



LOCAL COALITION – SOFIA, BULGARIA

ACTIVITY UNDER THE “ICEBERG” PROJECT FOR THE  
PROGRESS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE

Coventry,  
15-16<sup>th</sup> March 2012



## STATISTICS: DATA OF MINISTRY OF INTERIOR FOR 2011

- Every fourth Bulgarian woman is a victim of domestic violence
- Every third Bulgarian knows a victim of domestic violence
- Only 5.5 % of the respondents admit that they are victims of physical abuse by a relative
- Other 5% are not willing to respond if they have been abused so that probably also put them in the same category
- 86% of the respondents say there should be a law for prevention against domestic violence.



- The organizations have provided assistance and services to 4 809 victims of violence.
- 342 are the victims of violence who have been placed in the 6 Crisis Centers of the NGOs from Sofia, Varna, Burgas, Pleven, Silistra and Pernik
- 73% of the victims seeking help are women while the remaining 27% are children.

The representative statistics for 2011 shows a tendency to increase the number of victims seeking assistance only during the last three months of 2011 and they exceed 1700 people.



## STATISTICS OF SOFIA PREVENTION CENTER

- Sofia Prevention Center was visited by 268 victims of violence during the period Jan 2011 - Feb 2012
- 193 victims asked and received psychological and legal assistance
- 56 victims of violence were sent by the "Animus" Association in the Center to receive legal assistance from NGO – Gender Studies, which provides consultations to the victims on schedule: every Monday and Tuesday of the week. There are three psychological and one legal consultations.



## WORK ON INDIVIDUAL PLAN OF SOFIA CENTER WITH VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

- Sharing, listening and personal support of the woman who sought help from a specialist at the Center
- Preparation of individual questionnaire used for an individual action plan for each of the consulted women - victims of violence:
  - Record of the date of the initial visit and the following visits
  - Record of the type of assistance requested and what kind of assistance is needed afterwards



- Characterization of woman's problems in both emotional and cognitive aspect
- Record of the analysis of the selected alternatives by the victim
- Record of the applied interventions used in specific consultation, e.g. security plan
- Assessment of the dynamics of violent behavior after the consultations



## CASES OF GENDER VIOLENCE: WOMEN - VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE SCOPE OF “ICEBERG” PROJECT

In the middle of 2011, ten cases of gender violence were selected to work with in "Iceberg" Project.

A brief presentation of the cases /the names of the women have been changed/:

### CASE 1:

Lina, 32 years old, secondary education, unemployed, married for a second time seven years ago. She has two children, girls, 8 years old girl from the first marriage and 5 years old girl from the second one.



## Case 2:

Tanya is 39 years, University graduated, unemployed, writing poems, alcoholic. She has two children, 13 years old girl and 15 years old boy. The children are often ashamed of her and turn her out of the house.

Tanya used to sleep on the ground in the hallway of the house. Her husband lives with their neighbor, with whom often drinks. Tanya is jealous of the neighbor's girlfriend and she claims that her husband lives there because of the other woman. I notice that Tanya becomes more worried and fears for her life but at this point does not want to consider treatment and visit a psychiatrist.



### CASE 3:

Anna, 40 years old, University graduated, with a well paid job and has been living with her husband for 22 years. She has two daughters – one who is 20 years old and already married and the other one is 16 years old. She has been a victim of domestic violence since the beginning of her marriage. Her husband is harassing her. He is in conflict with her colleagues and manager accusing them for having an affair. He is stalking her. In one of their scandals Anna declared she wants a divorce and will not step back as she did it before. Her husband beat her and threatened to kill her if she applied for a divorce. She is really stressed because of the threat but even though she admits that she feels sorry for him because she bit her husband's thumb during the fight.



#### Case 4:

Galya, 28 years old, secondary education, unemployed. She has been living with a Kurdish man for 5 years and they have a boy together who is 4 years old. She shares that she has been constantly under physical and mental abuse from the father of her child. She has been forced against her will into sexual acts even in front of the child. The victim was harassed by pushing, kicking and throwing objects. They are separated now and there is a procedure on Protection against domestic violence act.

The abuser threatened her that he will take the child outside the country and she lives in constant fear to take the child outside for a walk because he might see them and kidnap the child.



## Case 5:

Petra, 40 years old, University graduated, unemployed. She is married and has one child- a boy who is 12 years old. Her husband is a truck driver so he often travels for a week outside the country. Every time when he comes back home he starts accusing her in unfaithfulness. So he starts a systematic harassment and physical control over her personal life, forces her to quit her job and does not allow her to leave home. When he is on the road, he pays other people to stalk her where she goes and who she speaks with. The child is showing aggression in school and has poor marks. It has been four months since Petra left her home and she is hiding from her husband. She applied for a divorce. She has low self-esteem and damaged perception of herself as a person.



## Case 6:

Ivana, 45 years old, University graduated, a teacher. She has been married for 15 years. She has a 13 years old daughter. She shares that the constant harassment has started since the beginning of her marriage. She applies for a divorce a few times but changes her mind every time. Her husband often gets drunk and aggressive. He beats her and breaks all the furniture and appliances. Last month she applies for a divorce again but it turns out that after a drunken night her husband falls and hits his head. He is in a coma for one month. She takes care of him and after 7-8 months he can walk again. He is getting better but still a disabled person. Ivana applies for a divorce again.



### Case 7:

Tina, 29 years old, University graduated, works in a piano bar, married for three years, has a 3 years old boy. Right after her marriage, her husband starts harassing her even when she was pregnant, he kicks her in the stomach. He controls her behavior, stalks her, calls her during work, monitors the kilometers traveled and wiretaps her phone calls. He threatens to kill the child. He has an addiction to marijuana and alcohol. He used to have illegal weapon. He traumatized the child who has auto-aggression and reacts under the mildest frustration with falling on the ground and hitting his head on the ground or on the wall. It has been a month now since Tina has the permit for a divorce.



### Case 8:

Rada, 29 years old, secondary education, unemployed, married for 10 years. She has two children from her marriage- a 9 years old boy and a 7 years old girl. Her husband works in shifts- two days working and two days off. During one of his days off he was home taking care of the children while Rada was on a job interview. She found her husband naked with his arms on her half naked daughter's genitalia. Rada is ashamed to complain to the police and the institutions for child protection but applies for a divorce. Currently she is divorced.



## Case 9:

Dara, 32 years old, secondary education, unemployed, single. She is an adopted child. Her mother is disabled and has a difficulty to move. Both of them live together with her mother's second husband. Her mother's husband often molests his step-daughter, Dara. Every time when he molests her he warns her to be quiet otherwise he would turn her and her sick mother out of the house. He even threatens her that he would kill both of them. Dara has already won a case on the act of Protection against domestic violence against the abuser who is no longer at their home.



### Case 10:

Lora, 22 years old, secondary education, unemployed, lives with the father her two years old son. The father is also unemployed and a drug addict. He forces Lora through physical violence to prostitute with the truck drivers on the highway. They only live from the support of social care. When Lora does not make enough money to buy drugs, her boyfriend kicks her violently in the stomach and genital organs. He claims that she would not need these organs if she does not make enough money with them. Both Lora and her child were placed in a crisis center. Currently she is waiting for the trial to begin. She lives with her child at her aunt's place.