

DRAFT

DEVELOPING ANTI VIOLENCE NETWORK of GEORGIA

FINAL REPORT

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Final Report

Legislative Activities

With the purpose of legal support and psycho-social rehabilitation of the victims of domestic violence in 2003 was established a non governmental organization Anti Violence Network of Georgia (AVNG).

Since 2006-2007, Open Society Foundation (**OSI-Budapest**) Human Rights and Governmental Grants Program and Women for Women (**KTK, Sweden**) have supported development of the Anti Violence Network of Georgia. Through their permanent assistance, organization has the opportunity of sustainable development and at various levels is involved in the activities directed to the prevention of domestic violence in the country.

At the initial stage of the operation the necessity of starting legislative work became evident and AVNG was actively involved in the process of working out and encouraging relevant approval of the special Law on "Prevention of Domestic Violence, Protection and Support to its Victims" in order to protect the domestic violence victims and eliminate such violence. The Law was approved by the Parliament of Georgia in 2006 that was a significant step forward in resolving the problem of domestic violence.

In association with other non-governmental organizations and governmental sectors AVNG also took part in preparation of the action plans against domestic violence and protection of its victims.

Subject to the Decree # 625 of the President of Georgia from 26 December 2008 Inter-institutional Council was created for implementation of measures to prevent domestic violence (which includes AVNG Chair in its composition). One of the major tasks of the Council is to support relevant state structures in effective implementation of the determined functions to eliminate domestic violence, ensure its prevention, fight against the problem, provide protection, support and rehabilitation to its victims and conduct necessary coordination of their activities.

In 2009 Inter-institutional Council worked out instruction of conduct- the national referral mechanism for prevention of domestic violence and protection and rehabilitation of its victims, which represents memorandum of cooperation and understanding between state structures, international organizations and local governmental sector on fight against domestic violence. This document aims at determining combination of all activities directed to elimination of domestic violence, reduction of the similar acts and their prevention as well as protection and support to its victims.

The same year through the AVNG active involvement the package of amendments was prepared to be introduced into the Law on "Prevention of Domestic Violence, Protection and Support to its Victims" (Corresponding amendments were envisaged also into the "Law on Weapons", "Code of Labor", Administrative Procedure Code of Georgia, Code of Administrative Law Violations and Criminal Code)

which was approved by the Parliament of Georgia at the end of 2009. The above approval promoted further improvement of the active legislation against domestic violence and elimination of the discrepancies that hampered effective protection and support of the domestic violence victims.

As the state policy for prevention of domestic violence envisages not only legal protection and psycho-social rehabilitation of its victims, but also providing necessary custody to change offenders attitudes and behaviors, in 2010 was created a work group composed of the representatives from governmental and non-governmental organizations which worked out a Concept for domestic offenders' rehabilitation. The document prepared through AVNG active involvement was approved on 13 January 2011 subject to the Decree # 55 of the Georgian Government. The document expresses the state approach on the necessity of offenders' compulsory rehabilitation and defines directions of the state policy for ensuring abusers rehabilitation.

AVNG commitment to ensure perfection of the corresponding legislative base for effective and multilateral activities directed against domestic violence and elaboration of the compound state initiatives against this problem is conditioned by long term practical experience and sustainability of the organization gained in this field that is effectively ensured for already several years by OSI and KTK.

Currently, within the framework of the EU delegation project "Increasing Public Role to Support Law Supremacy, Democratic Reforms and Protection of Women's Rights" the organization worked out draft project of the amendments to be introduced into the Civil Code of Georgia with regard to further refinement of the norms envisaged under legislation to determine paternity as a result of unregistered marriage (namely defining fatherhood by the court) and elimination of specific discrepancies that hampers in most of the cases taking final decision by the court. According to the draft document during reviewing the case of paternity at the court primary proof is the result of biological (genetic, DNA) or anthropological researches of the estimated father. However, at present based on the current edition of the Law there is no compulsory obligation for submission of this type proof and the court takes into consideration only the fact of mother's and defendant's joint living and combined activities before the childbirth or/and the facts of joint custody over the child.

The idea of project implementation was born from specific cases submitted to the organization according to which young women in pregnant condition after non-registered relations become the victims of physical, psychological and economic violence from their partners' side as well as their personal families and their legal protection gets rather complicated due to insufficient legislative base. The project also covers protection of the rights and interests of the children born as a result of similar relations. The document specifies that the court is entitled to give refusal on identification of the paternity if the latter is in contradiction with the child's interests.

E.K.

E.K. got pregnant from her boy friend. When the man learnt about her pregnancy told her to handle this problem herself. The defendant at a certain period was ready to confirm paternity arriving in Tbilisi to conduct DNA test, however later he changed his mind and finally ceased contact with the girl.

E.K lived in one of the regions. The family found out about her pregnancy later and since then she did not appear in the family as the latter also neglected the pregnant woman.

E.K. was on her eighth month of pregnancy when the regional committee of NGO "Anti Violence Network of Georgia" supported her after the girl applied for help to the organization. She was accommodated at the temporary shelter of the organization for the victims of domestic violence. Through organization became possible to resolve problems connected with delivery and after the childbirth the court case commenced to define paternity.

In April 2007 the lawsuit was brought into the court of civil cases requesting to verify the fact of fatherhood with the court rule. The court received the petition to organize medical-court expertise to define fatherhood

based on DNA test. At the same time representative of the Young Lawyers Branch Association submitted to the city court a lawsuit with the requirement of alimony. The case was interrupted based on the petition from the defendant's representative until the issue of fatherhood was verified.

Tbilisi City Court satisfied the petition, although the defendant obstinately avoided appearing at the expertise. At this stage of proceedings the case was transferred from Tbilisi to Batumi City Court as Eka's parents considered that the defendant could not hide from jurisdiction according to his place of residence.

The subject of dispute at the Batumi court envisaged: 1. identification of fatherhood and 2. defining child's surname. Batumi court did not satisfy the suit. The decision was appealed at the chamber for city cases of Kutaisi Court of Appeals. The chamber of Kutaisi Court of Appeals canceled decision of the Batumi city court and adopted new judgment based on which the defendant was recognized as father.

The defendant appealed decision made by the chamber of city cases of Kutaisi Court of Appeals. In 2010 the Supreme Court maintained the decision of the court of appeals based on which the defendant was recognized as father.

In 2011 the interrupted process was renewed at Batumi City Court on the issue of allocating alimony. Batumi city Court assigned the defendant with the responsibility to pay the alimony with the amount of 200 Georgian Lari.

The court dispute for successful completion of this specific case lasted 4 years and it represents one of the first precedents with regard to determination of paternity of the child born as a result of unregistered relations.

Proceeding from the fact that number of people applying for support is rather high and due to legislative discrepancy successful completion of each similar case requires much time and resources, multidisciplinary group within the framework of AVNG composed of representatives from the non-governmental sector, state entities and the court, worked out the package of amendments to be introduced into the Civil Code which will be submitted to the Parliament of Georgia for approval at the 2011 spring session.

Within the framework of the project "Increasing Public Role in Supporting the Law Supremacy, Democratic Reforms and Protection of Women's Rights" final draft law will be submitted to the Parliament of Georgia in the short run, nevertheless active work from the standpoint of public awareness on the problem and lobbying the draft law has already started.

As per data from the National Statistics Service of Georgia from 2009 total 2434 children were born by mothers under registered marriage (This year total number of children born with unregistered marriage makes up 63 377). The indicated figure implies that in case of relevant operation of the law majority of the women will bring the lawsuit to determine paternity.

Important component of the project envisages psychological rehabilitation of prisoner women who are serving imprisonment under the Criminal Law of Georgia Article 112 on murder of baby children. Number of such women today makes up 13 and their majority during pregnancy was abandoned by their partners and family members. Defenselessness and despair was one of the key reasons of committing the criminal act which each of them frankly regrets.

Before adopting the effective law with the purpose of this category women protection and crime prevention from July 2010 AVNG commenced through OSGF support implementation of the project: "Legal protection of the solitary mothers and theirs psycho-social rehabilitation". The project aims envisaged:

1. Legal support of the lonely mothers-victims of the domestic violence and their children, ensuring their psycho-social rehabilitation;
2. Crime prevention;

3. Increase public awareness on the problematic of women with the status of single mothers and their children;
4. Promote integration of the opportunities from non-governmental and governmental organizations to support solitary mothers and their children.

Within the project framework statistical information was obtained from civil registry of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia. According to the acquired data from 2010 total 3435 single women are registered in Georgia, with the status of single mothers ,while as of 2011 data the number already makes up 514.

As not all of the above-mentioned women may belong to the target group- domestic violence victims, majority of them as a rule does not obtain necessary information connected with the rights of solitary mothers.

With the purpose of accessing necessary legal support for the solitary mothers, their children and ensuring their psycho-social rehabilitation, special stickers containing relevant information were placed in public transportation that increased applications of this category women to the AVNG office.

Psycho-social support for the children victims of domestic violence

During last period activities on the problem of violence against women many cases were revealed on the domestic violence committed against children which is clearly proved not only with the increased number of applications to the AVNG office but also with the critical programs connected with TV coverage of the most sensitive cases on this issue.

During 2002-2010 over 165 persons applied AVNG shelter for the victims of domestic violence for support amongst which 56 were adolescents together with their mothers.

Increased number of applications from the children victims of domestic violence created necessity of recruiting a children's psychologist at the AVNG Crisis Center that became possible through OSI and KTK support.

Despite of the fact that AVNG Crisis Center and the shelter always ensured safe environment for children with relevant care from competent and generous people, it became possible to increase work capacity within the framework of the Project "Establishing new approaches during the work process with the children victims of trafficking and domestic violence staying at the shelter" (project was implemented during 2009-2010 with UNICEF support). The activities were effectively accomplished in the direction of children's rehabilitation with the project support not only in Tbilisi, but also in Akhaltsikhe, Gori and Batumi. Furthermore, close partnership collaboration was established with the State Fund for Protection and Support of the Victims of Human Trafficking. Children victims of violence also often get to this Fund.

Children victims of trafficking and domestic violence belong to the special category. Working with them requires knowledge of particular skills and without relevant training it becomes difficult to achieve the outcomes envisaged under the rehabilitation goals.

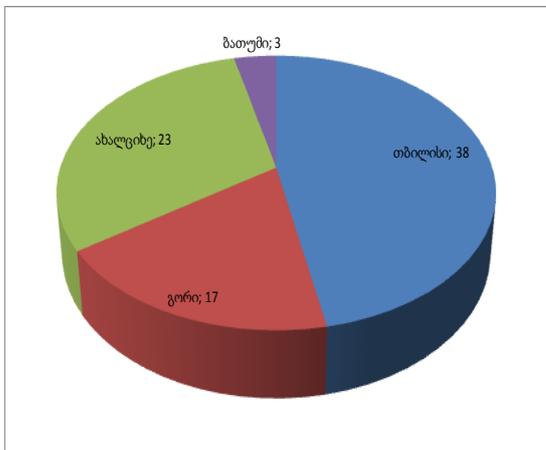
Therefore, at the first stage of project implementation were organized 3 two-day trainings with the participation of the employees from AVNG crisis centers and shelters (Tbilisi, Akhaltsikhe, Gori) and also from the Tbilisi and Batumi shelters of the State Fund for Protection and Support of the Victims of Human Trafficking, total 45 persons.

As a result of the above trainings personnel working with the children victims had opportunity not only to increase their knowledge and develop skills, but also tie together as one team and set up common approaches to resolve problematic issues.

Within the framework of the Project "Establishing new approaches during the work process with the children victims of trafficking and domestic violence staying at the shelter" total 81 children (Tbilisi-38, Gori-17,

Akhaltikhe-23 and Batumi-3) and 31 parents undertook psycho-social rehabilitation at the crisis centers and shelters of domestic violence (See Annex 1).

Annex 1.



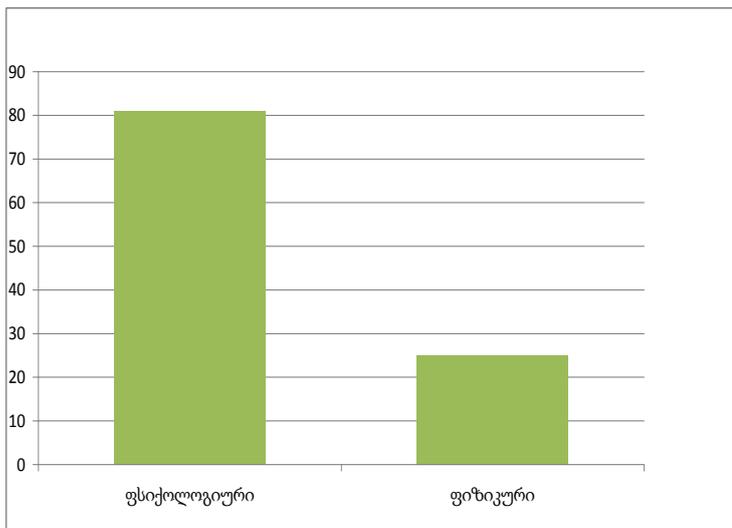
Out of the above stated children 79 were victims of domestic violence and two- victims of trafficking (See Annex 2).



The children placed at the crisis center experienced various types of violence amongst which 81 children were victims of psychological violence including 25 with the signs of physical violence

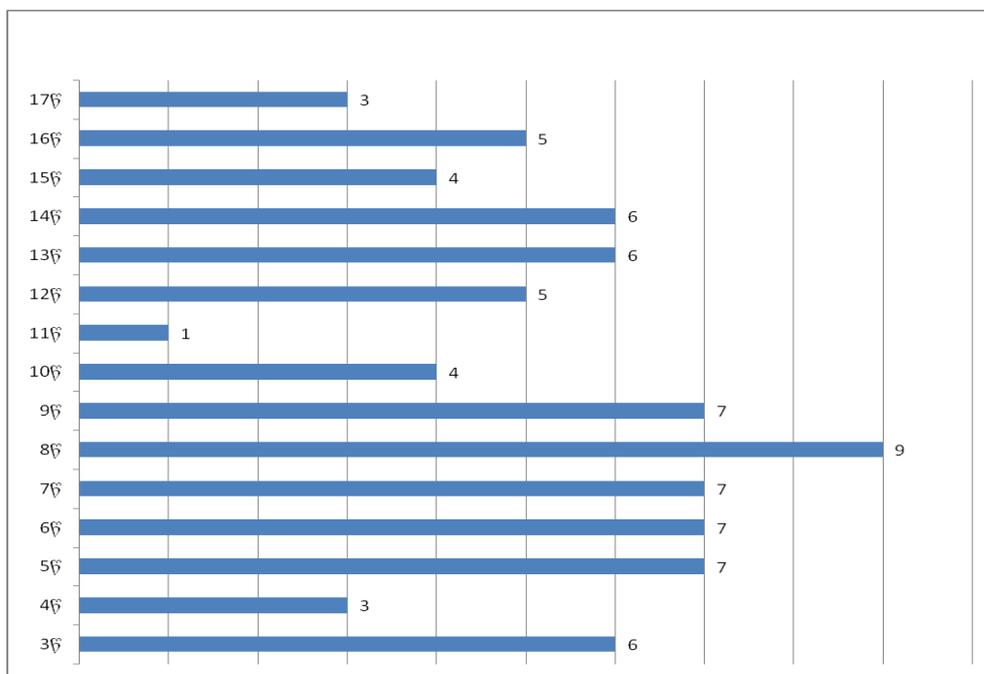
(See Annex 3).

Annex 3



Children's age ranged between 3-17 years
(See chart 4)

Chart 4



Methodology of working with children

With the purpose of necessary rehabilitation and integration after accommodation at the crisis center and shelter the child received three phases of custody:

I Phase – Admission and Evaluation

Collecting information on the child (from the child and family members) and evaluation of his/her individual necessities, family and the environment. Verifying the type of physical, psychological and social support required. Protecting the child's safety and ensuring his/her welfare.

II Phase- Intermediate Support

This type of support was directed to strengthening the child and especially those staying at the shelter. The process involved not only psychologist, but also multi-disciplinary group composed of the social worker, lawyer and shelter staff.

III Phase- Rehabilitation

Each child subject to his individual necessities undertook psycho-social rehabilitation process directed to the improvement of the child's psychological condition, overcoming trauma, cognitive, emotional and behavioral development and mastering new skills.

Furthermore, psychological consulting was arranged for the child's mother as well (father, as a rule refused). This process is different as each of them undertakes individual intervention.

The children accommodated at the AVNG crisis centers as well as at the Tbilisi and Batumi shelters of the State Fund for Protection and Support of the Victims of Human Trafficking, received psychological support from the AVNG psychologists.

In addition to the psychological work in the process of rehabilitation considered for the children victims of domestic violence it is important to plan the type of events that facilitate children's social and cultural development.

As majority of the children involved in the project came from socially unprotected families, accordingly they experienced deficiency of participation in the cultural and educational events that complicated their individual progress and disclosure of their mental or physical abilities.

UNICEF project enabled AVNG psychologist to enrich children's rehabilitation process with the cultural activities (showing movies, theatre performances, visiting sights of interest in old Tbilisi, sightseeing of the historic monuments, taking part in various entertainment events) that significantly facilitated rehabilitation and integration process of the children victims of domestic violence and trafficking.

Educational Program for Children

Pursuant to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child access to the elementary and secondary education is the right of each child. Child's education should be directed to the comprehensive development of his individual, talent, mental and physical skills, however children victims in most of the cases fail to realize their rights.

Children victims of trafficking and domestic violence experience permanent difficulties at school having problems in concentration, memorizing material, establishing normal relations with their co-mates, teachers, fall behind in studies or have low level of general education.

Such children loose self-confidence that they are capable of studying well and consider themselves untalented. The situation becomes complicated with the fact that as a rule, no one has time for them, very often even teachers express distrust in their abilities and spend less efforts on their education.

The children involved in the project were not exception considering the aforementioned practice. Their majority experienced problems connected with education.

Implementation of the UNICEF project **“Establishing new approaches during the work process with the children victims of trafficking and domestic violence staying at the shelter”** enabled organization to support children in purchasing school text books and other necessary items as well as preparing in the subjects they had impediments based on the curriculum.

Within the project framework 5 children victims of domestic violence succeeded through teachers' support to overcome impediment in specific subjects. Selection was made from the most retarded children having the worst family problems and those from the needy families.

Case of Giviko

Giviko -born in Tbilisi, lives with his parents and sister. His father worked at the law protection structures and took part in the Abkhazian war. When returning home he worked at the different institutions. After a certain period he was dismissed from work and this fact greatly deteriorated his spiritual condition that hardly affected his family as well. Giviko's father started drinking and offended his family while drunk, especially Giviko. He was threatening family members by committing a suicide; after losing his temper he was cutting his veins and wanted to jump out of the window. He offended Giviko physically and emotionally, laughed at him and terrorized the child.

Giviko had bad relations with his father. Mother also lost authority in his eyes, as he considered that she could prevent her children from such torture.

Rather tense situation created in the family had a negative impact on the child. Giviko tried to spend less time at home. He often stayed overnight with his uncles (mother's brothers). He lived at Tabor Father's Monastery for several weeks. At the NGO AVNG Crisis Center he requested the shelter or

transfer to the orphanage. Giviko gave up studies for a year as he experienced discrimination at school due to the family problems. Consequently, he had impediment in his studies.

The child was characterized with high level of aggression and nervousness, especially to the family members having problems in relations with his comrades. He revealed nervous acts and low self-estimation.

After undertaking 6 month individual and group therapy with a psychologist Giviko's psychological condition has improved regulating his relations with the parents and getting rid of the behavioral and emotional problems. Nevertheless, Giviko did not wish to continue studies at the old school, while other schools refused to admit a problematic child. The only school which gave a consent was the one where AVNG conducted previously training for the teachers on the topic of domestic violence and here the teachers were aware on how to treat this category child.

With the psychologist's recommendation, they considered the boy's past and current family conditions and worked out for him an individual curriculum. Thanks to this program Giviko started active studies at school, acquired faith in himself and in his abilities. (payment of the study fee became possible with the project sources) Consequently, he completed 8th grade with high scores and today continues successful studies.

Implementation of the activities within the framework of the Project: **Establishing New Approaches in the Process of Working with the Children Staying at the Shelter for Victims of Trafficking and Domestic Violence**" further enriched AVNG work in the direction of psycho-social rehabilitation of the children victims of domestic violence and clearly revealed necessity for realization of the following activities:

- Underpinning coordinated collaboration between the state and non-governmental sector;
- Promoting development/reinforcement of the non-governmental sector working with the children victims of trafficking and domestic violence; Supporting preparation of the rehabilitation/educational programs for the children victims of trafficking and domestic violence;
- Developing skills of the personnel working in the governmental and non-governmental sector, who are directly involved in the work process with children victims of trafficking and domestic violence;
- Promoting improvement/strengthening of the shelters for the victims of trafficking and domestic violence.

Trainings for Policemen

While AVNG one of the priority directions for effective protection and support of the victims of domestic violence envisage enhancement of the police educational level on the issues of domestic violence, the organization has close collaboration with the Internal Ministry and works in association with the experts of other non-governmental and state structures on implementation of the educational projects for policemen.

Even in 2008 within the framework of AVNG project through support of the Kingdom of Netherlands was created a training module preparing practical textbook for policemen "Police and Domestic Violence". Both the module and the textbook envisaged renewed legislative base of

domestic violence, information on the conduct of policemen within the frames of national referral mechanism, psychological aspects of responsive actions on the cases of domestic violence, etc.

Amendments in the legislative base in force on elimination of domestic violence (draft projects of legislative acts related to the domestic violence prepared within the framework of joint project of the AVNG and Young Lawyers Association was approved by the Parliament of Georgia), as well as practical experience of the policemen working on the issues of domestic violence and of the non-governmental organizations created necessity of working out new manual for policemen and revising the current one.

Time has passed and the legislative base was refined. Within the framework of AVNG and GAILA joint projects the addendums were introduced into the Law on Domestic Violence. Practical experience of the non-governmental organizations working on the issues of domestic violence has enriched and created necessity of revising handouts.

In 2009 under the UNFPA project experts involved in the issues of domestic violence (including AVNG Chairperson) prepared a new textbook for policemen- pocketbook of the patrol police inspectors and 2-day training module using materials from the textbook “Police and Domestic Violence”.

Since March 2010 through May 2011 with the purpose of underpinning capacities of national partners for implementation of the Action Plan with the activities to be realized for implementation of the Law on Domestic Violence and prevention of such violence, AVNG was involved in the UNWOMEN UNIFEM project “ShiEld- for prevention and elimination of domestic violence in Georgia”. AVNG implemented one of the project objectives which envisaged renewal/revision of the current curriculum on the issues of domestic violence in cooperation with the police academy.

Since module operating on the issues of domestic violence was worked out at the police academy by theorists, Anti Violence Network of Georgia (AVNG) with the purpose of renewal/revision of the existing curriculum created in collaboration with the Police Academy of Georgia a work group of 19 persons composed of practical experts. The work group included chairperson of the inter-institutional council for implementation of the acts to eliminate domestic violence, representatives of the patrol police, Internal Ministry, Police Academy, UNIFEM, UNFPA, State Fund for Protection and Support of the Victims of Human Trafficking, EU delegation to Georgia and non-governmental sector working on the issues of domestic violence.

The work group prepared for the students of the Academy at the Internal Ministry curriculum on the topic: “Domestic violence and operating mechanisms against it based on Georgian legislation” which envisages summarization of the theory and practical aspects of the problem in the study process and detailed analysis of the legal mechanisms effective against domestic violence.

Furthermore, in the form of study module was prepared a methodology of learning the above mentioned program and supplementary textbook for the trainers which contained comprehensive information with the definition of domestic violence, its forms, factors instigating violence, risk-groups, dynamics, identification, legislative base in force against domestic violence, functions of the police and relevant liabilities in fight against domestic violence, practical aspects and problems against domestic violence.

Within the framework of UNWOMEN UNIFEM Project 11 editions of 1-day training courses entitled “Domestic violence and active mechanisms for its prevention based on Georgian legislation” were organized for active policemen according to the revised module. Trainings took place in various regions and cities of Georgia, namely Sagarejo, Signagi, Dedoplistskaro, Gori, Mtskheta, Telavi, Marneuli, Rustavi, Pasanauri, Khashuri and Tbilisi run by Maka Peradze, Head of the Internal Ministry International Relations Head Office for projects coordination and Department of the Relations with International Organizations, Nodar Saakashvili, Head of the Patrol Police Department of Internal Academy, AVNG employees Gia Gogiberidze and Givi Mikanadze. Over 3000 employees of the patrol police and district service staff were involved in the above trainings.

During the training participants received information on the Georgian legislation on domestic violence covering such important documents as “Georgian Law on Elimination of the Domestic Violence, Protection and Support to its Victims”, Administrative Procedure Code of Georgia (Chapter VII/3), Decree of the President of Georgia # 665 (05.10.2009) on “Approval of the Rule for Identification of the Domestic Violence Victims”, Decree of the Internal Minister of Georgia # 1079 (11.09.2006) and Decree # 333 (24.03.2010) on “Approval of the Restrictive Order and Minutes of the Restrictive Order as well as the “Law on Defining the Authorized persons for its Preparation”, joint Decree of the Minister of Georgian Labour, Health and Social Affairs, Minister of Internal Affairs and Minister of Education and Science of Georgia dated 31 May 2010- 152/N-496-45/N on “Approval of the Procedures for Applications on Children’s Protection and Decree of the Internal Minister of Georgia from 10 December 2010 # 1094 on “The Rule and conditions for storage of confiscated firearm existing in the personal ownership of the offender during domestic violence”, also on “Approval of the rule and conditions for offender’s limited usage of the service firearm or/and its confiscation”, “Georgian Law on Police” and Decree of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia from 26 August 2005 #875 on ”Approval of the instructions for territorial bodies district services of the Georgian Internal Ministry”.

Participants received supplementary statistical information on issuance of the Protective and Restrictive Orders during 2009-2010 (statistical data as per regions), statistics of Ukraine based on the 2008 data and statistics of Finland from 1997 through 2006.

Within the framework of training participants reviewed the types of domestic violence and their characteristic features. With the purpose of describing various phases of domestic violence specialists used Walker Model and demonstrated the wheel of violence.

Participants were distributed forms of the Restrictive Order, completed samples and undertook practical session with regard to proper reaction from the police on the fact of domestic violence. With this purpose organizers demonstrated and discussed video films identifying proper actions from the side of police while reacting on the facts of domestic violence.

During study process participants concentrated on specific issues asking additional questions for clarification and discussed real facts connected with the domestic violence on the territory of their operational area.

At the end of training courses participants conducted anonymous assessment of the training focusing on the importance of this event, as prior to the training they did not obtain complete information on how to issue Restrictive Order or react properly on the facts of domestic violence.

Noteworthy is that all participants in the training were distributed a collection especially prepared for this training which contained all normative acts (both legislative and supplementary) currently effective in our country against domestic violence that is rather important in their daily activities.

Trainings had positive impact not only on perceptibility of policemen and improvement of their knowledge on the issues of domestic violence, but also on the following aspects:

1. After the training courses in Kakheti, namely Dedoplistkharo district was issued the first Restrictive Order by inspector-investigator of Dedoplistkharo territorial section.
2. As a result of active involvement from the side of Police Academy and employees of Internal Ministry the number of hours assigned to cover the issues of domestic violence has increased in the curriculum of the academy from 6 to 10 hours.
3. Taking into account request for trainings the trainers created supplementary textbook for police staff entitled "Domestic Violence and Operational Mechanisms for its prevention According to Georgian Legislation".

Research

In March Embassy of Estonia demonstrated the results of social research conducted under the joint project of AVNG and "Estonian Open Society Foundation" entitled "Improving Administrative Capacities of Georgia to Prevent Domestic Violence and Providing Support its Victims". Results of the above research were as follows:

- 48 % of the surveyed consider their own house as the most dangerous place;
- 60 % of the surveyed victims says that they witnessed psychological violence from father's side against mother, 50%- physical violence and 15%-sexual violence;
- 8% of the questioned persons were victims of incest, 4% -from the side of co-mates and 4% being the victim of sexual violence from the side of seniors;
- Every fourth call received by patrol police is for the cases of domestic violence.

With the support of the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs the project has been implemented by AVNG in association with the "Estonian Open Society Foundation" for almost 3 years. The project aims at creation of effective control mechanisms from the state's side for reduction of domestic violence by sharing Estonian experience and providing effective and professional support to its victims.

AVNG regional committees took part in realization of the research questioning 1252 victims throughout Georgian territory. As a result of research risk zones were identified according to the regions. Kakheti is considered as the highest 1st risk zone, where:

- 92 % of the questioned persons are victims of domestic violence;
- 90% experienced humiliation and offence;
- 86% is the victim of physical violence;
- 67% consider that home is the place where woman can be attacked by her family member;

- 63% is raped by husband (partner);
- 29% experienced physical and sexual violence during pregnancy.

According to the conducted survey Shida Kartli, Mtskheta-Tianeti, Samtskhe-Javakheti belong to the second risk zone with the facts of domestic violence, where:

- 72-80% suffered of humiliation and offence;
- 59-69% experienced physical violence;
- 42-50% of women consider their home as the most dangerous place;
- 32-47% was raped by own husband
- 28-47% experienced physical and sexual violence during pregnancy;

Standard degree of violence is registered in Kvemo kartli, Racha, Imereti, Adjara. 3/4 of the persons surveyed in these regions experience domestic violence.

The survey proved that the least risk zones are Guria, Samegrelo and Tbilisi.

53% of the offenders against women are husbands, 17%- fathers, 8%-ex-husbands, 6%-partners, 6%-brothers. Furthermore, violence over women is committed by sons, uncles, grandfathers and husbands and friends in the 3% of the cases.

The fact that every 3rd woman in Georgia is the victim of domestic violence is of great concern.

Results of the research were distributed to all the interested state, non-governmental and international organizations with the purpose of enhancing mutual collaboration to prevent domestic violence.

In order to ensure wide scale coverage of the distressing outcomes of the survey on domestic violence in Georgia and increase public awareness on the issues of domestic violence intensive PR campaign commenced in 2011. AVNG experts regularly commented on various facts of violence practically through all informative programs. Namely:

TV Transmission:

TV Company „Imedi”- Topic in the informative program-Violence over children

<http://www.myvideo.ge/?act=dvr&chan=imedi>

TV Company „ITV”- program on the domestic violence

<http://www.itv.ge/?m=3&st=24>

TV Company „Maestro”- program on domestic violence and statistical data.

<http://www.myvideo.ge/?act=dvr&chan=maestro>

TV company “Rustavi2”- presentation of the research outcomes

<http://www.myvideo.ge/?act=dvr&chan=rustavi2>

TV Company “Imedi”- presentation of the research outcomes

<http://www.myvideo.ge/?act=dvr&chan=maestro>

TV Company “Palitra.ge”- presentation of the research outcomes

<http://www.palitratv.ge/>

TV company “Public channel”- presentation of the research outcomes

<http://www.myvideo.ge/?act=dvr&chan=gpb>

Informative agencies:

„g-h-n”, <http://www.ghn.ge/news-36617.html>

„E-P-N”, <http://www.epn.ge/?p=51707>; http://www.epn.ge/?page_id=36129

„kakheti Informative Center”

<http://ick.ge/ka/rubrics/society/5057-2011-03-10-06-43-27.html>;

<http://ick.ge/ka/rubrics/main-news/61-tnews/5070-2011-03-10-11-29-40.html>

Newspapers

“Netpaper”, “Violence in Figures” [http://netgazeti.ge/GE/49/Life/4828/violence i figures.htm](http://netgazeti.ge/GE/49/Life/4828/violence_i_figures.htm),

“Netpaper”, Nino Kakhishvili, “Women’s happiness according to the regions”

<http://netgazeti.ge/GE/49/>

“Resonanse”, Elza Tsiklauri, “52 % of men, 42 % of women and 35 % of teachers commit violence over child”.

http://www.resonancedaily.com/index.php?id_rub=2&id_artc=5540

Radio

Radio “Tavisupleba”, Nino Tarkhishvili, “What has the investigation showed about violence”,

<http://www.radiotavisupleba.ge/content/article/2333711.html>

Development of Crisis Center and the Shelter in Tbilisi

During 2010-2011 joint support of OSI and KTK gave the AVNG opportunity to get involved in the projects directed against domestic violence but also ensure legal protection and psycho-social rehabilitation of the specific persons and support involvement of regional committees in resolution of various cases.

Under the various realized projects, development of the AVNG crisis centers continued in Tbilisi and all the regions of Georgia.

Each person applying to the AVNG either first calls or directly comes to the office requesting visit at the specialist.

If resolution of the specific case requires multidisciplinary group- joint involvement of the lawyer, psychologist and social worker, the group together with the victim works out safety plan and all the above specialists within their capacity provide support to the victim for resolution of the concrete problem.

Hotline

Hotline of Tbilisi Crisis Center of the Anti Violence Network of Georgia operates daily from 10:00 am until 18:00 p. m. except Saturdays and Sundays.

The incoming calls on the numbers (99532) 726717 and (99590) 261627 are answered according to the type of request and consultations are provided by the AVNG psychologists and lawyers. Nevertheless, sometimes the victims call to the office number as well 95 06 79.

The customer learns about the AVNG hotline numbers through booklets and leaflets published by the organization, however based on the survey conducted by AVNG 45% of applicants come to the organization or call with the information received from 09 service or apply with the recommendation of various organizations (ombudsmen, police, mass media).

Incoming Calls to the Hotline of AVNG Tbilisi Crisis Center during 2010

Month	Total number of telephone calls	Legal support	Psychological support	Legal & psychological support	Getting information on social problems
January	50	20	1	21	29
February	65	24	2	26	39
March	61	15	4	19	42
April	28	9	1	10	18
May	25	9	1	10	10
June	72	32	3	35	37
July	68	34	1	35	33
August	6	3	1	4	2
September	26	9		9	17
October	61	28	3	31	30
November	79	38	9	47	32
December	60	41	2	43	17
Total	621	77	9	86	143

Incoming Calls to the Hotline of AVNG Tbilisi Crisis Center during 2011

Month	Total number of telephone calls	Legal support	Psychological support	Legal & psychological support	Getting information on social problems
January	46	20	7	27	19
February	85	35	4	39	46
March	50	16	7	23	27
Total	181	71	18	93	92

Psychological support of the women victims of domestic violence

During 2010-2011 tenth of persons applied to the AVNG office for psychological support. Each of them started visit at the psychologist with the individual consultations followed by their involvement in group psycho-rehabilitation sessions.

Group psycho-therapy course was organized for the victims of domestic violence twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Before group psycho-therapy each of them was interviewed using cognitive-rational method. In case of necessity each victim had opportunity to receive individual psycho-therapy support.

As a result of the accomplished work in all the above stated cases clients experienced “Catharsis”, they were released from the situational nervousness and improved the level of their adaptation to the environment.

From April 2010 through March 2011 total 75 victims of domestic violence undertook group and individual psycho-therapy course with the AVNG psychologist out of which 52 persons applied to the crisis center and 23 women came from the AVNG shelter for the victims of domestic violence.

Majority of them were characterised with low self-evaluation and socialization became difficult due to their Disposition to the self-isolation.

Women coming from the crisis center undertook 93 individual, 11 family, 59 -group therapy and 8 intervention sessions.

Shelter residents took part in 59 individual, 58 group and 19 family sessions.

During the entire reporting period AVNG psychologist conducted 152 individual, 117 family sessions and 8 interventions.

Age data of the beneficiaries ranged between 16-63 years.

3% of the applicants had low level of general development; 7%- lower than average, 25%- average, 54%- higher than average, while 11% had high level.

Out of the applicants 99% was the victim of psychological violence, 95%-physical violence, 73% - economic and 34% - sexual violence.

Among 63 % of the cases abuser was a husband, 12% applied with the reason of violence committed from their children's side, 2%- suffered of abuser friend and 23% were the victims of violence from other family members.

A psychologist tries to establish contact with the abuser in order to help him/her to acknowledge committed acts of violence. Unfortunately, not many of them have willingness from the offenders' side to establish contacts, as according to the abusers' psychic they persistently try to subordinate the victim, while part of them strive to intimidate specialists. However, during such attacks AVNG counts only on the quick reaction from the police, as the organization lacks other technical means of protection.

Legal support

During 2010-2011 persons applying to the AVNG for legal support received service from two lawyers.

During the above period, total 289 persons applied to AVNG office for support. During 19 cases organization lawyers submitted application to the administrative court with the request on issuance of the Protective Order out of which only 5 applications were not satisfied, i.e. Protective Order was not issued due to lack of sufficient proofs. The rest 14 applications were satisfied under conditions acceptable for the victims.

30 applications were submitted to the Court of Civil Affairs on various issues: divorce, allocation of alimony, determining children's residential place. In 22 cases lawsuit was satisfied.

In 105 cases applicant was directly calling to the lawyer for legal support. The lawyers themselves applied to various instances such as district services, municipality, and children's custody service in 10 cases.

2010 Data

Months	Number of application	Application to the administrative court of lawsuits		Application to the Court of Civil Cases		Telepho ne consultations	Number of applications to various structures.
		Satisfied	Not satisfied	Satisfied	Not satisfied		
January	22	1	1	2			
February	27	2	1	1		13	2
March	31	1				11	1
April	9	2	1	1		5	
May	8		1			4	
June	12	1		2		9	
July	10	2		2	1	8	1
August	10			1		8	
September	8			3		5	
October	29			2		12	
November	32	2		4	1	5	3
December	25	2	1	2		8	
Total	223	13	5	20	2	88	7

2011 Data

Months	Number of applications	Applications to the Administrative Court of Lawsuits		Applications to the Court of Civil Cases		Telepho ne consultations	Number of application to various structures
		satisfied	Not satisfied	satisfied	Not satisfied		
January	25	1		2	1	7	1
February	41			4	1	10	2
Total	66	1		6	2	17	3

In one case with the purpose of verifying the person's status of the victim we applied to the group determining status of the domestic violence victim operating at the Inter-institutional council which accomplished relevant activities for elimination of violence.

Shelter and Social Rehabilitation of its Residents

During the project reporting period social worker served 54 persons staying at the shelter out of which 24 were adolescents and 33- women including 5 pregnant ladies.

All five expecting women were in non-registered marriage and were abandoned by their partner only for refusing to do an abortion. The women were knocked out from their own families as they made choice in favor of the child and did not obey categoric requirement of the family members on making abortion.

Patriarchate of Georgia supported AVNG many times in resolving the delivery issue of pregnant women who were victims of domestic violence. In the above case as well three pregnant out of five delivered the child at the maternity home operating at the Patriarchate. Due to the lack of places one of the pregnant women was transferred through involvement of Patriarchate to #1 city maternity house, while 1 pregnant was accommodated through AVNG mediation at the city # 2 clinic, where she had a complicated C-Section at the clinic's expense.

All five new born babies together with their mothers were accommodated by AVNG social worker at the mothers and babies shelter.

With the purpose of victims social rehabilitation AVNG collaborates with various bodies: Patriarchate, shelter for mothers and babies, private sector, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour, Health Care and Social Affairs of Georgia, etc. However, the organization also contacts according to the necessity the entities when their involvement becomes necessary for resolving specific cases. Agency of social service was the entity that helped three residents of the AVNG shelter to receive the status of socially unprotected people getting also consequently monthly monetary assistance.

Each person staying at the AVNG shelter has quiet and safe environment, however due to the increased demand AVNG multi-disciplinary group (AVNG social worker, psychologists and lawyers) which reviews the issue of accommodating women at the shelter, is obliged to satisfy only the cases when women's life and health are at risk.

When the AVNG shelter has no space the victim applies for help to the shelter for the domestic violence victims operating at the Trafficking Fund.

In order to satisfy the victim's request on accommodation at the state shelter, the latter should have the status of the victim of domestic violence. For obtaining such status the victim writes his personal history, while psychologist helps to complete a special questionnaire and prepares conclusion on his/her psycho-type. The documents are received by the work group for determining status of the domestic violence victim operating at the Inter-institutional council which accomplished relevant activities for elimination of violence. On receipt of the positive decision as per victim's desire she is placed at the state shelter. Nevertheless, sometimes the victim has no necessity of getting the shelter, however still wishes to obtain the status, because in this case the procedure for obtaining the Protective Order envisaged under the Domestic Violence Law becomes easier.

PR Campaign

During 2010-2011 AVNG was placed in the limelight of mass media sources, as the problem of unusual cruelty of the domestic violence cases came in the foreground.

PR campaign of the Anti Violence Network of Georgia considered two directions: First- PR of the organization and the second- coverage of the domestic violence as the problem.

AVNG specialists (authorities,lawyers, psychologists,social worker, organization beneficiaries) often meet media representatives.

AVNG experts were making comments on almost all cases of mass media's key interest offering free legal support and psycho-social rehabilitation with the purpose of preventing the crime. On the occasion of various events they were leaving booklets connected with resolution of domestic violence problems at the offices of governmental or non-governmental sectors offering their help.

Hundreds of booklets and the book entitled "Domestic violence and operating mechanisms against it pursuant to the Georgian legislation" were distributed to the patrol police and district service employees in Tbilisi, Telavi, Mtskheta, Bolnisi and other cities.

AVNG regional committees organized at all regions countrywide 27 meetings with the local population on the topic of domestic violence against women, trafficking and gender equality.

During January 2010-March 2011 were prepared up to 20 newspaper articles and about 35 radio and TV programs (it should be emphasized that this is only part of media publications. Materials are prepared at the regions as well, but not all of them are possible to deliver).

Following articles were published in printed media sources:

- "Liberal" Natia Guliashvili, January-February 2010
- "Chronicle of the taboo terror",Oliko Tsiskarashvili, "fact.ge"
- "Beats - means loves?"Iana Israelian, "Argument and fact"
- "Much more than personal", Maka Jaiani, "Press.ge" 12.08.2010
- "An evening at the women's shelter",Tinatin Mosiashvili, "Amarta",nation
- "Offender husband called wife to discuss the case with criminals", Mirian Bokolishvili, "{rime-Time"
- "When there is twelve steps to the God",interview with Manana Sologashvili, "Argument".
- "Crisis center for displaced women", people's paper (Gori),September 2010
- "Liberal" , Natia Guliashvili, March 2011

Radio programs

- " Radio "Imedi"-live program "Individual and the law", March 2010
- "Radio "Imedi"-live program" Individual and the law", March 2010

Broadcasted TV Programs and Episodes

- TV company “Imedi”, “Journalists Diary”, Tiko Peikrishvili, March 2010
- TV Company “Rustavi2”, “Currier”, episode on the domestic violence, 2010
- Public broadcaster, program “Audiance”, August 2010
- TV company “Mze”-program “Sunflower”- 25 November 2010
- Public Broadcaster, episode on domestic violence, informative transmission, comment by Nato Shavlakadze on the issues of domestic violence, February 2011
- TV company “Real TV”, cycle of episodes on pregnant women, December 2010-January 2011 (three episodes)
- TV company “Real TV”, morning program. Topic trafficking and domestic violence-23 February 2011
- TV company “Real TV, episode on family disputes, 28 February 2011
- TV company “Real TV”, episode on abandoning new born babies and ways of preventing the process, 1 March 2011
- TV company “Imedi”, “Special reporting”, 12 February 2011 (reaction on the case occurred in Misaktsieli and comments by Eliso Amirejibi and Elene Samushia)
- TV company “Imedi”, “special reporting”-19 February 2011 (negative episode on the hotline)
- TV company “Imedi”, episode in the informative program, 1 March 2011 (comment of Manana Sologashvili on the interview of one of the victims)
- Public broadcaster, program talk show “Public debates”, 26 February 2011.

Printed materials

- for popularization of the topic in general prepared and printed the booklet “on domestic violence: on Russian and Azerbaijani languages.
- Triplets prepared and published on AVNG activities in Georgian and English languages.
- Flyers for policemen
- Ready for printing material for the book “Voice of the Wordless” under Georgian-Estonian project. 26 interviews prepared with the victims and 12 interviews with the experts working with victims

As the role of mass media is rather significant in resolution of the domestic violence problem AVNG actively continues working with mass media sources in order to increase awareness of each citizen.

However, it is rather significant to work directly with the journalists, as due to insufficient education we often face the cases of violating victim's ethical, confidentiality and safety norms from their side.

Promoting Development of the AVNG Regional and District Committees

The project "Development of the Anti Violence Network of Georgia" enabled AVNG to continue not only legal support of the victims and their psycho-social rehabilitation but also to expand its work scope and take part in various events directed to the prevention of domestic violence problems.

On May 23, 2010 Association "Women's Movement for Equality" became member of the Anti Violence Network of Georgia. The organization is located in the village Tserovani of Shida Kartli region, which is densely populated with the refugees. Ms. Tamar Romelashvili is the chairperson of the Committee (Before 2010 she worked at the public defender's office as the expert on violence, trafficking and women's rights).

Later in June organization was enlarged with one more district committee from the village Saniore of Kakheti region (Chairperson Tamila Batsashvili).

On 20 September 2010 with the invitation of Karaleti NGO "Women's Solidarity Centre" and TASO financial support AVNG experts were invited to organize for policemen training on the domestic violence. 19 policemen from Karaleti and adjacent villages and the district service employees attended the above training.

After completion of the event Head of the "Women's Solidarity Centre" Mrs. Tamar Tediashvili submitted an application for AVNG membership.

AVNG member became one more Committee in Chokhatauri which was established on the base of NGO Sotsium. Committee Chairperson is the Director of Chokhatauri #1 school, full member of the Congress Monitoring Committee, representative from Guria region Mrs. Manana Jincharadze.

In 2010 Leader Women's Initiative Group was established in the village Akhalkalaki of Shida Kartli region. With the proposal of the organization and direct support of German Maecenas woman Margaret Wegman from June AVNG psychologist and the lawyer monthly organize meetings with the village population. AVNG experts increase public awareness of the village residents (especially women) on the problematic issues of domestic violence, trafficking and women's rights. All the interested persons receive individual consultations locally.

Such visits encourage more clear and acute disclosure of the current problems in Georgia existing in the field of domestic violence and women's rights in general.

With the support of AVNG regional committees before commence of the studies at the high schools textbooks were distributed throughout Georgia prepared under the project "School education of Georgia at the service of human trafficking" implemented by IOM in association with the Georgian Ministry of Education and Science.

On 9 September 2010 EU representation in Georgia handed over to AVNG secondary furniture (beds, gas stoves, TV sets, etc.). Received gift was distributed at the Tbilisi crisis centre and the shelter. The gas stove was sent to Shida Kartli Committee to promote implementation of the culinary courses for women victims of domestic violence, trafficking and the refugees (The project commenced in 2009 with the support of the USA Embassy Small Grants Program for Development of Democracy).

AVNG regional committees were actively involved in implementation of the Project started with the Estonian Open Society Foundation on “**Improving administrative capacities of Georgia to prevent domestic violence and support its victims**”.

Through support received from the regional committees it became possible to identify among the regions (Kakheti, Shida Kartli, Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli, Racha, Imereti, Adjara, Guria, Samegrelo and Tbilisi) not only risk zones according to the degrees of domestic violence, but also to discover general picture of the violence problem.

Two third of the surveyed women (68%) were in the past or remain at present domestic violence victims. There is fairly more violence at the villages (68%) than in the cities (65%). 40% of women are raped by their partners.

It is of great concern that most of the violence facts especially in the regions are not disclosed. 24% has never mentioned about the facts of violence to anyone, 51 % revealed them with the friends, 21% of the victims told about the fact to other family members. Every 10th woman victim of domestic violence applies for support to the psychologist or social worker. In 74% of the cases the victims do not call police on the facts of domestic violence.

During 2009-2010 crisis centres were operating at the regions with OSI support and almost in all parts of Georgia population had opportunity to get qualified support if the violence occurred from the family member's side.

During the reporting period AVNG regional committees planned and realized their activities according to the necessities of their regions, however legal support of the domestic violence victims and their psycho-social rehabilitation stayed for all of them as priority direction.

AVNG Imereti Committee

During the reporting period in addition to taking part in the study conducted on domestic violence in Georgia, the Committee carried out its activities into several directions:

a) support to the victims of domestic violence:

Imereti committee in cooperation with the regional committees of Tbilisi, Racha-Lechkhumi and Ajara provided various types of assistance to several victims, namely, collecting documents with regard to the case of rape, identifying real facts on committed violence, legal support, etc. During resolution of each specific case the committee engaged media sources and AVNG other regional committees. While dealing with all complex cases key decisions were taken in association with Tbilisi office.

Tina

In December 2010 Imereti Committee received notification on Tina's case. One of the lady's relations applied to the Committee and according to the latter's statement Tina permanently experienced violence from the side of her husband, sister-in-law and own siblings.

“I was on my 8th month of pregnancy when my husband knocked me down the stairs after which I had miscarriage:-recollects Tina. Later she gave a birth to two children, although violence did not stop.

After the next physical violence and sharp “fight” Tina acquired psychological problems-fears and hallucinations, as if some people permanently whispered smth. in her ears. On the question what exactly she was scared of Tina answered that she had the fear of quarrel every time.

Tina was transferred to Kutaisi psycho-neurological dispensary. The neighbour verified that Tina was quite healthy and husband’s family placed her in the dispensary with the purpose of revenge, namely to take the children away from her.

On the question how she came to the psychiatric hospital the answer was that her family members accommodated her in order to cure her from hallucinations: “My sister-in-law told me if I go to the hospital and take treatment, everything will be OK and the situation will improve. Therefore, we both came here me and my husband”- Tina says.

After a week’s stationery treatment the husband took her from the hospital. “I know my children are not cold in that house and are not thirsty and therefore I have to come back hope everything will improve”-Tina said.

Unfortunately, this is not the first case of recognising domestic violence victim as a “crazy” person. However, AVNG reacts on all disclosed stories.

In the above case as well AVNG Racha-Lechkhumi-Kvemo Svaneti regional committee took liability to supervise Tina’s case which gives certain guarantee for protection and safety of this lady.

b) Informative direction

The Committee actively collaborates with the media organizations. In October 2010 chairperson of the committee took part in the training organized in Poland, Warsaw on the topic:”Media coverage of the dependency problem”.

In 2010 Chairperson of the committee Maia Metskhvarishvili started activities in the project which was implemented by the “International Organization of Migration” and “The teachers Employment and Retraining Centre” in association with the Ministry of Education and Science.

Under the above project was created a school textbook on trafficking which was introduced into the civil education curriculum with two hours course for the students of 9th and 10th grades.

With the purpose of establishing the above course at public schools several trainers took retraining course under the project including Chairperson of Imereti committee. Trainers were assigned to organize re-training for all the teachers of civil education countrywide. During October and November 2010 Chairperson of the AVNG Imereti Committee organized such trainings for Imereti and Kvemo Kartli public school teachers.

On 11 March 2011 Chair of the committee was invited to “Rustavi 2” TV program “Business courier” to cover the topic of trafficking and illegal migration.

AVNG Kvemo Kartli Regional Committee

Since April 2010 members of the Committee were involved in implementation of the several plans:

1. Total 6 round tables were organized – one in each municipality of Kvemo Kartli (Marneuli, Dmanisi, Tetrtskharo, Tsalka). Both women and men took part in the proceedings of the round tables despite of their ethnic background, age or profession. Each meeting was run by the Committee Coordinator L. Suleimanova and the lawyer K. Gumbatov. Participants were informed on corresponding internal legislative acts of Georgia in the field of protecting women’s rights, namely Constitution of Georgia, Law on ”Gender equality” and the law on

“Elimination of domestic violence providing support and protection to its victims”. Special focus was made during the meetings on the mechanisms of problem resolution. After wide discussions, participants worked out key recommendations in resolution of the domestic violence problems.

2. In order to ensure women’s active involvement in the life of community special courses were organized for them (in Georgian, English languages and computer programs) that promoted improvement of their skills and increased women’s self-assessment.
3. During April and May total 60 trainings were organized for the women of ethnic minorities throughout the region on the issues of human rights and participation in the elections as fully authorized citizens. Simultaneously, the lawyer conducted consultations on various topics after each meeting.
4. In August 3 (three) women got possibility to work during 12 days in the summer camp in Dmanisi for children from various ethnic groups (all of them received fees).
5. The committee received requests for support. Specific cases are delivered to the AVNG head office. Later a lawyer and psychologist started to handle the case and the victim was accommodated at the shelter. All necessary procedures are generally accomplished instantly and confidentially. While our regional committee accomplishes the work in confidentiality (due to specific character of the problem and local mentality), employees of the AVNG in Tbilisi conduct direct work with the victims. **Mother of many children applied for support to the committee.** Her brother living abroad connected her with the Anti Violence Network. Husband’s and the woman’s families are quite different by mentality having problems in relations. She was completely isolated in the family and each motion was controlled by not only her husband, but also other family members. According to the victim’s words, she was under permanent humiliation and offence from her husband’s family. With brother’s support, she applied to our committee. With the help of AVNG employees they found for her an apartment in Tbilisi and provided her with necessary legal and psychological consultations. As a result the woman returned to the family but it was a successful and worthy return. Among the domestic violence victims number of young women prevails. 16 year old girl applied to our committee for help. Her mother prohibited her to study at school from the 7th grade and at her 13 married her forcedly on the man of 35. She experienced violence again at her husband’s family. She could escape from them to the relatives. The girl is ashamed to contact her co-mates and school friends being afraid of sexual violence from their side. Our office became peaceful place for her, here she feels safe and receives advice. We engage her in the public activities and she is one of the active participants of many trainings and seminars.

AVNG Samtskhe-Javakheti Regional Committee

At the AVNG Samtskhe-Javakheti regional committee twice a week was organized group psychological rehabilitation sessions for 6 children staying at the shelter for domestic violence victims. 7 women passed individual psychotherapy course, 15 women received legal service including 3 women of the shelter who obtained relevant information on the dispute with regard to property dispute. 2 ladies requested support on allocation of the alimony and verification of paternity. 4 cases on divorce were submitted to the court, while the committee was involved in 1 case and supported the mother to return her child from the former husband’s family and in 2 cases the committee assisted in taking the child from the offender parents transferring them into the shelter of Ninotsminda Patriarchate. The committee established cooperation with the execution bureau to bring into effect the case on receiving the allocated alimony.

10 women received support to regulate the conflict between grandchildren and grandparents.

In January the regional committee organized the event which was attended by women and youngsters from crisis centres. Topic of the event was “Violence against Adolescents”. Discussions

revealed that many people in the region are well aware on the violence committed around them on the adolescents; however they prefer to keep silent. The committee came up with the initiative and participants of the event left information in the form of anonymous letters on the facts of violence committed over the youngsters with the purpose of further reaction on such cases.

In February the committee organized the event “Drug addiction –Disease or Crime”. It was attended by the women from crisis centres and the youngsters, as well as members of the organization “Women’s Hope”, doctor therapist and the lawyer. The event covered all legal measures connected with drug usage and its relations with the domestic violence.

Major focus was made on the children’s dependency program on drugs and violence reasoned by drug addiction in the family and in the society. The event was followed by special activity during which 4 groups of youngsters distributed booklets entitled “Spider” on the topic of drug addiction in Akhaltsikhe in four various directions. Booklets were also disseminated in three villages Adigeni district, namely Untsa, Benara and Fersa and informative thematic meeting was organized in the village Benara on the topic “Domestic violence- the law protects you”, where 25 women obtained information on the Law of domestic Violence and means of its implementation. They also got contact details of all the entities and non-governmental organizations to be applied to in case of domestic violence.

AVNG Mtskheta-Mtianeti Regional Committee

Mtsketa-Mtianeti regional committee of the Anti Violence Network of Georgia provides support to the victims of domestic violence as well as to the socially unprotected citizens who contact our office for receiving necessary support.

In 2010 total 51 persons applied for consultations to the committee, Mtskheta-Mtianeti regional committee of the Internal Ministry and Mtskheta district police (inclusive 4 persons in Dusheti and Akhagori municipalities). Among the above applicants 34 were incoming calls, 17 persons received consultations directly at the office. 19 cases were on domestic conflicts, 32 cases –on social and miscellaneous issues. 6 persons received legal consultations and 5- were consulted by social worker. 3 persons received verbal petition to the local government to obtain one time financial assistance. With the committee support 1 youngster (victim of domestic violence from mother’s side) was remitted 75% of the operation cost from the local government budget.

With the recommendation of the committee victim of domestic violence, mother of three children who was citizen of Russia was accommodated with her children at the AVNG shelter. Due to lack of space at the shelter, all 4 of them were transferred in several days to Akhaltsikhe shelter for the victims of domestic violence. As the situation in the current case gave opportunity to regulate the conflict, the committee members spent certain period to work with the abuser’s family involving consequently offender’s mother and sister (patrol police employee) to resolve the conflict and after receiving safety guarantee the woman was transferred back to the family. However, the committee still provides permanent attention to this family.

It was also significant to resolve positively the case connected with the domestic violence victim brothers David (16 year old) and Zurab (15 year old). Throughout a year they were locked by their mother in a dark room. After application received from the biological father (parents are divorced for 9 years) with the committee support Internal Ministry of Mtskheta-Mtianeti regional police and Mtskheta district police got involved in problem resolution together with the Mtskheta district social service division for children’s custody, district court, psychiatry clinic, Iashvili hospital and the shelter for victims of trafficking and violence. After special operation conducted by the police, children were isolated from their mother issuing consequently Protective Order and limiting mother’s rights. With the court’s decision she was forcedly accommodated at the psychiatric

hospital to undertake necessary treatment. Iashvili clinic engaged the youngsters with the committee mediation into the free program where they received a week's medical examination with a total cost of 1000 Georgian Lari for each child. Afterwards from October 2010 they were entrusted and accommodated at the uncle's house in the village Misaktsieli. At present the youngsters undertake social rehabilitation process with the support of the committee.

In September 2010 company "Humanity" allocated to the organization 24 studying items and 24 hygienic kits for beneficiaries. The committee presented these gifts to the 24 children from socially unprotected families.

In the 1st quarterly period of 2011, 11 citizens applied for support to the committee including 8 incoming calls, 3 persons applying to the office for consultations (inclusive 2 cases- on domestic violence) and 1 case-on the physical violence committed over the 6 year child from the mother's side (Mtskheta district office of the Internal Ministry contacted our committee for relevant support). The committee involved in the case social service agency on children's custody. At present Mtskheta district office of the Internal Ministry and social service agency on children's custody accomplish joint supervision for protection of child's rights.

Furthermore, victim of domestic violence (conflict arose between mother and father –in- laws and daughter-in-law) received necessary support with regard to admission of her 3 year old son in the kindergarten.

The citizens contact our committee for various problems proceeding from their trust and awareness. In most of the cases applicants receive petition addressed to the agency of healthcare and social affairs as well as local attorneys in the cities and villages.

Tserovani Committee of the Anti Violence Network of Georgia

In August 2008 as a result of Georgia-Russia military conflict thousands of persons were displaced. At the end of December 2008 total 2500 families were densely accommodated at the villages Tserovani and Tsilkani of Mtskheta district inclusive up to 12 000 persons amongst which 1000 were youth. Here primarily are accommodated refugees from Akhlagori, Kurta, Eredvi and Tigvi. Refugees face rather challenging social-economic conditions. They still face serious problems of civil and social integration which has negative impact on the civil activities of these refugees.

In 2009 under the project funded by the USA Embassy at the Tserovani settlement densely populated with refugees NGO "International Association Women's Movement for Equality" established a resource centre. The resource centre aimed at promoting psychological rehabilitation of the refugees, realization of their rights and protection of their interests, identification and reinforcement of the refugees' civil and political capacities, activating economic initiatives and actions for them, supporting trainings, group and thematic activities through close collaboration with nongovernmental and governmental structures and sharing current experience.

From May 2010 organization became the member of Anti Violence Network of Georgia. During June-July 2010 the committee started research on the victims of domestic violence which aimed at studying public viewpoint on the issues of domestic violence. 100 questionnaires were completed at the Tserovani settlement densely populated with refugees and submitted to the Anti Violence Network of Georgia. Distribution of the surveys, their completion and collection was accomplished by refugees involved in the activities of resource centre.

On June 26, 2010 the committee organized the seminar "Let's fight against violence". The judge from the Supreme Court Mrs. Natia Tskepeladze took part in the proceedings and answered numerous questions from the participants side with regard to domestic violence.

On July 10 at the Committee meeting run by the participant of Abkhazian war, holder of Vakhtan Gorgasali Order Guram Kvarastseli, discussed problems of the displaced persons and identified the ways of their resolution.

At present the committee continues active work through meetings and individual consultations in order to increase refugees' awareness on the issues of domestic violence and women's role in peace building.

AVNG Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti Regional Committees

AVNG Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti Regional Committees are located in the building of Ambrolauri municipality. Social study was organized at the Ambrolauri municipality under the Project "Improving administrative capacities of Georgia for prevention of domestic violence and support to its victims". Total 200 persons were surveyed during the above survey.

Racha is a mountainous region where information on women's rights and their problematic issues reaches with great delay. Therefore, Committee members used any gathering place for holding meetings and seminars with the women in order to bring to their attention the issues of women's rights, information where to apply in the cases of violence and details how the AVNG will help them in association with the social workers and local police.

In order to obtain maximum information on the cases of domestic violence chairperson of the committee requested attorneys of the municipality settlement and the governors to submit information to the committee immediately after disclosure of the domestic violence case. Furthermore, special notice was placed at the administrative buildings of the settlements with direct contact number of Nino Sokhadze, Chairperson of the Committee to enable any person calling her, if necessary.

AVNG Kakheti Regional Committee

During the reporting period total 333 women applied for support to AVNG Kakheti regional committee. Amongst them 93 persons received support on legal issues, 110 women- psycho-social and 130 –telephone consultations.

Kakheti region was always characterized with rather severe forms of domestic violence. It was proved once again as a result of special survey conducted by AVNG throughout Georgia with the support of Estonian government.

Due to increased demand of support from domestic violence victims AVNG promoted development of its committee in Lagodekhi and Saniore which were actively involved not only in resolution of specific cases, but also organization of trainings for policemen on the issues of domestic violence and increasing participation of governmental entities in the process.

During the reporting period with the support of Lagodekhi and Saniore committees the regional committee organized informative meetings on the topics of women's rights and domestic violence with the population of the villages of Poni, Matsimi, Ninigori, Saniore and Lagodekhi. Over 190 persons attended 11 meetings, while several persons applied to the committee for specific support.

The above meetings identified the case of domestic violence where daughter –in-law and her three small children were made to starve in order to make pressure on the mother. Furthermore, in addition to verbal offence family members committed also physical violence over each other. Committee

members visited the family together with the attorney of the settlement, chairperson of Lagodekhi municipality and the worker of the Lagodekhi district social agency and acquainted them with the forms of domestic violence including the type of economic violence as well.

As with the decision of multidisciplinary group the best outcome from the current situation was isolation of the young woman with her husband and children from the rest of the family (as the woman has no problem with her husband), with the support of social worker from Lagodekhi district department of social agency the organization “Save the Children” allocated for the young family in the village Pshvidobiani an apartment with a year’s ownership.

AVNG Shida Kartli Regional Committee

Majority of the persons applying to Shida Kartli Committee of the Anti Violence Network of Georgia were socially unprotected people living in extreme poverty, residing at the collective centres and cottages, in the so-called buffer zone, women of marginal groups of vulnerable category.

Psychologist and a lawyer worked for the above women and provided free consultations at the organization office as well as through hotline of the committee crisis centre (8270 7-79-45).

During the reporting period number of calls received through hotline made up 1191. 213 calls amongst them were inexpedient (requesting humanitarian support) consequently directed to the organizations concerned.

382 women were interested to get information on the courses organized by the committee under the project “Crisis centre for women”.

247 displaced persons requested information on state programs and non-governmental organizations who were implementing various programs for this category persons.

231 women contacted the committee for legal support. 11 of them received advocate’s service, 2 beneficiary cases are under lawsuit and 5 cases completed successfully amongst which 4 ended with agreement and 1 lawsuit was interrupted.

The rest people received consultations on the topics of their interest, such as: divorce, alimony, limitation of parent’s rights, loans and their management, payment of the loan, heritage, issuance of Protective and Restrictive Orders during domestic violence, etc.

118 women received psychologist’s support.

Within the framework of psychological support of the children victims of domestic violence 12 beneficiaries undertook rehabilitation course where both children and their parents were involved in individual and group therapy sessions.

Through support of the Anti Violence Network of Georgia textbooks were purchased for 15 children.

Under the Project “Creation of the crisis centre for women” supported by the “USA Embassy Small Grants Program for Development of Democracy” professional retraining was organized for 60 women both domestic violence victims and representatives from various buffer zone villages, refugees and socially unprotected women. 30 women undertook short courses of reproductive health.

Social worker of the organization was actively involved in the employment issues of the aforementioned women seeking work places for them both through internet and personal information providing them with relevant news on employment. As a result 13 women obtained jobs: 2 women- at the non-governmental organization “Path”, 5 women- at the private bakery, the rest –at the beauty salons.

AVNG Karaleti Sub-Committee

Population informative awareness at the frontier villages is the important step forward in prevention of the domestic violence problem, for ensuring timely reaction on the facts of domestic violence and their victims support. Affiliation of Karaleti Women’s Solidarity Centre into the AVNG gave the district population good opportunity to obtain in-depth information on problematic of domestic violence and think on the ways of its prevention.

On February 22, 2011 at the village Kveshi located in close proximity with the border, where entry is still controlled by Georgian law protection forces, subject to the safety norms and outcomes of the Georgia –Russia war from August and following psychological stresses, Karaleti Women’s Solidarity Centre, as one of the AVNG sub-committees, organized at the village Kveshi public school informative meeting for the teachers on the topic of domestic violence where primary attention was focused on the frequent facts of violence committed especially against adolescents offering organization’s service for them when such cases occurred.

The above informative meeting was attended by 12 teachers. Furthermore, informative meeting on the topic “Domestic violence –marriage contracts” organized for the same school youth focused their primary attention on the facts of economic violence and the outcomes of this economic factors which often obligate many victims to keep the violence in secret and get used to it as the fear of economic factor (fear of future survival, preservation, homelessness) and the reality becomes a challenging problem in each young person’s life.

On February 28 the similar informative meeting was organized in the village Mereti. Gathered population discussed complicated conditions facing the village (it is located near the border), which becomes harder from the standpoint of domestic violence, although recognition of the specific facts not characteristic to our society, are not often disclosed. After the above meeting the same day one of the women notified the committee that the police was called for the first time on the fact of domestic violence.

March 4, 2011

Next informative meeting took place in the village Kitsnisi of Gori district at the library building, as this is the only administrative construction existing in the village. The population was distributed informative booklet on the topic of domestic violence together with the organization contact details. They were offered relevant services.

The meeting was attended by 15 persons.

March 8, 2011

Photo exhibition was organized in the lobby of the “Karaleti Women’s Solidarity Centre” which was opened by the representative from the EU Monitoring Mission. She congratulated all the attended women on the occasion of women’s day and spoke on women’s role in the society. The meeting was widely covered by public broadcaster, TV company Rustavi 2, Trialeti, Maestro and Radio “Freedom”.

AVNG Guria Regional Committee

During reporting period over 80 women received consultations at the AVNG Guria Regional Committee. All of them had similar problems-violence committed by husband or other family members.

Age of applicants ranged between 17-72 years. Their problems can be diversified as per their age in the following way:

15-20 years- Consultations offered to 18 girls under this age category. They say parents mostly father and also brother are considerably strict with them and require obedience from them. In case of leaving home without permission they are subject to verbal offence with several facts of beating. In order to avoid conflicts girls in most cases prefer to obey their demands.

The brother prohibited his sister to attend educational courses (they came from socially unprotected family and with this motivation the girl was admitted to the quite costly program). The reason for prohibition was late appearance at home after the classes. As a result of committee involvement the problem was resolved positively.

20-25 years- Consultations offered to 27 ladies under this age category mostly married women who experienced violence from their husband's side and mother-in-laws. In several cases offender is the single sister-in-law. These people say that they fail to protect their rights; however they are well aware that it is possible subject to the law. It is explained in several ways. 15 women noticed that violence against the woman was frequent case in the family where they were brought up, consequently such treatment is the normal fact for them. Despite of the fact that the women know how to protect themselves, they fail to do so as they prefer to refrain from taking radical decisions. Noteworthy is that the topic of a "dowry" is rather significant among this category ladies. 12 of them specify that they are without dowry; therefore they are obliged to stand much offence. 9 women say their husbands are drug addicts or drink often that becomes one of the reasons of domestic violence. Four ladies mentioned they left home several times, however with the relations and friends' interference they returned to the family, although violent acts against them still proceed. 2 women received categorical demand from their husbands to quit their work. Reasons were different: in the first case husband says his income is quite sufficient and does not need wife's salary (?). In the second case husband lost his job and considers that his wife should also stay at home (!?)

35-50 years- 16 ladies are registered under this age category having tense relations with their husbands being often in drunk condition and demand that wives "sustain" them. The women also have problems with adult children who spend whole day in idleness in the street and wait until mother gives them money for cigarette, drink and poker club. One of the ladies who could not sustain her husband and child went abroad for work. Several months later she faced terrible picture after returning home-father and the son permanently used alcohol and quarrelled, so she decided to stay again at home. However, her small income is not enough for the family and she sometimes thought even on committing suicide. The man in drunkard condition kicked his wife and son from home and they are staying at their relative for 2 months. We offered her patrol police support, but she refused.

Over 50 years- this category includes 7 women. 65 year old lady looks after a sick person in Turkey as her son lost great amount of money and mother is obliged to pay her son's debts. 72 year old single woman suffers from violence from her nephews side and sister-in-law forcedly demands money from her and now she is threatened by kicking out of the house.

The aforementioned and lots of other facts prove that violence does not recognize age; however it is disclosed in different ways at various age categories.

Today no one is surprised at the discussions on women's rights and gender equality; however certain nihilism still exists from this standpoint in the society. Positive shifts are evident among Muslim population of the district. Among the aforementioned women 12 are Muslims (18-30 years).

Within 16 day-campaign organized against violence Committee members arranged meetings with senior grade students of Naruji public school (primary population is Muslim, this village has work groups composed of teachers) and at St. Gabriel Bishop's school.

At this stage activities are underway with 2 adolescents (16 and 17 years old). One of them had the attempt of committing a suicide as his girl friend left him. In the second case the student of 11th grade got pregnant from her co-mate. Parents hid the boy and the girl had miscarriage due to nervous condition. None of the parents officially recognize this fact. The girl is under great stress. Only through her friend became possible to contact her for providing necessary psychological support.

Due to increased sensitiveness of population against domestic violence problem it was necessary in Guria region to establish one more committee. AVNG management satisfied request of Chokhatauri #1 school director on affiliation into the Network and from April 2010 the committee started operation in Lanchkhuti.

Engaging school as the centre of local settlement in the activity for preventing domestic violence is rather significant, especially as their majority is not aware of physical and psychological violence. The teachers do not analyze physical violence (the acts of pinch, pulling of hair, screaming) their signs and reasons, behaviours and its impact on the child's psychic.

The committee plans active work with teachers in this direction that will promote not only improvement of their work in protection of children victims of domestic violence, but will also encourage establishment of the safe school principles in Lanchkhuti district.

Developing activity of the AVNG Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Regional Committee

1. "Samegrelo-Zemo-Svaneti Crisis Centre" continues operation and its chairperson also works in the capacity of Director of charity centre "Catharsis" for rehabilitation and development, therefore victims of violence primarily obtain legal consultations at the organization office.

2010

Month	Total number of telephone calls	Calls from domestic violence victims			Number of applications to various structures
		Legal support	Medical support	Social support	
April		-	-	-	-
May	6	4	-	-	12
June	5	3	2	-	8
July	17	13	2	-	4
August	6	4	2	1	-
September	9	9	-	-	12
October	7	6	1	-	-

November	3	-	3	-	4
December	4	7	3	-	-
Total	57	46	13	1	40

Month	Total number of applications	Support to the victims of domestic violence			Number of applications to various structures
		Legal support	Medical support	Social support	
April	1	-	-	-	
May	2	2	-	-	7
June	4	4	-	-	14
July	3	2	2	-	2
August	4	1	3	-	7
September	3	1	-	-	4
October	2	2	-	-	10
November	3	2	1	-	-
December	4	1	2	-	8
Total	25	15	8		52

2011

Month	Total number of telephone calls	Telephone calls from the victims of domestic violence			Number of applications to various structures
		Legal support	Medical support	Social support	
January	9	6	3	-	4
February	6	2	4	-	9
March	7	3	4	-	12
Total	22	11	11		25

Month	Total number of applications	Support to the victims of domestic violence			Number of applications to various structures
		Legal support	Medical support	Social support	
January	6	2	4		7
February	5	5	-	1	12
March	4	3	1	-	3
Total	15	10	5	1	22

2. Collaboration with the District Legal Consultation Centre

In the district does not operate legal consultation centre to provide free support to the citizens on legal issues. The committee collaborates with the non-governmental organizations who receive under various projects free legal consultations. Namely, Rehabilitation and Development Charity centre: “Catharsis” has own lawyer and psychologist who offer consultations to the victims of violence. Furthermore, the organization in case of necessity provides victims of violence with medical consultations in Samegrelo region.

3. Collaboration with the Education centre

The committee established cooperation with the educational resource centre. Though its support and assistance booklets published by the charity centre “Catharsis” were distributed at Zugdidi public schools. The youngsters received through the booklet information about legislation act on domestic violence effective in Georgia. At the beginning of 2011 the committee published booklets on domestic violence that will be distributed also among public schools of Zugdidi.

4. Collaboration with the Public Schools

Teachers of Zugdidi public schools expressed wish to undertake training on domestic violence. Therefore, in March 2011 at the committee office was organized training on the above issue. The event involved teachers from kindergarten as well as school tutors, total 34 persons. Local media representatives also took part in the proceedings.

5. Close collaboration with District Press

The committee cooperates with local mass media. During 6 months local TV broadcasted social advertisement that was also covered through local radio channel. Articles on the topics of violence were printed several times in the regional and local press. Special programs were broadcasted via local TV on the issues of domestic violence.

6. Collaboration with the Municipality Administration

The committee provided several solitary mothers with recommendation before the local municipality administration where they received lump sum financial assistance of 100 GEL.

7. Relations with International Organizations

EU Monitoring Commission organizes once monthly informative meeting with the participating representatives from the international and local non-governmental organizations. They receive information on the current activities accomplished at the committee.

The committee carries out active work, however there is still much more to be done. At this stage non-governmental organizations who are members of the committee try to see international donors. As the problem is rather important it is necessary to attract more financial sources.

Developing activity of the AVNG Adjara Regional Committee

Since 2010 Batumi Committee was involved in the project “Establishing new approaches in the process of working with the children victims of trafficking and domestic violence staying at the shelter” supported by UNICEF. Organization psychologist provided psychological support for the children victims of trafficking and domestic violence staying at the shelter of trafficking victims operating in Adjara region.

Throughout reporting period total 3 children received psycho-social assistance and 1 victim of domestic violence at the “Shelter for the victims of human trafficking, their protection and support”.

Each of them was victim of violence including one girl who was also the victim of domestic violence (physical and sexual).

During the reporting period total 27 women applied Adjara regional committee for receiving legal consultation and psychological support. Applications in the cases of divorce primarily covered issues on property disputes, however, based on the current information available at the committee there are considerable number of the domestic violence cases in the region with quite complicated character. Low figure of applications is reasoned with the fact that society in the region is still deeply patriarchal living with unwritten traditional laws that specially concerns population residing in the mountainous part of Adjara.

Summary:

Project “Development of the Anti Violence Network of Georgia” supported by OSI (2009/2010) played a considerable role not only in protection of the victims of domestic violence, but also promoted organization to participate in the process of working out state policy on domestic violence, increasing public awareness and implement various activities for resolution of the current problem.

OSI and KTK support which encourages strategic development of the organization is the fundamental basis for the AVNG successful activity. Such enduring partnership maintains sustainability of the organization and increases scope of its activities.

During 2011-2011 AVNG plans a series of events directed to reinforcement of the committees proceeding from the particularity of its regions offering specific services as well as enhancing public awareness on the topic of domestic violence, because distressing statistics of the domestic violence in Georgia requires much more endeavours from the side of organizations working on this topic, namely from the side of Anti Violence Network of Georgia in collaboration with other non-governmental and state entities.

