in this field is that all relevant stakeholders are sensitized to the existence and mechanisms of honor related violence, forced marriage and/or abandonment. In addition, stakeholders must acquire adequate intercultural competences. Intercultural work implies an open culture, sensitive attitude and the ability to communicate with people of different social-cultural backgrounds, on norms and values and any other subject that is relevant in the work with the target group. This implicates that workers should also be aware of their own norms, values and prejudices.

Teachers, officers of youth agencies and other professionals who deal with risk groups must be able to identify (possible) victims and intervene or refer to potential support opportunities before real danger occurs. If, for example, teachers are not sensitized to this issue, they may endanger affected pupils by speaking with their parents without consulting the pupils first. Also, well-intended direct interventions of untrained teachers towards the parents can turn out to have a complete opposite, thus negative, effect on the affected pupil.

In short, trained professionals should join forces in a comprehensive and integrated network. They should receive training on intercultural competences and improve their knowledge and understanding of different forms of violence.

### **3. Specialized and accessible help-system**

An available, specialized and accessible help-system is another success factor in the fight against honor related violence, forced marriage and/or abandonment.

- Knowledge about nationwide professional help is crucial. It is very important to thoroughly inform the affected groups about possible support services.
- The support system must be accessible and equipped for (potential) victims. The required institutions should form a 'support chain' and offer the whole range of different services (police, crisis centres, shelter, social services, youth agencies, legal aid etc.). The respective distinct roles, tasks and responsibilities must be clear for all parties involved. Transparency, unambiguous agreements and respect for each role and task are crucial.
- Shelters should have secret addresses, as this will guarantee safety for potential victims. Specialized shelters that work only with victims of honor related violence, forced marriage and/or abandonment are very successful because they have the required expertise to deal with the particular problems of their high-risk target groups.

### **4. Legal Framework**

For successful protection from and prevention of honor related violence, forced marriage and/or abandonment, the legal framework has to be open and sensitive to the needs and situations of victims.

- A national government policy on combating honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment is a success factor, as it shows (potential) perpetrators that violence is not acceptable. Laws on these issues can protect (potential) victims, and further the work of grass root and non-governmental organizations in the field.
- One need that has been identified in order to find out about the extent of honor related violence is that law enforcement agencies need to have a specific code for this type of crime, much like the code for hate crimes.
- The acknowledgement of (long term) harmful effects of psychological violence on a legal level is a success factor with regard to victim care and protection from honor related violence, forced marriage and/or abandonment.
- The legal protection of the rights of parents as caregivers is often in conflict with the protection of their children against violence. When youth agencies and family courts recognize the potential escalation in affected families and intervene in family conflicts at an early stage this is a success factor.
- Shelters that work with girls or women who feel threatened by their families reported specific methods to analyse the level of danger as success factors for their work. If public authorities act fast and take responsibility in cases of emergency, help is often successful.
- When victims leave their families to live in anonymity (for their own safety) they often get into trouble due to bureaucratic public authorities that fail to withhold the victim's personal information

from their families. More alert and careful public authorities are a success factor for effective support and protection.

## **4.2. Success factors for good practices**

The following success factors were identified in the projects of the grass root and non-governmental organizations (NGO's) in the field of combating honor related violence, forced marriage and/or abandonment. Information was collected from the interviews of the Flying Team-project with several of the organizations from the five countries.

The identified success factors are:

1. Bottom up strategies
2. A gender and human rights perspective
3. Confidence building and sensitivity
4. A selection of strategies and methods
5. Professionalism and intercultural competence
6. Cooperation
7. Continuity and sustainability

### **1. Bottom up strategies**

For a project that aims to prevent and combat honor related violence, forced marriage and/or abandonment, direct involvement and commitment of representatives (women and men) from the target communities and/or human right based grass root organizations or NGO's, is significant. The representatives are more likely to reach and appeal to their target groups. However, this does not mean that a top-down approach is never successful. Especially in the case of Sweden, initiatives for activities by local or national governments have shown to be very successful. Moreover, these initiatives show that the government does not tolerate violence against individuals, in any shape or form.

Professional institutions or NGO's should join forces with grass root organizations that are closely connected with and respected by certain communities. These organizations know how to reach their audience, how to get their interest and promote participation. Furthermore, because of their close relation with the affected groups, they can mediate and explain the needs of a group within the community, and towards professionals and policy makers. Thanks to their inside knowledge and practical experience, grass root organizations are able to identify relevant problems and develop new strategies and ideas. Involvement and commitment of the affected communities and their grass root organizations is also important for the sustainability of project results. It stimulates further actions to prevent and combat honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment, also after the project has ended.

### **2. A gender and human rights perspective**

For a project to be successful it is important to describe and analyse the problem that the project is addressing. The description should include a clear definition of the problem, its roots, its occurrence and a possible solution. The project team and its partners have to agree on this description. A successful approach of honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment is based on a gender and human rights perspective. This perspective has to include the reality that boys and men can also be victims of violence (particularly vulnerable are gays, bisexuals and transgenders). It also

allows differentiation of the 'target' group, or group of participants in terms of gender, age and sexual orientation. This way, the needs and interests of each subgroup can be carefully specified, and different approaches can be developed. Methods and materials can be adjusted to fit the different participants, ranging from a single or multiple ethnic group, a cultural or a religious homogeneous group, a group of men, women, youth or a mixed group.

Problem analysis also means focusing on the effect of group pressure on the individual. The power of the collective influences the existence and the continuation of traditional harmful practices. Focusing on human rights in the fight against violence, could take the pressure of the often precarious discussion on cultural and religious habits and justifications.

### **3. Confidence building and sensitivity**

Next to the need of access, and especially when it comes to awareness raising and educational programs, the success of a project also depends on whether it reaches its target group emotionally. 'Sensitivity' and 'confidence building' are key words. If a project aims to effectively implement measures against honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment, the team should never forget that these topics are taboo topics - especially with affected groups.

In awareness raising and information activities the concepts used in the program, have to concur with the experiences of the participants, otherwise they will not show up. If, for example, an NGO wants to carry out a workshop on forced marriages with young students, it should always be aware of the fact that these issues could be taboo and (young) people may be afraid of stigmatization. In addition, young people (especially girls) run a serious risk if they speak up about certain things in public. Project teams should always create a safe atmosphere for participants to share their stories.

Sometimes it is better to not address issues directly, but to use indirect terminology, like for instance, words like 'family matters' instead of 'honor related violence'.

Finally, the key question always is: to what extent is the problem of violence that we are addressing recognized and/or acknowledged by the participants?

### **4. A selection of strategies and methods**

Important success factors are the strategies, methods and materials that are used to reach and involve participants, to present a project, and to achieve goals. It is recommended to use different strategies and methods in a project, and to be open to change when a method or strategy does not work out properly. Sometimes participants are limited in their options. For example, some girls and women are unable to visit a shelter or other support agencies because they are not allowed to go out alone, or they are forbidden to make private phone calls. For these girls and women, the shelter can organize anonymous online counselling.

Also, different target groups have different needs and demands. Professionals need other information materials about forced marriage than young people do. Layout, language (formal, informal, language of country of origins or of residence) should always be adapted to the needs of the different participants.

### **5. Professionalism and intercultural competence**

Better results are achieved if project team members are experts on the issues of honor related violence, forced marriage and/or abandonment. Both paid and volunteer employees have to be sensitized to the existence and mechanism of these problems. They need to have a good understanding and ample experience in how to address and discuss the issues in a safe and open atmosphere. Professionalism is imperative (also in volunteers).

A certain degree of personal engagement can work out well. Engaged employees may add to the success of a project as the struggle against violence and its connected mechanisms of oppression, requires both personal engagement and professionalism. Both aspects are necessary ingredients. However, too much personal engagement in a project may lead to inadequate decisions and a risk of 'burn out' amongst employees. On the other hand, being too professional and rigid could lead to a lack of empathy and commitment. It is virtually impossible to feel nothing in this line of work.

In the recruitment of the counsellors, advisors and educators, the organization has to carefully consider whether they should be of the same ethnicity as the participants. In any case, impartiality and independence of the trainers and the counsellors is essential. Knowledge must be the main argument, not a person's ethnical background. Every volunteer or employee needs to be trained on intercultural competences.

## **6. Cooperation**

An integrated, comprehensive approach in the prevention and combat of honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment is a factor of success. Cooperation between all stakeholders along the whole range of activities, from awareness raising, interventions and support to the prosecuting of perpetrators, leads to better results. Grass roots organizations and NGO's collaborate with professionals in social services, schools, police and the judicial system, including immigration officers, and policymakers. By joining forces they strengthen their position, bring forward their issues and further the development of better strategies and standards for their work.

Collaborating institutes and policymakers must be encouraged to realize and acknowledge that grass roots organizations and NGO's, working directly with the affected groups, hold valuable knowledge and insights into the problems. Grass roots organizations and NGO's can transfer and exchange 'inside' knowledge and practice based expertise to the different stakeholders and politicians. Because of their close relation with the affected groups they can play a mediating role and transfer the needs of their peers to policy-makers. Because of their helicopter view and practical standpoint they are also able to identify relevant problems and develop new strategies and ideas.

Nationwide and European networks, instead of only local, are an important success factor in the fight against violence.

## **7. Continuity and sustainability**

Successful programs can be repeated or adapted for further implementation in different and/or broader (regular) settings, in other organizations, with other groups of participants, or for other useful purposes. Often, after a project has finished there is no funding for further implementation of the results. Continuation can't be guaranteed by money alone. Experiences and expertise of successful (prevention) projects are best spread by participants; word to mouth.

## 5. Good practices

During the first phase of the project Flying Team against Violence each project partner collected information on good practices in the field of combating honor related violence, forced marriages and/or abandonment, from their respective countries. The practices were selected based on criteria the project partners had formulated before (see chapter 4). The most important criteria were: sufficient knowledge and experience of the team; working from a gender perspective; aiming at awareness and dissemination on a grass root level; (intended) continuity; implementation of the results and finally, existing collaborations with relevant institutions.

Each Flying Team-partner described the projects from their countries in a National Report on the situation in their respective countries. (All National Reports are published on the websites of the respective project partners.)

Five of the projects (one from each country) were chosen to be included in the Toolkit of the project, and were presented by the Flying Team on the national meetings in the participating countries. To select the five practices, the project partners nominated two projects from their country. The ten selected practices were rated and compared by the complete project team. The final decision for the five example projects was based on three criteria:

- The three topics of the Flying Team project (honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment) should be equally represented.
- The project had to be relevant for many other European countries.
- The project had to be transferable to other countries.

This chapter offers firstly an extensive description of five good practices (5.1.). Secondly, it presents an short description of all the good practices that are mentioned in the different country report (5.2). More information about the projects are find in these country reports.

### 5.1. The final five (extended description)

Below are short abstracts of the five good practices. The short abstracts are followed by more detailed descriptions of the good practices, including contact details of the organizations for further information. Three of the projects focus on awareness and education. The Cypriot project addresses young people and promotes the use of peer educators; the Turkish partner targets women and the Dutch project focuses on migrant girls/women and boys/men.

The other two projects offer online help to young people. A shelter facilitates the German online help. The Swedish one specifically targets lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders that are in danger because their sexual preference is seen as a loss of family honor.

**The final five good practices are:**

- **Cyprus - Perspective - Peer Education Roots for School Pupils to Enhance Consciousness on Violence Against Women**

The specific aim of this project of Cyprus is to raise young people's awareness on gender violence. It proposes emotional and relationship models based on mutual respect between the genders. The main aim is to prevent violence in (future) relations. The project team trained young people as 'peer educators' to transfer knowledge and awareness to members of their own age group.

- **Turkey - Domestic Violence Training Program - Raising Women Awareness of Domestic Violence and their Rights**

Through 'home based meetings' with women in disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Turkey, the project team is raising awareness on "violence". The moderators teach the women that much of the behavior, which is considered 'normal', is in fact not acceptable or tolerable. Also discussed are suppression and violence in the name of 'honor'. During the meetings the participating women also receive information on women's legal rights and existing services for victims.

- **The Netherlands - Know your Rights' - Public information campaign Rights and Abandonment for Moroccan and Turkish women, men and young people**

The project informs migrant women on the Dutch, Moroccan or Turkish legal system, legal issues and procedures in the fields of family law and right of residence. The project creates awareness and empowers migrant women in the Netherlands and thus aims to prevent abandonment. The project also provides knowledge to institutions and organizations and aims to build a solid network of expertise and collaboration.

- **Germany - Papatya - Anonymous Shelter and Counselling**

Papatya provides anonymous shelter, safety and psychosocial and concrete support to girls and young women in Germany. It has a secret address and a qualified staff. Papatya also provides easy to reach counselling services for the target group. Papatya aims to prevent (further) violence, honor crimes, forced marriages and kidnapping to the home country

- **Sweden - LGBT AND HONOR ([www.hbtheder.se](http://www.hbtheder.se))**

This project offers specialized on-line support and advice to lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans-gender young people in Sweden who are (possible) victims of honor related violence. The experts are trained mentors who have professional and/or personal experience with being lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans-gender. Through the website help-seekers can stay anonymous at first and move on at their own pace.

## **Description of the final five:**

### **Cyprus**

#### **PERSPECTIVE: PEER EDUCATION ROOTS FOR SCHOOL PUPILS TO ENHANCE CONSCIOUSNESS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

Young people are generally unaware of gender stereotypes and gender-based violence (GBV). In Cyprus, the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) initiated the project 'Perspective'. The overall project aim was the reduction and prevention of violence against women. The specific objective of the project was to raise young people's awareness on gender violence and to promote emotional and relationship models based on mutual respect between the sexes.

The project team developed a 'peer education' method to spread their message to young people. In this method, a group of trained 'peer educators' is mobilized to educate members of their own age group. The program began with initial awareness raising sessions with large groups, followed by specific training activities for volunteer peer educators. During their training they acquired the necessary knowledge, skills and confidence to moderate sessions with other young people in their schools.

#### **Target group**

Primary: Adolescents between the ages of 15 to 17

Secondary: Teachers on secondary education institutes

#### **Approach**

After the selection of a number of suitable secondary schools, the training program was ready to start. MIGS provided trainings on gender-based violence in different levels and identified and selected potential candidates among the students to become volunteer peer educators.

##### *Phase 1*

Four general two-hour classes on gender issues, relationships between genders, gender roles, gender stereotypes and the relation between these issues and gender based violence.

The last training session was devoted to 'training the trainers'. Here, a selection of (preferably 8) students was trained to be group trainers and assume their role as peer educators. Two more peer education-training sessions of 1.5 hours each followed. As the students were inexperienced and new to the concept of peer educators, it was important that they understood the key principles of the method. During the training they were encouraged to share their concerns and fears about becoming peer educators and to explore the skills and qualities they needed to be successful in their role. An important part of the training was spent on competencies and qualities aimed at participatory and interactive learning among peer groups. After studying the key principles of group facilitation (like good communication skills, impartiality, inclusion, flexibility, creativity, etc.) the acquired theories were applied and experimented with during practice sessions.

##### *Phase 2*

The group of peer educators conducted trainings for their peers. The trainings focused on awareness raising on gender roles and social expectations and gender, and they explored the occurrence of gender based violence in adolescent romantic relationships, and its impact.

The project facilitators were present during the peer education trainings. This way, the peer educators felt safe and were able to address them in case of uncertainties or complicated questions. Finally, peer educators made use of hand-outs, manuals, the Internet, etc.

##### *Phase 3*

After the trainings the project team launched a media campaign. This campaign included the key messages on the impact of GBV, which were formulated by the participants of the trainings. The campaign was aired on TV and radio and secondary schools provided written information.

## **Results**

The project aimed to actively engage students in the prevention of gender-based violence and make a difference in their student community. Fifty adolescents were trained to become peer educators. Altogether they trained about 150-200 peers.

The peer educators were worried that their friends and classmates would not listen to them or criticize them. They were afraid that students of their own age would not take them seriously. However, the peer educators were pleasantly surprised to find that this wasn't the case at all; their classmates fully accepted them as trainers.

Peer educators are in no way expected to be experts nor do they carry too much in-depth knowledge about the subject they are training on. They appeared to have gained just the right level of knowledge necessary to entertain effective discussions on GBV with their peers.

The participating pupils enjoyed the trainings by the peer educators, which can be concluded from their positive and enthusiastic evaluations. The students stated that they found it easier to learn from peers as they 'speak the same language', and 'relate to you', 'they can understand you better' and use 'language and examples that are relevant to your reality'. Peer education is reasonably informal and they were not 'subjected to any authority' or 'forced' to listen. Within the school environment they were able to express their thoughts and opinions in front of their peers, which was highly appreciated. Finally, the 'all inclusive' approach of the trainings was also well received.

## **Basic conditions**

### *Cooperation*

Recommended is a close collaboration with and the support of a teacher, or a youth worker in a youth centre, who is sensitive to gender equality and GBV. They can introduce you to school boards (or youth centres), and promote this type of training to their young audience. Professionals should also propose that the subject of GBV is integrated in the curricula of their school or youth centre.

### *Budget*

A budget to cover a project coordinator, a trainer and one facilitator. And a budget to launch a media campaign for radio and TV.

## **Additional information**

[www.medinstgenderstudies.org/news/perspective-peer-education-roots-for-school-pupils-to-enhance-consciousness-of-tackling-and-impeding-women-violence-in-europe/](http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/news/perspective-peer-education-roots-for-school-pupils-to-enhance-consciousness-of-tackling-and-impeding-women-violence-in-europe/)

Report on GBV among young people in EU countries (in English): [www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/Report-on-Peer-Education-Trainings-on-Gender-Violence.pdf](http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/Report-on-Peer-Education-Trainings-on-Gender-Violence.pdf)

The project folder (in Greek and English): logos and messages are available to other organizations.

## **Contact information**

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## Turkey

### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TRAINING PROGRAM: RAISING WOMEN AWARENESS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THEIR RIGHTS**

Violent behavior is often seen as 'normal', not only by men but also by women and society in general. Women are often unaware of the rights and regulations that exist to protect them from violence. The Autonomous Women's Association in Mersin organized "home based meetings" with women from disadvantaged neighbourhoods. They aimed to show these women that what goes on in their homes is not normal family behavior but 'violence', and therefore unacceptable and intolerable. Many women experience suppression and violence in the name of honor. However, the perception of 'honor' must change; honor is in no way positive.

During the sessions the participating women also received information on women's legal rights and available services for victims of domestic violence.

#### **Target group**

Women living in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

#### **Approach**

Prior to the 'home-based meetings', contact persons of the project visit the selected neighbourhood to recruit volunteer hostesses among the target group. Together with the hostess, they fix the dates of the meetings and instruct the hostess to invite 15-20 women, relatives and/or neighbours, to attend the meetings in her home.

Trained moderators conduct the home-based meetings with 15-20 women. The group starts with a video with short clips showing different types of violence in everyday life and information about counselling centres. The moderators then open the discussion. They invite the participants to rethink and reflect upon the kind of domestic violence shown in the video. They then ask them to share their own experiences with violence during their lives: how they were treated in their extended and nuclear families during childhood, how they got married, and their lives with their husbands and family in law. The moderators teach them to understand that their experiences, like what is shown in the film, are not 'normal' but should be addressed as violence. By sharing their stories the women define domestic violence, which includes physical, psychological, economical, and sexual violence.

The violent experiences are often related to honor, and many women were forced into marriage. Issues like parenting, different attitudes towards teenage girls and boys, decisions on marrying, dealing with the family in law, etc., are also discussed under the heading of 'domestic violence'. It teaches women that these practices are forms of violence, rather than acceptable and tolerable normal life behavior.

After the discussion the moderator offers information in oral, written and visual forms, on women's legal rights, how to exercise legal rights, legal procedures, and provides names of women's organizations for information about legal counselling, medical aid, psychological counselling and shelter services.

The sessions are evaluated by means of an evaluation/observation sheet.

#### *Research Activities*

In the Turkish project the meetings were tape-recorded, but only after all the participants gave their consent. This was a part of the research and monitoring. The project team reviewed the discussions and evaluated them to reveal the violence perception of the women, their attitudes towards violence and formulate recommendations for the women to cope.

At the end of the home-based sessions the project staff interviewed all participants using both the questionnaire and the Abuse-Index sheet. The questionnaire was developed and prepared as part of the research component of the project. It serves to collect data about the socio-economic status of targeted women; their perception of violence; forms and strengths of violence experienced by the target group, and to identify their needs and demands. Finally, it specifies mechanisms that are activated to cope with domestic violence.

The Abuse Index, as a tool to gather data, measures the type and density of the violence experienced by the targeted women. The Index is a supplement with the questionnaire.

## **Results**

The home based meetings were quite successful as the women felt comfortable in their friend's/relative's house instead of in an unfamiliar location. After the meetings they had a greater awareness of violence against women in society, although they tended to focus on physical violence only. It is not fully possible to measure the impact of this project on the participating women. However, the public information and advocacy activities did significantly increase the number of women visiting the counselling centres.

## **Basic conditions**

### *Well-prepared professionals and volunteers*

- The (professional and volunteer) moderators must be trained to make sure they start out with the same information about and principles of home-based training programs to create awareness and raise consciousness among women groups. Prospective moderators always participate in home-based meetings moderated by a professional trainer as part of their training.
- Before starting the home-based meetings, local organizations for counselling and support and crisis intervention, should be warned. This can be done by informing and/or involving local organizations in the project, or even providing in-company trainings on (domestic) violence.
- Home-based meetings are an interactive training-learning method where both sides (trainers and the trainees or organizations and targeted women) train each other and/or learn from each other. Here, success is heavily based on active participation from everyone in the group.
- Necessary materials for moderators: the video and a handbook about violence, legal rights, and women's organizations. For participants: a brochure on domestic violence and addresses for counselling and support. Also, small stickers, 2x4 cm size, with telephone numbers of relevant call centres, police station and women counselling centres to call in emergency situations.

### *Media*

To reach as many women as possible, to inform them about the meetings and about the counselling services, the project team appears on local radio and TV channels, joins panels and conferences. Also, by increasing the visibility of domestic violence, public interest and sensitivity will grow.

### *Money for costs of hostesses*

The project will pay for any food and drinks (such as tea, coffee and cakes) that are served during home-based meetings. In addition, the hostess will receive a small fee for the use of her home.

## **Contact information**

Autonomous Women's Association (Bağımsız Kadın Derneği)  
Ayla ORAN ERCİYAS  
Mesudiye Mahallesi Cemalpaşa Caddesi No: 110/3 MERSİN

## **Netherlands**

### **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS': PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN RIGHTS AND ABANDONMENT FOR MOROCCAN AND TURKISH WOMEN, MEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

Migrant women who get involved in the Dutch, Moroccan or Turkish legal system are often confronted with complicated legal issues and procedures with regard to family law and right of residence. Each year, dozens of women, children and young people are abandoned in Morocco, Turkey, and other countries (their parents' motherland), during holidays or family visits. They are often dealing with family/marital and/or parenting problems or have a history of an arranged or forced marriage. Abandonment in itself is a traumatic event and should be treated as abuse and a form of violence. National working group 'Mudawwanah' initiated the project "Know your Rights" to educate and inform migrant women on their rights and to empower them and thus prevent problems. The project also aims to enhance and increase knowledge in institutional and organizational programs and create a solid network of expertise and collaboration. Finally, 'Mudawwanah' aims to improve the legal status of migrant women, children and young people

#### **Target group**

Primary target group: Moroccan and Turkish migrant women and young people (and men). Activities for other nationalities are in progress.

Second: Professionals and volunteers active in health care and welfare, care and legal services

Third: policy makers and politicians on a national and international level.

#### **Approach**

The project adheres an integral approach consisting of:

- Training for information officers with an Arabic/Berber and Turkish/Kurdish background. About 100 women and men from five regions in the country are trained to speak at meetings for migrants. Work has started on training programs for other nationalities like Afghan, Somali, Iraqi, Iranian, Egyptian, etc.
- Information meetings for migrants at a local level; in neighbourhoods, schools, community houses and organizations. The meetings are organized by local or regional partners and moderated by the information officers.
- A support point and phone line for abandoned women, offering support from the first call to the return to the Netherlands, as well as organizing care and shelter, in close collaboration with the Dutch Support group Returning Emigrants, SSR.
- Information meetings for professionals, like social workers and solicitors, in the shape of a national conference, linked to regional working conferences. Information, tips and consultation on identification, referral and support, also to strengthen collaboration and optimize (joint) care and support.
- Collaboration agreements with organizations of relevant chain partners to secure continuity of activities in organizations throughout the Netherlands. Building a network of expert solicitors and social workers, with main focus on identification, referral and support.
- Lobby among policy makers and politicians to improve the policy on human rights and the legal status of migrants.
- Working groups in Morocco and the Netherlands with Dutch and Moroccan experts, politicians, policy makers and relevant institutes and women's organizations. Working Group Mudawwanah

joins forces with the Dutch Support group Returning Emigrants (SSR). The latter works on the expansion and strengthening of networks and collaboration with other countries.

### **Basic conditions**

Togetherness and mutual support between the participating migrant organizations is crucial, including at least one 'instigator' in each organization who is supported by and represents the grass roots. One (local or regional) organization must apply for funding to finance at least the local activities, travel fees and a small reward for the information officers, as well as (part of) their continuous training. Exchange groups, expert meetings and seminars throughout the year are important for the project team in order to keep up with the information officers, professionals and participating organizations. Commitment and collaboration with all partners on a local, regional and national level are prerequisites to reach the intended goals. It is crucial to develop a structural approach and a broad supportive political and ministerial base.

To guard both the project contents and the logistics the project team must have a central coordination point.

### **Results**

Migrant women and men participating in the information meetings became more aware of their rights and felt stronger in the end. Aspects like the influence of social environment, the lack of communication, traditional patterns and parenting between two cultures were discussed. Personal experiences were shared and a lot of questions arose on procedures, applications, regulations, marital problems, partner choice, children and divorce. Other subjects were nationality or double nationality, abandonment of women and children, naturalization, right of residence and (returning or) emigration. Education and sharing empowers women and enables them to be independent and claim their rights and their children's rights.

The working conferences for policy makers, professionals and volunteers in the regions are well received and the contents provide the participants with better insight in various situations, effective identification and referral and practical support. It offers them a platform for discussion, to learn, exchange and be informed of the latest developments as well as meet experts in the field. Nowadays, abandonment regularly appears on the political agenda and is listed and treated as a serious form of violence. All women have the right to return to the Netherlands to deal with the necessary legal procedures. Finally, there is more emphasis on preventive measures to avoid abandonment. It is also important that the expertise gained in the Netherlands and Morocco can be transferred to other countries.

### **Material**

- Bilingual brochures on family and alien law and abandonment for the Turkish and Arabic community and for care workers:
  - Turk Medeni Kanunu' 'Mudawwanah – *'Marokkaans familierecht'* ('Moroccan family law') on Turkish and Dutch family law, immigration law and abandonment.
  - *'Achtergebleven of achtergelaten?'* (Remaining or Abandoned? In Dutch)
- A (emergency) booklet in three languages – with tips and addresses for Morocco, Turkey and the Netherlands.
- Bilingual educational films, in Arabic and Turkish, to use in trainings, at information meetings and to stimulate a discussion on the themes.

- Foundations Kezban and Steun Remigranten provide information on their websites: [www.steunremigranten.nl](http://www.steunremigranten.nl) and [www.st-kezban.nl](http://www.st-kezban.nl)

### Contact information

National working group Mudawwanah – [mudawwanah@upcmail.nl](mailto:mudawwanah@upcmail.nl)

Latifa Lazaar – Foundation Kezban – [llazaar@stichtingkezban.nl](mailto:llazaar@stichtingkezban.nl) - +31 6-22418085

Joke Verkuijlen – Foundation Steun Remigranten – [jokeverkuijlen@chello.nl](mailto:jokeverkuijlen@chello.nl) – +31 6-44614237

## Germany

### PAPATYA - ANONYMOUS SHELTER AND COUNSELLING

In many cases Girls and young women from migrant backgrounds suffering from family violence and oppression like honor related violence and forced marriage cannot turn to the regular youth support system for help because the addresses of these institutions are public. Affected girls and young women are mostly in serious danger if they leave their families.

Some of them live very restricted lives and have little freedom of movement. In extreme cases they are highly isolated, aren't allowed to have friends of their own or keep a mobile phone and are under constant supervision. Even professionals that are looking after the girls run a risk of being threatened by the families and have to take precautions for their own protection.

To prevent (further) violence, honor crimes, forced marriages and kidnapping to the home country, Papatya provides anonymous, accessible counselling for girls and young women and a shelter with a secret address and qualified staff. Papatya offers safety as well as psychosocial and concrete support.

### Target group

Shelter: Girls and young women with migrant backgrounds aged 13-21 years, who are afraid of sanctions, abduction or even to be murdered if they reject their families' prohibitions and future plans.

Counselling: All people who are confronted with honor related violence and forced marriage with all its consequences –the victims themselves, friends or partners of victims, and professionals.

### Approach

#### *The shelter*

The shelter is located in a nice house with enough space for staff and girls, in a neighbourhood where it is likely to remain unnoticed. The shelter focuses on care around the clock by a professional only-women-team with members from different ethnic backgrounds. A professional staff member is available at all times. At least two staff members are present during the busiest hours on weekdays. The team members speak several languages among them and have an intercultural approach. Human rights form the basis of everything else. The individuality of each girl and young woman is maximally encouraged and respected.

The shelter has room for no more than nine girls/women because one of the shelter's main aims is to create a family-like atmosphere. Girls and young women who flee from family violence often show a high level of ambivalence and are often incapable of dealing with their newly gained freedom. To help them regain some stability and protect them from running into danger, life in the shelter is structured and a strict set of rules applies. Anyone who reveals the address is dismissed and transferred to an alternative youth care institution.

The girls and young women are not primarily treated as victims but also as individuals with incredible courage and an abundance of individual resources. Papatya works to empower girls and young

women and develop a perspective in terms of education and work. The team is there to support the girls as well as listen to them and respect their wishes. Ground rule is to focus on talents and resources of every girl, more than on possible deficits.

Every girl will be assigned one or two workers who will keep a close eye on her development and future possibilities. They keep track of all contact moments with social services and family members. Contrary to impartial mediation, the staff openly takes the side of the girl and aims to further her situation, needs and rights in confrontations with the family and sometimes social services. Relatives are confronted with their behavior towards the girl and are given a chance to reflect and change; positive contacts with family members are identified and nurtured. Family contacts are escorted closely by staff members and reflected upon with each girl individually. To minimize risks and danger face to face confrontations are only arranged at social youth services; further contact takes place by mail or by phone, or at an institution.

The stay should be as long as necessary and as short as possible. Ideally, a stay should never last longer than 8 weeks. If a girl decides to return home, clear appointments are made on structural monitoring by the authorities.

#### *Anonymous online counselling*

The expert team offers counselling in German, Turkish, French and English. The counsellors use a secured Internet platform to ensure the anonymity and safety of the visitors of the site. To introduce the service it was promoted at schools and counselling centres as well as in the local press. Several federal states of Germany financed the project.

## **Results**

Papatya has been active for over 25 years. Key activities have always been locating and tackling gaps of the support system through lobbying, networking and rising problem awareness with authorities and politicians. Currently, Papatya focuses on the situation and problems of young adults and their special needs. New technologies like the Internet are included in the strategies and new safety rules are being developed.

For many girls moving to a special shelter is the only way to escape violence. It can be a major relief to have some distance between them and their home town; or to know that they are safe and that your anonymity is guaranteed. The majority is very positive about the intercultural team and project setting. It is easy to feel accepted and at home, and at the same time it stimulates the girls to participate and collaborate. Some girls find it too hard to be away from home and stay only for a couple of days. Most girls have no problems accepting the rules as they guarantee their safety, but some show risky behavior. Dominant boyfriends are a tough test for the girls and may ask them to bend the rules a little 'in the name of love'. The balance between "backing" and "binding" is a precarious one, especially if girls stay longer than two months. The girls who do not return to their families often keep in touch for years.

## **Basic conditions**

### *A professional team*

Required is a team of trained professionals (in social education or psychology) with excellent intercultural competencies. They have to have explicit expert knowledge in the field of anti-violence work, especially with regard to trauma and post-traumatic situations, and the special implications of honor related violence and forced marriages. In addition, affinity towards women's and children's rights, stress resistance and flexibility are prerequisites. Finally, the team members must be reasonably informed about the legal aspects of the youth care system and migrant legislation.

### *Sufficient financial support*

The program needs a financial structure that allows a non-bureaucratic intake system and does not link intake and individual claims to social services money, which have to be proven first. Funding is necessary for a minimum of 260 staff hours/week (=6,5 fulltime posts) (168 hours in a week) and a spacious flat. The shelter must be located in a larger city, to increase chances of anonymity.

### *Collaboration*

Twofold:

- A close collaboration -partner, operating as an outstation (for telephone and postal address).
- Participation in a network of other organizations from the field, and collaboration with youth social services and local police.

### **Tools**

The website provides information for girls in different languages. A flyer and a mini-flyer (the size of a business card) and a poster are distributed at schools and other relevant organizations frequented by the target group. Additional information is available for professionals.

### **Contact information**

PAPATYA, c/o Jugendnotdienst,  
Mindener Str. 14, D- 10589 Berlin

Shelter:

[www.papatya.org](http://www.papatya.org)

[info@papatya.org](mailto:info@papatya.org)

Online-Counselling:

[www.sibel-papatya.org](http://www.sibel-papatya.org)

[beratung@papatya.org](mailto:beratung@papatya.org)

### **Sweden**

#### **LGBT AND HONOR (WWW.HBTHEDER.SE)**

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-gender (lgbt)-youth should be recognized as possible victims of honor related violence, both girls and boys. They are vulnerable because of their sexual identity and often forced to go into hiding. Lgbt-youth also run a heightened risk of abandonment, forced marriage and domestic violence. Many methods and programs on these particular issues fail to consider this specific group. ALMAeuropa and RFSL Ungdom, the national organization for the rights of Lgbt-youth, initiated the project "LGBT and Honor". The project offers special support and advice by mentors who are professional experts on the subject of lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender people and honor related violence, and often come from the target group themselves. They are trained to work through email and chat. Through the website, help-seekers can remain anonymous and build up contact at their own pace.

#### **Target group**

- Lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-gender-youth (16-25 years) that are victims of or at risk of honor related violence, abandonment, forced marriage and/or domestic violence.
- Professionals working with the primary target group
- General public

## Approach

The website [www.hbtheder.se](http://www.hbtheder.se) (in Swedish so far) has a direct and simple outlook with pictures of some of the mentors. This creates a sense of openness and warmth that appeal to young people. On the website you can either choose to email and receive a response within 24 hours, or chat with the mentors. The role of the mentor is to be supportive and guide the youth towards help and resources; it is not their role to be professional counsellors/therapists and build up long term relationships with the help seekers. As the schedule rotates, the youths who contact the website will have contact with multiple mentors. It is not possible to request a specific mentor to keep the role of the mentors and the kind of help the website is offering clear. Often, youths use the website to speak about their experience for the very first time; it is supportive and open, a place to share your story without being judged.

Seven mentors have been selected because of their professional or personal background with honor related violence and lgbt. The mix has proven to be effective, because the mentors can help each other and have different areas of strength. The mentors discuss the help seekers and difficult cases among themselves and with the supervisor and project manager. This is mostly done through email or telephone since they are all stationed in different parts of Sweden.

Next to this, the website offers information on recommended safe houses and other organizations working actively with honor related violence and lgbt. The website does not recommend women's shelters in general, because not all of them offer help for lgbt-youth, many are not open to men or couples. The project team only recommends organizations that, in their opinion, adequately support young people regardless of their gender, sexual identity or orientation; this is their trademark. For publicity, the website is promoted on other websites aimed at lgbt-youth and at organizations working with honor related violence. Information material has been sent to all secondary schools, youth clubs, youth health centres and school counsellors in Sweden.

### *The mentors*

The team of mentors gets together three times a year for a two-day training session and internal evaluations. A professional psychologist is connected to the project as supervisor and joins in the team trainings to work on group processes. Throughout the year, the project manager and the supervisor can be consulted by email or telephone.

The project manager has access to all that is written in the chat-room or the email, which means that he or she is also ultimately responsible for all the website work. Next to this, the manager is responsible for the training and supervision of the mentors, evaluations, etc.

The mentors are educated on the work methods of institutes like social services, the police, and shelters; how to work with the internet; how to separate personal experiences from those of the youths; useful strategies for youths; risk assessment and lgbt, honor related violence and forced marriages.

All mentors receive a small economic compensation for their work, which is mainly performed on a voluntary basis (about € 1300 per year)

The website, [www.hbtheder.se](http://www.hbtheder.se), is part of a larger project which includes a research report on the situation of lgbt-youth suffering honor related violence, published in 2011 in Sweden. The project also includes awareness raising, training programs for professionals, conferences open to the general public, media exposure, etc. (Available in Swedish, English and Arabic.)

## Basic conditions

### *Privacy and secrecy*

It is crucial that the website has highly secured email and chat functions as the visitors are sharing their innermost feelings and problems. The mentors did not take a legal oath to secrecy but they all took one voluntarily. That means that the information is only shared within the team and with the supervisor. This is clearly stated on the webpage.

### *Sufficient funding*

Sufficient funding is necessary for the 6 days of training per year: travel, accommodation, food and a small economic compensation to mentors. In addition, there has to be full funding for the project manager and money to hire a professional supervisor. The mentors must be prepared to work at odd hours, at night and during the weekend whenever the chat is open.

### **Results**

The website was launched in October 2011; so far there have been seven visitors seeking help each week. The target group is hard to reach because of the double taboo; it will take a lot of effort to find ways to reach them. Some mentors are currently experimenting with new ways to reach the target group.

The reactions of the target group are positive; many youths are really looking for a place to go or just happy to know that someone is there for them. The mentors can help to start processes of change. They have to be able to respond fast, and be friendly and professional in the chat. This is a skill that takes some time to develop.

### **Material**

A report (in Swedish) about LGBT-youth who are victims of honor related violence, posters in different sizes and cards. All these items are free of charge to order from ALMAeuropa. The website and its functions are easily transferred; the recommendations must be adapted to fit each specific country and their respective legal frameworks.

### **Contact information**

ALMAeuropa,  
Cecilia Jarl-Åberg,  
Östermalmsgatan 6  
114 26 Stockholm, Sweden,  
[cecilia@almaeuropa.org](mailto:cecilia@almaeuropa.org)  
[www.almaeuropa.org](http://www.almaeuropa.org) and [www.hbtheder.se](http://www.hbtheder.se)

## **5.2. More good practices**

### **Cyprus**

#### **ASSOCIATION FOR THE PREVENTION AND HANDLING OF VIOLENCE IN THE FAMILY – LOVE WITHOUT PAIN (2007 – ONWARDS)**

The programme 'Love without Pain' is designed for perpetrators of domestic violence on the one hand, and victims of violence on the other. It is directed firstly toward men with violent behaviour and is designed to help them take responsibility for their anger and behaviour, change their attitudes and perceptions towards such violence, and thus prevent violent behaviour from reoccurring. Secondly, the

programme aims at empowering women victims of violence through self-compassion techniques in order to find their inner strength and be able to take the best decisions for themselves, as well as for their relationships. Thus, the programme claims to have both a preventative as well as a treatment element in that it aims to prevent negative thoughts and feelings that may lead to violent behaviours, as well as to help women recuperate from emotional pain and abuse through the practice of specific self-healing techniques.

Overall, participants are trained:

- to prevent negative thoughts and feelings that may lead to violent behaviours;
- to prevent teaching his/her children violent behaviours;
- to identify and prevent violent acts;
- to recuperate from emotional pain and abuse through the practice of specific self healing techniques

The programme was developed by Steven Stosny in Maryland, US and was brought to Cyprus by Andreas Orfanides in 2007 and implemented on a pilot basis. It was successful in its implementation and has been put into full operation since. The programme is national in scope and is the only one of its kind being implemented in Cyprus.

The intervention programme consists of two series of workshops: one directed toward men with violence behaviour and the other for women victims of violence. The perpetrator programme aims at helping men take responsibility for their behaviour, as well as anger management and perception change in order to prevent future violence. The victim programme aims at empowering women through self-compassion techniques in order for them to find their inner strength and take the best decisions for themselves and their families.

Support from community: Talk-shows on television and radio, newspaper articles and various presentations are arranged throughout the year in order to sensitize and inform the public about the Association and the various services offered to women victims of domestic violence.

**More information:**

[www.domviolence.org.cy](http://www.domviolence.org.cy)

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING ON WOMEN AND REFUGEE STATUS DETERMINATION: DEVELOPING QUALITY ASYLUM PROCEDURES – WITH SPECIFIC FOCUS ON FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM) AS GENDER SPECIFIC PERSECUTION (DECEMBER 2010)**

Organization: Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies, END FGM European Campaign- Amnesty International, UNHCR Cyprus (Non-governmental Organisation)

The training aimed to examine and improve asylum procedures and the quality and efficiency of the asylum decision making in relation to gender specific claims of international protection. Within the framework of the END FGM European Campaign (a campaign led by Amnesty International Ireland, working in partnership with a number of grass roots organisations in EU member states) the workshop gave special focus to FGM as a form of gender based persecution in granting asylum.

The activity was initiated by the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies, a non-profit, non-governmental women's rights organisation, in close cooperation with the UNHCR in Cyprus.

The methods that were used were: presentations, case study examples and inter-agency discussion facilitated by UNHCR Cyprus experts, as well as by local and European NGO professionals in the field. The trainers used group exercises and case studies to provide a more in depth understanding of the legal framework relating to women and refugee status determination; the importance of early identification of vulnerable women applicants and related procedural matters; the types of persecution and harm, including discrimination; as well as interviewing techniques for women applicants and how to assess credibility. Through inter-agency training and group discussion, a legal expert from INTACT Brussels gave a presentation on FGM as a form of degrading treatment, within the framework of human rights and international protection.

The above method can be adjusted to accommodate other forms of harmful traditional practices such as HRV and FM as gender-based persecutions. The coverage of the activity was national, but with an international scope in relation to improving asylum procedures as well as attitudes towards women and men asylum applicants in European countries.

The project was aimed at professionals involved in asylum decision making (Social Welfare Services, the Reviewing Authority for Refugees, the Asylum Service, Lawyers, NGOs, and the Police). They were given the opportunity to discuss current challenges in the area of women and refugee status determination, as well as to share best practices and lessons learned with local grass-roots organisations/ NGOs. In the long term, women asylum seekers were the beneficiaries of the particular activity/project.

**More information:**

[www.medinstgenderstudies.org](http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org) en [www.endfgm.eu](http://www.endfgm.eu)

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING ON “RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: IMPLICATIONS FOR SERVICE AND SYSTEM DESIGN” (MARCH 2011, NICOSIA - CYPRUS)**

Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) (Non-governmental Organisation), Advisory Committee for the Prevention and Combating Domestic Violence (Independent Governmental Body)  
The training was held in Nicosia-Cyprus, within the framework of the project REACT to Domestic Violence: Building a Support System for Victims of Domestic Violence, funded by the European Commission Daphne III Programme and coordinated by the Legal Informational Centre for NGOs Slovenia-PIC, in partnership with MIGS.

The aim of the training was to help improve the inter-departmental (multi-agency) cooperation between the relevant institutions and government agencies and several NGOs/grass root organisations dealing with domestic violence victims support in Cyprus, and hence to contribute in the improvement of the quality and effectiveness of the support system for women victims of domestic violence. The scope of the project was regional as it was implemented in Cyprus and in Slovenia, but the scope of the particular activity/training was national. The organisation of the professional development training was an initiative by MIGS in close cooperation of an independent state committee dealing with the prevention and combating of domestic violence in Cyprus.

The project was aimed at professionals involved in providing support to victims of domestic violence (Social Welfare Officers, Family Counsellors, Health Professionals, Mental Health Services, Non-Governmental Organizations/ grass root organisations, Police Officers and Legal Service officers and

other Legal professionals). The indirect beneficiaries of the professional development training are women victims of domestic violence as support receivers.

The professionals were brought together and were given the opportunity to learn about the most recent research on domestic violence and to discuss current challenges in relation to the inter-departmental coordination and in the support system to victims of domestic violence. Dr. Marsha Scott was invited as the expert trainer on issues public health, gender based violence and violence against women sectors in the United Kingdom, the United States and Europe for 20 years. Focused on the theoretical framework on domestic violence as a cause and consequence of women's inequality, the trainer used group exercises and encouraged group discussion to provide a more in depth understanding of recent developments in domestic violence: thinking and practice, including (among other), the historical argument around symmetrical versus non-symmetrical violence between partners and ex-partners, older women and domestic violence, the dynamics of coercive control (such as assault, intimidation, isolation, control), assessing risk in providing protection, perpetrator risk assessment, safety assessment with mothers and children, increasing space for action: help-seeking and help giving, domestic violence and children: children's experiences of coercive control, possible effects of power and control tactics on a mother. Participants representing grass root organisations/ NGOs and various state actors shared their experiences and discussed good practices as well as, current challenges in the victim support system. The trainer concluded the session with various paradigms on why a gendered approach on issues of domestic violence is essential. Interdepartmental discussion followed involving all relevant stakeholders, including grass root organisations, sharing their experiences and addressing the gaps in the support system for victims of domestic violence in Cyprus.

#### **MORE INFORMATION:**

[www.medinstgenderstudies.org](http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org)

#### **ACTION WEEK AGAINST RACISM (MARCH 2008, NICOSIA - CYPRUS) - KISA-ACTION FOR EQUALITY, SUPPORT AND ANTIRACISM (GRASS ROOTS ORGANISATION), AND ENAR-CYPRUS (EUROPEAN NETWORK AGAINST RACISM)**

Within the framework of the International Day for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (21st March) KISA and ENAR-Cyprus organised an Action Week against Racism in an effort to stress that combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination against vulnerable groups such as migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, as well other cultural or religious groups such as Roma, aiming to change the climate of racism and xenophobia prevalent in Cypriot society. The scope of the project was national with multiple target groups.

KISA and ENAR-Cyprus appealed to the state and society to take this opportunity to enter into an open public dialogue between all the people who reside in Cyprus, irrespective of race, gender, sexual orientation, colour, community, religion, legal status or any other different characteristic. In this dialogue, the voice of people who are vulnerable to racism and discrimination, as well as that of the non-governmental organisations which represent and support them, were raised, so that diversity and respect are recognized as important elements of multiculturalism that enriches Cypriot society. The participation of KISA and ENAR-Cyprus in the European-wide Action Week Against Racism (17 – 23 March 2008) was highlighted by the following activities and events:

1. Photographic Exhibition and distribution of information material against racism
2. Press Conference
3. Presentation of ENAR Shadow Report 2006 on Racism in Cyprus and Europe – Open Discussion

#### 4. Film Screening and Cultural Event with music and dance

In the implementation of the activities grass roots organisations with a European Network and local university were closely involved. This contributed to bringing these issues closer to the general public through the press conference and engaging youth. It empowered project leadership as well as community engagement, visibility and awareness raising amongst the public.

#### **More information:**

[www.kisa.org.cy/EN/activities](http://www.kisa.org.cy/EN/activities)

### **GERMANY**

#### **PROJECT HEROES – AGAINST OPPRESSION IN THE NAME OF HONOR; PEER TO PEER WORKSHOPS**

The association **Strohalm e.V** works in the prevention of sexual abuse of boys and girls since 1987. In 2007 they initiated the project “Heroes – against oppression in the name of honor” following a Swedish model-project. Through prevention work in strongly patriarchal cultures the project fight oppressing structures that often lead to (sexual) violence against women. Heroes consist of an intercultural team of 5 part-time employees.

The project Heroes works in two steps. In the first phase interested boys from “honor cultures” are intensively trained over more than half a year. They discuss about gender equality, human rights and men's roles in the oppression of girls and women through the legitimization of “honor”. Goal of the training is to sensitize these boys and young men and to empower them to be able to overcome the boundaries that honor set also to them. They are motivated to take a stand against oppression in the name of honor and for the equal and human rights of girls and women. During the trainings the boys should question their position by themselves. There is never a right or a wrong set by the group leaders - only “your opinion” and “my opinion”. Through experiencing and observing and through interactive methods like role games etc. the young men start to expand their consciousness and discover new positions. Through showing alternative concepts and positions the young men automatically start to question their known structures. Here the group leaders themselves - all have Turkish or Arab backgrounds – function as alternative models. They also include other role models with migrant background that are dedicated to this field like f.e. Fatma Bläser an active women who was herself previously affected by FM and HRV or associates from GLADT e.V an association of gays and lesbians with Turkish background. In the end of the training the young men get heroes-certificates from prominent politic personalities in an official event.

At this point the second phase of the Heroes project starts. The trained young men are now “Heroes” and able to act as peers and role models in workshops, held by the Heroes-team. A group leader and 2-3 “Heroes” therefore go into school classes, youth centres etc. Together they hold a workshop and broach the issue of honor through role games with the participants.

The project was evaluated after one year. The effects of the trainings with the young men were very obvious and very successful. Not only the degree of sexism was getting smaller and the young men rate women more positive, they also started to consider themselves more “German”. Also the workshops held by the Heroes project had very good response. Feedback forms showed that many pupils are excited about the project. Many boys want to participate and become “Heroes” themselves. There are also many interested organizations that plan to adapt the project.

**More information:**

<http://www.heroes-net.de>

**TERRE DES FEMMES E.V : WORKSHOPS FOR AGENCY STAFF AND CENTRAL WEBSITE  
INFORMATION FORCED MARRIAGE**

**Terre des Femmes e.V. (TdF)** was founded 1981 as a reaction of German women on an article about Honor killings in Jordan. The association first only did volunteer work, 1990 they could hire the first full-time agent. Today TdF has 2800 members, 300 active volunteers and 20 employees. They work in groups in many different German cities and in three over regional task forces covering the topics trafficking in women, women's rights and religion as well as female genital mutilation.

*Good practice 1: Workshops for agency staff in Baden-Württemberg*

TdF initiated the day workshops for max. 25 persons to rise awareness among agency staff. Through the measure they should get more able to act, if persons affected by honor related violence or forced marriage directly address themselves to the public authorities. As a side effect networking should be strengthened. The measure was co-financed by higher-level authorities and officially recognized as further education, so that participants were exempt from work for the time of the workshop. From every agency (Registry Offices, police, youth agency, social welfare offices, employment offices, foreigners authorities) only 2 members were allowed to participate to ensure networking. Local women's counselling centres were also included.

To reach their target group and TdF cooperated with Fatma Bläser, an active women in this field who was herself previously affected by forced marriage and honor related violence. With her credibility and by telling her story, honor related violence and forced marriage get very concrete for the participants, that sometimes didn't really believe in the existing of forced marriage or honor related violence. They were emotionally taken and therefore strongly sensitized.

In addition to the workshops TdF created a brochure where knowledge gained in the workshops was brought together into recommendations for agency staff on how they can act coordinated in cases of HRV. There was also a project report written.

The measure was well received and the high demand could not be satisfied because there were too many interested people.

*Good practice 2: Central website on information on forced marriage*

Because information on forced marriage was unbundled in Germany and a good overview for professionals working on forced marriage as well as persons affected by forced marriage was missing, TdF initiated the creation on a central webpage on forced marriage. The web page bundles all the different local strategies on forced marriage and link the nationwide existing shelters and counselling centres. The website is regularly updated so that actual information, conferences and publications can be called up. It includes a data bank on experts in this field, local initiatives and always names a contact person reachable.

Target group of the measure were firstly professionals as well as persons affected by forced marriage in Germany. From the beginning the measure was not targeted at persons affected by forced marriage that are newly residing in Germany but at those that are grown up in Germany. Therefore the Web-page is only available in German and English. The web page was a big success and gets many clicks (60.000 in the first year). After a first evaluation of which offers were well received and which were not accepted very well, TdF started to modify the web page. As reaction on the difficulty to reach professionals as well as persons affected by FM at the same time the web page recently is under

construction. After the modification parts of the webpage will be targeted at youngsters affected by forced marriage and give a fast overview on regional counselling offers for them.

**More information:**

[www.zwangsheirat.de](http://www.zwangsheirat.de)

## **Netherlands**

### **IF I WERE HER... (ALS IK HAAR WAS...)**

*Als ik haar was...* is an educational tool in the form of a docudrama on domestic violence in migrant families, including a manual for information officers. During information and debate meetings, trained information officers discuss the subjects of domestic and honour related violence with Turkish and Moroccan migrants by means of the adult docudrama “*Als ik haar was...*”. Goal is to help victims to get out of their often isolated position, to show them that they are not the only ones with domestic/honour related violence experiences, and that change is possible. The film is used to stimulate the audience talking about the subject and breaking the taboo through recognition and acknowledgement of violence. The method contributes to a mentality and behaviour change in the interaction between women and men and will help to effectively break the cycle of violence.

The project is target on women and men with Turkish and Moroccan backgrounds and other migrant communities. Also, professionals that are working with the target group, like GP's, social workers, police, key members of the migrant communities and other mediators. Through this film they will get an insight in the (mental) situation of their migrant clients, which will help them communicate easier. The docudrama relates to the participants and will excite a discussion on domestic and honour related violence with the communities of grass roots organizations, with important stakeholders and intermediaries. A national team of trained information officers is available for organizations to appeal to in order to show the film and start the discussion on domestic and honour related violence in their communities. The fact that the information officers come from migrant backgrounds themselves is an advantage in the contact with the target groups: a success factor.

Two different films were made: a Turkish version (in Turkish and with Dutch voice-overs) and a Moroccan version (Also available in Berber). Next to the docudrama there are short interviews on domestic violence with two professionals, a GP and a police officer. The manual contains a step-by-step description of how to discuss the film. There are suggestions, tips and tricks on the different themes from the film, and on possible theme discussions after the film. Posters are available to announce the film to the public.

The method of sharing information was developed in 2004 and is still widely used at information meetings throughout the country, for municipalities, schools, welfare agencies, as well as migrant grass roots organizations. In addition, the method is integrated in various other project programmes.

**More information::**

[www.stichtingkezbان.nl](http://www.stichtingkezbان.nl)

## **ADDRESSING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN MIGRANT COMMUNITIES**

This project incites a dialogue about domestic violence and honour related violence through meetings and gatherings, information, empowerment trainings, support groups and dialogue circles. Goal is to break the taboos that exist around domestic violence, a mentality change and the formulation of a

stand on gender roles, on the use of violence and the role of the community with respect to violence. 'Honour related violence' is not specifically announced at the start of the project but is discussed further on in the programme. The project aims at different parties in terms of cultural background, gender and age. Next to specific activities for women, men or youths, there are communal activities for all.

At information meetings the participants break the taboo and discuss the problems of domestic and honour related violence. By making the individual problems of women a common issue, by sharing stories and working on a solution together, the victims will break free from their isolation. Supporting each other, caring for the victims in the community together with the community, is an important element of the project. Parallel to his process the men are confronted with their role and responsibility. Various methods are applied in the project, for example information meetings, empowerment courses, and support groups to provoke dialogue. Next to this, the team uses various work forms and artistic means. Different methods are suitable for different activities, depending on the specific goal, wants and needs of the participants. The project activities are linked to existing networks and activities of the (grass roots) organizations. At meetings, trained information officers will start the discussion by showing the film "*Als ik haar was...*" (see 1). *Contact women* are recruited from the target group and trained to be information officers themselves as well as recognize signals and refer victims. Next to this, a number of people will be trained to inform communities on legal position and abandonment.

The project aims to stimulate a dialogue in the communities by bringing the parties together to talk about the current situation, the wish for change and the possibilities. What is good and what is damaging with respect to the views and traditions of our community? What do we need to change and how can we do that? Crucial in this process is the open rejection of violence, which allows the community to take action against the causes of unsafe situations and violence.

The method specifically works 'by, with and for' the target group. Discussing and tackling domestic violence *together* with the target group, from the very start and throughout the whole process, is what makes it successful. To create trust and safety among the target groups, the project members had to "move along with the target group".

#### **More information:**

[www.welsaen.nl](http://www.welsaen.nl) and BVO [www.stichtingbvo.nl](http://www.stichtingbvo.nl)

#### **JOINING FORCES AGAINST FORCED MARRIAGE (HAND IN HAND TEGEN HUWELIJKSDWANG)**

The project addresses forced marriage at information meetings for Muslim youths and parents, with the goal to contribute to the prevention of forced marriages. To reach this, three sub targets were formulated:

- Promoting a conscious, independent choice of partner among Muslim youth.
- Promoting an open communication on the subject between Muslim youth and their parents.
- Provide training for professionals on forced marriage and partner choice.

Many Muslims appear to have unseemly ideas of what their religion says about forced marriages. To get their message across loud and clear, the team has involved imams and Islam experts from the communities. Information meetings are organized at the participating (grass roots) organizations and mosques (for example Turkish, Moroccan, Pakistan, Surinam, Dutch parties). In this familiar and trusted environment the target group is generally more inclined to discuss delicate matters. To start with, four meetings are organized for Muslim youth. Next to this, there will be two information and exchange meetings for boys and girls together and six for young adults and parents. After this,

meetings are organized in five more cities, together with the local partner organization. In this project, focus is on the Islamic identity and using Islamic sources.

The project is meant especially for Muslim members of migrant communities wherein forced marriage is a (common) practice, parents as well as youth. Also professionals are reached as a target group.

**More information:**

SPIOR, Foundation Platform Muslim Organizations Rijnmond, Rotterdam: [www.spior.nl](http://www.spior.nl)

**AAN DE GOEDE KANT VAN EER (ON THE GOOD SIDE OF HONOUR)**

The project wants to break the taboo on honour related violence by providing information material and trainings for grass roots organizations and stimulating collaborations between grass roots organizations, local governments and organizations. *Aan de goede kant van de eer* aims at combating honour related violence by educating people, providing more insight among potential risk groups, promoting awareness, enhancing empowerment and independence, initiating a mentality change and offering alternative behaviour. Next to this, the project aims to built networks, bring about collaborations and stimulating migrant (grass roots) organizations to work together with other organizations and support agencies dealing with honour related violence.

*Aan de goede kant van de eer* is a national long-term programme (Meerjaren Kaderprogramma), containing various smaller projects and activities. The programme had been launched in ten different municipalities in collaboration with local grass roots organizations (for example, HTIB in Amsterdam), local management social institutes (in the period 2007-2010).

The three umbrella organizations for migrants, IOT (Turkisch grass roots organisations), SMN (Moroccan grass roots organisations) and VON (grass roots organisations of refugees) developed and organized various projects and activities for their communities, either as a joint production or independently. The migrant umbrella organizations started by drawing up a protocol. Herein described are the duties and responsibilities of migrant and refugee organizations in their preventive actions against honour related violence. There are also guidelines for organizations that are planning to address honour related violence in the (near) future. Furthermore, professional organizations can get an insight in the possibilities of grass roots organizations. The protocol is the basis of all joint activities of the umbrella organizations with local grass roots organizations. Methods and training programmes are available for grass roots organizations. There is information, a website [www.eervol.com](http://www.eervol.com) and there are two training programmes developed: Empowerment in parenting! Training for young and future mothers.

**More information:**

Turkish board (IOT): [www.iot.nl](http://www.iot.nl), SMN: [www.smn.nl](http://www.smn.nl), VON: [www.vluchtelingenorganisaties.nl](http://www.vluchtelingenorganisaties.nl).

**CHANGEMAKERS HONOUR RELATED VIOLENCE**

This project was one of the activities in the project describe above (*Aan de goede kant van de eer*). Goal is changing attitude and behaviour with regard to honour related violence by training and using *changemakers*, supporting grass roots organizations and working with local agencies. Realizing some sort of *civic driven change* can be described in four steps: 1. Acknowledge the problem; 2. Take a stand; 3. Change your attitude and 4. Change your behaviour.

The project is meant for members of refugee communities wherein honour related violence is a common practice and their grass roots organizations.

Via the method *Changemakers Honour related violence*, pioneers are trained to inspire others to also join the changemakers movement. The method consists of three parts:

- Training changemakers from risk communities to start a mentality change.
- Supporting changemakers and grass roots organizations with the organization of local activities aimed at social prevention.
- Setting up collaborations with local support agencies and police, to be able to support (potential) victims and prosecute perpetrators.

In the first part, key members of the communities receive a general and, after that, special training. The focus in the programme is on taking position with regard to the problem of honour related violence: what are my responsibilities as changemaker to end the problem, and what can I do? Concrete acts of change are discussed with the participants. In almost all (grass roots) organizations those board members who are leading figures are trained. They can become the contact person between board, politics and chain partners. Next to this, 'pioneers' are trained to work the subject onto the community agenda, as mentality changers. These are refugees with a trainer and/or information background. The changemakers form coalitions and support each other in their actions against honour related violence.

For the second part, the 'Change Guide' was developed: a manual with 'tips and tricks' for trained changemakers to bring about a mentality change in their circles. In the manual are examples of work methods and the theory on how people change their attitude and behaviour towards subjects like honour related violence. (Key) members of refugee organizations are on a content level as well as financially fit to organize activities against honour related violence and to be a full partner in the chain. For local collaborations a protocol for action and a collaboration agreement were drawn up and signed. This collaboration will enhance the feeling of self worth in refugees and stimulates full participation in society.

**More information:**

VON: [www.vluchtelingenorganisaties.nl](http://www.vluchtelingenorganisaties.nl)

## **THE BLACK TULIP (DE ZWARTE TULP)**

Under the name of The Black Tulip a series of lessons with assignments, a documentary and discussions to introduce the subject of honour related violence to young students are developed. Goal is to encourage young people to think about what it means to make choices and the right to make your own choices. The project is introducing them to questions like: how do traditions and influence your life? In what way is honour a part of your life and what can you do if the honour code of your family prevents you from living the life you want to live? By openly talking about 'harmful traditions' the project promotes a healthy level of awareness of participants' personal norms and values.

The target group is youngsters in the years 4, 5 and 6 of secondary school (VMBO, HAVO, VWO, 16-18 years) and colleges (MBO and HBO).

The "Zwarte Tulp" method consists of a series of lessons with various components. There is also a theoretical component with facts and figures on honour related violence. Students learn about honour revenge/honour related violence, and are invited to discuss it. They are made aware of their own norms and values with respect to partner choice, sexuality and gender roles. They reflect on their beliefs and views on honour related violence. The trainer works on a mentality change with regard to (underlying problems) unequal right and choices for girls and boys. The students become aware of the influence of "harmful traditions" and the serious consequences of violence, either born out of traditions

or otherwise. The trainers guide and stimulate the awareness process. They work with the group using role-play, discussions, acting and painting assignments. The documentary 'Verdwaalde Gezichten (Lost Faces)', filmed in Turkey and the Netherlands, exhibits the consequences of honour related violence.

The ultimate goal is to integrate the method in the standard career and citizenship lessons in secondary education. To guarantee this, the foundation has close contacts with the care coordinators and teachers from the school they are serving right from the start of the lessons.

**More information:**

Foundation *De Verdwaalde Gezichten*: [www.verdwaaldegezichten.nl](http://www.verdwaaldegezichten.nl)

**SAFE HAVE (VEILIGE HAVEN)**

This organization provides advice and care to homosexual and bisexual youths and migrant men and women on cases involving honour related violence and forced marriage, through open hours, shelter and immediate care. The project gives informal support, advice, care and supervision in cases involving (among other things) honour related violence and forced marriage and is aimed at homosexual youth and adults with a migrant background who are having problems with their family or cultural/religious community because of their sexual preferences.

*Veilige Haven* provides care for youths, men and women from multicultural Amsterdam and vicinity, who need a place to go with their homosexual, bisexual or transgender feelings. *Veilige Haven* offers fun and relaxation, an informal place to meet others just like you, for example in the "world cafe." There are several facilities, ranging from open hours to shelter and crisis care. The workers moderate individual sessions and group discussions, with self-acceptance as the ultimate goal. They refer to further care and shelter if the youth can no longer go home. They also coordinate the care.

Of the sixty to one hundred clients each year, about 80% has a Muslim background. Upon intake clients are not always specifically registered under honour related violence and forced marriage. It isn't always asked, this depends on what the visitors are willing to release. In at least one on three cases young people are victimized by (honour related) violence, but there seems to be one large 'dark number'. If honour related violence is committed or imminent, *Veilige Haven* refers to the police, for example to project *Roze in Blauw* (Pink and Blue). Most migrants refrain from reporting with the police. *Veilige Haven* teaches participants that they can also make an informal report. *Veilige Haven* as a supervised living facility has six beds for young people who have experienced honour related violence or have received threats. The locations are reasonably anonymous. Two social workers are present to chair the living room meetings.

*Veilige Haven* is part of the Amsterdam Chain Approach Honour Related Violence. This is an unmistakable added value, as many autochthonous care workers hardly know anything about target group or their specific problems.

**More information:**

Schorer Foundation: [www.cocamsterdam.nl/veilige-haven](http://www.cocamsterdam.nl/veilige-haven)

**REPORTING CENTRE HONOUR RELATED VIOLENCE AMSTERDAM (MELDPUNT EERGERELATEERD GEWELD AMSTERDAM)**

Prevention and chain approach to honour related violence through consultation, support and mediation in honour cases. The goal of the centre is to offer advice and/or mediation and referring to shelter and care services. Next to this, advising and supporting professionals in (possible) honour related violence cases. Target groups are victims of honour related violence from Amsterdam and care workers and other professionals in Amsterdam.

The workers of the Reporting Centre Honour Related Violence were especially trained to recognize signs and risks of honour related violence. The Centre has developed a risk-assessment to investigate whether honour related violence plays a role. The workers have mastered various methods to intervene in family conflicts, and settle them to such extent that it is possible to come to a non-violent restoration of honour or mediation process between families. Another important task of the Centre is the referral of clients to shelter and care organizations. After a case has been closed, the Centre will keep track of the client for a certain period of time, even if the client moves to another municipality. The Reporting Centre registers all cases of honour related violence in Amsterdam. All reports that are filed at the police are also send through to the Reporting Centre. When faced with complicated cases the Reporting Centre joins forces with the National Knowledge Centre Honour related violence (the *LEC EGG*).

In the Reporting Centre, the care parties and the criminal law (police) work together closely. There are also close collaborations with shelters, care workers and experts on culture. The reporting Centre puts up a care network and has case meetings with the police, Youth Care and other relevant agencies, twice a month. For each case the action plan is discussed and completed with all intended actions and actors. To discuss progress on a policy level the organization, the chain partners and the municipality come together every three months.

The workers of the Reporting Centre promote prevention and (early) recognition by providing regular information nights and workshops for grass roots organizations and local community homes. Finally, they offer trainings and seminars for professionals and students.

**More information:**

Blijf Groep (women shelter Noord-Holland and Flevoland): [www.blijfgroep.nl/hoewijhelpen/meldpunt-eergerelateerd-geweld](http://www.blijfgroep.nl/hoewijhelpen/meldpunt-eergerelateerd-geweld)

**FROM HOME (VAN HUIS UIT)**

The project aims prevention of (escalation) honour related violence by preventing or de-escalating conflicts within and between families, and educating people in an informal setting, through mediation and education by community workers. Target group are members of cultural communities with a tradition of honour related violence.

The project *Van huis uit* reaches its goal by identifying early signs of conflicts and violence induced by family honour; by calming the people down and have them listen to each other. For this, the project team involves key community members who are the ears and eyes of the community and who are prepared to volunteer as 'community mediators'. They know what goes on in a community and are trusted members with a certain level of authority. For the project, twenty-five men and women from the different cultural communities were successfully recruited. Many of them are professional care workers. Before they venture out as mediators they receive a thorough training to, among other things, acquire adequate mediation techniques.

The community mediators are able to intervene in conflicts between families at an early stage. This way, they (mostly) succeed to prevent or de-escalate the conflict and/or violence in name of family honour. They offer mediation, inform the people and connect people. They are above the parties and represent the mutual interest. They act on personal title, are extremely involved, and work on a voluntary basis. For the mediation they use tools from the different cultural dimensions. The mediators also educate community members on the subject. Information giving often take place at someone's home, where people come together for drinks or dinner and sensitive subjects are brought up in an informal manner. For larger scale information meetings the project teams up with grass roots organizations. The project aims to not get tangled up with these organizations in order to stay independent. The twenty-five mediators all have their own task in the mediation process, the information meetings and the networking among other (grass roots) organizations, governments and other parties. The key figure of the project activities is the coordinator who monitors all mediation processes, even afterwards. The organization collaborates with the chain partners honour related violence in the municipality (like the Support Centre Domestic Violence, Police, women shelters). The partners in the chain have agreed to work with a reporting protocol. The mediators always inform their 'clients' hereof.

**More information:**

Foundation MOOI, organization for social support, together with Odyssee, support organization for development processes: [www.stichtingmooi.nl](http://www.stichtingmooi.nl)

**SHELTER EVA (OPVANG EVA)**

EVA offers shelter, protection and support after (threat of) honour related violence and forced marriage in a shelter that was specifically developed for his purpose at a secret and extra secure location. The shelter is especially meant for girls and young women of 14-23 years old who are trying to live their lives with one foot in their original culture and one foot in the western culture.

Opvang Eva (Division Extra Safe) is a pilot shelter project with twenty places (2 x 10). The diverse group of girls and women can roughly be divided into two groups: the first group exists of daughters that have run away from home because of the strict rules imposed by their parents or because they have a – not approved - boyfriend. Pregnant girls are also welcome. The second group exists of women who were discarded by their husbands or who have chosen to leave him, thus causing problems in the family. A large part of the girls and women in the shelter is a victim of honour related violence, forced marriage and/or abandonment, or has been threatened with these forms of violence. 90% of the clients has been physically abused, 100% has been mentally abused. In some cases incest or other sexual abuse have added to the problem.

The workers of Eva are very sensitive about the behaviour and safety of the girls and women. They offer them some kind of structure and help them to look ahead, at the future: what are your plans and what about your parents? Your husband? Especially in the initial face of a client's stay, the regulations with regard to safety are strict (no hand phones, no internet and no going outside). Within a week the workers and the client will investigate whether mediation with the parents or family is possible. The police agency National Knowledge Centre Honour Related Violence (LEC EG) mostly starts by doing a case risk-assessment. Further actions are, among other things, based on this assessment. The girls and women will be offered a so-called "rainbow therapy". They learn to think about their own opinion and feelings and how to talk about these sentiments. This is something they have never done. Furthermore, the girls and women learn how they can live with their parents without conflict, either

within themselves or with the parents. Finally, Eva provides 'aggression regulation therapy'. Clients are welcome to stay as long as they need to.

**More information:**

Foundation Kompaan and De Bocht (Goirle): [www.kompaanendebocht.nl](http://www.kompaanendebocht.nl)

## **Sweden**

### **TRIS - HELPLINE**

Tris (Tjejers rätt i samhället) is a new organisation. The name in Swedish means "Girls' Rights in Society". TRIS is an NGO dedicated to the struggle against honor related violence, forced marriages and related issues.

TRIS manages a helpline with generous open hours. They provide training to authorities and other NGOs through lectures and workshops.

Recently TRIS has presented a new report that introduces a fourth target group for honor related violence in Sweden. The first being young women, the second boys and young men, the third lgbt-persons and now, thanks to the research provided by TRIS, young mentally incapacitated girls.

This study describing the situation of mentally incapacitated girls is a milestone for the work against honor related violence in Sweden. The results of the study are appalling. Many mentally incapacitated girls are forced to marry older men, and this happens quite more often than it was thought.

TRIS has been instrumental in cases when a quick and professional response has been required, with excellent results.

**More information:**

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

### **GAPF**

GAPF is an acronym for Glöm aldrig Pela och Fadime, Never forget Pela and Fadime. Sara Mohammad who still is the main representative of the organisation founded GAPF. Mohammad is probably the best-known activist in Sweden regarding honor related violence. She is present in every trial and produces large amounts of press releases and media activity. Often when somebody is interviewed about honor related violence in Sweden that person is Sara Mohammad. She was given the award "Swedish Hero" by one of the biggest newspapers, in a ceremony broadcasted live on TV. GAPF has an impressive network of members and helpers all over the country, and on countless opportunities they have been able to save the lives of persons escaping persecution.

Sara Mohammad herself is known for her radical views, being a strong opponent to Muslim schools, the veil on children, sex-apartheid and political Islam (integrism). Her political network is very large and the activities organized by GAPF are supported by member of the Parliament and the Government, regardless of political affiliation.

**More information:**

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

### **HÖGANÄS KVINNOJOUR/TJEJJOUR (WOMEN'S AID GROUP)**

Höganäs, a town in southern Sweden, has a women's aid group that each year encounters between 100 and 400 individuals who have been exposed to HRV. The activities are funded by the County Administrative Board of Skåne.

A few years ago the members of the aid group realized that they needed more knowledge about honor related violence in order to meet the individuals who contacted them for help. They were used to dealing with patriarchal violence or violence against women, but they now ran into a phenomenon that required specific knowledge. The women's aid group contacted Maria Hagberg, a knowledgeable and committed person who was also the president of Nätverket mot hedersrelaterat våld (the Network against honor related violence), to have her elevate the competence of the aid group staff in the honor related violence field.

As the first women's aid group in the country, the group in Höganäs also offers help to men, in the form of protected housing, dialogue support, and assistance in contacts with authorities. The standpoints of the aid group has led the way for other groups who are now accepting men, in Varberg, Ronneby and Stockholm and other places. The men who seek protection have sometimes refused to control their sisters or other family members, sometimes refused to be married away, and some of them are LGBT persons.

Höganäs kvinnojour argues that society long has turned a blind eye to honor related violence and that preventive work in schools and in youth environments is extremely important in order to create changes in attitudes. It is not enough to work actively with only the most severe cases. At the moment, the women's aid group runs three projects: theme days, protected housing for young men, and protected housing for victims of violence in close relationships. It is an interesting contribution to the development of methods that the aid group argues that it is not necessary to have a similar cultural background as the target group to achieve good results when working with victims of HRV. The credibility, professionalism and commitment of the women's aid group are not based on cultural identity but on laborious interest and work.

**More information:**

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

## **Turkey**

### **CHILD BRIDES PROJECT - FLYING BROOM WOMEN RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION**

Flying Broom launched Child Brides Project in April 2011 in order to make early and forced marriages an issue, to create public opinion and mobilize people, institutions and organizations that would develop solution alternatives for this social problem beginning from the grass roots up. It ran the project to be finished by October 2011 in 54 cities and film screenings and seminars were held in line with the project theme.

Two fiction movies with the theme of early and/or forced marriages were used for these activities and talks with women of all ages were conducted after each screening. These talks are supported with seminars of expert psychologist, lawyers, doctors and/or sociologists. These activities were conducted in collaboration with local governments and local departments of public administration in each city in order to inform decision makers and policy implementers about women's issues and demands and address these issues through the communication between the citizens and the state administration. It is intended to compile these talks where women narrated their witnesses and experiences into a book. Also it is aimed to make a documentary with the use of videos and photographs shot during the activities. Besides, a media campaign was run to develop awareness to the violation of women's human rights by pointing out the adverse effects of early and forced marriages to the physical and mental health of women and the hardening of social justice and gender inequality. Moreover, a petition

campaign to submit the parliament was conducted nationwide in order to stop early and forced marriages. Additionally, it is planned to be conducted field research about the support of universities in ten cities selected out of 54 ones.

The project was the first and single work conducted in this area in Turkey. It is indicated that Child Brides Projects, completed in 54 cities, is the most comprehensive and in-depth work about early marriages. Also the sustainability of the project, the collaboration with so different sector from various realms, the dissemination of the available data extensively as much as possible to raise awareness are indicated as the success factors of the project.

### **RAISING AWARENESS AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND ESTABLISHING LOCAL COOPERATION IN CENTRAL ANATOLIA - FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN'S SOLIDARITY**

Foundation for Women's Solidarity ran "Raising Awareness Against Violence Against Women and Establishing Local Cooperation in Central Anatolia" Project with the support of European Commission between August 2007 and November 2008. Several trainings activities about the struggle against violence against women were conducted in the cities of Çankırı, Eskişehir, Kırıkkale and Nevşehir for ten months. The project location was determined as Central Anatolia since the women movement and organizing is so weak and there are little shelter and Counselling centres.

Workshops for women as well as project activities for the establishment of women organizations and fighting against violence against women in cooperation with local governments were conducted. Thus while raising awareness of women about violence, four municipality staff had been gained awareness through gender trainings. The foundation prepared a kit titled "Handbook For Fighting Against Violence Against Women" with the support of specialists of the area in order to use for the training activities. The training kit included general information about gender as well as information about several topics such as violence against women, available mechanisms for fighting against, legal rights of women and international tools in fighting against violence. While meetings and trainings activities were held in municipal and social centres' facilities thanks to the cooperation of municipalities, women are awarded trainer certificates at the end of the training. The training program was planned considering women's priorities and everyday routines in order to raise the participation. At the end of the project, a closing meeting of three days were held to assess the outputs with the participation of 130 women among all project participants and the presentations and talks made at the meeting were compiled into a book.

### **TRAINING PROJECT - VAN WOMEN SOLIDARITY ASSOCIATION – VAKAD**

VAKAD trained doctors working at state hospitals about gender within the framework of their project. The Association ran the project in collaboration with Van Governorship and Yüzüncü Yıl University Women's Studies Centre and trained 80 doctors in total. The governorship held the overall organization by mobilizing Provincial Directorate of Health through official correspondence. VAKAD, then, carried out the training program that they used continually for similar purposes. The Association indicates that an interactive and inclusive gender training rather than an activity based on rehearsal and listening –i.e. didactic. In this regard, it pays attention to the practicing of thinking and discussing the topic all together by questions and answers after giving preliminary knowledge to the participants. The association representative expresses that these trainings provided opportunity for developing cooperation and dialogue with health staff as well as challenge bias about feminism and speaking about it. It is intended to identify the violence women going to the hospital are subjected to, learning

about the kinds of violence and gender discrimination and discussing about them within the project framework.

The training project works within the idea of cooperation and collaboration. 80 doctors were trained about gender with the cooperation between public administration and NGOs and support of university. In this respect, the training activity is considered as a good example for coordination and inter-institutional communication.

### **KÜÇÜKÇEKMECE MUNICIPALITY WOMEN'S SHELTER**

The Women's Shelter aims to serve women subjected to domestic violence and oppression, lacking support from their parents and relatives due to the traditional culture and without financial income. The organization provides an alternative to women driven to the streets under these circumstances in order to build a life of their own. It gives services such as accommodation in the shelter house, psychological rehabilitation, provision of food, clothing and household goods, vocational training, child care and education. The length of stay is set at three months in the shelter house of 14-bed capacity and it is intended to give financial and psychological aid to ensure that women gain self-esteem and begin new life. For this purpose, the shelter strives to find employment in the district where it is located as well as conducting work to house one or several women provided rehabilitation and economic independence in the same place. Besides social workers, health staff and psychologist also give services in the shelter house. While the guideline published at Küçükçekmece Municipality's webpage clarifies job definitions of the working staff in detail, it is observed that it also sets a body of rules –entry and exit hours, food for women and children, bed time, rules for alcoholic beverages and smoking, relationship among women and with the employees, secrecy etc., for women staying at the house. The shelter put emphasis that one-to-one communication is particularly significant as a method of conducting such work and achieving success for the struggle against violence against women.

Küçükçekmece Municipality Shelter House indicates that ensuring women's standing on their own feet and gaining self-esteem is what makes the work they carry on features of a good practice.

Furthermore, volunteering, satisfaction about the work and devotion are mentioned as essential factor underlying the success of their work.

### **AKDENİZ MUNICIPALITY İŞTAR WOMEN COUNSELLING CENTRE**

The organization gives counselling services to women violence victims about a year and makes arrangements for opening a shelter in the meantime. A guideline employing woman's perspective drawn from the experiences and knowledge of Purple Roof, Women Sheltering Collective and Diyarbakır Municipality is prepared for the shelter which will be launched in 16 October, 2011. The applications in the meantime that preparations are carried out are directed, when necessary, to the Social Services and other relevant organizations. The drafted shelter guideline defines the main goal of İhtar Shelter House as opposing all kinds of sexism and discrimination and emancipating itself of all kind of sexist ideology. From this point of view, it is described that the shelter house would go beyond giving the feeling of shelter and provides a realm "free life" free from domination, patriarchal power and violence. Similarly, the answers to the survey explain the organization's approach to the shelter as "common consciousness rose above the state of womanhood and a way of struggle shaped by this consciousness". In addition, it is stated that it should function as an alternative life world not only for women but also for child victims of violence. İhtar underlines the importance of establishing horizontal work relationships, conceiving the woman solidarity and emancipation from a feminist viewpoint and adopting anti-hierarchical methods in order to carry out such a work regarding the struggle against violence against women.

## **MOTHER AND CHILD EDUCATION FOUNDATION'S READING AND WRITING COURSE PROJECT - KAPADOKYA WOMEN'S SOLIDARITY ASSOCIATION**

An education program was provided within the framework of the project. As the rate of people who can read and write is low in the area, the program included adult education on the issues of women's health, the rights of the handicapped, inter-family communication and violence against women. Books used in the training program and the training materials were prepared and designed by a Professional team. The events described in the reading material were based on stories from daily life. This choice depended on the possibility that women may show little interest to special training sessions about violence against women or even showing interest, may be hindered to join them due to pressures from their spouse or family. Answering the interview questions, the association representative stated that women from rural areas would be interested in programs based on writing and reading skills, women's health, child raising etc., which makes it easier to provide information about violence against women in this context. The topics in the training program are selected accordingly and in supplementary reading pieces, little daily events about the situation of women suffering from violence are provided. The association representatives said that this helped to attract the attention of women to this subject and made it easier to increase their perception about violence around them, also leading them to talk about violence that they personally suffered.

## **FEMINIST SHELTER - WOMEN'S SHELTER COLLECTIVE**

Within the framework of the "An example of a feminist shelter supported by the local municipality" Project, the women's shelter collective is trying to develop a women's shelter organization, that is totally free of patriarchal methods and which supports the empowerment of women. The members of the collective argue that the shelters run by various institutions in Turkey have the logic of "serving the needy" and so, invade the basic human rights of women, trying to develop alternative methods to this approach. According to the model proposed by the collective, the basic function of a shelter should be "not only providing a temporary shelter to women and children, but to help empower women and provide them with a material and ideological basis to lead a violence-free life of their own".

With the support of the institution they recently worked with, they tried to put in reality this feminist perspective and solidarity based on horizontal modes of organization. The collective is not working officially with any institution right now, but is providing training to newly opened shelters, and to NGOs working in this field, and sharing experience about how a shelter should function, the characteristics each unit should have in a shelter; training on gender issues, training on non-violent mothering, trauma training, training on neglect and abuse of children etc. Besides providing training, they prepared a handbook to be used in shelters to be opened, entitled "Struggle against violence against women and women's shelters for local governments".

In line with their goal to develop shelters where women's perspectives prevail, women's shelters collective defined the basic characteristic of a good shelter project is being organized and run with a focus on the point of view of the women living there. Besides, it was mentioned that leading many activities for children to live in violence-free relations is also another important characteristic. Some of the indicators for the empowerment of women were defined as transforming bureaucratic, hierarchical, masculine relations within the shelter and the change of attitude of the children and women towards the shelter.

## 6. Conclusions and recommendations

This chapter contains a number of conclusions by the 'Flying Team against Violence' project partners, as well as some collective recommendations. Recommendations for the respective national situations are published in the project partners' national reports. These reports can be downloaded from the partners' websites.

The following recommendations are the result of interviews with grass roots organizations and NGO's, the success factors of the good practices, the national researches of the respective partners and the debates from the 'Flying Team against Violence'. The recommendations can be divided into three categories: for grass roots organizations and NGO's, for national policy makers and for policy makers at a European level. The conclusions and recommendations were discussed at the national meetings that were organized from June to October on Cyprus and in Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden for grass roots organizations, NGO's, other stakeholders and policy makers.

### 6.1. Conclusions

The project 'Flying Team against Violence' aims at the prevention and action against honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment. These three forms of harmful traditional practices, which greatly affect the lives of individuals and deny them the right to live their lives the way they want to, because they oppose the rigid conservative and patriarchal values and regulations of their families, communities and/or environment.

Most victims of violence are women and girls, but not exclusively. Men and boys are known victims, too, especially if they are gay, bisexual or transgender, and some cases of (young) male family members refusing to use violence to save the 'family honor'.

In most of the project partners' countries, honor related violence, forced marriage or abandonment, are acknowledged and combated as relevant social problems and a lot of action is taking place.

Nevertheless, further improvement and development are crucial. True change must be achieved through an actual change in mentality and behavior of all parties involved; the existing norms and behavioural patterns must be discarded.

Important players in the combating of violence are (human right based) grass roots organizations and NGO's. They are close to the heart of the problem and in direct contact with victims, bystanders (and perpetrators); and they are able to share their knowledge and experiences with organizations and governments, as well as enter policy proposals for effective and coherent actions. This is an essential role, which is often underrated and underexposed, especially by governments and institutes.

All this has been the immediate cause for the project 'Flying Team against Violence': fully exposing the experiences and activities of the grass roots organizations and NGO's. Good practices from the respective partner countries (Cyprus, Germany, Netherlands, Turkey and Sweden) were identified and described and criteria for basic conditions and success factors were formulated and reviewed with the grass roots organizations and NGO's. In addition, a desk research was conducted on the political and social discourse and the activities against honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment in the respective countries. Aim of the project: learning from each other, exchanging knowhow and experiences and building an international network (Europe and Turkey) to enhance future collaboration and the influence on the political sphere.

The project has shown that there are many similarities between the participating countries, especially with regard to success factors for solid, effective projects, and the basic conditions for organizations to be able to perform optimally and achieve more. This comes as no surprise. Many of the factors are related to proper project management. Some of the similarities that were mentioned are: performing sensitive activities and projects on taboo subjects, and – partly – working with target groups that are very difficult to reach, the mentioned success factors and basic conditions are often also similar. Most mentioned aspects: the bottom up approach, collaboration on all levels, and more possibilities for continuation and sustainability (read among other things, financial stability). To break the spiral of violence, violence that is passed on from generation to generation, a substantial change of mentality and behavior is necessary. Projects that meet these conditions have a much better basis for long-term success.

However, there are differences between the participating countries. Abandonment, for example, initially appeared to be an unknown concept for most partner organizations, except the Dutch. All countries, however, recognized the actual problem. For the European countries, it mostly refers to the forced remigration of women and children to their countries of origin (or that of their parents). They are forced to remigrate by their husbands or parents, who abandon them, often after a holiday, without a passport or European residence permit, which makes it impossible for them to independently return to Europe. In Germany the term 'abduction' is commonly used and in the specific context that girls with migrant backgrounds are sent back or threatened by their parents to be sent back to their (or their parents) country of origin, in order to control the girls' behaviour. In Turkey, the phenomenon is mostly associated with internal migration problems; husbands who move to other parts of the countries for economic purposes, and stop sending home money.

The biggest difference between the participating countries, however, was found in the use of the concept of honor related violence. One of the most important debates, which kept recurring, was the terminology of the respective countries, compared to the preferred terms of the partner organizations. In the Northern European countries (Sweden, Netherlands and Germany) the term honor related violence has been in common use for some time now; something that was actively encouraged by the grass roots organizations and NGO's. In the Netherlands and Germany some groups have openly disapproved. The most important reason being that as long as honor related violence and forced marriage are not recognized and discussed in other closed or strict conservative communities (like orthodox Christians and Roma and Sinti), it merely underlines the already extant negative stigmatization of migrants and refugees,

In Turkey, it was mainly the feminist organizations, which protested the term. According to them, the violence has nothing to do with 'honor', and therefore shouldn't be used as a (legal) legitimization to commit violence. They prefer terms like violence against women or harmful traditional practices, and to emphasize mainly the struggle against social, economical and political inequality of women.

In Cyprus, finally, the terms domestic violence and violence against women are also much more commonly used than honor related violence. However, there is much less resistance against its use is much less, and one of the organizations of Cyprus even recommends that the government develops a clear definition of honor related violence.

## 6.2. Recommendations

The following recommendations are divided into three categories: for grass roots organizations and NGO's, for national policy makers, and for policy makers at a European level.

### 1. For grass roots organizations and NGO's

- Develop and implement awareness raising campaigns, join forces with other democratic groups in society on harmful traditional practices such as honor related violence, forced marriage, abandonment and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexuals and transgenders. Engage communities in the implementation of the campaigns.
- Organize educational projects to more effectively inform affected groups about their rights. Knowledge leads to empowerment.
- Join forces. Exchange experiences and information with other organizations working in the field of harmful traditional practices. Together, lobby by the government for more funding and resources for research and programs to be carried out by organizations and NGO's that address the issue of harmful traditional practices.

### 2. For national and local policy makers

- Conduct systematic research and data collection on the prevalence of all forms of harmful traditional practices, to better understand the real dimensions of the problems and to better inform policy, support and prevention campaigns.
- One need that has been identified in order to find out about the extent of honor related violence is that law enforcement agencies need a specific code of this type of crime, much like the code for hate crimes.
- Establish a systematic and long-term national plan of action for the prevention and combat of all forms of harmful traditional practices, which will be monitored on implementation, regularity, target group and evaluation.  
The plan of action includes:
  - Clear definitions of honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment, from a gender and human rights perspective. Include also "soft" forms of honor related violence (such as isolation, confinement in home, only allowed to go outside in the present of family members).
  - An elaborate prevention plan, including the participation of schools, parents and youth.
  - Legal regulations and laws to protect victims of honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment, and prosecute the perpetrators. Include also in legal regulations the "soft" forms of honor related violence.
  - The creation and/or strengthening of an integrated network approach that includes all relevant stakeholders (police and criminal law, judges, care and relief, health care, youth care, education). Clearly define the collaboration between the stakeholders, in terms of roles, responsibilities and duties. Make sure that the stakeholders own the necessary expertise, knowledge and experience, and are willing to share it.
  - An increase of the numbers of (anonymous) shelters and crisis intervention programs, all over the country. Make sure that victims can't be traced by family members via bureaucratic

- channels or in any other way.
- Systematic and specialized trainings about the different forms of harmful traditional practices and their specifics for all parties, with a gender and human rights sensitive approach, including intercultural communication skills and sensitivity for the position of different groups (gender, age, sexual orientation). Experts with ample practical experience should moderate the trainings.
  - Support for the victim, also after (crisis) intervention (housing, education, work, childcare, psychosocial support, medical support).
- Make sure that local authorities adequately implement plans of action. Monitor and evaluate progress, regularly.
  - Do not use immigration policies or anti-trafficking laws as an instrument of protection of (potential) victims. This will not protect them, but put them in an even more vulnerable (legal) position, and thus will not contribute to the combat of harmful traditional practices.
  - Strengthen the social and economic position of women and migrants in the participating countries.
- Launch awareness-raising campaigns:
    - Create campaigns to promote gender equality and respect for all individuals, regardless of gender or sexual orientation.
    - Introduce subjects like gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights in schools and universities (as part of the regular curriculum);
    - Use (social) media and other sources
  - Recognize the value of (volunteer) work of grass roots organizations and NGO's working on the prevention and action against harmful traditional practices.
    - In the development of a national plan and in the awareness-raising campaigns, include the suggestions and experiences from grass roots organizations and NGO's addressing one or more forms of harmful traditional practices.
    - Organize regular consultations with grass root organizations and NGO's about the implementation of policies and measures to combat honor related violence, forced marriage and/or abandonment.
    - Establish sustainable funding and resources for the organizations. Offer support to find alternative funding. Avoid a 'project culture' with a competitive climate, which counteracts fruitful collaboration.
  - Sign and/or ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Combating all Forms of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, which defines and criminalizes various forms of violence against women, including all forms of harmful traditional practices. This treaty is the first legally binding instrument in Europe, creating a comprehensive legal framework to protect women against all forms of violence. Cyprus and the Netherlands did not sign/ratify the treaty, yet.

### **3. For European Policy makers**

- Set up a working group to conduct a European study on the prevalence of honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment. Pursue data collection, research and policy development on honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment at a European level
- Develop a European approach for the prevention and combat of honor related violence, forced marriages and abandonment for a European policy

- Prepare a protocol for reporting, collecting and (legal) assistance after abandonment, applicable in all European countries.
- Request member states to develop national action plans on all forms of harmful traditional practices.
- Ensure that access to effective protection is available to all women regardless of their legal status and provide legal residence status to all third-country nationals that are victims of harmful traditional practices.
- Sign and/or ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Combating all Forms of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, which defines and criminalizes various forms of violence against women, including all forms of harmful traditional practices.

# Annex 1. Reports National Meetings

One of the final activities of the project Flying Team Against Violence was organizing national meetings in each participating country (except for Turkey, as an associative partner in the project, there was no budget to organize a special national meeting). At the national meetings the outcomes of the research and the toolkit were presented, with the purpose to create opportunity for the attendees (grass roots organisations, NGO's, policymakers and other stakeholders) to assemble and exchange information, methods and experiences; to discuss and further provide recommendations; and to improve support for the work of grass roots organisations and NGO's and co-operation between the many different stakeholders who are working at the combat of honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment. The Flying Team members presented the Five Good Practices of the project.

## Cyprus

### **NATIONAL SEMINAR REPORT “FLYING TEAM AGAINST VIOLENCE; COMBATING HONOUR RELATED VIOLENCE AND FORCED MARRIAGE” 15 JUNE 2012, HOLIDAY INN, NICOSIA - CYPRUS**

#### **Program**

- 09:00 Registration
- 09:30 Welcoming Remarks and Introduction  
Introduction to the EU Project “Flying Team Against Violence”  
*Susana Pavlou, Director, Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies*  
Opening address  
*Athina Kyriakidou, Member of the Cyprus Parliament*
- 09:50 Flying Team against Violence; Combating HRV and FM; Cyprus National Report  
*Christina Kaili, Project Coordinator, Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies*
- 10:15 Coffee Break
- 10:30 Toolkit against Violence; Good practices, Factors of Success, Tips and Recommendations in Combating Honour Related Violence, Forced Marriages and Abandonment  
*Presentations- Flying Team Against Violence:*
- Anonymous Shelter and Counselling, *Sara Kinsky, Papatya, Germany*
  - Peer Education, Perspective Project, *Patricia Phaedonos, MIGS, Cyprus*
  - LGBT and Honour, *Eduardo Grutzky, ALMAEuropa, Sweden*
  - Public information campaign ‘Know your rights’, *Saniye Tezcan, Kezban Foundation, The Netherlands*
- 12:00 Discussion and Recommendations
- 12:30 Reception and Networking among Cypriot Women’s Rights Networks, Local NGOs and Stakeholders

#### **Report**

On the 15th June 2012 the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS), held a national seminar entitled “Flying Team against Violence; Combating Honour Related Violence and Forced Marriage”. The event took place at the Holiday Inn, Nicosia.

The seminar aimed to act as a forum for the exchange of good practices identified within the framework of the project “Combating Honour Related Violence and Forced Marriages Flying Team against Violence”, funded by the European Commission, Daphne III Programme. Project Coordinator is the Social Development Organisation MOVISIE International (Netherlands), in partnership with the organisations: ALMAeuropa (Sweden), Bağımsız Kadın Derneği (Autonomous Women’s Association) (Turkey), Foundation Welsaen (Netherlands), Foundation Kezban (Netherlands), Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) (Cyprus), and Papatya/Türkisch-Deutscher Frauenverein (Germany).

The project’s main aim is to enhance knowledge and to develop and implement good practices on a grass roots level in relation to the prevention and combating honour related violence (HRV), forced marriages (FM) and abandonment in Europe. The project foreseen the overview of good practices on a grass root level on honour related violence and forced marriages, the initiation of a European network of organizations working on these issues, and the creation of a “European Flying Team” to provide information to grass roots organizations, NGOs, stakeholders, (inter-)national policy makers.

Members of the “Flying Team” were the guest speakers at the seminar during which they presented the good practices identified in their respective countries within the framework of the project. The seminar also aimed to present the results of the Cyprus national report conducted within the framework of the project, and to encourage a constructive dialogue on these issues amongst various civil society organizations, using the gender perspective. The seminar was addressed by *Ms Athina Kyriakidou*, Member of the Cyprus Parliament and Member of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence of the Council of Europe.

*Ms Kyriakidou*, gave an extensive presentation of how the signature and ratification of the Convention for the Prevention and Combating of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) can provide a comprehensive framework for the 47 member states of the Council of Europe to adequately address HRV and FM.

*Ms Christina Kaili*, Project Coordinator and researcher at MIGS, presented the results of a the research report which was focused on the examination of definitions used in the country for the terms “honour related violence”, “forced marriage”, and “abandonment”; the examination of the political climate in Cyprus towards migrants and refugees and towards the prevention and combating of HRV,FM and abandoning; the discussion on the national policy and legislation and their effects in combating the HRV, FM and Abandoning; the description of existing approaches on the specific issues; and the collection of recommendations and examples of good practices in dealing with these issues. The terms HRV and FM were generally known to the grass root agencies as honour is the excuse of much of the violence taking place in Cyprus, although these terms are not recognized as forms of gender based violence in the Cypriot context. Hence, honour crimes are not classified as such within the police and victim support governmental services. HRV and FM may take different forms in Cyprus affecting women and men from all socio-economic backgrounds (migrant women and LGBT people particularly vulnerable). The lack of systematic national data on the prevalence of all forms of harmful traditional practices, the lack of awareness and expertise among relevant stakeholders dealing with victims, the racist, xenophobic and sexist environment, the desperate need for women’s shelters, gender and culture sensitive rape crisis centres and counselling centres, were only a few of the main findings that were discussed with the audience. The study revealed strong links revealed between trafficking of women and forced marriage which needs to be further explored.

Additionally, policy and legislation on GBV must encompass a range of forms of violence taking into account their implications for groups found at the intersection of multiple inequalities.

Guest speakers in the seminar's agenda were: *Ms Sara Kinsky*, representing the organisation Papatya, who presented a successful practice on Anonymous Shelter and Counselling in Germany for girls and young women affected by HRV and FM that cannot turn to the general help system. The Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family who is the only NGO in Cyprus that runs a shelter and a helpline for women victims of domestic violence expressed interest in the work of the Anonymous Shelter and Counselling exploring ways to accommodate such cases in their existing support work. *Ms Patricia Phaedonos*, representing MIGS, presented a good practice on Peer Education Perspective Project in Cyprus, aiming to empower young people to explore ways to protect themselves and others from gender-based violence through peer education. The participants expressed the significant role of school based initiatives in preventing gender based violence and the need for sustaining such initiatives. *Mr Eduardo Grutzky*, representing the organisation ALMAEuropa, presented a good practice website dealing with LGBT and Honour in Sweden, offering specialised support and advice towards help and resources, by mentors professional experts on LGBT issues via email and chat. This innovative project triggered the interest of local NGOs as it constitutes a very successful example of dealing with the specific forms of violence through the provision of specialised and confidential support to LGBT people who are in a very vulnerable position. *Ms Saniye Tezcan*, representing the Kezban Foundation, presented a good practice on a public information campaign entitled 'Know your rights' in the Netherlands, aiming to educate and inform Moroccan and Turkish migrant women about their rights and provide them with empowerment. This has been a very successful example of a multi-agency cooperation in combating HRV and FM combining education and prevention work, support services, network building among stakeholders, experts and researchers.

A very constructive dialogue followed the presentations of the "Flying Team" members, as local NGO representatives expressed that the practices presented were very useful in their existing and future work. They also expressed that due to the fact that in both communities in Cyprus (Greek – Cypriot and Turkish - Cypriot) there are not specialised civil society organisations offering services to victims of HRV and FM, such networking activities and practices can be very helpful in their future work on these subjects. However, Cyprus is at a very early stage of providing specialised support to victims/survivors of HRV and FM. The participants had the opportunity to exchange thoughts and ideas on how to better implement these practices in a different socio-political context such as in Cyprus. Specifically, the participants discussed the basic conditions and factors for success of the specific practices with the most important being the sufficient funding for NGOs that provide support to the victims/survivors including the running of specialised shelters.

The participants agreed that despite the fact that in Cyprus HRV and FM are still not problems dealt with separately but within the domestic violence and violence against women realm, grass root organizations and NGOs in Cyprus should build alliances to: implement public awareness raising campaigns and school initiatives; to collectively lobby the government for greater financial support for systematic research and outreach programmes, as well for high quality, comprehensive and coordinated specialized services on HRV and FM; to lobby for the inclusion of these issues in the Cyprus political agenda on violence against women and address these within the framework of gender inequality and traditional power relations between women and men; and to collectively lobby the government as well as the EU policy makers to sign/ratify the Council of Europe Convention on

Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, which defines and criminalises all forms of male violence against women including HRV, FM, FGM and sexual violence.

Finally, the seminar attracted over 25 participants representing mainly grass roots organisations and NGOs<sup>2</sup>, representatives from the University of Nicosia, as well as the Secretary General of the National Machinery for Women's Rights. During the event copies of the Cyprus national report and the Toolkit consisting of Five Good Practices to better address HRV and FM in Europe were disseminated.

## Germany

**NATIONAL MEETING OF THE FLYING TEAM IN GERMANY, 21.09.2012. BERLIN WORKSHOP AGAINST FORCED MARRIAGE. INVITATION TO EUROPEAN EXCHANGE. „FLYING TEAM AGAINST VIOLENCE“ AGAINST HONOUR RELATED VIOLENCE AND FORCED MARRIAGE 21. SEPTEMBER 2012, BVV- SAAL, CITY COUNCIL OF KREUZBERG, BERLIN**

### Program

- 9:45 Introduction  
Presentation of the project „Flying Team“ - *Birim Bayam/ Papatya*  
Greeting *Petra Koch-Knöbel* – responsible for gender equality of the borough *Friedrichshain - Kreuzberg / Berlin workshop against forced marriage*
- 10:30 Country report Germany: Honour related violence, forced marriage and Abduction - *Corinna Ter-Nedden/ Papatya*  
Good Practice and success factors in Germany - *Sara Kinsky/ Papatya*
- 11:30 coffee break
- 11:45 strategies against honour related violence  
Good Practice examples from Sweden und The Netherlands
- „LGBT and Honour“ - *Andreas Wennblad / Stockholm*
  - „Know Your Rights“: Campaign against abandonment - *Saniye Tezcan, Amsterdam*
- 13:15 opportunity for informal exchange with refreshments and snacks

### Report

The national meeting of the Flying Team took place in Berlin, September 21st 2012.

It was organised in cooperation with the “Workshop against Forced Marriage”, a union of projects which are working against forced marriages in Berlin.

The council of the Berlin borough Friedrichshain- Kreuzberg offered its big hall for the conference.

Two months before the meeting we sent invitations to the members of the “Workshop against forced marriage”, political and administrative authorities, to the police and other organisations who are dealing with honour based violence, mostly in Berlin. Further we invited the members of the “German federation against forced marriage”, a national union of projects offering shelter for victims of honour related violence, and all the projects we had interviewed for the best practise reports. We sent around 200 invitations by mail and asked for registration for the Flying team meeting.

We got 51 registrations in advance, and at the conference there were around 70 participants.

We invited *Andreas Wennblad* from Sweden and *Saniye Tezcan* from the Netherlands to speak about the chosen best practise of their country. We chose these two members of the Flying team because their introduced projects from their country – about LGBT and Honour and about Abandonment -

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<sup>2</sup> Including the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Family Violence, Independent Trainers and Research Associates, Cyprus Family Planning Association, Cyprus Stop Traffick

address issues that are marginalised in the German discourse and point to gaps within the help system in Germany. Therefore these Projects were good examples to learn from for the German context. We engaged interpreters for both flying team members as the conference was held in German.

Besides a lot of social-workers from different projects in Berlin which are dealing with honour related violence there were also quite a lot participants from the police. The police is now better sensitised for this issue than they have been some years ago and all the boroughs have their special directorate for domestic violence that are sensitized also for honour related violence. We were pleased to welcome also members of the Berlin Senate and even of the Federal Ministry for Family, Elderly Persons, Women and Youth.

The mayor of the borough Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg, Mr. Franz Schulz, introduced to the conference with a short greeting and his willing to blame forced marriages and honour related violence.

Then Birim Bayam from Papatya explained the aims of the Flying Team project.

Ms Petra Koch-Knöbel spoke for the “Workshop against Forced Marriage” and underlined the importance of the good cooperation with police and administration. She named gaps in the help system like: strategies against abduction, the need of support for boys and couples and the need of better cooperation with job centres and register offices. She remarks a increasing number of cases of forced marriages in the counselling centres but this doesn't mean automatically that forced marriages are rising, it is also a result of the better public relation of the social projects concerning this issue and the result of school workshops, that encourage the concerned groups to seek for help.

Corinna Ter-Nedden from Papatya gave an overview about the situation in Germany concerning honour related violence (see country report)

Sara Kinsky from Papatya continued with the presentation of the best practise projects we had chosen for interviews and an analysis about success factors within the work of these projects.

Discussion:

- The audience said it was helpful to get an overview about the different progress against honour related violence in the different federal states and what has been done already.
- Also it was helpful so learn about the different projects in Germany who are working in the field of forced marriage.
- Colleges from the women shelters confirmed that young adults who are concerned of forced marriage are not at the right place in a women shelter, they need more attention and support than a women shelter can offer. There is a gap and apart from Papatya there is no place where the women shelters could send a young adult.
- One question in the discussion has been whether the online counselling SIBEL from Papatya is really in danger because it is not sufficient financed. The member of the ministry was asked to support SIBEL but she had to say that for the federal system of Germany there is no way for the ministry.
- Another question has been where to send those girls who come from big clans and are too endangered to stay in Berlin? There are only some specialised places in Germany for them, and for the young adults only Papatya or the women shelters.

- 7% of male youth is concerned by honour related violence- are there protected places for them? No, there isn't.
- A demand was formulated towards the youth welfare offices, that they should scoop the laws to offer help for the youth until the age of 21 and not to treat them as adults. The social projects and Papatya has to struggle every single case for every single girl with the authorities – this is very difficult and exhausting.
- A teacher proposed that the theme forced marriage should be part of the curriculum, for example in Ethics classes

The cooperation with schools had been a central point in the discussion, the Senate of Youth and other authorities should support initiatives.

The college from the Ministry explained the role of the new nationwide helpline against violence: That it should be an extra offer and a first place of help for women who often have no idea where to find help and need a low threshold and multilingual support centre. The help line is not meant to be a concurrence offers to the existing counselling centres.

After a break Andreas Wennblad from Sweden presented the project LGBT and honour.

He tells how ALMAeuropa offers, through a reliable website, an immediate opportunity to seek for help and support within 24 hours. The offer addresses young lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) whose sexual identity is vulnerable and who are (potential) victims of honour-related violence and are often forced to live their sexuality in secret. Moreover, they run an increased risk of abandonment, forced marriage and domestic violence. Central themes in which ALMAeuropa focuses are:

1. Gender and Control, the strict control LBHT including youth, like girls suffer.
2. Forced adaptation / heterosexuality by doctors, psychiatrists or spiritual leaders.
3. Double life, no public life, not only in terms of sexuality but in all areas of life.
4. Violence and threats, wherein the family put themselves in the position of victim, instead of the child.

He ended with the formulation of a number of key notes, amongst which the importance of a permanent focus on the victim, the real cause for whom and what you are working.

Then Saniye Tezcan from Kezban Stichting in The Netherlands introduced her project Mudawwana She spoke in Turkish and was translated into German.

The national working group Mudawwana since 2004 dedicated itself to improve the status of Moroccan women, promoting independence and emancipation by adequate assistance, identifying bottlenecks, education and prevention. Spearhead issues are familyright, free choice of partner, exposing abandonment, forced marriages and domestic (and honor-related) violence.

The near future involves expansion of activities to other immigrant/refugee groups, continuing development of skills of the professionals and policymakers, assurance of expertise and the political lobbying - advice tot governments at local, national and international level and strengthening cooperation and networking at national, bilateral and international levels, such as Flying Team, Alliance SSR.

In Germany we don't speak about abandonment but about abduction. It had to be explained what is meant by the term used in Holland. In Germany there is also a need to help girls and young women to return to Germany after they have been brought to the country of their parents and left back there for punishment or forced marriage.

The conference was ending with a snack and the possibility for informal contacts.  
The “Toolkit against violence” was spread to the participants of the conference.

## **Netherlands**

### **NATIONAL PLATFORM HONOR RELATED VIOLENCE, FORCED MARRIAGE AND ABANDONMENT “TOWARDS A RENEWED NETWORK”**

#### **PRESENTATION AND EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCES AND GOOD PRACTICES ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL**

**DATE: THURSDAY 4 OCTOBER 2012, TIME: 9.00 – 16.30 HRS**

**VENUE: CONGRESS CENTRE AKANTES (NIEUWE HERENGRACHT 95, AMSTERDAM)**

#### **Programme**

09.00 – 09.30	Arrival and registration
09.30 – 09.40	Opening and welcome
09.40 – 09.55	Introduction by door Hasib Moukaddim, director SMN (Samenwerkingsverband Marokkaanse Nederlanders, )
09.55 – 10.45	Presentations by international project members Flying Team Against Violence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Birim Bayam, Papatya Berlijn (Anonymous Shelter and counselling for girls and women)</li><li>• Andreas Wennblad, Stockholm Alma Europa, about LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender)</li></ul>
10.45 – 11.10	Pause
11.10 – 12.00	Presentations by international project members Flying Team Against Violence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leyla Oran, Bağimsiz Kadın Derneği Mersin Turkije (Independent Women's Association)</li><li>• Latifa Lazaar, Kezban Foundation and member working group Mudawannah (Know your Rights, about abandonment of women and children)</li></ul>
12.00 – 12.20	Ralf Krooshof, head Integration and rule of law Ministry Home Affairs and Royal relations about national approach prevention of forced marriage
12.20 – 13.00	Theatre door Gita Hacham, theatre-maker and writer
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 15.30	Workshops en Theme/dialog tables
15.30 – 16.00	Tea-/coffee break
16.00 – 16.30	Plenary feedback and recommendations Presentation national rapport Flying Team against Violence “Two steps forwards, one step back”, to Fenna Ulichki, Amsterdam councilor (GreenLeft) Portfolio Diversity, education and care in the context of the local approach
16.30 – 17.30	Closing remarks / Drinks and networking

#### **Report**

The meeting was organized by Movisie, Kezban Foundation and Welsaen in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations of the Netherlands to exchange experiences with projects in Turkey, Cyprus, Sweden, Germany and the Netherlands in combat against violence. The focus of the conference was on prevention and (chain) cooperation in the framework of the International Flying Team Against Violence, a project of the EU Daphne program. The central question

was how to improve cooperation in the questions of honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment and whether there is a need for a renewed upgraded network or platform.

*The meeting took place at Akantes in Amsterdam. It was a rainy day. Part of the more than 100 expected attendees was delayed due to traffic difficulties, so the program started a hour later.*

In her opening speech Petra Snelders of Movisie welcomed the large attendance from each network involved: organizations of migrants, professionals, women's shelters, hotline institutions for domestic violations, police, welfare, ministries, local government in the Netherlands, guests from different countries, and the Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations, partner in the organization of the conference.

This day there offered an opportunity to take notice of the various projects of the partners of the International Flying Team against domestic violence in Turkey, Sweden, Germany and the Netherlands as a valuable contribution to prevention. The central questions of today are: What makes a project valuable and what are the success factors and conditions for effectiveness.

As for the Dutch situation she recalled that much progress on the right track has been made over the last 10 years, but that the loss of facilities and a central direction are reason for concern. This day should be a day for the people active in the field.

She then presented the chairman of the day: Froukje Santing, former correspondent in Turkey for the liberal Dutch newspaper NRC. Ms. Santing recalled that an ambitious program laid ahead for us today: in the morning program the various good practices in the various countries, during the workshops in the afternoon the success factors and conditions to achieve effective cooperation and a theatre before the lunch. Caused by traffic problems the start of the program was delayed, nevertheless the deliberations needed translation. Therefore she called for brevity in the contribution of the speakers.

*Subsequently, Hasib Moukabbini, director of the Association of Moroccan-Dutch People SMN, addressed the key notes for the discussion. He stated, referring to the gloomy day with the drizzly weather, by stating that the topic of the day was emotionally a hard one, but experiencing much warmth and motivation among those present, he expected this day to bring lots of mutual encouragement and inspiration at the end. He intermingled his address with much of humor.*

He started to state that any violence is unacceptable for him, in spite of views that might exist in certain circles that consider it to be a weakness. He ruled out that it is legitimized for society to intervene since it implicates the restriction of freedom for girls and women.

To combat this needs targeted measures, but also motivated people, like today in the audience, and initiatives out of the people themselves such as workgroup Mudawwanah, foundation Kezban, and countless others including SMN, IOT and FON joint in a campaign that reached 70,000 people.

He favours to keep it simple: the problem starts with people who cause the problems, who apply violence and must be punished. Maybe it seems simple and music to the ears for advocates of law and order like the Dutch Minister of Justice Teeven. But there is a condition to it: a legal status for the victims and a clear framework to address the perpetrators.

And even so the real cause of the problem is yet not addressed. Often victims share the same frame of reference from which the perpetrators act, and even when that reference is lost, there is no alternative in its place. Therefore, support is needed from the communities, from the people necessary to generate alternatives based on self-determination.

Last week, we presented as a broad alliance of organizations and institutions a manifest for the fundamental right of self-determination to members of parliament of different parties.

National and local policy should be based on three pillars:

1. Strengthening status of women /victims and emancipation at group and individual level; the legal.
2. National management by Ministry, based on the emancipation of the people and their organizations and not government imposed
3. Guaranteeing protection and safety for potential victims

He stressed the point not to confuse the intermediated layer of representatives as being the target group. Community leaders are not the target but the means to reach the target audience.

Organizations of migrants, government and the professional field have each a part of the total knowledge. The new network is to compile this knowledge.

With regard to the theme of the day he points out some key questions.

- Why a renewed network or platform?
- What are the affairs it should handle?
- What's wrong with the old network?
- What could such a platform mean for individual citizens facing limitation of freedom, both victims and perpetrators?

*Next the various guests presented their projects, speakers Birim Bayam from Berlin and Leyla Orhan from Mersin had chosen to address their speech in the Turkish language translated by Sezin Ayranci, sometimes assisted by chairperson Froukje Santing. They started all with a brief word on their personal involvement in the issue. Due to constraints in time they all had their introduction some shortened, referring to the workshops during the afternoon*

#### *1. Papatya from Berlin - Anonymous shelter and assistance*

Birim Bayam begins first with her own migration history since her arrival in Berlin at age 12. Brought up free herself she saw herself at school to her dismay confronted with the pressure and inequality other girls suffered. This was one of the main reasons she later became active to counteract these situations. Papatya, a name referring to a flower with healing qualities, exists as an organization now 26 years. Birim is proud that they as Papatya raised migration problems especially of young girls to the agenda. This is the case already for a while for murder on girls in the name of honor, and since 2011 also against forced marriages and for the free choice of partner.

Priority in the cooperation Papatya is both strengthening partnership that may function as an outpost, and participation in a network of organizations working towards youth, social workers and police (chain approach).

#### *2. LBHT from Sweden - Helping gay-bisexual, and transgender youth*

Andreas Wennblat tells how ALMAeuropa offers, through a reliable website, instant opportunity and support within 24 hours accommodate gay, bisexual, and transgender young people (LBHT) whose sexual identity are vulnerable and (possible) victims of honor-related violence and are often forced to go into diving. Moreover, they run an increased risk of abandonment, forced marriage and domestic violence. Central themes in which ALMAeuropa focuses are:

1. Gender and Control, the strict control LBHT including youth, like girls suffer.
2. Forced adaptation / heterosexuality by doctors, psychiatrists or spiritual leaders.
3. Double life, no public life, not only in terms of sexuality but in all areas of life.
4. Violence and threats, wherein the family put themselves in the position of victim, instead of the child

He ends with the formulation of a number of key notes, amongst which the importance of a permanent focus on the victim, the real cause for whom and what you are working.

### *3. Independent Women's Association BKD in Mersin-Turkey - Training Domestic Violence*

Leyla Orhan tells how as a little girl had to deal with violence, to do with an authoritarian suppression system in Turkey, where the father was very important. 20 years ago, BKD started as an association with girlfriends for women. It is never difficult to find key people, is her experience. Through recruiting hostesses they organize living room gatherings for women from disadvantaged neighbourhoods on domestic violence conducted by expert trainers. Their core values are honesty, trust and empathy. First comes the awareness, then the strategy. In this way there is a lot of confidence among the women who came.

But at the same time due to the anti-female family policy of the government that regards woman no longer as an individual, but as a supporting part of the family, they are also pushed backwards.

### *4. National Working Group Mudawwanah in Netherlands*

Latifa Lazaar tells the audience how the national working group Mudawwanah since 2004 dedicated itself to improve the status of Moroccan women, promoting independence and emancipation by adequate assistance, identifying bottlenecks, education and prevention. Spearhead issues are family right, free choice of partner, exposing abandonment, forced marriages and domestic (and honor-related) violence.

The near future involves expansion of activities to other immigrant / refugee groups, continuing development of skills of the professionals and policymakers, assurance of expertise and the political lobbying - advice tot governments at local, national and international level and strengthening cooperation and networking at national, bilateral and international levels, such as Flying Team, Alliance SSR.

*Finally, speaker Danielle Kretz of the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, addressed the audience on behalf of Ralf Kroos Head Integration and Legal Affairs, who was unable to attend. Referring to the comment by Hasib at the beginning, she sees increasingly the sun shining. In recent years much has been attained and rarely she has seen such a crowd of involved and enthusiastic people as today. That was it very special and worth a compliment to all present.*

Ms. Kretz outlined the four main themes in the Plan of Action towards prevention. Criminal aspects she will not address, since they fall under the authority of the Ministry of Justice. Basic assumptions to the policy are the basic right of self-determination and the condemnation of violence. Moreover an approach which profiles the problem, and not specific target groups. The four key points are:

1. Mentality change. Emancipation from the people themselves. A pilot will be starting soon in three countries to include through these matters in the education abroad to people who want to come to the Netherlands.
2. Improving the expertise of professionals. Two practical examples are module E-learning for healthcare workers in the context of annual training and a pilot curriculum for schools of vocational training at ROC Rijn IJssel.
3. Local approach based on meeting and coherence. Development platform for interaction to encourage each other.
4. Developing knowledge and research. Research on the scale of the hidden problems and learning from other countries.

These four components will work be developed further with people in the field.

As a final point, she addresses the issue of abandonment as a care of the ministry. The approach to this is much to be improved in further cooperation.

Chairman Froukje Santing recalled the politically important condition: the immigration status of women, the right for an independent residence permit. While the field suggests that it should be granted after one year instead of three years now, it is under other political pressure threatened to be extended to five.

*After the plenary morning session, the conference yielded a theatrical reading *Me my Rose garden*, a theatre piece of writer / director Gita Hacham. She gave an introduction for the participants pointing out that both actresses would representing each two roles: Kaya, a rich tradeswoman in textile, aged around 100 years and Aisha a bride, and the cold-hearted Amina, spirit of a dead woman returned from death and Melika, a modern educated woman. They are each symbol for a woman that we all could be.*

*In this modified form outside the theatre the piece made nevertheless a deep impression. The short discussion afterwards was vivid and showed deep interest in the matter.*

*After the lunch, began the workshop program.*

#### *1. National approach honor related violence*

The workshop especially discussed the case of Fier Fryslan and Hotline for reporting honour related violence in Amsterdam. As key points in the discussion were reported:

- Honour related violence can only be combatted by a cooperation of care, police, social field and the audience together.
- Cooperation should be based on binding and connecting.

#### *2. Flying Team*

The workshop included an extensive discussion with Andreas Wennblat on the approach and experiences in combating honor-related violence and forced marriages among lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth. It stimulated a dialogue around the views of each of the participants..

In Turkey, one uses not the term honor related violence, but violence against women. The concept of honor in Turkish is too broad, therefore confusing and counterproductive. International cooperation is needed especially on the point of abandonment. Key points of the discussion were:

- Differences in definition and in perspective define the methods to apply, but the principles are the same.
- Working towards youth group is very different from adults. Police also has a different role and perspective than other workers in the field.
- Certain problems concerning LGBT are of all times and all communities, but may also be changed over time and culture.

#### *3. Assertiveness and harmful traditional*

In exercises physical and mental assertiveness participants sought their strength. Working in collaboration initially focused on how you work on awareness and resilience. Keeps constant watch what and who you work at every stage of cooperation.

The most important conclusions were:

- Awareness: experiencing and feeling of strength and vulnerability.
- Aim and content of a training experience

- Casual and playful mental and physical aspects of resilience combined.

#### *4. Regional cooperation*

Collaboration is crucial to combat honor related violence, forced marriage and abandonment effectively. This theme table observed more closely the roles of the different necessary partners. Participants were invited to express expectations explicitly to each other, at the regional level. Central questions were what is the role of self-organizations, what are problems that occur and what solutions we can bring forward to overcome them.

- Self-organizations, like those of migrants, want to be seen and heard and considered as partakers of the solution
- Cooperation in the region is functioning, but might be enhanced. The chain approach locally and regionally focuses mostly on curative matters and combating honor-related violence, too little on prevention. Especially cooperation between chain partners and organizations engaged in prevention should be strengthened.
- Organizing a platform focused on learning from each other's expertise, including at regional level.

#### *5. Dialogue Table as a building block to a dynamic platform*

Participants were invited into a circle centre of fruit and candles together in dialogue to shape a dynamic platform. A violinist walked around to contribute interpretation or support musically. The first round went to ask for specific situations where one person felt affected in the honor. The theme of the second round was how one overcame this offence later.

The need a soulful connection and cooperation became the key word for building a platform. In the last round participants were asked to describe in a few words how to create this. Genuine interest is a condition is. Respect for difference, otherness, based on equality and mutual empowerment. Engaging and recognizing mutual connections. The joint development of a perspective in which different expertise and competences do have a place.

#### *6. Discussing Sexuality*

In this workshop (7 women, 1 man) was the main taboos and fear of exposing. Talked about peer-to-peer projects with its own approach, you follow a methodology tight or let the process flow. How to help parents with parenting. How collaborate with knowledge centre honor related violence of the police (LEC).

- Sex is still taboo.
- Social workers should not think / fill for others.
- Directors with respect to deployment.

*These points were briefly reported in the vivid final but short plenary session.*

*At the end of the meeting, participants were invited to answer an evaluation form over the date, that received a response of more than 50 %. As a general picture the whole day received a score of good to excellent, The workshops achieved a remarkably high score, which certainly reflected the motivation of the participants and the need to tackle matters and go deeper. As highlights emerged the workshop Assertiveness and National Approach, which were experienced as instructive and enlightening. Despite the general high rate, was the outcome on the fulfilment of expectation smaller. Participants indicated that they had gained fresh motivation again. They would embrace more opportunities like this somewhat more focused on concrete issues, with more room for depth and with the possibility to participate in several different workshops.*

## Conclusion

The central conclusion was that the need for cooperation is felt at all levels.

The need for network cooperation from the field and for cooperation in platform from the government has approached each other. There is a need to strengthen, deepen and more efficient communication.

*At the end of the meeting, the results of the project Flying Team were presented to Fenna Ulichki, councillor for Green Left in Amsterdam, formerly very active in the field. She recalled how she raised the issue of abandonment within and outside the council, especially the practice of deregistration of women from the municipal register. Councillor of Amsterdam André van Es immediately committed herself to the matter, declared herself against the violation of human rights and expressed her will to end the practice of deregistration. Ms. Ulichki stressed the importance of the political pressure to limit the right to an independent right to shorten to one year, instead of extending to five years that is now before the government. As for the City of Amsterdam she outlined a policy including the mapping of the extent of the problem, a hotline for registration, stopping the deregistration from the GBA and the establishment of a task force. At the end she encouraged the audience by saying: it does matter. we do matter.*

## Sweden

### "A FLYING TEAM AGAINST VIOLENCE "

#### NATIONAL MEETING IN STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN 22/8/2012

### Program

13:00---13:30	Welcome and presentation of "A Flying Team against Violence" and the European report. Eduardo Grutzky, ALMAeuropa
13:30---13:50	The Turkish good practice: Domestic Violence Training Program: Raising Women Awareness of Domestic Violence and their Rights. Gülen Metin Coskun, Autonomous Women's Association (Bağımsız Kadın Derneği)
13:50---14:10	The German good practice: Papatya --- Anonymous Shelter and Counseling. Sara Kinsky, Papatya
14:10---14:30	Power Games --- What are they and what can we do about them? Sannie Wedberg, ALMAeuropa
14:30---15:00	Coffee break
15:00---15:20	The Cypriot good practice: Perspective: Peer Education Roots for School Pupils to Enhance Consciousness on Violence Against Women. Patricia Phaedonos, MIGS
15:20---15:50	Truth or Dare --- Preventive work with alcohol and narcotics. Sanna Mohr, ALMAeuropa
15:50---16:10	The Swedish good practice: Lgbt and honour. Andreas Wennblad, ALMAeuropa and RFSL Ungdom
16:10---16:30	Dilemma cards and dilemma exercises. Sanna Mohr and Sannie Wedberg, ALMAeuropa
16:30---18:00	Discussion, questions, the participants' evaluation, drinks and snacks.

## Report

### 1. ORGANISATIONAL INFORMATION

The national meeting in Sweden took place on the 22nd of August 2012 in central Stockholm. The program was designed to include the good practices of Turkey, Germany, Cyprus and Sweden from the Flying Team project as well as two additional tools for work with youth and preventive work taken from ALMAeuropa. The reason for this mix was that in our experience presenting projects on their own does not attract the Swedish audience in the same way as if the program is combined with very practical advice on how to implement and work with prevention on social issues.

The goal of the Swedish national meeting was to inspire practitioners in the first place, and in the second place to influence decision makers. In the Swedish context practitioners are very influential in the creation of national public policies and obviously their implementation. Decision makers routinely ask practitioners for input and advice on policy, thus, in this sense there is no great distance between the legislative and executive levels. However, sometimes local authorities change or challenge national policies that have been created by the two former groups. This is why we also wanted to have representatives from local authorities such as municipalities present. We were pleased to see that we succeeded in attracting participants from many different geographical regions in Sweden, such as Karlstad and Göteborg, many travelled far to join us.

In total there were 75 participants, and about 30 persons on our waiting list. The participants were youth workers, teachers, school principals, psychologists, police, NGOs working with HRV, county and municipality officials, women shelters and local politicians.

### 2. THE DISCUSSION

The open discussion with the participants that followed the presentations mainly focused on the legal framework of HRV in different European countries. For example one participant from a women's shelter proposed that HRV should be made a criminal offense in its own right. This offence should include spreading rumours in order to hurt or endanger another person, passing on information that you know will be harmful to another person etc.

Other questions were the structure of the financing for shelters and other projects working on HRV. All other countries envied the German situation with the lump sum financing. Many of the participants were very interested in Germany since the system there is somewhat similar to the Swedish one. One county official with whom ALMAeuropa met again after the national meeting will go to Berlin to study their work against HRV in her work with creating a county encompassing resource centre for HRV in the Stockholm area.

Another discussion point was how the Cypriot project had been so successful in gaining access to schools to conduct their program. In Sweden schools are often very reluctant to let NGOs come into them and do work during school hours.

The Turkish good practice inspired many and especially the team at ALMAeuropa who are thinking about developing a similar method of work, with meetings in the homes of women in some socially sensitive suburban areas to discuss violence but also to focus on economic independency.

One thread in the discussion and in the written comments by the participants was that many want more international exchange and cooperation. To many participants it was clear that we are all working towards the same goal and that we could share much more information between different European countries.

Below are some quotes from the written comments that we collected from the participants at the national meeting in Stockholm. We asked the following questions: What did you think about the European Good practices?, How do you work with HRV, forced marriages and abandonment today?, How do you think that we should work in the future?

#### QUOTES:

"Very interesting, good to see that change is being made. And that our work in different countries is quite similar."

"The international exchange feels more and more important, even necessary."

"I am happy to see that the question of HRV does not awaken such aggressive reactions as it did when I started to work."

"I think that we should work more to influence authorities on all levels."

"More cooperation between professions and more inclusion of NGOs."

"Organize more international meetings for exchanging experiences."

"Focus on work in schools with exercises on values."

### 3. REACTIONS AND ADDITIONS TO FACTORS OF SUCCESS

- More European and International exchange and cooperation on HRV, forced marriages and abandonment. More European cohesion so that the same projects are not invented over and over again.
- Clearer and more specific legal framework. Making HRV a crime in itself for example. To really consider the normative and preventive effects of the law, in the sense that it can be used against group pressure and change the mindset of generations to come.

### 4. THE NEXT STEPS (Implementation recommendations in organization/institutions/ concrete and suggestions for (joined) actions / activities for follow-up)

- ALMAeuropa has tentative plans of developing a project based on the Turkish good practice.
- The Stockholm county plans to visit Berlin to study their work with HRV, forced marriages and abandonment

## Annex 2. Address list project partners

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Netherlands centre  
for social development

informal care  
vulnerable groups  
volunteer effort  
domestic and sexual violence  
social cohesion

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**PAPATYA/TÜRKISCH-DEUTSCHER FRAUENVEREIN (GERMANY)**

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