

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BULGARIAN LAW ON PROTECTION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The BGRF Experience and NGOs as an
Instrument for Progress



WE WORK IN THE SPHERE OF:

- Domestic violence
- Human rights protection
- Reproductive Rights
- Trafficking in women
- Prevention of discrimination
- Socio-economic rights of women
- Youth issues



HISTORY OF THE LAW ON PROTECTION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- First attempts for research about the need for legislation (1997-1999);
- 2000 – 2002: a group of attorneys begins work on a draft domestic violence law;
- 17th of April 2003 – the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence is introduced in the Bulgarian Parliament;
- The Law enters into force on 1st of April 2005.
- 2007 – BGRF conveyed extensive monitoring on the law and drew its recommendations
- 2009 – State funding for victims



STATISTICS OVER THE YEARS

- **2006** - One in four women in Bulgaria is subject to domestic violence (DV);
- **2007** - 40% of Bulgarians knew a woman victim of physical violence; 68% supported the idea of temporarily removing the offender from the family.
- **November 2009** – The Bulgarian government spends the sum of 1 Euro (app. 2 Leva) per a victim of domestic violence.
 - every 4th woman - subject to DV;
 - 60% of the boys who have witnessed DV become perpetrators
 - 50% of the girls become victims.
- DV – Major reason for trafficking in persons



THE ALLIANCE FOR PROTECTION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Registered in 2009;
- Consisting of 9 organizations all around the country;
- Tasks:
 - securing the proper implementation of the Law;
 - imposing standards for the services for victims;
 - cooperation with institutions, monitoring, analysis and research, promotion of educational activities and work with young people against violence, international cooperation and exchange of good practices.



ALLIANCE'S CONTRIBUTION

- Lobby, information and media campaigns around the country;
- Better cooperation with institutions and faster exchange of information concerning cases of violence;
- New amendments in the Law for Protection against DV:
 - state funding for the services for victims of DV.



EXPECTATIONS FROM THE BUDAPEST INFO DAY

Find out about:

- Improve social dialogue and fight prejudice;
- Demographic problem;
- Cooperation on research projects on various family issues;
- Strengthen the cooperation between the State and the civil society;
- Better the inclusion of the young people and allowing bigger access to information and services;
- Make social services more user-friendly and interchangeable.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Rada Elenkova
BGRF

www.bgrf.org
office@bgrf.org

Hungary, Budapest
4th February 2010

