

Gender Equality Awareness Raising against Intimate Partner Violence II

GEAR against IPV II

Country Report

*Intimate **P**artner **V**iolence (IPV) and
Sexual **V**iolence (SV) in adolescents:
preventive & supportive initiatives in
Cyprus*



Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS)

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Country Report

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Preface

This Country Report was developed in the context and for the purposes of the Project “**Gender Equality Awareness Raising against Intimate Partner Violence II**” (**GEAR against IPV II**).

The Country Report aims to map the preventive and supportive initiatives in Cyprus that have been set in place in order to prevent adolescents’ abuse as well as to support and protect adolescents who have already been exposed to any of the following types of violence:

- a) abuse by their dating/romantic/intimate partner
- b) sexual abuse by any person (partner or non-partner).

The GEAR against IPV Approach

The GEAR against IPV Approach started being implemented since 2009; more specifically it was initially implemented in 4 countries (Greece, Germany, Austria and Croatia) during 2009 – 2011 in the context of the Project “**Gender Equality Awareness Raising against Intimate Partner Violence**” (**GEAR against IPV**). During 2014-2016 it was implemented in 5 countries (Greece, Croatia, Cyprus, Romania and Spain) in the context of the GEAR against IPV II Project; both Projects were carried out with financial support from the DAPHNE III Programme of the European Union.

The **GEAR against IPV approach** is a coordinated action of **primary and secondary prevention of Intimate Partner Violence in adolescents’ relationships** through interventions in the school or in other settings, that are guided by specially designed educational material and are aimed at secondary school students’ awareness raising and empowerment by specially trained teachers.

The main aim is to promote the development of **healthy and equal relationships** between the sexes and the development of **zero tolerance towards violence** by raising teens’ awareness on:

- a) the characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships
- b) the influence that gender stereotypical attitudes and socially imposed gender roles have on their relationships
- c) how power inequality between the sexes is related to psychological, physical and/or sexual abuse against women/girls and
- d) how adolescents can contribute to the prevention of all forms of gender-based violence.

Given the fact that almost all children and adolescents attend school, the **educational system**, at all levels, is the ideal setting for such an effort, where properly trained teachers can play a key role in the implementation of such interventions targeting the general population. The need for implementing in schools interventions related to gender stereotypes and equality, as a means of primary prevention of gender-based violence it is, therefore, imperative.

The **GEAR against IPV approach** is a proposal for systematic intervention in the school (or other) setting, where girls and boys are invited, through a series of experiential activities, to assess but also challenge their culturally “inherited” gender stereotypes and to approach differences between sexes as individual differences rather than as characteristics of superiority of one sex over the other.

The GEAR against IPV Approach addresses

- **students** (12+ years old) of secondary education
- **adolescents** but also **young people** belonging to **high-risk groups** (e.g. have been exposed to intimate partner violence between their parents or experienced abuse and/or neglect during childhood)
- **secondary school teachers** and other **professionals** working in the school setting (e.g. psychologists, social workers)
- **professionals** and **organizations** that are active in the fields of health promotion and education, gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence, as well as to **professionals** who are providing services to adolescents belonging to high-risk groups
- **decision-making centers**, such as departments of Ministries of Education, and policy makers interested in promoting the integration of the GEAR against IPV intervention in secondary education’s curricula.

The GEAR against IPV Approach

- uses exclusively experiential activities through which, adolescents are not taught, but guided to explore their personal gender stereotypical attitudes and their impact to their own lives, to “discover” and to exercise life skills that will help them to develop healthy relationships, free from any form of violence
- allows access to the general population of children/adolescents, even in remote areas
- has already been implemented and evaluated, on a pilot basis, and appears to be effective in increasing adolescents’ knowledge and modifying their tolerant attitudes towards gender-based violence
- introduces gender equality in education as a violence prevention strategy, motivates and qualifies teachers with the necessary skills and the “know how” in order to implement such primary prevention interventions
- when integrated into the school curriculum, it enhances a) the preventive character of the intervention, as it conveys the message that schools and teachers do care about and take action towards gender equality and elimination of violence from adolescents’ relationships, and b) the sustainability of such interventions, as teachers comprise a permanent “task force” at schools and, therefore, they can implement such interventions on a permanent basis
- consists a precise fulfilment of Article 14 of the Council of Europe (2011) *Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence*. In this

article, that concerns education, it is clearly stated that such type of "teaching material on issues such as equality between women and men, non-stereotyped gender roles, mutual respect, non-violent conflict resolution in interpersonal relationships, gender-based violence against women and the right to personal integrity, adapted to the evolving capacity of learners" should be included not only "in formal curricula and at all levels of education", but also "in informal educational facilities, as well as in sports, cultural and leisure facilities and the media".

Main Activities of the GEAR against IPV Approach are

A. **Teachers' Training Seminars** aiming to:

- theoretical and experiential training of teachers on issues related to gender stereotypical attitudes, gender equality and gender-based violence in adolescents' relationships
- capacity building and skills development for the implementation and evaluation of the adolescents' awareness raising workshops in school or other settings
- development of skills related to identifying, handling and appropriate referring of cases of abuse of children and teens they may face.

B. **Adolescents' Awareness Raising Workshops "Building Healthy Intimate Relationships"**

Adolescents are offered, via experiential activities, the opportunity a) to assess and challenge –within a safe environment- their culturally “inherited” gender stereotypes and b) to explore the influence that gender stereotypical attitudes and socially imposed gender roles have on their relationships, as well as how power inequality between the sexes is related to violence against women and girls. Moreover, adolescents are provided with the necessary skills that will enable them to recognize –at an early stage- the unhealthy or even abusive characteristics of a relationship, and also empowered in ways that will enable them to create healthy relationships.

Therefore, the ultimate goal of the workshops is young people less tolerant towards IPV, more knowledgeable of the characteristics and consequences of gender-based violence and equipped with “protection skills” against intimate partner violence and other forms of gender-based violence, for both themselves and the people they know.

The long-term objective of the workshops is adolescents' relationships to be healthy and based on equality and mutual respect as, in such a relationship, the phenomenon of gender-based violence is impossible to occur.

For the achievement of the objectives of the GEAR against IPV approach, a complete educational material has been developed in order to support the organization, preparation, implementation and evaluation of teachers' training seminars and adolescents' awareness raising Workshops (in school or other settings), aiming to primary prevention of Intimate Partner Violence.

A **Master GEAR against IPV Package** -comprised of **a series of 4 booklets**- has been developed in such a way that it can be used by relevant organizations and professionals **as a**

model for the development of appropriately tailored and culturally validated National Packages for any country.

During the period from 2010 to 2015, **National Packages** have been developed and evaluated **for 7 EU Member States** (Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Romania and Spain) after translation, completion and cultural adaptation of the **Master Package**.

Introduction

The Cypriot society remains highly patriarchal as identified by a number of studies that point to the subordinate status of both Cypriot women and women of migrant background, as well as to the prevalence of rigid gender roles which contribute to maintaining this conservative gender order. The repercussions of this subordination are evident in all areas of life including in the severe underrepresentation of women in political and public life and the wide gender pay gap, as well as in the persistence of all forms of violence against women including domestic violence, rape and sexual assault.

There have been many positive developments with regard to increasing awareness and commitment towards preventing and combating violence against women – particularly domestic violence – in recent years. The improved legislative framework dealing specifically with family violence, the establishment of the Advisory Committee on Family Violence, and the adoption of a National Action Plan for the Prevention and Combating of Violence in the Family, have been positive developments.

However, the lack of systematic data collection and analysis impedes a true understanding of the extent of these crimes in Cyprus, and their root causes. Available statistics in Cyprus provide information only on incidences of domestic violence, specifically rape and sexual assault cases, reported to the police. Comprehensive data collection on all forms of violence against women, disaggregated by sex and age of victim and perpetrator, type of violence, relationship between victim and perpetrator, is urgently needed.

Insufficient data and research on intimate partner violence, dating violence and sexual violence also impedes informed analysis and policy making. The government's emphasis on domestic violence reveals a general lack of awareness and understanding on the scope and nature of violence against women, and worse it makes many of these crimes 'invisible'.

Reported rates of all forms of violence against women including domestic violence, rape and sexual assault, have risen dramatically in the last decade.

One of the biggest challenges in combating violence against women in Cyprus is that the current legislative framework and policies are designed to combat 'family violence' only. Violence in the family has dominated the political agenda on violence against women. This has been detrimental because the definition of violence in the family is gender neutral and does not recognize that women are the primary victims of such violence. As all public services work within this framework, as defined by law, there is a complete lack of a gender perspective in prevention and service provision. State services for the support and protection of victims of domestic violence are inadequate in responding to the victim's needs.

Cyprus also has one of the lowest conviction rates for domestic violence in Europe with high rates of victim attrition.

Chapter 1

Magnitude of the problem: Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and sexual violence (SV) in adolescents

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is recognized only within the context of violence in the family. The violence in the family (Prevention and Protection of Victims) Law 47 (I)/1994, replaced by Law 119(I)/2000, was later amended in 2004 by Law 212(I)/2004.

National data on the prevalence of IPV, dating and sexual violence (DV & SV) in adolescents is scarce and the only data available are those collected by the Police and the Association for the Prevention of Violence in the Family, the only NGO that provides services to victims of family violence including a shelter and a 24 hour hotline. Administrative data is available mainly in relation to violence in the family as well as rape and sexual assault. Police statistics/criminal statistics that include such data make it possible to describe the trend in reported violence against women, but do not give a true picture of the prevalence of violence against women in Cyprus. There is yet to be established a unified system of data collection amongst the relevant agencies.

Population based surveys on the prevalence as well as the effects of all forms of violence against women, including IPV, DV and SV, have recently been conducted that give additional information on the extent and impact of violence against women in Cyprus.

The lack of systematic analysis and research impedes a true understanding of the extent of these crimes in Cyprus and their root causes. Insufficient data and research also impedes informed analysis and policy making. Furthermore, other forms of violence against women and girls need to be addressed in Cyprus such as rape, honour-related violence, sexual assault, trafficking and prostitution. To date, no research or data has been collected on violence against women in migrant/minority communities.

The Police collect detailed data on the victim and the offender including ID, name, gender, age, and nationality, address, telephone number, employment status, profession, family status, number of children, educational level, and time living with victim (if applicable). Data is also collected on the relationship between offender and victim. The only data collected on the witness/person reporting the incident is the relationship with the victim. Data is available on the incident including date, geographical location, type of abuse, incident resulting in fatality. Despite this, only limited data is publicly available.¹

The criminal statistics produced by the Statistical Services provide data on sexual offences as these are categorized as 'serious crime'. Sexual offences include rape, attempt to commit rape, abduction, defilement of girls 13-17 years of age, unnatural offences, incest (violence in

¹ European Institute of Gender Equality, (2014). *Country Profile on Gender-based-Violence against Women: Cyprus*, p.9.

the family), and sexual exploitation of juveniles. Offenses against the person that fall under the category of violence within the family include 'causing grievous bodily harm' and 'Wounding and similar acts'.²

Data available reveals that reported rates of all forms of violence against women including domestic violence, rape and sexual assault, have risen dramatically in the last decade.

Violence in the Family

In relation to violence in the family, according to police statistics there were 6,161 reported incidents of domestic violence in the period 2004-2010, out of which 5,054 were reported by women/girls³. Criminal statistics collected by the Police show a general trend of increased reporting of violence in the family, with reported cases increasing from 719 cases in 2011 to 777 cases in 2013.⁴ Over this period, the large majority of cases have involved physical violence (72.7%), followed by psychological violence (24.5%) and sexual violence (2.6%). Cases of psychological violence have increased dramatically whereas physical and sexual violence have decreased somewhat.⁵ For the period 2004-2013 more than 30 murders of women have been documented.⁶

Statistics collected by the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Domestic Violence (APHVF) are particularly revealing. The call centre of the APHVF has answered 10,076 incidents of domestic violence for the years 2000-2011, of which 80% of the victims were women or 92.5% were women and children. The rise of incidents on violence against women that the APHVF has recorded between these 11 years is 120%.

In 2014, APHVF handled 1,636 cases reported and sheltered 72 persons. 84% of the victims were women and 80% of the perpetrators were men, 15% women and 2% minors. 17% of the perpetrators were victims of domestic violence themselves. In the 56% of the cases the perpetrator was the spouse or the intimate partner of the victim, and in the 12% of the cases the perpetrator was the ex-partner/ ex-spouse of the victim. 76% of the victims were co-habiting with the perpetrator. In 2014, the large majority of cases have involved 40% psychological violence, 52% psychological and physical violence, 6% psychological, physical, and sexual violence, and 1% sexual and psychological violence. One hundred ninety nine minors were victims of domestic violence in 2014, affected by psychological 42%, psychological and physical 7% and neglect 2%. 85% of the victims expressed that they experienced violence in the past and 28% experienced violence since very young age. In 2013, the number of reported cases was 1,684 and from which 82% of the victims were

² European Institute of Gender Equality, (2014). *Country Profile on Gender-based-Violence against Women: Cyprus*, p.10.

³ For more information visit www.familyviolence.gov.cy/upload/20120127/1327678127-23793.pdf.

⁴ Advisory Committee for the Prevention and Combating Violence in the Family website data: <http://www.familyviolence.gov.cy/upload/20140516/1400231541-07696.pdf>.

⁵ European Institute of Gender Equality, (2014). *Country Profile on Gender-based-Violence against Women: Cyprus*, p.11.

⁶ Data provided by the Cyprus Police upon request by MIGS.

women. Two hundred and ten children were victims of abuse. 79% of the perpetrators were men, 18% were women and 3% were underage.⁷

Most domestic violence reported and pursued through the judicial system is physical abuse, which is four times more reported than psychological abuse, while sexual abuse constitutes a fraction of the cases reported to authorities⁸. This suggests that it is more likely for cases of psychological abuse to be reported to the APHVF than the police. Anastasiou-Hadjicharalambous & Essau (2012), in discussing the few studies conducted on domestic violence in Cyprus, note that,

‘...a common observation of all of the above studies was that certain forms of violence are not recognized as such, it may well be that the extent of violence against children as well as adults in Cyprus might be much higher than what the reports indicate’.

Regarding homicides, the Cyprus Police Office for Serious Crime reports 20% of all homicide cases to be domestic, of which 85% of the perpetrators were men, and 15% were women, whereas, 64% of the victims were women and 36% were men.⁹ Where children are involved, they are often witness to and subject to much of this abuse, and there is a significant correlation between domestic violence and the mental, physical and sexual abuse of children¹⁰.

In 2012, the first national survey on the prevalence of domestic violence against women in Cyprus and its consequences on women’s health entitled “Extent, Frequency, Forms and Consequences of Domestic Violence against Women in Cyprus,” was carried out by the Advisory Committee for the Prevention and Combating of Domestic Violence with the support of the NMWR. A representative proportionate stratified sample of 3,973 households was randomly selected from each district (urban and rural areas) on the basis of the 2011 population census. The study was carried out with the use of a questionnaire that sought to capture the extent, the types and consequences of violent acts and behaviours against women by their husband /ex-husband or spouse/ ex-spouse, their knowledge on available services and people they refer to when violence is inflicted upon them. The questionnaire also included questions that aimed to collect information related to: a) characteristics of victims and perpetrators, b) reporting of violence and c) ways getting help after violent incidents. In total, 1,162 questionnaires were returned by post, of which after cleaning, 1,107 were valid.

The main findings of this survey are the following:

⁷ In High Levels The Rates Of Domestic Violence. Women, Children And Pregnant Victims Of Violence In Cyprus, *Phileleftheros Newspaper*, Saturday 28 February 2015 [<http://goo.gl/NY9XAA>].

⁸ Anastasiou – Hadjicharalambous, X. & Essau, C.A. (2012). The phenomena of violence and abuse in Cyprus. In Browne, M. A. (Ed). *Violence and abuse in society: Understanding a global crisis*. Santa Barbara, Calif: Praeger.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family (APHVF). Data available at: http://www.familyviolence.gov.cy/upload/publications/criminal_offence_yellow_en.pdf.

- (a) At least 28% of the women of the sample reported some kind of violence: economic violence: 19.4%, emotional/psychological violence: 19.3%, sexual violence: 15.5%, social violence: 14.8% and physical violence: 13.4%, while 3% of those women reported termination of pregnancy due to domestic violence.
- (b) 57% of those who reported having been victims of violence did not tell anybody about their abuse, only 30% of those asked for help, while only 9% received medical care.
- (c) 71% of women who reported that they have been victims of domestic violence are divorced, while 36% were elderly women.

According to the European-wide survey on violence against women carried out by the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), 22% of women in Cyprus have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a partner and/or a non-partner since the age of 15. More specifically in relation to IPV, 14% of women have experienced physical violence by a partner, 4% of women have experienced sexual violence by a partner, and 39% of women have experienced some form of psychological violence by a partner.¹¹

Sexual Violence

Incidents of sexual violence have risen in Cyprus, with 101 reported rapes between the years 2009-2011¹². Rape and sexual violence are among the most severely underreported forms of violence in Cyprus, as elsewhere in Europe. From the available figures one can also note that although there are variations year on year, there is a shocking trend of increased reporting rates over the last two decades. One hundred and seventeen rapes and 7 attempted rapes were reported from 2010 until 2013. Despite the increasing reporting rate there is a very low conviction rate for rape in Cyprus. *There are no rape helplines, rape crisis centres, or specialized resources for rape or sexual assault in Cyprus for either adults or adolescents.*

A cross-national survey (2008) of 1,850 girls aged 18-24 in Greece, Cyprus, Malta, Lithuania and Latvia found that between 10-16% of all respondents reported being subject to some form of unwanted sexual experience during a date including rape or attempted rape¹³. The same study demonstrated that many teenagers, the majority of which were girls, do not recognize psychological forms of violence within their intimate relationships (such as controlling behaviours or pressure to consummate a relationship) and consider these behaviours as 'normal'¹⁴. In another study conducted with 1668 adolescents in Cyprus a quarter of participants reportedly face psychological problems in relation to their intimate/sexual relationships, the majority of whom are girls. Many stated that they do not enjoy sexual

¹¹ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, (2014). *Violence Against Women: An EU Wide Survey, Main Results*. Publication Office of the European Union: Luxembourg.

¹² The Cyprus Police:

[www.police.gov.cy/police/police.nsf/All/93254FC38F3C8CA1C22579F40021BEFD/\\$file/sovaroeglimagr.pdf](http://www.police.gov.cy/police/police.nsf/All/93254FC38F3C8CA1C22579F40021BEFD/$file/sovaroeglimagr.pdf)

¹³ Mediterranean Institute for Gender Studies, (2008). *Date Rape Cases among Young Women: Strategies for Support and Intervention*, University of Nicosia Press: Nicosia. [http://goo.gl/6JFxi].

¹⁴ Ibid

intercourse¹⁵. Finally, a study undertaken in 2012 with 1000 Cypriot young adults (18-25 years old) exploring interpersonal relationships and violence, found that 70% of the participants had opinions and attitudes that are conducive to violence such as 'victim blaming', the belief that violence in relationships is a 'private' matter, and the belief that the use of violence is acceptable under certain circumstances, such as to 'correct' certain behaviours¹⁶. Taken together these findings indicate that attitudes conducive to gender based violence are normative amongst adolescents, girls bear the brunt of gender biased attitudes in general and within their intimate relationships, and that behaviours of gender violence are often considered acceptable.

A national study on date rape cases among young women in tertiary education in Cyprus aged 18-24, revealed that although the attempts of date rape (1.3%) and date rape cases (1.9%) percentages seemed to be small in this study, 12.2% of women who answered the questionnaire claimed to have had an 'unwanted sexual experience'. Of this number, the majority claimed to have given in to sexual acts due to overwhelming pressure by their partners and fear of their partners leaving them if they did not consent¹⁷. The inconsistency between the numbers of reported/attempted rapes with 'unwanted sexual experiences' could be due to young women not recognizing rape as such. This assumption is consistent with the focus groups discussions that were part of the study that demonstrated that young women still hold traditional beliefs that reinforce patriarchal attitudes toward women and sexuality. The focus group discussions confirm that gender stereotypes as well as societal expectations with regard to women and men's behaviour (gender roles) can contribute to an atmosphere where date rape is possible and indeed acceptable. What emerges is a picture of extensive abuse that affects many girl's and boy's lives, but is systematically underreported to the authorities¹⁸.

Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

The prevalence of child sexual abuse and exploitation in Cyprus is unknown, as there is no data on the matter. There are some indications that sexual abuse of children and adolescents does indeed occur through reports made to the various departments and services dealing with such issue, however, seeing as this phenomenon has not been adequately examined, there is a gap in our knowledge of the extent and content of sexual abuse of children and adolescents. In order to rectify this situation research is currently being carried out to determine the characteristics of sexual violence against children in Cyprus¹⁹.

¹⁵ Cyprus Youth Board and the Cyprus Institute of Reproductive Medicine, (2006). *Relationships and Sexuality of Youth*. Cyprus Youth Board: Nicosia. www.youthboard.org.

¹⁶ Andronikou, A., Erotokritou, K., & Hadjiharalambous, D., (2012). *First Pancyprian Survey: Violent Behavior in Interpersonal Relationships of Young Adults in Cyprus aged 18 – 25*. National Machinery for the Rights of Women: Ministry of Justice, Republic of Cyprus.

¹⁷ Mediterranean Institute for Gender Studies (2008). *Date Rape Cases Among Young Women and the Development of Good Practices for Support and Prevention*. University of Nicosia Press: Nicosia

¹⁸ Anastasiou – Hadjiharalambous & Essau, C.A. (2012). The phenomena of violence and abuse in Cyprus. In Browne, M. A. (Ed). *Violence and abuse in society: Understanding a global crisis*. Santa Barbara, Calif: Praeger.

¹⁹ Commissioner for Children's Rights, Cyprus (2014). *Position on the inquiry into the sexual abuse amongst underage children without having to acquire parental consent to involve them in the research* (2014, April 7). Nicosia. [www.childcom.org]

In a study for the APHVF utilizing a sample of 913 children aged 12 -18, 10% of the sample reported having experienced some form of sexual abuse, girls having experienced more severe forms relative to the boys.²⁰

The Commissioner for Children's Rights (CCR) in Cyprus has received complaints of sexual abuse of children by other children, therefore, it is important to note that although sexual abuse of children occurs mostly by adults, children themselves may be learning and adopting violent and coercive sexual behaviours which they exercise over other children. In 2013, after an incident of sexual violence against an adolescent girl by a group of adolescent boys was reported and became public, the Commissioner publicized her concern about such forms of violence, the gender dimension that characterizes such forms of violence, and the preventative measures which must be taken to eradicate it²¹. The Commissioner emphasizes that, according to the Lanzarote Convention²² for the protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse, education, especially sexuality education, is an absolutely essential preventative tool. In the context of her systematic meetings with a Young Advisors Team (comprised of children aged 13 – 17) , and within the context of a more general communication with children from all over Cyprus, the Commissioner receives information that shows the disappointment of adolescents who do not receive systematic or comprehensive sexuality education within the school system, and concludes that children seem to have a major lack of basic information about sexual abuse and exploitation of children/minors.

Due to the fact that often sexual exploitation of minors now occurs in cyberspace, it is important to provide some information on access and usage of the internet by Cypriot children. Statistics provided by the Cyberethics Cyprus Safer Internet Center within the scope of an EU survey (2010) of 9 to 16 year olds show that Cyprus placed first in Europe in the use of mobile phones for access to the Internet (39%) and access through their bedrooms (62%). 59% of children aged 9-16 have a profile in a social network platform putting Cyprus in the fifth place in Europe. In terms of disclosing vulnerable information, the data shows that the children that state their real address/telephone number online is the lowest in Europe (6%), but it is third in Europe on children putting a fake age on their profile.²³

In terms of exposure to sexual content, one quarter (24%) of Cypriot 9-16 year olds say that they have seen sexual images in the past 12 months, whether online or offline. This is close to the European average of 23%. As in Europe, the older children get, the more likely they will see sexual images, but in Cyprus this levels off by age 13-14. Therefore, we can safely say that the range of children who have been exposed to sexual content online is 13% of 9-10 year olds rising to 39% of 15-16 year olds. In terms of exposure to risk, 13% of Cypriot children have had contact online with someone they have not met face to face (a finding which is less

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Commissioner for Children's Rights, Cyprus (2013). *Position on the recent episode of sexual abuse of an underage girl by her underage peers* (2013, Oct 02). Nicosia. [www.childcom.org]

²² Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse: http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/children/default_en.asp.

²³ Siitta Achilleos, G. & Aristodemou, E., (2012). *Cyberethics GIII: Annual Report*. (Laouris, Y. Spyrou, I.; Eds.) Future Worlds Center (registered name: Cyprus Neuroscience & Technology Institute). [www.eukidsonline.net]

than half the European average of 30%), while 6% have gone to an offline meeting with someone first met online (this is two thirds the European average, which is 9% across all countries).²⁴

IPV among Adolescents

With regards to the manifestation of IPV among teenagers 14-17 year olds, face-to-face and online, a research carried out by the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (2014) has been particularly revealing. 79% (505 out of the 642) of the youth sample are currently or have been in a relationship (rises to 86% among 16-17 year olds). A very high use of new technologies: 99% receive texts/emails/instant messages; 86% send or receive videos/pictures, 94% use social networking sites. 13% of the youth sample has experienced domestic violence (3% physical) and 21% have been victims of bullying. 17% of the sample has been perpetrators of bullying and 40% with negative gender attitudes (gender stereotypes). Higher incidences of emotional rather than physical abuse were recorded. Forms of emotional abuse identified by the young participants were: jealousy, control, surveillance, isolation and threats. Almost 1 in 5 (18%) have experienced some form of sexual partner violence. There was higher incidence among 16 year olds, domestic violence victims, and young people with negative gender attitudes.

With regards to online violence among Cypriot youth the research has been particularly revealing. In the 71% of online abuse reported took place in 1 relationship, 28% in a few (2 or 3), in 30% of cases things got better. In 47% of the cases the violence stopped and in 22% violence stayed the same.

5.6% of girls and 15% of boys have sent sexual messages to their partner- during or after the relationship had ended. 13% of girls and 29% of boys have shared the sexual message of their partner. The majority (49%) claimed that they did it as a 'joke'.

With regards to the impact of experiences of online violence on young girls and boys, *59% of girls record negative impact only vs. 39% of boys, such as annoyed, embarrassed, angry, and upset. 19% of girls record positive impact only vs. 34% of boys, like love, wanted, protected.*

The above mentioned results are further complemented by the results from the qualitative research among young people. Young people consider offline and online control as 'normal', 'acceptable', 'justifiable', 'reasonable'. Jealousy is also perceived as a sign of love and caring', *"as a phase and it will pass", "as just a part of being in a relationship"*. It was also considered *"justifiable because they do the same thing back too 'it evens the score'".* 'Victim-blaming' which also observed in cases of face-to-face violence it was also observed when studying online violence: *'If you give him a reason, for example if you wear something short'*. Young

²⁴ Laouri, Y. & Aristodemou, E. (2013). *Risks and Safety for Children on the internet: the Cyprus report. Full findings from the EU Kids Online survey of 9 to 16 year olds and their parents.* Cyprus Neuroscience and Technology Institute: Nicosia
www.lse.ac.uk/media@lse/research/EUKidsOnline/ParticipatingCountries/PDFs/CY-CyprusReport.pdf

girls also expressed that *'It's ok to give your Facebook password or let him check your phone to show that you have nothing to hide'*.²⁵

Not surprisingly, the incidents of electronic harassment have shown a tremendous rise over the last few years. In 2009 the helpline of the safer Internet Centre CyberEthics had responded to *one* call involving electronic harassment incidents (cyber bullying), in 2011 to *six* calls, in 2012 to *nineteen* while in 2013 (up to September) incidents rose to *twenty-nine*. Posting degrading photos on the internet and their dissemination via mobile phone, creating blogs or profiles on social networking websites with deliberately incorrect content, sending threats/obscene and offensive content, and the publication of photographs or videos without the consent of the individual, are just a few of the usual internet bullying incidents reported. This poses a new set of challenges for the multiple stakeholders working to make the internet safer for children in Cyprus.

Men are more likely to engage in risky behaviours on the internet. Women are more commonly invited to go out by strangers. 27.1% of Cypriot youth have been victims of cyber violence, whilst, women and students of age 23-25 were more likely to experience cyber violence. The main form of electronic harassment was annoying and constant phone callings or being humiliated, gossiped or offended via text messages, social media and chatting sites. Young women experienced concerns about their safety, whereas men experienced concerns related to online activities which harm their "social status" and reputation. Young women's feelings of worry, fear, anger, and vulnerability following cyber violence, are associated with their perceived safety, integrity and dignity, whereas young men's feelings of disgust, nervousness, and shame, are associated with the impact of online activities of violence on their "social status" and reputation. Students seem to react properly after an attack by blocking the person who put them at risk and change personal settings, but they rarely confide to their parents, especially men (only 5.9%) or call a helpline dedicated to such issues. Specific situations, such as text messages with sexual content, or invitation by strangers do not seem to be considered as cyber violence by the participants²⁶.

Aggressors are more likely to be males and older students (21-25 years old); from the survey population 42.9% admitted that they had engaged in some kind of cyber violence at least once. The main form of cyber violence performed was to humiliate, gossip or offend somebody, and to assume a fake identity, mainly via text messages and social media networks. Recent surveys conducted by internet safety organizations²⁷ show that more than 50% of adolescents experience some form of cyber bullying. Many times, it begins as early as age nine. In the teen years, cyber bullying usually accompanies some form of sexual harassment.

²⁵ Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies, (2014). *STIR: Safeguarding Teenage Relationships: Connecting Offline and Online Risks* (unpublished country report) [<http://goo.gl/qEJeyk>].

²⁶ Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (2014), *Staying Safe Online: Gender and Safety on the Internet*.

²⁷ Safer Internet: Cyberethics: <http://www.cyberethics.info/cyethics1>.

Chapter 2

Identification of adolescents suffering IPV and SV

In Cyprus there are no policies/procedures implemented with the aim to identify adolescents who are being/were abused by their dating/romantic/intimate partner or had been/are being sexually abused by any person (partner or non-partner). There are no routine screening processes in place implemented at all schools or a screening process that is implemented in hospitals / emergency departments, whenever a child/adolescent is presented with a bodily injury.

Only self-reported cases are identified, although there are no concrete or systematic self-reported processes to be followed. e.g. what are the steps that a teen who suffers any of the aforementioned types of abuse (or a person who cares about her/him) has to follow in order to ask for help (protection and/or support).

At the moment there is not a policy or procedures implemented, or a common structure/mechanism in Cyprus where an adolescent victim of IPV/ DV/ SV can report a case and receive multidisciplinary support and protection. Self-reported cases usually end up in NGOs and other support Organizations mentioned in chapter 3.1.

Having in mind that Cyprus has a strong legislative framework to combat violence in the family; the specific form of gender-based-violence has dominated the policy and practice overshadowing other forms such as DV/IPV/SV. Therefore there are no clear procedures through which any professionals are mandated to report any identified, suspected or self-reported case of abuse (DV/IPV/SV) against an adolescent (or a child).

With regards to the identification of domestic violence victims, 35(A) of the Violence in the Family Laws 2000 & 2004 states that,

*“Any person who omits to report a case of violence against a minor or a person having severe mental or psychological deficiencies, which came to his knowledge, shall commit an offence and in case of conviction, shall be liable to imprisonment up to two years or to a fine up to one thousand pounds or to both such penalties”.*²⁸

Furthermore, in order to monitor the phenomenon and to be able to design policy programmes, the law services introduced mandatory reporting of all child abuse and domestic violence cases in 1998. All involved agencies must report every case within 7 days to the Attorney General's Office.

²⁸ Violence in the Family Laws 2000 & 2004, Cyprus:
http://www.familyviolence.gov.cy/upload/legislation/laws_2000_and_2004_en.pdf .

The Manual of Interdepartmental Procedures for the handling of domestic violence describes in detail the process by which violence in the family should be handled in public schools.²⁹ In each public school (Primary and Secondary Education) a group is established entitled "Prevention Group on Prevention and Handling of Domestic Violence in School" (Violence Prevention Group). The Group is responsible for identifying, treating, handling incidents of violence in the family and to prevent such cases, through the introduction of programs or other activities within the school. The information given in the Group of people or social welfare services is considered to be confidential and shall be handled in the strictest confidence. In Secondary Education the Group consists of:

- Head Master or Assistant Head Master
- School Counsellor (Group Leader)
- Educational Psychologist of the school
- Officer school health service (Health Visitor or School Doctor).

According to the manual of inter-departmental procedures for combating domestic violence, when a child reports an incident of domestic violence/abuse to the school the procedure to be followed by the person who received the report is:

- To ensure the child that reporting the incident(s) is a positive step.
- To pay close attention to the child and take note of any disclosure made.
- To report the incident to the Group Leader of the Violence in the Family Prevention Group, who is expected to inform the Group members who will then cooperate to address the case.
- To record any important information such as date, time, and place of the incident, as well as, the name of any person that may have seen, heard, or witnessed the incident.
- To observe and record any information regarding the physical status of the child.
- To inform the child that the Group Leader of the Violence in the Family Prevention Group will be informed as well as the Family Counsellor of the Social Welfare Services, and that there might be a need for a medical examination and filing a report to the Police.

In any case that a child reports an incidence of violence in the family to a member of the school, the case must be reported to the Group Leader of the Violence in the Family Prevention Group. When the perpetrators are parents and the only person that can accompany the child is the Family Counsellor, it is recommended that the child is accompanied by a relative, or member of the school. The parents are informed by the Family Counsellor.

²⁹ Advisory Committee on Preventing and Combating Violence in the Family, (2002) Interdepartmental Procedures Manual on Handling cases of Violence in the Family.
[http://www.familyviolence.gov.cy/upload/downloads/egxeiridio_diatmimatikon_diadikasion_200206.pdf]

Chapter 3

Protection of adolescents suffering IPV and SV (tertiary prevention)

In Cyprus there are significant gaps in policy and practice in dealing with intimate partner violence. As discussed in the previous chapter, there is no policy/process/protocol for the steps that have to be followed when an adolescent experiencing IPV/DV/SV is identified (self-reported) aiming to protect and/or support her/him. There are no clear guidelines on how to best deal with incidences of teenage intimate partner violence, which relevant State services need to be involved, and how the victim can be best protected and supported.

As previously mentioned, the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection of Victims) Laws of 2000 and 2004 provide for special interdepartmental procedures for handling domestic violence cases involving various government departments. However, there are many gaps reported by relevant authorities with regard to adequate inter-agency support.

There are a number of circulars issued by the Ministry of Education and Culture in an effort to address various types of violence affecting issues. With a circular entitled "Violence in the Family: Handling procedures, preventive action and information," the Ministry of Education and Culture recalls the mandatory, rigorous and strict implementation of all the directives recommended below. The circular provides legal information as well as steps in addressing incidents and referral services. The Ministry of Education and Culture also issued a circular on "Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children and Child Pornography" which informs the educators about the legislation and ways to report (mandatory) such incidents. With regards to the treatment and management of bullying incidents, the Ministry of Education and Culture issued another circular to all schools informing educators of the state obligations deriving from the Convention of Children's Rights. By ratifying the Convention (Cyprus 2006), "the state is committed as a child has the right to education, which should be directed towards personality development, in fostering respect for basic human rights and preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society" states the circular. The school environment is reduced to a very important factor to ensure a spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, gender equality and friendship (Articles 28-29). In particular, regarding bullying relating to possible sexual abuse / exploitation of children, in physical or electronic space need to be reported and instructions for reporting are given in the circular on "Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children and Child Pornography". The circular on the "Treatment and Management of Bullying Incidents" provides basic management principles of cases of bullying, and the stages of incident management.

More importantly, the Ministry of Education and Culture is currently preparing procedures on Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children which will be disseminated to schools and educators when completed.

The Ministry of Education and Culture, the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute and the Programme Development Office published in 2014 a Code of Conduct against Racism which also includes guidelines for managing and reporting racist incidents in the school environment. The Code has been distributed to all schools in Cyprus.

Information services, psychological support and protection are available through helplines led by NGOs in collaboration with the Cyprus Police (specifically the Office of Child Abuse and Family Violence, and the Electronic Crime Unit).

In Cyprus, according to the STIR survey (2015) and local consultations with experts, interventions in the field of intimate partner violence among teenagers are primarily focused on prevention and awareness-raising whilst interventions remain relatively weak.

3.1. Support Services for adolescents

With regards to support service provision to teenagers, there are few government services that can offer victims support. Instead, NGOs fill this gap in service provision, providing psychological support through their helplines. Also, awareness-raising campaigns take place in an ad-hoc and piecemeal manner, lacking systematic and joined-up approaches. Therefore, an adequate support “system” working within a systematic and holistic framework is not existent, in order to provide support services to adolescents with experiences of IPV/DV/SV.

Cyprus has few youth friendly services, thus, young people are exposed to lack of access and lack of knowledge, since Sexuality Education was only just implemented in the school system in 2011-2012. Prevention activities in schools take place usually as initiatives of NGOs in collaboration specific educators and/or schools. NGOs have been lobbying the government and the Ministry of Education to take action with regards to incorporating comprehensive sexuality education in the educational curriculum at all levels of education.

Here follows a description of existing organizations offering services to adolescents and those offering services also to other groups (adults and/or children). The services are provided to both sexes as the existing organisations working in the field of violence in the family apply the legislation which is gender neutral.

In Cyprus there are several helplines operated by non-governmental organizations or institutions providing support and information on topics of concern to adolescents, such as drug abuse, relationships, cyber-violence and domestic violence. The Cyprus Family Planning Association (CFPA) has a free Helpline for Sexuality issues (1455). The Cyprus Youth Board (CYB) has a free support and counselling line for general youth issues (1410).

Youth information centres, through the CYB, operate according to European standards and provide young people with general information and advisory services on matters that interest them. Information is provided in printed and electronic form, and through activities. At the same time, some centres house a program called "Protasi", where consultants provide

consultative support to young people, couples and families on a variety of topics. Prevention centres of the CYB operate in Limassol, Nicosia and Larnaca, with the goal of development of psychosocial skills, strengthening of protective factors and reduction of risk factors relating to substance use and harmful behaviours. These services are offered free of charge. However, there is not information as to whether their services cover IPV/DV/SV in a systematic way or at all.

In Cyprus, there is not a unified code of operation with regards to parental consent. In the case of domestic violence, according to the Manual of Interdepartmental Procedures on Violence in the Family when the perpetrators are the parents of the child then their consent is not obligatory for the case to be reported. The child is accompanied by the family counsellor (social welfare services) or by a relative or member of the school.

In terms of clinical and medical services, the Ministry of Health operates a sector entitled Mental Health Services for Children and Adolescents, from 1990. Services are provided to children and adolescents up to 17 years of age with various psycho-emotional and psychosocial difficulties, and counselling on parenting issues for parents. Children and adolescents are referred for inpatient treatment/hospitalization from other government sectors once problems are manifest and interfere with functionality³⁰. Youth friendly preventative/counselling services for sexual health are not available through the public sector, and, it is difficult to evaluate the extent to which private clinics and physicians are youth-friendly. There is no evidence of a unified code of practice; we can assume that whether a service would be youth-friendly is subject to the sensitivity of the individual medical practitioner. Affordability of services to youth is rarely, if at all taken into account, as clinics tend to have fixed prices. This can be especially difficult for youth, since prices in private medical clinics are generally considered high.

In many cases, due to the refusal of either one or both parents, children are denied access to counselling services. The Commissioner for the Protection of the Rights of the Child has made a public statement on the issue, acknowledging the seriousness of the lack of youth friendly services and access to those. A large number of complaints have been received by the Commission, regarding cases of children who are in need of psychological support and/or recovery, but, due to the refusal of one or both parents are denied access to such services. The Commissioner states that there is a degree of legal uncertainty which leads to the violation of children's rights, and concludes that children need to have access to counselling services, provided that they are necessary for their safety and wellbeing. The decision whether counselling will be dependent on parental consent should be made according to the age and maturity of the child and certainly in accordance with the principle of safeguarding the interests of the child, as determined and related to the child's right to participation and the right to survival and development.³¹

³⁰ Republic of Cyprus. Ministry of Health (MoH).

[http://www.moh.gov.cy/MOH/MHS/MHS.nsf/index_gr/index_gr?OpenDocument]

³¹ Commissioner for Children's Rights (2014). *Position on the Right of the Child to Access Counseling Services of the Cyprus Youth Board Without Parental Consent* (2014, July 1). www.childcom.org.cy.

Services Contacts Cyprus

- **Safer Internet Centre /CyberEthics**
Hotline: 2267 4747
Email: reports@cyberethics.info
Helpline: 7000 0116
Email: helpline@cyberethics.info
<http://www.cyberethics.info>
- **Cyprus Helplines – mobile application!**
The Cyprus Youth Board established the Cyprus Helplines application for smartphones, in the framework of the Cyprus Helplines Network.
 1. Just enter the Google Play Store from your smartphone.
 2. Look for the “Cyprus Helplines” application!
- **Helpline for Children and Teenagers**
Led by the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family in collaboration with “Hope For Children” UNCRC Policy Centre (HFC)
Helpline: 116111
Chat: <http://call116111.com/chat>
Website: <http://www.call116111.com/>
European Hotline for Disappeared children: **116000**
- **Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Office- Cyprus Police**
Helpline 199 or 22808442
- **Prevention Section of the Cyprus Youth Board**
Helpline: 1410
Online Counselling
www.preventionsection.org.cy/symvouleftiki.asp
- **Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family**
Helpline: 1440
Email: domviolence@cablenet.com.cy
<http://www.domviolence.org.cy>
- **Cyprus Family Planning Association**
Tel: 22751093
Helpline: 1455
Email: info@cfpa.org.cy
<http://www.cyfamplan.org>
- **Commissioner for the Rights of the Child**
The Commissioner for Children's Rights is an independent institution dedicated to safeguarding the rights of the child and whose powers and duties are defined by law.
Phone: 22873200, website: childcom@ccr.gov.cy
- **Office of the Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights**
Tel: +357 22 405500 / 501
Fax: +357 22 672881
E-mail: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.cy
- **Social Welfare Services/ Districts**
Nicosia 22406709
Limassol 25804535

Larnaca 24800101
Paphos 26306240
Paralimni 23821551
Morfou 22870582
Evrichou 22870582

- **Hospitals/ First Aid**
Emergency Aid 112
- **Citizen's Line/ Cyprus Police**
Helpline 1460

3.2. Legal Measures

General legal provision against Gender-based violence against women

There is currently no general legal provision against gender-based violence against women in Cyprus.

Norms and stereotypes underpinning gender-based violence against women (and girls)

No legal provision.

Violence in intimate relations (IPV)

IPV is recognized only within the context of violence in the family. The violence in the family (Prevention and Protection of Victims) Law 47 (I)/1994, replaced by Law 119(I)/2000, was later amended in 2004 by Law 212(I)/2004. The Law inter alia condemns any act of violence within the family, raises substantially the penalties for violence, provides protection to victims mainly by empowering the Court to issue restraining orders, clarifies that rape can be committed within marriage, facilitates the reporting of violent incidents, provides for the appointment of Family Counsellors, the setting up of the Advisory Committee to monitor the implementation of the Law, the taking of testimony of victims of violence by electronic means, the protection of victims and witnesses and makes the spouse a compellable witness.³²

According to the Violence in the Family (Prevention and Protection of Victims) Laws, violence in the family “means any act, omission or behaviour which causes physical, sexual or mental injury to any member of the family by another member of the family and includes violence used for the purpose of having sexual intercourse without the consent of the victim as well as of restricting its freedom.” ‘Member of the family’ can refer to, husband and wife who have been legally married, whether the marriage still exists or not, or cohabiting partners; the parents of the cohabiting spouses; the children and/or grandchildren of cohabiting partners and their parents; or any person residing with the aforementioned persons. Violence between

³² Cyprus.Statistical capacities. Administrative data sources, p. 3

homosexual couples is not recognized. The Law also clarifies that rape can be committed within marriage.

According to article 35(A), any person who omits to report a case of violence against a minor or a person having severe mental or psychological deficiencies, which came to his or her knowledge, commits an offence. Thus, public officers of the Ministries of Health, Education, Justice and Public Order and Labour and Social Insurance have a mandatory duty to report to the Attorney General's Office any referrals regarding concerns, suspicions or evidence of family violence including VAW.³³

Thus family violence is broadly defined and the law uses gender neutral language. However, the defilement or attempted defilement of girls under the age of 16 carry are considered particularly serious and carry increased sentences. The Law also specifically recognizes children witness of violence as direct victims of said violence. Furthermore, marital rape is recognized in the law as a gender-specific offence by a husband toward his wife.

Rape/sexual violence

Rape, including marital rape, is punishable by law with a maximum sentence of life in prison while for attempted rape with 10 years in prison. The Violence in the Family Law L. 47(I)/1994 recognises rape within marriage. Punishments for rape and other sexual offences defined by Cyprus Criminal Law are very strict on paper but in reality very few cases of rape proceed for trial.

Section 144 of the Criminal Code CAP.154 defines rape as,

“Any person who has unlawful carnal knowledge of a female, without her consent, or with her consent, if the consent is obtained by force or fear of bodily harm, or, in the case of a married woman, by impersonating her husband, is guilty of the felony termed rape.” Section 145 of the Criminal Code CAP. 154 states that “Any person who commits the offence of rape is liable to imprisonment for life.”

Section 146 of the Criminal Code CAP. 154 states that “Any person who attempts to commit rape is guilty of felony, and is liable to imprisonment for ten years.”

Section 153 of the Criminal Code CAP. 154 (“Defilement of girls under thirteen (13) years of age”) states that “(1) Any person who unlawfully and carnally knows a female under the age of thirteen (13) years is guilty of a felony and is liable to imprisonment for life” and “(2) Any person who attempts to have unlawful carnal knowledge of a female under the age of thirteen (13) years is guilty of a misdemeanour and is liable to imprisonment for three years.”

³³ Cyprus National Report on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000), (2014). Nicosia, p. 23. [http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national_reviews/cyprus_review_beijing20.ashx]

Section 154 of the Criminal Code CAP.154 'Defilement of girls between thirteen (13) and sixteen (16) years of age', states that "Any person who unlawfully and carnally knows or attempts to have unlawful carnal knowledge of any female person of, or above, the age of thirteen (13) years and under the age of sixteen (16) years is guilty of a misdemeanour."

Section 151 of the Criminal Code CAP.154 on 'Indecent assault on females' states that "Any person who unlawfully and indecently assaults any female is guilty of a misdemeanour".

Section 147 of the Criminal Code CAP.154 on 'Incest', states that "Any male person who has carnal knowledge of a female person, irrespective of whether with the consent or not of such female person, who is to his knowledge his granddaughter, daughter, sister or mother shall be guilty of the offence of incest and shall be liable to imprisonment for seven years."

Stalking

Harassment (outside the workplace), and stalking is not recognized is not referred to in national law.

Trafficking in women and prostitution

Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Protecting its Victims, was recently transposed into national law, with Law L.60(I)/2014.

Particularly, the implementation of a new legislation (L 60(I)/2014), broadens the definition of human trafficking as:

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or reception or sheltering of persons, including the exchange or transfer of control over those persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Of pivotal importance is the fact that legislation L 60(I)/2014 include a provision, which penalises 'the exploitation of a person for the commission of any criminal offense.' Therefore, the crime of human trafficking is no longer restricted to sexual/labour exploitation, and human organ transplantation, but to any activity penalised by the local criminal code.

This Law includes, inter alia, the criminalisation of the use of services provided by trafficking victims, upon reasonable assumption.

It also has special provisions for children, including unaccompanied minors and child pornography.

On 9 March 2012, a new amending Law came into force. It provides, inter alia, the increase of NGOs participating in the Multidisciplinary Coordinating Group against Trafficking in Human

Beings (MCG), as it is believed that cooperation with NGOs and their knowhow is fundamental in developing effective anti-trafficking policies and strategies.

Cyprus ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (16 May 2005) with the Law 87 (I)/2007 which entered into force on 1 February 2008.

The arrangement of electronic communications and postal services law-112 (I)/2004 Article 6

(a) a person who sends through a public communications network, message, or anything else, which is flagrantly offensive or obscene or threatening nature, or

(b) sends by a public communications network, with the intent of causing annoyance, harassment and/or undue concern to another person, message, which knows that is false and/or uses persistently for the above purpose of public communications network, is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a penalty not exceeding EUR 1700.

Therefore, electronic harassment or cyber violence concerning children and young adults is not considered a criminal offence and is not prosecuted by law.

General policy framework on violence against children.

The general policy framework and legislation in Cyprus is addressing violence against children.

Children's' rights

The Cyprus government has ratified the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, hitherto mentioned as 'CRC') as well as the majority of human rights instruments within the framework of the United Nations and the Council of Europe. The incorporation of the Convention on the Rights of Child into the Republic's municipal law is stated in Law 243 of 1990. An important step in this direction was the establishment of the Institution of the Commissioner for the Protection of the Rights of the Child in 2007, which in itself is evidence of the political will to ensure respect of children's rights by establishing an independent national monitoring authority.

However, it is often the case that the principles derived from international human rights instruments are often not mainstreamed into national legislation, and as a result, their effective implementation is deficient. As stated in the *'Report of the Commissioner for Children's Rights to the UN Committee On The Rights Of The Child' (September 2011)*: various gaps have been noted in relation to *'the incorporation of international human rights instruments into national legislation and their recognition and respect in practice and their full implementation through practical measures that will make a difference to the lives of children in Cyprus'*. The legislative measures adopted so far have been largely the result of obligatory harmonization with European Union law, such as the directives in the fields of asylum, migration and trafficking in human beings, transposing to the minimum the relevant provisions to children rights. Moreover, co-ordination between the various stakeholders seems to be lacking, due to

lack of appropriate instruments and/or bodies that will allow successful communication between different public sector agencies, or collaboration between the public sector, the private sector and the civil society. It is worth noting the low involvement of NGOs as consultative bodies in the drafting of policies and as stakeholders in the development and implementation of National Strategies and National Action Plans. NGOs will participate to some degree in decision-making, but otherwise the structures in the Cypriot State are such that there is very little room for them to have any serious impact the drafting of policy and policy delivery.

There is little information dissemination with regards to mechanisms and institutions that operate in the field of children's rights and child protection. Services to children are not particularly well advertised and thus children are not generally exposed to mechanisms that are dedicated to their protection. Consequently, children and their parents/carers are often unaware as to where they can turn to for help. Even though a series of informative campaigns on children's rights have taken off on behalf of the Commissioner of Children's rights during 2012, and publicity of relevant services has been enhanced to some extent, there is still considerable room for improvement in in this respect.

The fact that all governmental institutions work through a policy framework (and taking into account that in some cases policies are either lacking or inadequate) often limits the scope of services provision to children by the State. Non-governmental stakeholders are often called to fill this gap and this has been a traditional feature of Cyprus in the field of child protection given the small size of the country and the family oriented structure of such organizations. It is quite customary that NGOs will handle serious issues regarding violations of children's rights, such as child abuse (including bullying), sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children, delays in the delivery of justice, and in setting a clear agenda on what constitutes in Cypriot law and practice "the best interests of the child"³⁴. NGOs usually deliver these services through the implementation of a variety of projects and through awareness raising campaigns, advocacy, advisory services to government bodies, educational conferences, workshops to children, teenagers, parents and educators and also dissemination of information on EU laws and policies on safeguarding children's rights. Nevertheless, in the gap of a clear and comprehensive policy framework, activities implemented by NGOs remain ad-hoc, often implemented in a piecemeal manner and reaching specific target audiences only.

Protection of children against all forms of violence

According to the CRC, Article 19, children have the right to be protected from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child. In Cyprus, in all legal frameworks, laws and policies a child is defined as a person under the age of 18 years.

³⁴ Hope for Children: *'Recommendation to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child'*, 2012

Even though there have been some efforts to review the current law framework on the Welfare, Care and Protection of Children, which would modernize the relevant laws to come up to international and European standards, this revision and modernization is still pending, leaving some situations of violence against children unregulated. For instance, according to the Commissioner's Report to the UN³⁵, in relation to corporal punishment, there is no legal certainty as to its prohibition in all situations. Section 54 of the Children's Law, which prohibits any form of cruelty against children under sixteen specifically provides that these provisions may not be construed as affecting '*the right of any parent or teacher or any person having the lawful control or charge of the child to administer punishment on him/her*'.

Moreover, despite legislation prohibiting discrimination on various grounds (through the ratification of the Protocol 12 of the European Convention of Human Rights), there are numerous sector specific laws relating to children and young people which do not incorporate the general principle of non-discrimination. What appears to be challenging is the practical implementation of this principle, especially on school grounds. The fact that bullying, intimidation, and school-based violence are on rise (starting at kindergarten level) only confirms this fact. Moreover, as per the Commissioner's report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, racially motivated violence against children of different communities or ethnic background, colour and religion has reached worrisome levels. This raises serious concerns about the effectiveness of the measures taken to tackle racism and xenophobia and calls for a re-evaluation of policies, administrative practice and measures taken to tackle it.

Violence against women (and the girl child)

One of the biggest challenges in combating violence against women in Cyprus, including young women, is the fact that the current legislative framework and policies are designed to combat 'family violence' only.

Notably, Cyprus has a strong and very comprehensive legislative framework to combat family violence. A National Action Plan for the Prevention and Combating of Violence in the Family has also been in place for the period 2010-2013, including the development of Interdepartmental Procedures, which provides a framework for the cooperation of relevant departments in combating family violence. However, the system put in place for handling cases of domestic violence still faces many challenges. State services for the support and protection of victims of domestic violence do not adequately respond to the victims' needs, including children victims of domestic violence. From complaints submitted to the Commissioner of Children's rights, it is evident that the implementation of the said legislation lacks in coherence, a truly multidisciplinary approach and an effective protection of domestic violence victims³⁶. Moreover, it appears to be a gap in experience and expertise of the front line service providers, mainly due to the lack of systematic training, as well as the high mobility rate primarily among social workers. Interagency cooperation is also weak.

³⁵ Report Of The Commissioner For Children's Rights In Cyprus To The UN Committee On The Rights Of The Child: Supplementary Report To The 3rd And 4th Periodic Report Of Cyprus, (2011).

³⁶ Report Of The Commissioner For Children's Rights In Cyprus To The UN Committee On The Rights Of The Child: Supplementary Report To The 3rd And 4th Periodic Report Of Cyprus, (2011).

Violence in the family has dominated the political agenda, overshadowing other forms of violence against women in terms of policy and practice. Moreover, the definition of violence in the family is gender neutral, resulting in women not being recognized as the primary victims of such violence and disguising the gendered power relations at stake in violence against women. As all public services work within this framework, as defined by law, there is a complete lack of a gender perspective in prevention and service provision.

Intimate partner violence (IPV), rape and sexual assault, are seldom present in public and political discourse. Similarly, there are no policies specifically targeting violence against migrant women or women with disabilities. In relation to trafficking in human beings, even though there have been increased efforts by the state to combat trafficking, there are no specific policies in place regarding the trafficking of minors, despite the fact that a Law on Combating Trafficking and Exploitation of Human Beings and Protection of Victims [Law 87(I)/2007] was passed in 2007. The 2007 Anti-Trafficking Law protects children against child pornography and child sexual abuse through prostitution, since a large number of trafficked persons are minors.

Sexual Abuse and sexual exploitation of children

As per the ratification of Convention on the Rights of the Child, all children need to be protected from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Specifically, Article 34 of the convention states that *‘for these purposes, States Parties shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent: (a) The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity; (b) The exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices; and (c) The exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.*

In addition to the ratification of the CRC, the Law on Combating Trafficking and Exploitation of Human Beings and Protection of Victims that was passed in 2007 includes provisions on the sexual exploitation of minors and child pornography. However, despite the presence of these laws, there is no National Strategy or Plan of Action towards combating the sexual abuse and exploitation of minors. Moreover, following a recommendation by the Commissioner of Children’s rights, the competent Minister of Labour and Social Insurance has yet to proceed with setting up a National Committee which would bring together all relevant stakeholders in fighting sexual abuse and exploitation of children³⁷.

However, the increasing number of cases of sexual exploitation of children (including the use of children in online pornographic material) raises questions as to whether existing legislative and institutional frameworks are adequately successful in protecting children against sexual exploitation. The lack of any available data is of serious concern. According to Stella Kyriakides, General Rapporteur on Children of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE),

³⁷ Report Of The Commissioner For Children’s Rights In Cyprus To The UN Committee On The Rights Of The Child: Supplementary Report To The 3rd And 4th Periodic Report Of Cyprus, (2011).

“in order to assess the situation in Cyprus, we have to review the existing methodologies, modalities and structures for data collection on child sexual abuse. Without accurate data we cannot guarantee that policy recommendations for legislative and institutional reforms are successful”³⁸.

On 15 November 2011 the Council of the European Union adopted the Directive 2011/92/EU (presented by the European Commission in 2010), aimed at combating sexual abuse and exploitation of children as well as child pornography, with the aim of replacing the Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA. The new Directive follows the Lanzarote (Spain), October 2007 Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse and covers actions on criminal law, new forms of sexual abuse and exploitation facilitated by the use of the Internet, offences committed in a non-EU member state, protection of victims particularly in relation to easy access to legal remedies, and prevention measures. The EU Directive 2011/92 also penalizes ‘grooming’ stating that:

‘Solicitation of children for sexual purposes is a threat with specific characteristics in the context of the Internet, as the latter provides unprecedented anonymity to users because they are able to conceal their real identity and personal characteristics, such as their age’.

The Directive has been transposed into national law.

Cyprus has also ratified the *Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse* (Lanzarote Convention)³⁹, which was signed on 25th October 2007 by the Republic of Cyprus (1st June 2015). The Lanzarote Convention is the most advanced and comprehensive legally binding instrument at international level on the protection of children⁴⁰ against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, whoever the perpetrator may be, and of providing assistance to victims. Article 23 of the Convention specifically criminalizes the solicitation of children for sexual purposes (“grooming”). This Article reflects the increasingly worrying phenomenon of children being sexually harmed in meetings with adults whom they had initially encountered in cyberspace, specifically in Internet chat rooms or game sites.

Young people lack awareness in terms of recognizing acts of sexual abuse, often experience difficulty to react in such situations and are unaware of which authorities are responsible in such cases or what their role and responsibilities are.⁴¹ Even though there have been efforts to introduce sexual abuse as one of the objectives of Health Education in the school curriculum, the public school education system does not seem to be sufficient enough in providing children

³⁸ Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/News/News-View-EN.asp?newsid=4690&lang=2&cat=133>.

³⁹ Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention). [http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/children/Text_Convention_en.asp]

⁴⁰ Ibid, Article 3 (a), “child” shall mean any person under the age of 18 years.

⁴¹ Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies, (2011). *Youth4Youth: Empowering Young People in Preventing Gender-based Violence through Peer Education Attitudes on Gender Stereotypes and Gender-based Violence among Youth* Country report: Cyprus.

and teenagers with the necessary knowledge and skills to protect themselves from related dangers of sexual abuse.⁴²

Violence against Women and Stalking

In Cyprus there is no legislation at the moment criminalising stalking. However, the Ministry of Justice is currently initiating the drafting of a legislation criminalising stalking in line and in view of the signature of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women, (Istanbul Convention). The procedure of introducing legislation on stalking is expected to be finalised in the second half of 2015.

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women.

The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women (1 August 2010⁴⁴), covers various forms of gender-based violence, which is defined as “violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately” (Article 3 d). The Convention affirms that “a woman who is stalked has no chance at leading a normal life. Fear and anxiety take over every aspect of daily life and trying to cope makes holding down a job, being in a relationship, caring for children, etc. extremely difficult”. It is extremely difficult for victims to put an end to the stalking and to seek justice. Majority of the Council of Europe member states do not have specific legislation on stalking, neither in criminal nor in civil law. In many languages, there is not even a word for stalking, which says a lot about how little accepted the concept is – or was.

The Istanbul Convention offers, for the first time, a set of measures against stalking and to support its victims. It is hoped that once the Convention enters into force and is implemented at national level, it will make a real difference for victims of stalking.

The Convention affirms that national legislation must be equipped to deal with stalking. Because there can be no penalty without a law, the Convention requires all states parties to introduce the specific criminal offence of stalking. This means that a country that ratifies the Convention will have to criminalise the act of stalking, which is defined as “repeatedly engaging in threatening conduct directed at another person, causing her or him to fear for her or his safety”. However, during the negotiations some member states preferred to attach non-criminal sanctions to stalking, but to nonetheless make it an offence. That is why it is possible to make a reservation to this provision (Article 78 para.3).⁴³

The Convention introduces restraining or protection orders for victims of stalking. In most countries, it is technically possible to apply for a civil injunction to stop the behaviour of another person but this human rights instrument has rarely been used against stalkers. The Convention requires state parties to make sure that restraining or protection orders are

⁴² Office of the Commissioner for Children’s rights’ report to the Council of Europe with regards to ‘One In Five Campaign’.

⁴³ Council of Europe Thematic Factsheet, Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) Stalking.
[http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/thematic_factsheets/Stalking_EN.pdf]

available to all victims of violence covered by the Convention. This includes stalking. Criminal proceedings may not deter a stalker which is why it is important to ensure the safety of the victim. The Convention makes sure that a court of law can order a stalker to stop his behaviour and stay away from the victim. Any breaches of such orders need to be met with criminal or other legal sanctions.

To date, 20 member states of the Council of Europe have ratified this new human rights treaty and another 22 states have signed it. Cyprus has yet to sign and ratify the Convention.

Chapter 4

Primary and secondary prevention of IPV and SV in adolescents

Despite the importance of strategies to reach adolescents and young adults in prevention programs to address violence against women and gender-based violence, primary prevention in this respect has largely been absent from policy and programs. When prevention programs, training activities, or awareness raising actions are implemented in schools, they focus primarily on domestic violence and even these are not implemented on a systematic basis.

In January 2014, the Commissioner for the Rights of the Child in collaboration with the Ministry of Education initiated the creation of a *School Anti-Violence Network* aiming at combating violence in schools more systematically through enhancing existing efforts of governmental and non-governmental departments/organisations on the issue (focusing on raising awareness widely and preventing all forms of violence in schools). In the absence of any real government action over the last years in the area of primary prevention of gender-based violence and violence against women and girls, a number of NGOs (such as the Cyprus Family Planning Association and the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies) systematically work with young people in the education system to raise awareness and provide information on issues related to gender based violence.

In Cyprus, there are few intervention projects aiming to the primary and/or secondary prevention of IPV, DV and SV, led by NGOs. Here follows a description of such projects.

Intervention 1

Intervention's Identity		
Project's Name	Youth4Youth: Empowering Young People in Preventing Gender-based Violence through Peer Education	
Types of abuse targeted	Abuse type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Psychological Violence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Physical Violence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sexual Violence (SV) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe):	Relationship with the abuser <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dating Violence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-partner Violence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
Aim(s)	The project's main aim is to contribute to the prevention and combating of gender-based violence among adolescents by providing them with a safe space to reveal their attitudes towards violence, to reassess their tolerance towards it, and empower them to become actively involved in developing an environment free from violence for themselves as well as for their peers. The project is implemented using gender equality and rights based approach.	
Responsible (organization &/or person)	Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (Cyprus)	
Access (link &/or reference)	Youth4Youth: Empowering Young People in Preventing Gender-based Violence through Peer Education-Project description: http://www.meditinstgenderstudies.org/youth4youth-empowering-young-people-in-preventing-gender-based-violence-through-peer-education/	

Implementation					
Where?		Setting: Secondary Education schools Geographical coverage: Nicosia- local coverage			
When?		Implementation period: 24- months (2010-2012)			
Duration		6 training sessions of 2 educational hours (total 12 hours) Peer education sessions carried out by peer educators volunteered from the training sessions in each school- lasting 1-2 educational hours 3 hour teacher training of 50 secondary school teachers			
To whom?	If children/ adolescents	Sex	Participants' Identity	Age & other characteristics (if any)	How many participants?
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pupils/students <input type="checkbox"/> general population Other:	14-18 years old	N= 84
	If adults (18+)	Sex	Participants' Identity	Other important characteristics?	How many participants?
		<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> students <input type="checkbox"/> general population <input type="checkbox"/> mother/female caregiver <input type="checkbox"/> father/male caregiver <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> teacher/educator Other:	Collaboration with the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute/ Ministry of Education	N= 45
By whom? (implementers, if applicable)		Sex	Professional Identity	Special training needed?	How many involved?
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> teacher/educator <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> psychologist <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social worker Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Not needed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (gender expert with experience in training)	N= 2
Activities included		A non-formal education approach was followed throughout the entire training programme. A variety of experiential training methodologies were employed, aiming to enhance participants' learning through interesting, fun and interactive activities. These included brainstorming, role-playing, small group discussion, theatrical play, case-study analysis and art work.			
Useful material					
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Youth4Youth Peer Education Training Workshops- Reports for implementers: http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/youth4youth-peer-education-training-workshops/- Youth4Youth Final Research Reports and Policy Recommendations- for policy makers, researchers and other stakeholders: http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/youth4youth-final-research-reports/- Youth4Youth Final Conference and Workshop: http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/youth4youth-final-conference-and-workshop/- Youth4Youth Training Manual now available in five languages- for educators and youth workers: http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/new-publication-youth4youth-training-manual/- Youth4Youth Student Exhibition to End Gender-based Violence: http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/youth4youth-student-exhibition-to-end-gender-based-violence/- Violence in Relationships: Myths and Realities- The booklet targets adolescents and young people: http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/violence-in-relationships-myths-and-realities/					
Evaluation					
Evaluation Methodology		Pre-questionnaire completed at the beginning of each training series and post-questionnaire completed by the young participants at the end of the training series. After the completion of the series of trainings and the peer education sessions focus groups were organised with the participants in order to reflect and evaluate the programme. For more information please read the project's evaluation report available for each participating country: http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/youth4youth-peer-education-training-workshops/			
Evaluation Results		The trainings appeared to have had a positive appeal. In their evaluation forms (as			

	<p>shown in Table 1 page 31 available at: http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/Y4Y-Training-Evaluation-Report-Cyprus-Final-Draft.pdf) students mentioned that the workshops indeed fulfilled their expectations (75% claiming so) and found the topics enjoyable, interesting and relevant to young person's everyday realities (74%, 87% and 71% of participants claiming so respectively. 70% and 78% of students respectively claimed that 'enough time was devoted to each session' and that 'the theoretical aspect of the course was satisfactory'.</p> <p>Notably, what appears to have been a fundamental 'success' of the workshops was the non-formal experiential methodology implemented. Findings from both the evaluation forms and the focus group discussions indicate that students enthusiastically embraced this type of workshops not only because they were fun but also because they encouraged their active participation and enhanced their learning. 74% of students claimed to have 'enjoyed the activities they participated in' while 85% of them mentioned that 'the training encouraged active participation and expression of ideas successfully'. As mentioned in the focus group discussions (FGD) it appears that the overwhelming majority of students encountered experiential learning for the first time and they were enthused by the experience. Students felt interested, engaged and motivated to participate.</p> <p>Students claimed that the training had an unequivocal effect in enhancing their awareness and knowledge of issues related to Gender Based Violence. As stated in their evaluation forms, the increase in knowledge seems to have been high, reaching on average 74%. The ability to clearly recognize GBV incidences also stands at an equal percentage (75%). Quite importantly, young people also claimed that after the training they are more adept to recognize if their relationships are healthy and also understand if their own behavior may become unhealthy, identifying not only how their own behaviors may become abusive but also how they may be perpetuating GBV by their attitudes and stances.</p>
Viability and lessons learned	
<p>The manual developed in the framework of Youth4Youth project has been a very valuable product which can be used by NGOs and educators to apply the training programme in other contexts. In the educational context the teachers/educators can use the exercises during school hours in case it is not feasible to organise 6 sessions in total- this would not require additional funding. However, the viability of this successful project as a series of training sessions depends on availability of funding for materials (printouts, art material etc.) and to cover trainers' fees.</p>	

Intervention 2

Intervention's Identity		
Project's Name	Staying Safe Online: Gender and Safety on the Internet	
Types of abuse targeted	Abuse type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Psychological Violence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Physical Violence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sexual Violence (SV) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe):	Relationship with the abuser <input type="checkbox"/> Dating Violence (DV) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-partner Violence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: cyber-bullying
Aim(s)	<p>This video campaign aims to raise awareness on gender based violence through new media technologies. The campaign also promotes the "SafenetCY" Hotline and the Safer Internet Helpline operated by <i>Cyberethics</i> in Cyprus.</p> <p>The project addresses the issue of media violence, particularly in connection with new media technologies and social networking sites. The overall project aim is the collection of gender-related data and awareness raising about the role of gender in cyber-related abuse (sexual harassment, stalking, cyber-bullying among other) associated with the use of the internet and new communication technologies by young people.</p> <p>The video campaign address three forms of online gender-based violence including online child grooming, cyber-bullying, and cyber-stalking.</p>	
Responsible (organization &/or person)	<p>The video campaign was developed within the framework of the project "<i>Staying Safe Online: Gender and Safety on the Internet</i>", funded by the <i>Daphne III Programme</i> of the European Union.</p> <p>Project Coordinator: Gender Studies (Czech Republic)</p>	

		Partners: Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) (Cyprus); Feminoteka (Poland)			
Access (link &/or reference)		The project: http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/staying-safe-online-gender-and-safety-on-the-internet/ The video campaign: http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/migs-video-campaign-staying-safe-online/			
Implementation					
Where?		Cyprus (National) European implementation in 2 additional countries: Czech Republic and Poland			
When?		May – December 2014 (still promoted)			
Duration		3 Videos - duration: 31 seconds each 1 textbook for educators 2 workshops for educators (2 hours each)			
To whom?	If children/ adolescents	Sex	Participants' Identity	Age & other characteristics (if any)	How many participants?
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pupils/students <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> general population Other:	14-18 years old	N/A- wide dissemination of video campaign
	If adults (18+)	Sex	Participants' Identity	Other important characteristics?	How many participants?
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> students <input type="checkbox"/> general population <input type="checkbox"/> mother/female caregiver <input type="checkbox"/> father/male caregiver <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> teacher/educator Other: Youth workers, NGOs		N= 80 (workshops) Print and electronic dissemination of the textbook ~ 200 copies Video campaign dissemination: 1652 views
By whom? (implementers, if applicable)		Sex	Professional Identity	Special training needed?	How many involved?
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> teacher/educator <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> psychologist <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social worker Other: Designer/ expert for the videos	<input type="checkbox"/> Not needed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (gender expert with experience in training)	N= 4
Activities included		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - quantitative and qualitative research to collect and analyses gender-specific data about teenagers' and young adults' experiences of cyber-related-abuse (sexual harassment, cyber-bullying among other) associated to the use of the internet and new communication technologies, particularly social networking websites; - Awareness raising campaign addressing gender-based violence and the role of social networking websites and new media technologies; (3 Videos - duration: 31 seconds each) - Textbook addressed to educators and other professionals involved in formal and non-formal education; - Seminars for educators; (2 hours each) - International conference bringing together experts to contribute in the discussion of gender, media violence, information and communication technologies. - Anthology with the project deliverables. 			
Useful material					
Campaign webpage: http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/migs-video-campaign-staying-safe-online/ Watch the videos here and please share to promote safety online and to prevent gender-based violence! Campaign Videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grooming: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9QNkYjd_cl • Cyber-bullying: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGx_JIfP4Mc • Cyber-stalking : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWla0cusVsM 					

Textbook addressed to educators and other professionals (implementers) involved in formal and non-formal education: <http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/Textbook-GR.pdf>
Anthology with the project deliverables (for implementers, participants, policy makers): <http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/Anthology-FINAL-for-web-use.pdf>
 If you wish to adapt these videos to your local context please contact us at: info@medinstgenderstudies.org.

Evaluation

Evaluation Methodology	No evaluation available.
Evaluation Results	No evaluation report available.

Viability and lessons learned

The videos are of great use in raising awareness of three main forms of online gender-based-violence. The videos were particularly useful to young people, educators, youth trainers, parents, and activists. The videos can be further promoted beyond the project end.

The use of graphic design and cartoon design as a method contributing to the video creation, has been a very positive experience. This gave us the opportunity to reach a variety of audiences regardless of age, gender, culture and language.

Videos on TV

Implementation of an awareness raising campaign using the key messages/slogan *"Think. Act. Report. Stay Safe Online"* in Greek. These videos can be further disseminated widely according to available funding (airing time on TV), but also in schools through specific trainings or in class work on the subject. This video campaign requires funding in order to be sustainable. The fact that the videos make use of visuals instead of a specific language renders it useful in multiple contexts. The campaign's slogan *"Think. Act. Report. Stay Safe Online"* can be translated. TV channels also can be approached for special deals, ideally to air the videos for free or at special rates. The fact that the video campaign had been launched during the summer ensured more outreach to young people, as they were on holiday from school and had more free time to watch TV. This, therefore is considered to be a good tip as TV is the best medium by which to reach young people during the summer.

Videos on the internet and social media

For a more budget-friendly option, the video campaign also can be implemented through social networking sites and electronic media websites.

The website

www.medinstgenderstudies.org hosts a webpage on a similar EU project *"LOG IN: Laboratories on Gender Violence in New Media"* [<http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/login-project/>] which also served as a medium for dissemination of the videos and more information on youth actions.

Facebook

The Institute's Facebook page [<https://www.facebook.com/medinstgenderstudies>] and the LOG IN Facebook Page [<https://www.facebook.com/LaboratoriesCyprus>], funded by the *LOG IN Daphne III* project, constituted two other important mediums through which basic information on cyber-bullying, cyber-stalking and grooming have been disseminated. Wide dissemination through social networking sites contributed in encouraging dialogue among young people and adults on prevention and raising awareness on the issue, and information sharing on contacts for advice and legal hotline service.

Schools

The videos were also screened and distributed in high schools, universities and other public places where young people gather e.g. Summer Safer Internet Festivals.

TIP: If you wish to adapt these videos to your local context it would be extremely beneficial to collaborate with local helplines, hotlines and other victim support services whose contact details could be promoted through the videos.

Indicators for success:


Video	YouTube Views
Grooming	400
Cyber-bullying	456
Cyber-stalking	796

Intervention 3

Intervention's Identity				
Project's Name		I M SET		
Types of abuse targeted		Abuse type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Psychological Violence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Physical Violence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sexual Violence (SV) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe):	Relationship with the abuser <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dating Violence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-partner Violence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe):	
Aim(s)		The project's aim is to promote the sexual rights of children ages 12 – 15 through the implementation of mandatory human rights based Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in middle schools in Cyprus.		
Responsible (organization &/or person)		Cyprus Family Planning Association (CFPA) is the coordinating the project with the active participation of the Commissioner for Children's Rights, the Pedagogical Institute - Ministry of Education and Culture, the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies in Cyprus and Sex og Politikk - Association for Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights in Norway.		
Access (link &/or reference)		http://sexualityeducation.com.cy/		
Implementation				
Where?		Setting Secondary schools Geographical coverage (National, regional or local?) National		
When?		Implementation period: 17/04/2014 - 16/10/2015.		
Duration		12 hour pilot program for 35 students aged 12 to 13, and 15 students aged 14 to 15. 5 X 3hour teacher trainings (TTP) of 25 middle school teachers, 4 volunteer trainers		
To whom?	If children/ adolescents	Sex	Participants' Identity	Age & other characteristics (if any)
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pupils/students <input type="checkbox"/> general population Other:	12-15 years old
	If adults (18+)	Sex	Participants' Identity	Other important characteristics?
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> students <input type="checkbox"/> general population <input type="checkbox"/> mother/female caregiver <input type="checkbox"/> father/male caregiver <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> teacher/educator Other:	N=25
By whom? (implementers, if applicable)		Sex	Professional Identity	Special training needed?
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> teacher/educator <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> psychologist <input type="checkbox"/> social worker Other:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not needed <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Activities included		Organization and implementation of a Teacher's Training Program (TTP) in which a group teachers will be trained by using the Manual on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (MCS middle school students. Organization and implementation of a pilot program for school students ages of 12 -13 with		

	use of the Manual on Comprehensive Sexuality Education. (non-formal education methods)
Useful material	
There is not available material at the moment. The situational analysis and literature review will be uploaded on the website very soon. At the moment a teachers' manual is prepared which will be completed after the students' training sessions.	
Evaluation	
Evaluation Methodology	Not yet evaluated
Evaluation Results	Not yet evaluated
Viability and lessons learned	

Intervention 4

Intervention's Identity						
Project's Name	LOG IN; Laboratories on Gender based Violence in New Media					
Types of abuse targeted	Abuse type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Psychological Violence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Physical Violence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sexual Violence (SV) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe):		Relationship with the abuser <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dating Violence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-partner Violence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe):			
Aim(s)	<p>The overall project aim is to prevent and combat gender-based violence through the promotion, among teenagers, of responsible behaviour in the use of social networks and new media.</p> <p>The specific objectives of the project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand the importance of the use of social networks, new media, chats, SMS, etc. in the everyday life of adolescents; To raise awareness among young people and adults about gender-based violence and the role of new technologies; To combat harmful and violent behaviour in the use of social networks by young people, proposing to teenagers models of relationships between the sexes based on mutual respect; To raise awareness among parents, teachers, educators about of the correct use of new media by young people; To propose positive ways among teenagers of the use of new technologies to be used for learning, exchange, and participation in the social/political life. To disseminate the tested methodologies, giving to other local, national and European actors the tools to adapt and implement the LOG IN experience in their contexts. 					
Responsible (organization &/or person)	Project coordinator: City of Modena , (Italy) Partners to the project: Centro Documentazione Donna (Italy); Women's Issues Information Centre (Lithuania); and Asociatia pentru Libertate si Egalitate de Gen (Romania).					
Access (link &/or reference)	Project website: http://www.comune.modena.it/login-project/the-project Project web-page: http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/login-project/					
Implementation						
Where?	Setting: Secondary schools Geographical coverage: National (Cyprus) and European (Italy, Lithuania, Romania)					
When?	Implementation period: 1.1.2013- 31.12.2014 (24 months)					
Duration	Training workshops (teenagers): 12 hours workshops (8 weeks) - 8 sessions x 2 hours each (including at least 2 peer education sessions) Training sessions (adults): 3 sessions x 2 hours					
 If children/ adolescents	Sex	Participants' Identity	Age & other characteristics (if any)	How many participants?		

		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pupils/students <input type="checkbox"/> general population Other:	14-18 years old	N= 161
	If adults (18+)	Sex	Participants' Identity	Other important characteristics?	How many participants?
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> students <input type="checkbox"/> general population <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mother/female caregiver <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> father/male caregiver <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> teacher/educator Other: NGOs		N= 80 (Cyprus)
By whom? (implementers, if applicable)	Sex	Professional Identity	Special training needed?	How many involved?	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> teacher/educator <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> psychologist <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social worker Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Not needed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (gender expert with experience in training)	N= 5	
Activities included	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The elaboration of training package addressed to young people;• The elaboration of training package addressed to adults;• The implementation of peer education pilot actions, both vis-à-vis and through social networks of in Modena, Nicosia, Vilnius and Sibiu;• The evaluation of the impact of the pilot actions (through ex-ante and ex-post questionnaires);• The launch of communication campaign on gender-based violence and social networks and new media- Slogan competition and youth event.• National final conference in Cyprus, Lithuania, Italy, and Romania. <p>A non-formal education approach was followed throughout the entire training programme. A variety of experiential training methodologies were employed, aiming to enhance participants' learning through interesting, fun and interactive activities. These included brainstorming, role-playing, small group discussion, theatrical play, case-study analysis, art work, campaigning and spreading information using new technologies and social networking sites.</p>				
Useful material					
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project guidelines (implementers) of training package addressed to young people and adults: http://goo.gl/LBTuE7• Video (Cyprus) (implementers and participants): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YK2twURrEk&feature=youtu.be• Booklet (for parents): http://goo.gl/ZFzWPI					
Evaluation					
Evaluation Methodology	Pre-questionnaire completed at the beginning of each training series and post-questionnaire completed by the young participants at the end of the training series. After the completion of the series of trainings as well as at the end of the peer education sessions student satisfaction surveys were completed by the students in order to reflect and evaluate the programme. An evaluation report has been prepared analysing the results of the questionnaires collected in Cyprus, Italy, Lithuania and Romania. The questionnaires were completed in printed form and each partner did the data entry into the database for statistical analysis of the data as a whole.				
Evaluation Results	<p>Students satisfaction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “I felt engaged/involved” 37.3%• “I felt intrigued” 53.5% (*Cyprus)• “I felt empowered” 31.9%• “The training fulfilled my expectations” 54.7%• “Interested in the subjects” 68%• “The topics discussed addressed issues that concern me in my everyday life” 51.9%• “The training activities stimulated my learning” 47.5% “The training encouraged				

	<p>active participation and expression of ideas successfully” 62.4%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I enjoyed the activities I participated in” 66.2% <p>More generally:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They became more aware of the different forms of GBV offline and online and were able to recognize it. 2. Their knowledge about gender norms and how they affect their lives was greatly increased. 3. They gained greater confidence to express their individuality and demand respect for who they are and at the same time committed to respect others equally. 4. They felt empowered to challenge incidents of GBV on the internet and to prevent it from affecting their lives. 5. The young people who volunteered as peer educators felt they had gained greater confidence in their skills as facilitators and were proud of the fact they were actively making a difference in their communities. 6. They enjoyed the opportunity to express their opinions, to develop their communication skills and exchange ideas with their peers.
Viability and lessons learned	
<p>Despite the fact that the project has been completed the project partners continue to receive invitations to implement the trainings in schools both for students as well as for educators. The final conference in each participating country has been also a very good opportunity to promote the project's outcomes to a variety of professionals in the field of education and has been a good opportunity to foster collaborations with violence prevention bodies that provide interventions in schools. The project guidelines developed in the framework of the LOG IN project can be used by NGOs and educators to apply the training programme in other contexts. In the educational context the teachers/educators can use the exercises during school hours in case it is not feasible to organise 6 sessions in total- this would not require additional funding. However, the viability of this successful project as a series of training sessions depends on availability of funding for materials (printouts, art material etc.) and to cover the fees of external trainers.</p>	

Intervention 5

Intervention's Identity		
Project's Name	Cyprus Safer Internet Center- Cyberethics	
Types of abuse targeted	<p>Abuse type</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Psychological Violence</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Physical Violence</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sexual Violence (SV)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe):</p>	<p>Relationship with the abuser</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dating Violence</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-partner Violence</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe):</p>
Aim(s)	<p>The CyberEthics project (the Cyprus Safer Internet Center), active in Cyprus since 2006, promotes a safer use of the Internet in Cyprus, and serves the needs of all people that live on the island (i.e. also Turkish-Cypriots and other minorities) addressing not only issues of child pornography, but also racism (currently on the rise in Cyprus), gender discrimination and inappropriate use of peoples' images. It operates as a combined Awareness Node, Helpline and Hotline.</p> <p>The Awareness Node or Awareness Centre is responsible for raising awareness on online dangers and online safety through the organization of lectures, workshops, seminars and other events. The events are suitable for parents, youngsters, children, teachers and other professionals who are interested to be informed and/ or trained on online dangers and online safety.</p> <p>The Safer Internet Helpline works as a counselling centre by accepting phone calls or chats by cybercrime victims. The victims can accept psychological support and/or legal advice concerning their experience.</p> <p>Finally, the Safer Internet Hotline is the centre for reporting illegal content on the internet that concerns child pornography, racism or xenophobia.</p> <p>The CyberEthics project also aims to engage actors from the government and the civil society, thus contributing towards the eradication of cybercrime through informed actions of European citizens and public institutions that aim to change behaviours, mentality and attitudes, giving special emphasis to rural and less developed areas of the country.</p> <p>The project was co-funded by the Safer Internet plus Program of the European</p>	

		Commission.			
Responsible (organization &/or person)		Cyprus Neuroscience and Technology Institute			
Access (link &/or reference)		www.cyberethics.ifo			
Implementation					
Where?		Pan-Cyprian			
When?		2006 - present			
Duration		24/7			
To whom?	If children/ adolescents	Sex	Participants' Identity	Age & other characteristics (if any)	How many participants?
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pupils/students <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> general population Other:	4-17 years old	N=80000 Approx. since 2006
	If adults (18+)	Sex	Participants' Identity	Other important characteristics?	How many participants?
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> students <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> general population <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mother/female caregiver <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> father/male caregiver <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> teacher/educator Other: social workers		N=20000 Approx. since 2006
By whom? (implementers, if applicable)		Sex	Professional Identity	Special training needed?	How many involved?
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> teacher/educator <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> psychologist <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social worker Other: sociologist	<input type="checkbox"/> Not needed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	N= 9
Activities included		Here follows:			
Useful material					
<p>The CyberEthics team in order to achieve her tasks has developed collaborations with important stakeholders of the island. These collaborations have allowed to the Cyberethics team the development of a series of strategies in order to achieve our tasks.</p> <p>Our best practices include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parents-kids workshops, for educating both sides on online safety and enhancing the relationship between the two by using new technologies and adopting responsible behaviour online. 2. Engagement of elementary school children and teachers through interactive workshops, street theatre and theatre of the cyber-oppressed. 3. Youth empowerment to facilitate pro-active behaviour through training of 'student coaches', competitions on Internet safety, creation of awareness tools and positive content, engagement of the Youth Panel in structured consultations, interactive workshops aiming at learning to (i) recognize and critically identify illegal content; (ii) report illegal content via Hotline; (iii) use the Helpline; and (iv) improve digital literacy (focus on online tools such as Facebook, oVoo etc.) 4. Engagement of parents in workshops and mini interactive theatrical shows including parents with/out their children in collaboration with the Youth Board of Cyprus. Parents with children engaged in structured dialogues on what constitutes positive content on the net and how children can benefit. 5. Engagement of disadvantaged groups through presentations and trainings in schools dominated by foreign children and activities specifically for physically disabled children. 6. Activities adapted to current technological changes, such as upgrade the website for accessibility, new technologies such as augmented reality and barcodes and exploitation of the newly developed 'CyberLands' game. 7. Extension of Helpline operating hours and use of "clean feed" technology for the Hotline. 					

8. National events with participation of all relevant stakeholders: E.g., Educational Fair for Internet Safety for children to present products and participants to vote for winners.	
Evaluation	
Evaluation Methodology	The methodology is evaluated through questionnaires and self-evaluations.
Evaluation Results	There is not an evaluation report published but the organisation staff receives positive feedback and every year there are more and more requests for support. It should be noted that despite the fact that there are gender segregated data collected, there is no evidence to suggest that the gender perspective mainstreamed in all aforementioned activities.
Viability and lessons learned	
Mentioned above.	

Recommendations - Suggestions

There have been many positive developments with regards to increasing awareness and commitment towards preventing and combating violence against women through legislation and policies— particularly domestic violence- in recent years in Cyprus. With regards to adolescents there have been also positive developments and increased interest on bullying (face-to-face and online) educators, youth workers, trainers, ministries and other stakeholders. However, the gender perspective is very often omitted and largely depends on the efforts of relevant NGOs who offer recommendations and training expertise.

In addition, population based surveys on the prevalence and the effects of all forms of violence against women and girls are very limited in Cyprus. With regards to IPV, DV and SV some surveys have been only recently conducted to give additional information on the extent and the impact of violence against women and girls. However, national data on the prevalence of IPV, DV, and SV in adolescents is scarce and the only data available are those collected by the Cyprus Police, and the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family focusing mainly on the issue of domestic violence. IPV is recognised only within the context of violence in the family (legislation and policy).

The lack of systematic analysis and research impedes a true understanding of the context of these crimes in Cyprus and their root causes. Insufficient data and research also impedes informed analysis and policy making. To date, no research or data has been collected on violence against women in migrant/minority communities. However, available data reveals that reported rates of all forms of violence against women and girls including, domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, have risen dramatically in the last decade. Rape and sexual violence are among the most severely underreported forms of violence in Cyprus, as elsewhere in Europe. The results of few cross-national surveys and qualitative studies (discussed in Chapter 1) reveal that attitudes conducive to gender based violence, such as ‘victim blaming’ and the belief that violence in relationships is a private matter, are normative amongst adolescents. Inconsistencies between the numbers of reported/attempted date rapes with ‘unwanted sexual experiences’ shown in research carried out by the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies could be due to young women not recognising rape as such and the results confirm that gender stereotypes and societal expectations on gender roles contribute to the environment where rape and sexual assault is possible and indeed acceptable. Generally, what emerges is a picture of sexual abuse that affects many girls and boys but systematically underreported to the various departments and services, and has not been adequately examined.

Adolescents do not receive systematic or comprehensive sexuality education within the schools system and children seem to have a major lack of basic information about sexual abuse and exploitation of minors. Due to the fact that sexual exploitation and electronic harassment of children/adolescents now occurs in cyberspace with a tremendous rise over the last few years, the limited data and research but also the local media reports show that IPV and DV incidents including jealousy, control, surveillance, isolation and threats are even more

evident. Research shows that there is higher incidence among 16 year olds, domestic violence victims and young people with negative gender attitudes.

In Cyprus there are no policies/procedures implemented with the aim to identify adolescents who are being/were abused by their dating/romantic/intimate partner or had been/are being sexually abused by any person (partner or non-partner). There are no routine screening processes in place implemented at all schools or a screening process that is implemented in hospitals / emergency departments, whenever a child/adolescent is presented with a bodily injury. Self-reported cases usually end up in NGOs and other support Organizations mentioned in chapter 3.1. At the moment there is not a policy or procedures implemented, or a common structure/mechanism in Cyprus where an adolescent victim of IPV/ DV/ SV can report a case and receive multidisciplinary support and protection.

Having in mind that Cyprus has a strong legislative framework to combat violence in the family; the specific form of gender-based-violence has dominated the policy and practice overshadowing other forms such as DV/IPV/SV. Therefore there are no clear procedures through which any professionals are mandated to report any identified, suspected or self-reported case of abuse (DV/IPV/SV) against an adolescent (or a child). The only available procedures are described in the manual of inter-departmental procedures for supporting victims of violence in the family (presented in Chapter 2).

In the absence of a comprehensive policy framework, there are no clear guidelines on how schools can best proceed with handling IPV incidents in the school environment, what actions need to be taken, and which relevant authorities or professionals need to be involved. With regards to service provision, there are few government services that can offer victims support. Instead, NGOs fill this gap in service provision, providing psychological support through their helplines (available services described in Chapter 3). Also, awareness-raising campaigns take place in an ad-hoc and piecemeal manner, lacking systematic and joined-up approaches. Therefore, an adequate supporting “system” working within a systematic and holistic framework is not existent, in order to provide support services to adolescents with experiences of IPV/DV/SV.

Cyprus has few youth friendly services, thus, young people are exposed to lack of access and lack of knowledge, since Sexuality Education was only just implemented in the school system in 2011-2012. Prevention activities in schools take place usually as initiatives of NGOs in collaboration specific educators.

In many cases due to the refusal of either one or both parents, children are denied access to counselling services. In Cyprus, there is not a unified code of operation with regards to parental consent.

The ratification of the *Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse* (Lanzarote Convention)⁴⁴, signed on 25th October 2007 by the Republic of Cyprus (1st June 2015) constitutes a very positive step. The Lanzarote Convention is the most advanced and comprehensive legally binding instrument on an international level on the

⁴⁴ Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention). [http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/children/Text_Convention_en.asp]

protection of children⁴⁵ against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, whoever the perpetrator may be, and of providing assistance to victims. However, Cyprus has yet to sign the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention).

Recommendations to the Cyprus Government, Parliament and stakeholders/departments/ministries:

- The Cyprus Government must sign and ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence without delay;
- Ensure appropriate and sustainable funding for the implementation of policies and the operation of services relating to victim support;
- Improve the collection of reliable, comprehensive, regularly updated administrative and statistical data on victims and perpetrators of all forms of violence against women and girls disaggregated by sex, age and victim-perpetrator relationship;
- Provide systematic training for the relevant professionals dealing with victims and perpetrators of all acts of violence against women and girls (including IPV, DV, SV);
- Apply a gender equality perspective to all service provision guidelines and procedures with a view to protecting and empowering women and children, as well as ensuring the safety, security and dignity of the victims;
- Strengthen and support multi-agency and multidisciplinary co-operation involving all relevant stakeholders including women's organizations and NGOs (including manuals of inter-department procedures and guidelines);
- Pay attention to primary prevention of violence against women and girls by recognising the role of the educational system as one of the primary transmitters of traditional and cultural and social norms that are conducive to violence against women;
- Implement mandatory human rights based Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) at all levels of education (especially secondary education);
- Provide multi-agency protection and support to all women and girls in vulnerable situations and facing multiple discrimination through screening process/protocol/policies for the steps to be followed when experiences of IPV/DV/SV occur;
- The Ministry of Education as well as the Ministry of Health and other relevant state departments must introduce procedures/ action plans/ policies to identify adolescents who are victims of IPV, DV and SV;
- Government should ensure the protection of the rights of victims before, during and after legal proceedings to avoid re-victimization and to encourage women to stay the process.

⁴⁵ Ibid, Article 3 (a), "child" shall mean any person under the age of 18 years.

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ANNEX I.

Survey's Methodological description

Survey No/Name		1) Youth4Youth: Empowering Young People in Preventing Gender-based Violence through Peer Education
Responsible for the survey		Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies [MIGS]: Margarita Kapsou and Georgina Christou
Context of the survey		EC Project, Country Report
Data collection period [dates]		December 2011
Data collection method		Questionnaire Study, focus groups
Sample and Sampling		
Method of sampling		A self-report questionnaire to tap attitudes toward gender among the students, attitudes toward violence, justifications or explanations endorsed for violence, and myths/knowledge regarding relationship violence
Respondents' characteristics	Country of Origin	Risiding in Cyprus
	Sex	61% girls, 39% boys
	Age range	15-18 years old, high-school students
	Relationship/ Marital status	
	Geographical areas covered	5 high schools (3 public, 2 private) from Nicosia and Limassol, from who 70% lived in urban areas and 30% in rural areas
Sample's size (N of individuals to be approached)		453
Response rate [% and (N) of individuals responded]		Mage = 15.86, S.D. = 0.69 completed questionnaires for this study all Cronbach alphas > .70
Other		
Types of abuse measured		GBV understood as an umbrella term for any kind of discrimination or harmful behaviour which is directed against a person on the basis of their gender and/or (real or perceived) sexual orientation. GBV may be physical, sexual, verbal, psychological, economic or socio-cultural.
Important methodological information/ Comments		Attitudes Toward Women Scale for Adolescent (AWSA, Galambos, Petersen, Richards, & Gitelson, 1985) was used. Four additional statements have been added based on previous research of beliefs about gender roles (Fourth report: Secondary education schools and education in values project, MIGS 2008). During the time of the questionnaire the teacher waited outside the classroom and a trainer-researcher disseminated the questionnaires for completion. Focus group interviews were recorded, coded and analyzed by two researchers.
Access (link &/or reference)		http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/Youth4Youth-research-report-Cyprus-EN.pdf

Survey No/Name		2) Violence against women: an EU-wide survey
Responsible for the survey		FRA – European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
Context of the survey		To provide the first EU-wide dataset on the extent, nature and consequences of violence against women
Data collection period [dates]		2007
Data collection method		Interviews
Sample and Sampling		
Method of sampling		official criminal justice data on rape, and the second examines victimisation surveys covering violence against women
Respondents'	Country of Origin	Cyprus

<i>characteristics</i>	Sex	Female
	Age range	18-74
	Relationship/ Marital status	Not available
	Geographical areas covered	28 Member States of the European Union
<i>Sample's size (N of individuals to be approached)</i>		1,505 for Cyprus
<i>Response rate [% and (N) of individuals responded]</i>		72.6 %
Other		
Types of abuse measured		experiences of physical, sexual and psychological violence, including incidents of intimate partner violence ('domestic violence'), and also asked about stalking, sexual harassment, and the role played by new technologies in women's experiences of abuse violence in childhood
Important methodological information/ Comments		
Access (link &/or reference)		http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-vaw-survey-main-results-apr14_en.pdf

Survey No/Name		3) EXTENT, FREQUENCY, NATURE AND CONSEQUENCES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN CYPRUS
Responsible for the survey		Martha Apostolidou, Petroula Mavrikiou, Stavros Parlalis for the Advisory Committee for the Prevention & Combating of Family Violence
Context of the survey		National Research
Data collection period [dates]		April 6th and May 31st 2012
Data collection method		Household Questionnaire
Sample and Sampling		
<i>Method of sampling</i>		The sample of the study was selected to represent the Female, Greek-speaking over 18 years of age population of Cyprus on a national basis (urban and rural areas). A representative proportionate stratified sample of 3,973 households was randomly selected from each district (urban and rural areas) on the basis of the 2011 population census.
<i>Respondents' characteristics</i>	Country of Origin	Cyprus
	Sex	Female
	Age range	18+
	Relationship/ Marital status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - divorced (71.2 %) - separated (65%) - married (23%)
	Geographical areas covered	population of Cyprus on a national basis (urban and rural areas)
<i>Sample's size (N of individuals to be approached)</i>		1,107
<i>Response rate [% and (N) of individuals responded]</i>		1,162 out of 3,973 (29.24%)
Other		
Types of abuse measured		<p>domestic violence against women is defined as "any act of 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 and is inflicted upon women by their husband/ex husband spouse /ex spouse.</p> <p>Please specify (if possible)</p> <p>At least 28% of the women of the sample reported some kind of violence. The mean percentage of the various kinds of violence inflicted</p>

	<p>upon women (from rarely to every day) is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Economic violence: 19,4% · Emotional /psychological violence:19,3% · Sexual violence: 15,5% · Social violence: 14,8% · Physical violence: 13,4% <p>Education of both victim and perpetrator are not related to domestic violence.</p>
Important methodological information/ Comments	
Access (link &/or reference)	http://www.familyviolence.gov.cy/upload/research/erevna_2012oct_viol-ag-women_summary_en.pdf

Survey No/Name	4) DATE RAPE CASES AMONG YOUNG WOMEN STRATEGIES FOR SUPPORT AND PREVENTION
Responsible for the survey	The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies Dr. Christiana Kouta, Susana Pavlou
Context of the survey	<p>This resource book is the result of a two-year project entitled “Date Rape Cases Among Young Women and the Development of Good Practices for Support and Prevention”, funded by the Daphne II Programme of the European Commission. The project was coordinated by the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) in partnership with the Institute of Equality in Greece, the Coalition for Gender Equality in Latvia, the Women’s Issues Information Centre in Lithuania, and the Institute for Forensic Studies, University of Malta.</p> <p>The project aimed to investigate the incidence of date rape among young women in five European countries including Cyprus, Greece, Latvia, Malta and Lithuania, and to explore their attitudes, dating experiences and level of awareness. The project’s core activity was a quantitative and qualitative research study covering all partner countries which resulted in five country research reports. The objectives of the study were to investigate the incidence of date rape among female students in each participating country; explore the attitudes and experiences of female students regarding date rape; and develop recommendations, policies and strategies for victim support and the prevention of sexual violence and date rape.</p>
Data collection period [dates]	
Data collection method	Quantitative as a structured questionnaire and qualitative as two focus groups and personal interviews with representatives of relevant institutions
Sample and Sampling	
<i>Method of sampling</i>	<p>The structured questionnaire was distributed by simple random selection to female students between the ages of 18 and 24 enrolled in tertiary education.</p> <p>Focus group discussions were grouped into three main themes: awareness of date rape, dating relationships/unwanted sexual experiences, and support and prevention.</p> <p>Each interviewee was appointed by its organization as the person responsible for issues related to violence against women, date rape, rape or sexuality. The interviews and focus groups were transcribed and grouped into main themes based on the interview guidelines. Institutional interviews were grouped into three main themes: profile of organization, prevention and support of date rape/sexual violence, and needs in relation to the prevention of date rape and support to</p>

		victims.
<i>Respondents' characteristics</i>	Country of Origin	Cyprus, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta
	Sex	female
	Age range	18-21 (84%) of all participants Students in tertiary education
	Relationship/ Marital status	62% of the respondents were in a relationship for more than a year
	Geographical areas covered	Republic of Cyprus (Greek- Cypriot)
<i>Sample's size (N of individuals to be approached)</i>		Cyprus: 476 female students Greece: 478 female students Latvia: 359 female students Lithuania: 394 female students Malta: 150 female students
<i>Response rate [% and (N) of individuals responded]</i>		N/A
Other		
Types of abuse measured		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the type of violence (psychological – physical – sexual) the type of perpetrator (dating/intimate partner, spouse)
Important methodological information/ Comments		No other similar research has been carried out on the subject in Cyprus.
Access (link &/or reference)		http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/date-rape-resource-book_final.pdf

Survey No/Name	5) STIR: Safeguarding Teenage Intimate Relationships - Connecting Offline and Online Risks- Cyprus
Responsible for the survey	Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies [MIGS]: Stalo Lesta
Context of the survey	Daphne III Project, European Union. Cyprus Country Report 5 European countries – England, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Italy and Norway.
Data collection period [dates]	November 2014
Data collection method	QUANTITATIVE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self completion questionnaires in schools QUALITATIVE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-depth interviews with young people Pre-requisite for selection: to have had experiences of intimate partner violence- either as victims or perpetrators

Sample and Sampling		
<i>Method of sampling</i>		QUANTITATIVE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Random Selection of gymnasiums and lyceums on a pancyprian basis (urban and rural areas) Stratified sampling: closely following a population representative distribution QUALITATIVE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment through snow-balling Pre-requisite for selection: to have had experiences of intimate partner violence- either as victims or perpetrators
<i>Respondents' characteristics</i>	Country of Origin	Cyprus - Nicosia
	Sex	Female 346 (54%), Male 296 (46%)
	Age range	14-17 years old, high-school students
	Relationship/ Marital status	79% (505 out of the 642) are currently or have been in a relationship (rises to 86% among 16-17 year olds)
	Geographical areas covered	Selection of gymnasiums and lyceums on a pancyprian basis (urban and rural areas)

<i>Sample's size (N of individuals to be approached)</i>	Quantitative 642 Qualitative 14 (11 girls & 3 boys)
<i>Response rate [% and (N)of individuals responded]</i>	Quantitative 642 Qualitative 14 (11 girls & 3 boys)
Other	
Types of abuse measured	Includes both physical and emotional abuse <i>Emotional Abuse</i> : putting someone down, shouting, screaming, making negative comments, ridiculing, threatening to hurt <i>Physical abuse</i> : slapping, hitting, holding someone down. <i>Face-toface Intimate Partner Violence and Online Intimate Partner Violence and the impact of these experiences.</i>
Important methodological information/ Comments	N/A
Access (link &/or reference)	http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/2.-STIR-Results-Presentation.pdf