

Experts' Seminar on **Innovative Approaches** to Combating Violence Against Women



October 20-22, 2008



Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Proceedings & results



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*For more copies or information, please contact:
OSCE*

Gender Section - Office of the Secretary General

Wallnerstrasse 6

AT-1010 Vienna

Tel: +43 1 514366294

E-mail: equality@osce.org

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We thank all experts and participants for their dedication and valuable contributions. Particular thanks go to Elisabeth Duban, OSCE consultant, who prepared this report in collaboration with the Gender Section's team, and to Cedric Rousseaux, intern at the Gender Section, who designed the entire layout of the report and the seminar poster.

Foreword

The Experts' Seminar held in Dushanbe was remarkably fruitful in providing concrete examples of innovative practices to combat violence against women. For the first time, the OSCE initiated an exchange of experience at the international level among practitioners, NGOs and policy makers, allowing them to learn from each other's work in preventing violence, protecting victims and prosecuting offenders.

The Seminar itself focused on Central Asian countries, and the context in which they are addressing violence against women. These countries have, to varied degrees, initiated the development of legislation, policies and programmes in this area. The opportunity to share experiences on successful approaches that have been tested in other countries, and to discuss their possible adaptation to new contexts, is particularly valuable in such an environment. Such an exchange ensures that current efforts have a lasting impact.

The road toward eliminating violence is long, with much work still ahead of us. The Seminar highlighted many of the remaining challenges, as well as offering some ideas for innovative solutions. Efforts to combat violence must be supported by political will and the allocation of sufficient resources to ensure success and sustainability.

Gender equality, and a life free of violence, are at the heart of the values of the OSCE and preconditions for security, stability and prosperity. I call on all members of the OSCE family to join their efforts and take decisive action following the lead provided by the Experts' Seminar and presented in this report.



OSCE/Milan Obradovic

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Perrin de Brichambaut".

Marc Perrin de Brichambaut
Secretary General of the OSCE

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Executive Summary

The Gender Section in the Office of the Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the OSCE Office in Tajikistan, in cooperation with the Tajik authorities, organized the Experts' Seminar on Innovative Approaches to Combating Violence against Women in order to take stock of good practices and innovative approaches to violence against women that are proving to be effective in OSCE participating states.

The seminar, held from 20 to 22 October 2008 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, brought together 89 international experts, policy makers, NGO activists and representatives of international organizations from 21 countries. Experts from Austria, Finland, France, Georgia, Pakistan, Russia, Spain, Tajikistan and the United Kingdom gave presentations on effective approaches from their countries, organized around the topics of prevention of violence against women, protection for survivors and prosecution of perpetrators of violence against women. Special attention was given to a fourth topic-participation. In this case, the "fourth P" refers to efforts to engage young people and men in combating violence against women, an area of work that is underdeveloped in Central Asia but one in which there is considerable interest.

Over the two and a half days, participants from Central Asia, as well as other OSCE participating states, had the opportunity to hear from experts and engage them in a discussion of good practices. Participants also worked in groups to brainstorm strategies for adaption and replication of such practices in their own contexts.

The opening of the seminar set the tone for the subsequent presentations and discussions. There is progress to be made everywhere in the world to combat violence against women, but the seminar was deliberately **not a forum for dwelling on deficiencies**. Instead, the task at hand was to examine where **real progress** has been made and to determine what are the **positive elements** that link good practices.

Participants of the seminar found many innovations among the approaches presented by the experts. In most cases, the innovative practices were not wholly new but provided a different approach than had been considered before.

The presentations on prevention focused on the varied use of public awareness campaigns, at the international, regional and national level, which used a variety of materials and targeted specific audiences. A factor that linked all the examples presented was their reliance on real data about the scope, causes and consequences of violence against women and the provision of concrete recommendations for action, whether aimed at policy-makers or individual women.

In discussing prevention activities, a number of participants had experience already with informational campaigns for a general audience, and so they expressed particular interest in awareness-raising directed at children and young people. Programs that are conducted in schools and work with young couples were viewed as innovative.

Additionally, law enforcement was seen as a sector that could be instrumental in prevention work but one that has been relatively difficult to reach.

The **presentations on protection** demonstrated the diversity of support that survivors of violence may seek, from safety in the home, to psychological support, legal aid, economic and employment support, post-conflict rehabilitation, education and residency permits.

The fact that protection of victims has been the starting point for the development of broader programs and for legal reform was a common feature of the experts' presentations. Such protection efforts often start on a **volunteer basis**, with a single support group or center, or in one community. But when such work is carried out effectively, it often gains **State support** or may become a model for replication at the national level. In large countries, such as Russia, NGOs can play an important role in promoting good work done at the local level to federal-level policy-makers and advocate for their widespread adoption.

A key theme of the presentations on protection was **the importance of coordination** between all relevant agencies and organizations. The participants saw the need for comprehensive services that meet the diverse needs of women and children in their countries. It was also noted that these services must be coordinated with prevention and prosecution efforts.

Because the **safety of the survivor** of violence should be at the center of all

interventions, analysis of the effectiveness of protection efforts should inform how prevention and prosecution work are carried out.

The next presentations provided examples of positive steps to improve law enforcement and legal procedures to **facilitate the prosecution** of cases of violence against women. The experts pointed out that laws that punish perpetrators are instrumental in sending strong messages that **violence against women is not a private matter** and that it will be punished by the State.

Such laws alone, however, are not sufficient to give survivors full redress. In both cases presented, prosecution efforts were developed with the rights and interests of survivors in mind, to give them **tools to affect changes in their lives**. For example, establishing telephone hotlines, shelters, and support programs for survivors and laws that create special mechanisms to remove perpetrators temporarily from the home, enable women to be informed about their legal options and to plan for their own safety.

Another common feature of effective responses is that **prosecution and protection efforts must be coordinated**, a theme that also emerged in the presentation on protection.

The seminar proceedings and materials, including presentations by experts, can be downloaded from the OSCE Gender Section's webpage:

www.osce.org/gender/item_6_32383.html



Men and boys can play an important role in combating violence against women.

The topic of **engaging men and young people** as agents for social change around violence against women was of great interest to seminar participants. The presentations each highlighted the importance of involving young people, including boys, and men as advocates against violence against women.

When engaged in reform efforts, young people can contribute their distinct experiences of violence to improve the system as a whole. Working with children is also an opportunity to present them with **examples of healthy gender relationships** and positive male and female roles.

The presentation on **working with perpetrators of violence** made clear that such programs should not be viewed as forms of therapy or counseling but that they must insist that men take responsibility for their violent acts. Perpetrator programs are effective when they **assist violent men to see the negative consequences** of their behavior on their own families in order to help them to change, and when the protection of women survivors is a priority throughout the program. The participants saw work with perpetrators as having important implications for prevention, protection and prosecution. Several participants noted that projects to highlight positive male and female role models and to urge men to take a stand against violence were relevant and feasible for the Central Asian context.

While approaches to combating violence against women in Central Asia underpinned the seminar, one of the key messages to emerge by the end of the event was that **all participants had much to learn from each other**. While the Central Asian countries have begun to address violence against women relatively recently, as compared to Western Europe or the U.S., it was noted several times that countries such as Austria, Finland, France and Spain are still in the process of improving their response to violence against women. Central Asian representatives contributed their own expertise to the proceedings, and many participants noted that they came away from the event with new ideas that they could implement in their home countries.

Another theme, which underscored the whole seminar, was **the importance of political will** behind the development of any programs that address prevention, protection or prosecution. Both the United Nations and Council of Europe have led campaigns recently to **draw attention to States' obligations** to address violence against women as an endemic human rights abuse. State support for and cooperation with NGOs is a very important part of work against violence against women, but it is not in itself sufficient. States must also support anti-violence work with adequate and consistent funding, develop laws and policies, institutionalize training for all relevant State agencies and take positive steps to achieve gender equality and address the root causes of violence against women.

The seminar closed with a reiteration of the serious nature of violence against women and that its elimination remains a priority for international organizations such as the OSCE. Despite differences in the local contexts, the overwhelming sense was that the problem of violence against women is common across all countries and, therefore, further joint work and sharing of experiences will help to more precisely delineate effective strategies for its elimination.



EXPERTS' SEMINAR ON INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Seminar Overview

The Experts' Seminar on Innovative Approaches to Combating Violence against Women, organized by the OSCE Gender Section in the Office of the Secretary General, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan and the Tajik authorities, was an opportunity for policy-makers and various stakeholders from the OSCE region **to share knowledge of international innovative approaches** and positive experiences in addressing violence against women (VAW).

The seminar was held in Tajikistan to allow for maximum participation by **Central Asian countries**, which are currently intensifying efforts to address violence against women. Invited experts were selected from 21 countries to present their important work on violence against women, to highlight areas of innovation and to stimulate a discussion of successful practices that could be adapted to and replicated in the Central Asian context.

The seminar opened with a statement of the global commitments to address violence against women and a brief **overview of the situation, progress and challenges seen in Central Asia**.

The first panel presentation consisted of an overview of **efforts to combat violence against women in Tajikistan** that provided the context for further discussion of good and innovative practices around prevention, protection and prosecution during the next days.

The second session, a panel on the issue of **prevention** of violence against women, examined campaigns used to raise awareness of the problem, some of which had a global and regional reach and some of

which targeted women specifically.

The campaigns all used a variety of materials to convey messages that violence against women is a human rights abuse that should not be tolerated, for example with websites, posters, public service announcements, brochures and calendars.

The fact that they were based on real data about the prevalence of violence against women and that they **called for concrete actions** were common features across the campaigns presented.

The third panel presentation focused on the topic of **protection** from violence against women, highlighting standards in service provision for women and children, coordination between governmental institutions and NGOs and the importance of referral mechanisms for survivors of violence.

The experiences of countries as diverse as Finland, Russia and Tajikistan demonstrated that **promising interventions at the local level** are an important starting point and that when they are successful such programs are often replicated at the national level. Coordination of a wide variety of professionals, including from law enforcement, the prosecutor's office, the judiciary, healthcare institutions, educational institutions, social service agencies and social workers, the media and NGOs is critical in ensuring that victims receive referrals to protection services and that the service providers themselves cooperate effectively to ensure maximum safety.

An important theme running throughout the discussion was that services should **empower women to make decisions about their own lives** and that they should be comprehensive enough

to address women's economic needs, need for housing, for legal assistance, for psychological support and for basic safety in the home.

The fourth panel presentation was devoted to the topic of **prosecution** of violence against women and addressed legal frameworks that improve the police and justice sector response.

The presenters and the audience found that **prosecution measures were closely linked with protection**. The most effective legal reforms in this area aim to make the lives of survivors of violence easier. For example, orders to **remove the perpetrator from the home** temporarily ensure the immediate safety of women and children and are best linked to other services that support women.

Specialized courts and legal procedures also make the prosecution of cases less burdensome for the survivor and are more effective in meeting her need for quick relief. The presentations pointed out that the existence of **specialized laws and procedures** that govern how the legal system addresses violence against women send powerful messages to society that this is not a private matter and the State will take seriously its obligations to provide justice for violations of its citizens' rights.

The final day of the seminar opened with a panel on ways to address and involve **young people and men as actors** and role models in ending violence against women. This is a relatively **new area of work** for the Central Asian region. Key messages included the importance of working with youth, including children who have experienced violence, but also boys and girls more broadly to instill mutual respect and non-violent behavior from a young age.

Programs that work with predominantly **male institutions**, such as the police force, and **directly with perpetrators** were accepted as good practices that had relevance to Central Asia.

The seminar also included **working group sessions** organized around the broad topics presented by each expert panel. Participants discussed the aspects of the work presented that appeared the most innovative and brainstormed ways in which the practices could be replicated in other contexts.

The seminar closed with an overview of the challenges that remain in addressing violence against women and with a reiteration of some of the "enabling" factors that are common to all good practices.

The Experts' Seminar on Innovative Approaches to Combating Violence Against Women, held on October 20-22, 2008, in Tajikistan, brought together **89 international experts**.





Opening Remarks

Opening remarks were delivered by **Rukiya Kurbonova**, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, **Kari Kahiluoto**, Human Rights Ambassador, **Vladimir Pryakhin**, Head of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan and **Jamila Seftaoui**, OSCE Senior Advisor on Gender Issues.

On behalf of the Tajik government, **Ms. Kurbonova** welcomed the participants to the seminar and encouraged them to use the event as a chance to learn about many positive approaches to addressing violence against women.

Ms. Kurbonova explained that while the Tajik government has taken **important steps** to better the lives of women, including ratification of international conventions and the development of programs at the national level, there remain spheres in which the rights of Tajik women are not adequately protected.

Mr. Kahiluoto's remarks stressed that, unfortunately, violence against women remains a serious problem everywhere in the world and it is **too often still regarded as a private issue** and not a serious human rights abuse. The OSCE has adopted an Action Plan on the Promotion of Gender Equality and has developed a framework for enhancing efforts in legislative, policy and program work on violence against women.

Mr. Kahiluoto pointed out that one of the principles of the Finnish OSCE Chairmanship has been to address gender equality as a **cross-dimensional issue that implicates all the pillars of OSCE work**, not only the human dimension. He stated that the financial and human costs of violence against women are severe and that this issue should be addressed through comprehensive and integrated responses.

Mr. Pryakhin noted the importance of holding the seminar in Tajikistan. The OSCE has supported the **development of crisis centers in Tajikistan** that provide a range of services to victims of violence and discrimination. At the same time, violence in the family is generally regarded as a private issue. A **draft law** exists on domestic violence, and the passage of such a law would help to define the problem as a public issue.

Ms. Seftaoui welcomed the participants on behalf of the OSCE Secretary General and confirmed that prevention and combating violence against women is a **priority area for the OSCE**.

While a great deal of work has been done around the world, by governments and by NGOs, it cannot yet be said that the world is a remarkably safer place for women. There continue to be **new challenges** in addressing violence against women, and therefore finding effective strategies is especially important.

Ms. Seftaoui outlined the primary objective of the seminar: to focus on innovative approaches, to learn from each other and to debate the results of each other's work, with the idea that this process would facilitate the transfer of good practices. The OSCE has recognized Central Asia as a region of increasing and promising activity to combat violence against women, but it is also a region in **need of information exchange on tested approaches**. Ms. Seftaoui expressed gratitude for the co-operation with various Central Asian governments and organizations, and for the financial and political support of Austria, Finland, France, Germany and Greece.

Seminar Proceedings

ELISABETH DUBAN, OSCE CONSULTANT

Violence Against Women in Central Asia:
Overview of the Situation, Progress and
Challenges

The **five Central Asian countries** (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) each have distinct traditions, cultures, languages and histories, but in speaking about violence against women (VAW), they also share **some common features**.

For example, all of these countries are undergoing transition in which they are moving **away from Soviet legal systems** and social support structures. Each country has experienced varying degrees of economic and political instability. Since independence, these countries have seen an increase in traditional attitudes and practices, especially towards women. This can have a harmful effect on women when specific definitions of culture are used to justify women's subordinate role and the violation of their rights.

The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women defines **three forms of violence**: violence that occurs in the **home**, violence in the **community** and violence perpetrated or condoned by the **State**.

In Central Asia, **violence in the family** has been a priority area for both government and NGO work. There are several distinctive features of family life that impact the choice of anti-violence interventions.

The family structure is usually one in which the extended family lives together or in close contact. **Family roles** and responsibilities are clearly defined, in particular for young women entering marriage.

Domestic violence is often based on incidents when such new brides are considered not to be properly fulfilling their duties, and such violence is **often accepted by society as a normal aspect of family life**. In some Central Asian republics, bride kidnapping and forced marriage occur, and the increase in polygamy and non-official religious marriages raise concerns about women's vulnerabilities to violence.

Cases of **violence in the community** are also documented. In particular there has been an **increase in the trafficking** of women and girls from Central Asia to Russia, the Middle East, Europe and other countries as well as exploitation of women in prostitution, in part due to the economic hardships women face.

NGOs in the region have suggested that sexual harassment in the workplace and educational institutions is also a problem but very little data on this issue has been collected.





OSCE/Eric Gourlan

Several **common areas of progress** in addressing violence against women can also be found across the Central Asian countries. Most are developing a **legal base** to address violence against women, either through specific laws on domestic violence or human trafficking or contained in broader laws and action plans on equal rights. The Central Asian governments are increasingly supporting the development of **women's crisis centers and shelters**.

Additionally, civil society remains quite active, despite restrictions in some countries, and there are positive examples of **NGO and government cooperation** in carrying out awareness raising campaigns, training programs and in services for victims and their children.



OSCE/Milan Obradovic

There is still work to be done. Recent concluding comments and recommendations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women highlight areas where progress is needed across the Central Asian region.

The Committee has expressed concern over the **persistence of patriarchal attitudes** and stereotyped views of the roles of men and women. These stereotypes perpetuate both discrimination and violence against women, and States are urged to take positive steps to address such harmful patterns.

The Committee commended those countries that have passed specific laws but also noted that **comprehensive measures** to address violence against women are still needed. Such measures should include redress and protection for victims, adequate prosecution and punishment of perpetrators, sensitization and training for a wide range of professionals and increased campaigns to raise public awareness.

Finally, there is a need for further research into the prevalence, causes and consequences of violence against women and to better address the root causes of this problem.

Panel I

Efforts to Combat VAW in Tajikistan

MODERATOR:

JAMILA SEFTAOUI, OSCE SENIOR ADVISOR ON GENDER ISSUES

HAIRINISSO YUSUFI, COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND FAMILY AFFAIRS

Primary Activities of the Committee on Women and Family Affairs of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan to Prevent Violence Against Women

The Committee on Women and Family Affairs of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan is the **primary mechanism for developing policies on gender equality** and violence against women. The Committee also serves as a liaison between other parts of the government, international organizations and civil society. The Committee has worked to develop laws and policies to further gender equality in Tajikistan. A key component of this work has been **to link the problem of violence against women to women's lack of equality**. For example, the State program on gender equality includes a section on concrete measures to address violence against women. The Committee on Women and Family Affairs, cooperating with local government, NGOs and international organizations, has conducted awareness-raising campaigns, seminars and trainings to raise women's awareness of their rights and also for law enforcement and other government agencies.

Recognizing that a more comprehensive strategy is needed to address violence against women, in 2002 the Committee began a **campaign for a law on domestic violence**. Domestic violence is widespread in Tajikistan and an issue that is generally **regarded as a private matter** and not as a social danger. Perpetrators are rarely punished and women find it very difficult to obtain the support and help they need. The Committee supported the drafting of the law *On Social and Legal Protection from Domestic Violence*. The draft law **outlines a comprehensive and coordinated approach** to combating violence

against women and, significantly, it would give victims real tools for their own protection, such as the ability to apply for a protective order that would remove a perpetrator from the home. The Committee continues to lobby for the adoption of this law, which has **not yet been passed by Parliament**.

The Committee was also instrumental in establishing a **Coordinating Council in 2006**, in partnership with the Association of NGOs on Gender Equality and the Prevention of Violence Against Women, which is headed by the Deputy Prime Minister of Tajikistan. The Coordinating Council is the institutional **coordination mechanism** for the government structures and the NGO sector, and it has been instrumental in bringing government attention to the problem of violence against women. It has developed strategies and action plans for the prevention of violence against women as well as recommendations to the law on domestic violence. It undertakes monitoring of the situation, works to improve statistics and indicators on violence against women and analyzes recommendations from representatives of local government.

Another important component of the work of the Committee on Women and Family Affairs is its support for programs that provide **direct services to women survivors of violence**, such as support for the crisis center Bovari and a joint program with the OSCE that operated 19 centers for legal and psychological help for citizens. At present, there are **over 20 crisis centers in Tajikistan**, but despite these promising steps, there is still a need for further expansion of services for women who are experiencing violence.

More attention must be paid to the **needs of women in rural areas**, and the Committee is also exploring ways to develop a specialized rehabilitation center for **girls who have experienced violence**.

**TATIANA BOZRIKOVA, SOCIAL FUND "PANORAMA",
NGO COALITION TO IMPLEMENT CEDAW**

The Development of Mechanisms for Cooperation between NGOs of Tajikistan in Preventing Violence Against Women

In Tajikistan, women's NGOs have been active in addressing violence against women and have developed good cooperation mechanisms among themselves and with specific branches of government. For example, after coming together to draft an alternative report for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, **77 NGOs formed a coalition** to continue their work at both the regional and national level. The coalition, *From Legal Equality to Factual Equality*, consists of a coordinating committee, regional counsels and thematic working groups. The main activities of the coalition are to **lobby** for the adoption of the law on family violence, to carry out large-scale **informational campaigns** on prevention of violence against women, to improve the skills of professionals who provide **services to victims** and to strengthen partnerships with law enforcement organs and other government structures.

The coalition **works closely with crisis centers** (both governmental and NGO-based) to improve how they function, specifically focusing on their ability to monitor and evaluate their work. One positive example of the support for crisis centers is the **creation of a database** that such centers use to record information about their clients. The program is user-friendly and collects unified data from all the centers. This data is used to generate reports that are then shared with relevant government bodies. At present, the coalition is working with the State Statistics Committee and the Information Board of the Ministry of the Interior to improve the gathering of statistical data for both the government and NGOs.

NARGIS AZIZOVA, UNIFEM/TAJIKISTAN
Prevention and Response to Violence against Women in Tajikistan: UN Actions

Since 2002, **the UN has been active** in providing support for programs that address violence against women **in Tajikistan** in such areas as legal reform, capacity-building for the relevant institutions that address domestic violence, crisis center support and public awareness programs. At present, there is greater emphasis on coordinating the UN bodies to work under a **unified strategy**, which would make use of the strengths of each agency. Specifically, future work will be organized around the **Framework for Action** that defines agreed-upon policy outcomes to be achieved by all countries by 2015, including specific policy responses on violence against women.

When measured against the Framework for Action, one can see **some areas in which Tajikistan is not meeting its goals**, such as the **lack of national laws** or an action plan, weak mechanisms for **data collection** and insufficient government **support for victims' services**. However, the problem of violence against women is addressed directly by both the *State Programme on Equal Rights and Opportunities* for 2001-2010 and the *Poverty Reduction Strategy* for 2007-2009. These very positive programs will form the basis for future cooperative work by UN agencies.

The presentation also drew the participants' attention to a **global Internet-based advocacy** effort that UNIFEM launched in 2007, *Say No to Violence Against Women*. This campaign is an initiative to demonstrate the growing movement to make ending violence against women a priority for all governments. The campaign, led by **UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman**, aims to collect **one million individual signatures** by November 25, 2008, the International Day to Eliminate Violence against Women, when the results will be given to the UN Secretary-General. To date, over 490,000 people have supported the campaign.

Panel II

Prevention of Violence Against Women

MODERATOR:

ALLA KUVATOVA, ASSOCIATION OF NGOS ON GENDER EQUALITY AND PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

GEMMA CONNELL, UN, DIVISION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

The Work of the United Nations Division for
the Advancement of Women on Violence
Against Women

Violence against women is one of the twelve critical areas of concern identified in the *Beijing Platform for Action* and one of the key areas of focus of the Division for the Advancement of Women. In December 2003, the UN General Assembly requested that the Secretary General prepare an **in-depth study of all forms of violence against women**. The study, *Ending Violence against Women: From Words to Action*, was launched in 2006 and highlights **many good and promising practices**. The study also revealed that despite progress, **violence against women persists in all countries** of the world. As a consequence, the Secretary General called for a comprehensive and holistic approach to tackle violence against women.

The Secretary-General is taking the lead through a **global campaign**, *UNiTE to end violence against women* (2008-2015), which focuses on three key areas: **global advocacy; strengthened efforts and partnerships** at the national and regional levels, and UN leadership by example. Within the campaign, the Secretary General is urging States to enact or strengthen laws and enforce such laws to **end impunity**. He will form a global network of male leaders to assist in **mobilizing men and boys** to become involved in the struggle to end violence against women, and he will convene a **high-level event in 2010**.

The **Division on the Advancement of Women develops policies and recommendations** and prepares tools to guidelines to support States in their efforts



The United Nations launched in 2008 a global campaign *UNiTE to End Violence Against Women*

to address violence against women. Since 2006, the Division on the Advancement of Women has focused on **three key areas**: the development of a proposed set of global indicators to measure violence against women (which are currently under review by the UN Statistical Committee); the preparation of a model framework for legislation; and the establishment of a coordinated database that will consist of information gathered through a comprehensive questionnaire, which has been sent to States for response by January 2009.

UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign:

endviolence.un.org and
www.un.org/russian/women/endviolence

UNDAW website on violence against women: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw>

ROSA LOGAR, COUNCIL OF EUROPE TASK FORCE TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, INCLUDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Overview of Goals, Strategies and Results of the Council of Europe Campaign

The Council of Europe (CoE) deems violence against women a serious human rights violation as well as an obstacle to achieving equality between men and women in the European region. In 2005, the CoE adopted an action plan that called for the **creation of a task force of independent experts** (Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence) and the development of a **European-wide campaign to address domestic violence**. The campaign, *Stop Domestic Violence Against Women*, was launched in November 2006 and over its 18-month duration it involved **all 47 Member States**.

One of the overarching aims of the campaign was to **improve the implementation of CoE recommendations** on the protection of women from violence. During the campaign, Member States were urged to make significant progress in several areas: legal and policy measures; support and protection for victims; data collection and awareness-raising. Member States were also encouraged to designate Parliamentary contacts, a national focal point and to install national task forces to prioritize steps to be taken to address domestic violence. Contact information for these national-level officials can be found on the campaign website.

Within the framework of the campaign, the CoE Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking Divisions developed **resources**, such as media spots, print and website materials, conducted **regional seminars** and conferences and published reports of **data and statistics** and on standards for services. In concluding the campaign, the CoE **requested that Member States report on their activities**, and the majority of States confirmed that they either conducted specific activities as part of the campaign or that the campaign hastened progress in areas where work was already being done.

Most countries conducted local awareness-raising activities; some developed

national action plans and some undertook amendments to improve legal protections for victims of domestic violence. On the whole, there were fewer improvements in the area of service provision.

In reviewing the entire campaign, the Task Force has developed specific recommendations for further work of the CoE in the area of violence against women. These **recommendations** include: the development of a **legally binding instrument** on the elimination of all forms of violence against women in Europe; the establishment of a **mechanism to monitor implementation** of such a convention; the development of a comprehensive system of legal protection; the development of **comprehensive services** for all survivors of violence; and the commitment of adequate resources and **funding to support** NGOs to provide services.

CoE
campaign
against
domestic
violence



**It starts
with screams
and must never
end in silence**

www.coe.int/stopviolence

12 to 15 % of European women over 16 suffer domestic abuse in a relationship
– too many have died. Many more continue to suffer physical and sexual violence from former partners even after the break-up.
It's time to find a way out!

**Stop domestic
violence
against women**

 COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

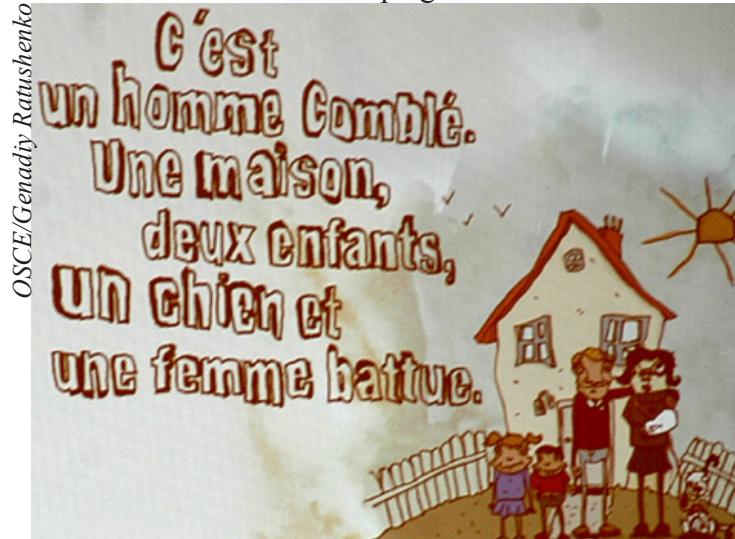
The French government has recently taken significant steps to address violence against women, a problem that has been relatively hidden in French society. Between 2001 and 2006, the government carried out **five large-scale studies** that revealed that violence against women, in particular domestic violence, is widespread, **affecting as many of one in ten women**. Using the data obtained through the surveys, the Ministry of Employment, Social Cohesion and Housing, working with regional-level Offices of Women's Rights and Equality, developed extensive public awareness campaigns targeting women. These campaigns were designed to **end the silence that existed around the problem** of violence against women and to promote local services for victims. In 2006, the Ministry of the Interior supported national-level research into **homicides occurring between partners**.

In the same year, the government launched a **second awareness-raising campaign** *Stop the Violence: Acting is Speaking About It*. A wide variety of materials, such as **leaflets, booklets, posters** and **cards**, as well as **video clips** and public service announcements that were shown on television and the Internet were created. Several specialized national **telephone hotlines** were established that address domestic violence, sexual violence and violence at the workplace.

In March 2007, a single **toll-free hotline** was created to address violence against women and a campaign, with the slogan "Speak before it is too late" was created especially to **promote this number**. In the first months of its operation, this number received thousands of calls. This campaign also included **important messages** that violence against women is illegal and that the law offers victims protection and will punish perpetrators.

In the most recent campaign, launched in 2008, other forms of violence against women are highlighted, such as forced marriage and female genital mutilation. This campaign is targeting a broader audience,

"He is a content man. A house, two children, a dog and a beaten wife." French campaign 2006



not just women but also men, children and law enforcement professionals. The government is also supporting a website where the campaign materials can be found and users can find assistance as well as more detailed information about types of violence against women. The site includes video clips, testimonies and the possibility to express one's own opinion.

Each of the campaigns described above was founded on research and **concrete data** about violence against women. In addition, there is an **on-going feasibility study of the direct and indirect costs** of violence against women in France. The study looks at both direct costs (for a victim's healthcare, for policing and the justice system generally, for housing and other social programs) as well as the indirect costs resulting from women's lost productivity. Estimates for the total costs of violence against women in France approach **one billion Euro a year**.

French national Stop Violence website:
www.stop-violences-femmes.gouv.fr

**EMA KAMKIA, CULTURAL HUMANITARIAN FUND
“SUKHUMI,” GEORGIA**

Strategies for Post-Conflict Rehabilitation for Women Internally Displaced from the Conflict Zone

Women in **post-conflict situations** experience violence differently from other women. For example, they may experience specific psychological issues, such as **post-traumatic stress disorder**, can experience **discrimination** and as displaced persons often **lack basic social protections**. Women in post-conflict situations are especially vulnerable to domestic violence since conflict and displacement may disrupt traditional family values and can lead to **shifts in gender roles**, for example when women take on the role of family breadwinner.

The Sukhumi Center has undertaken **sociological research** into the situation of families displaced by conflict, specifically looking at **prevalence, types and causes of violence**. Through the center, an expert group (psychologist, lawyer, sociologist and advocates) monitors the situation for internally displaced women and assess the

level of risk of violence in their families.

The Sukhumi Center provides specialized services to **meet the needs of women displaced** by conflict in Georgia and also carries out a number of activities to prevent domestic violence within their families and to raise awareness generally about the issue. The center runs **training seminars** for displaced women, for men and for young people on gender issues, creating healthy families, communication skills and solutions to resolve conflicts in the family.

Additionally, women displaced by conflict can take part in **programs to improve their economic status**, such as small business training and work placement programs. Finally, the center works to improve the **awareness of violence against women among families displaced** by conflict, through printed materials (a monthly bulletin, posters, booklets, calendars), radio and television programs in which women share their stories, and informational campaigns (16 Days of Action, exhibitions, public service announcements, public debates and round tables).

Good practices in prevention:

The presentations provided examples of awareness-raising campaigns that were conducted at the global level, the regional level and at the national level. The campaigns share some common positive features: they were each **based on research** and responded to real data about violence against women. The campaigns did not stop at the level of merely informing about the prevalence of violence against women but each called for **concrete responses or actions to combat violence against women**.

In the case of France, the campaigns offered information on **where to find assistance** and supported the creation of a new service (a national telephone line). The final presentation highlighted the importance of examining the specific needs of women in post-conflict settings and illustrated a **multi-faceted approach to prevention**, which includes direct work with at-risk women and their families as well as informational activities to raise the awareness of internally displaced women within the community.

Panel III

Protection from Violence Against Women

MODERATOR:

BIKHODJAL RAKHIMOVA, UNIFEM CONSULTANT

ANDREI SINELNIKOV, ANNA NATIONAL CENTER
FOR THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE, RUSSIA

Women's Human Rights and Violence against
Women: Monitoring as a Tool for Promoting
Changes in the Response to Gender-based
Violence

Center ANNA has been providing services to women victims of violence since 1993 and has recognized a need to bring the issue of violence against women **from the level of a social problem to the political level**. Specifically, Center ANNA has been strategic about moving from primarily assisting victims to also **lobbying for improved legislation** and policies that will protect victims of violence. The Center is increasing awareness that violence against women is a human rights abuse and strengthening local, regional and federal coalitions in Russia.

As part of its strategic plan, Center ANNA established the Independent National Women's Human Rights Commission on Violence Against Women, which primarily undertakes **monitoring on the protection of women** from violence in Russia. Responding to the specifics of the country, it was considered more constructive to found a commission made up of Russian **independent experts** that would offer critique of the situation but could also highlight good practices. The Commission is made up of NGO representatives, but government experts are also invited for specific projects.

The **working goals of the Commission** are: to describe the **overall situation** of violence against women in the Russian Federation; to **reinforce protection** for women against inhuman and **degrading**



The OSCE is present in Central Asian countries to promote gender equality.

treatment by governmental institutions; to guarantee women's safety and **protection by the legal system;** and to improve the **protection of women from social and cultural patterns** of conduct that are based on stereotyped roles of men and women.

The Commission has gathered **statistical data**, carried out **assessments** and research by region on existing **legislation**, types and extent of **services available** to victims, made note of **obstacles** that victims face in obtaining protection and evaluated both harmful cultural practices and cases of good practices being used in Russia. The Commission's first annual report will be published in late 2008.

ANNA National Center for the Prevention
of Violence website:
www.anna-center.ru

HELENA EWALDS, NATIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE FOR WELFARE AND HEALTH (STAKES), FINLAND

Multi-professional Coordination and Co-operation in Combating Violence Against Women: Practical Experiences from Finland

In 1998, Finland adopted a national **five-year project on the prevention of violence against women and prostitution**. While surveys on violence against women had been carried out earlier in Finland, this plan made the issue more visible and **brought attention to a problem that was generally seen as a private matter**.

In response to the national program and after determining that local services for women were inadequate, **the town of Porvoo led its own campaign, Full to the Brim**, from 1999-2002. The local family counseling center led the initiative by calling together organizations that could play a key role in preventing violence against women, which included a **wide range of agencies**, from social services, to law enforcement, to healthcare services and educational institutions.

The main aims of the project were **to enhance the capacities of these authorities** to prevent, recognize and intervene in cases of domestic violence; to provide **better support to victims and their children**; to refer **perpetrators to programs** that could help them to end their violent behavior; **to establish a network** of the organizations involved in this work; and **to create an open discussion** on the topic of violence against women in the community. In implementing the project, attention was given to establishing a "common language" among professionals on domestic violence and enhancing their understanding of each other's functions in order to better coordinate their work.

Some of the specific **outcomes** of the project include **extensive training programs** for professionals and courses for young families; the creation of **models for detection of and intervention** in cases of domestic violence for each authority; the **development of a referral system** between law enforcement and service providers;

improved **services for victims** and the establishment of groups for women, children and perpetrators; and the development of **informational materials** both in print and in the media.

Another significant legacy of the project is a **multi-disciplinary task force** created by the city of Porvoo on prevention of domestic violence. The task force links diverse professionals and develops policies and programs on prevention, monitors their implementation and coordinates the functions of the municipal-level groups.

Of note, in 2008 when the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health developed a program to support municipalities to develop coordinated responses to domestic violence, it gave **specific recommendations on developing a strategic approach** and determining the needs of a range of vulnerable women and children (including elderly women, women with disabilities and from ethnic minorities), and cited the work carried out in Porvoo. In 2011, Finland will carry out a national assessment of how the Ministry's recommendations have been fulfilled by municipalities in cooperation with local NGOs.

ORZU GANIEVA, WOMEN'S CENTER "GULRUKHSOR," TAJIKISTAN
Shelter Assistance for Women Suffering Violence in Tajikistan

The Gulrukhsor Women's Center was founded in 1996 in Kudjand, the first such organization to provide **support for victims of violence in Tajikistan**. Since then, a filial has been opened in a neighboring region with the support of the local administration. With funding and technical support of the OSCE Office to Tajikistan, **the Gulrukhsor Center opened a shelter** in 2006 to provide temporary housing for women and children in crisis situations, including women who are experiencing domestic violence or have been trafficked.

The Gulrukhsor Center has carried out a large number of specific projects in addition to providing direct assistance to victims of violence, for example, **campaigns to raise awareness** among the general population

as well as **research** and the development of **methodological materials**, including a unified file system for their clients.

The **opening of the shelter** has enabled the Gulrukhsor Center to expand its services. From its opening to the present day, the shelter has provided **188 people with a safe place to live** - the vast majority of them women and their children. The average length of stay is **11 days**, but some have stayed as long as two months. Most of the clients are referred by the women's center itself, but law enforcement structures, the local Committee on Women and Family as well as NGOs have all made referrals to the shelter. The Gulrukhsor Center and shelter offer **psychological assistance**, through individual and group consulting, and legal help, including help in court cases.

The center also provides a successful program of **social support** that consists of close work between a client and a social worker to develop an **individual and realistic plan for the future**. The social worker and client together assess the woman's resources and family networks and the client is assisted in accessing needed social services through local agencies.

GULRUKHSOR Center website:
www.gulruhsor.tj

Through this work, a number of **survivors of violence have found employment, housing, educational opportunities** and received financial assistance.

The Gulrukhsor Center encountered some difficulties in creating the shelter, specifically opposition from local authorities who did not consider such an agency to be necessary. Today, however, **the center has proven its importance** in the community and now receives direct support from several State structures.

The Gulrukhsor Center also **coordinates with a number of other local agencies** and organizations, including the local administration, police and prosecutor's office, healthcare facilities, employment centers and other NGOs. At present, the center is developing a memorandum with the local police on joint work.

Good practices in protection:

The presentations provided examples of initiatives to improve the protection of women victims of violence and their children. These initiatives share some common and positive features. In both Finland and Tajikistan, programs that responded to the needs of women experiencing violence that began at the local level with little support have now become models for national-level work and have received recognition from the State. In the case of Russia, a commission is monitoring the situation of protection at the regional level in order to lobby for further services and improvements at the federal level.

Additionally, the presentations highlighted the importance of coordination in developing programs for protection. In order to be successful, such coordination should be formalized and be governed by clear guidelines.

Panel IV

Prosecution of Violence Against Women

MODERATOR:

NAVRUZ SAMADOV, LEGAL DEPARTMENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL APPARATUS OF TAJIKISTAN

ROSA LOGAR, DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION CENTRE, AUSTRIA

Good Laws are Not Enough. Experiences from Austria in Developing a Comprehensive Intervention System to Prevent Violence Against Women and Support Survivors

The first women's shelter in Austria opened in 1978 following a movement worldwide to establish **safe places and support for women**. Significantly, legal system reform and improvement of prosecution was not the first priority of the women's movement. Thirty years of experience have shown, however, that a comprehensive system of legal measures, that address all the **rights of survivors**, is a critical component of protection and prosecution.

There are **four key rights** of the survivor that should be protected: the right to information and **empowering support**; the right to **police protection**; the right to protection through **civil law**; the right to remain in a relationship or **home without experiencing violence**; and full social and economic rights that allow for an independent life.

The **Austrian experience** illustrates a model for a comprehensive system that gives **priority to support services** in order to make it possible for survivors to seek redress through the justice system. The adoption of strong laws is an essential part of the system but only one component. In Austria, there are a number of **services for women survivors** of violence and their children that address their right to information, to safe housing and to empowering support. The Ministry for Women supports a national **toll-free hotline** that is operated by the non-governmental

Women's Shelter Network. This network consists of 30 women's shelters throughout the country that are funded by the national and municipal government but are operated as independent women's organizations.

In addition to the shelters, there are 40 local and regional **counseling centers** that support women and girls who have survived violence as well as special housing programs that assist survivors to find new places to live.

Several important changes in the law have also led to increased protection for survivors and more effective prosecution of violence against women cases. For instance, in 1991, the *Security Police Act* came into effect that regulates the **duties of police** in protecting citizens from violence and establishing the principle of **transparency in police work**. The act has been very significant in extending protection to women victims of violence in the home.

A second law, the **Domestic Violence Act** (1997), has had a significant impact in Austria and consists of three elements that work in combination with each other: a provision allowing the police to **expel a violent person from the home** for a period of 10 or 20 days; the right of the survivor **to apply for a longer-term protection** order through a civil process; and **immediate support** for victims after police intervention.

Concurrent with the adoption of the *Domestic Violence Act*, the Austrian government established a system of Intervention Centers in each province of the country for the purpose of **coordinating police and social service activities** and to take a proactive approach to assisting



Good tool for ensuring the safety of women:

The Austrian law enables the victims to be protected immediately by evicting the perpetrator from the home and barring him from re-entry ("Betretungsverbot")

Domestic Abuse Intervention Center website:
www.interventionsstelle-wien.at

victims. The centers are **funded by the Federal Ministry** of the Interior and the Ministry for Women but are **operated by women's NGOs**.

A key task of the intervention centers is to assess the danger in a domestic violence situation, and so when the police remove a perpetrator from the home, this fact is documented in a report that is then forwarded to a local Intervention Center. At this point, the center takes steps to contact the survivor to offer further support and **assistance in planning for the safety** of the survivor and any dependents. Some of the Intervention Centers also run anti-violence programs for men in cooperation with men's centers.

Other important legal developments include reform of the Penal Code that has resulted in **ex-officio prosecution of all violent acts**, even misdemeanors, the development of **anti-stalking legislation**, criminalization of marital rape, female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

A law also exists, in draft form, to increase sentences for **perpetrators who repeatedly use violence**. These individual legal and policy changes have been effective since they mandate **coordination** between police, courts and Intervention Centers and they include **proactive measures** for the support of survivors.

SONIA CHIRINOS, GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE COURT NUMBER 2, SPAIN

Impacts of the Development of the Spanish Procedural System on the Effectiveness of Prosecuting Violence Against Women

In 2004, Spain passed the *Act on Integrated Protection Measures Against Gender Violence*, which dramatically changed how the legal system dealt with cases of violence against women. The Act was significant in that it **defines gender-based violence** for the first time in Spanish law. While using the term "gender violence," the law addresses violence against women committed by former or current intimate partners. The law guarantees the **economic rights** of survivors of gender violence and protects their employment status in both the public and private sectors.

The law establishes a **comprehensive system** of institutional protection as well as a government delegation on gender violence and, in reference to prosecution, implements several changes in the legal system. Most significantly, the law creates **specialized Gender Violence Courts**, which have combined criminal and civil jurisdiction. While the law originally called for the creation of 17 such courts in Spain, there are now **83 operating** in the country. The overarching goal of the new court system is to provide victims with the most immediate, complete and effective protection.

The law punishes **both physical and psychological violence**, and the functions of the Gender Violence Courts in criminal matters are no different from other criminal cases.

The law does however, include two special procedures: a "**quick trial**" for misdemeanor cases and the **protection order**. If the perpetrator is in police custody, the victim is available and there is sufficient evidence of a crime, a judge can hear the case and issue a judgment within 72 hours. A second provision allows for any woman who feels she is in danger to apply for a protection order through the police or the court. In this case, a victim's statement is sufficient to

allow the police to detain the perpetrator for 72 hours.

The Gender Violence Courts also hear civil cases related to incidents of violence, generally aspects of family law. The ability of the Gender Violence Courts to **hear both criminal and civil case** was a controversial provision when the law was being enacted since it was viewed as contravening a trend in Spain toward specialized and not general jurisdiction courts. However, advocates of the law point out that the aim of the new legislation was to create procedures that would be the most helpful to victims if they decide to use the law for protection.

Overall, the law has had a **positive effect in Spain** in making what was regarded as a private affair a public issue. The quick trials and criminalization of what were once considered "minor" injuries are sending a clear message that the State takes violence against women seriously. With the enactment of the law, law enforcement, the prosecutor's office and judiciary have been able to coordinate their work. Nevertheless, a few obstacles remain in the interpretation and implementation of the law. For example, the presumption of innocence favors the accused and despite the new procedures, many women are still reluctant to pursue prosecution and drop the charges.

Good practices in prosecution:

The presentations were examples of States taking positive steps to improve law enforcement and legal procedures to facilitate the prosecution of cases of violence against women. The experiences of both Austria and Spain highlight the interconnectedness of prosecution measures and the provision of services to protect victims. A critical condition for successful prosecution of such cases is that the survivor feels safe and empowered to participate in the process. For this reason, attention was given to establishing shelters and housing programs for women, and to laws which create special mechanisms to remove perpetrators temporarily from the home through a quick procedure.

Another common feature to these responses is that prosecution and protection efforts are coordinated. In Austria, for example, the police communicate information about the issuance of restraining orders to intervention centers, which work with survivors of violence. It was also pointed out that the progress made in these countries was the result of years of work and was facilitated by NGO advocacy efforts, media attention to the problem, critique from UN and the political will of national leadership.

Panel V

Addressing and Involving Men as Role Models and Actors in Ending Violence Against Women

MODERATOR:

ULUGBEK NOROV, LEGAL DEPARTMENT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND FAMILY AFFAIRS

HEATHER COADY AND SCOTT CAMERON, SCOTTISH

WOMEN'S AID, SCOTLAND

Strategies for Youth Involvement in Combating Violence

Scotland approaches violence against women using a **clear gender analysis** and has instituted a well-developed **system of services and policies**. For example, the first women's shelter in Scotland opened 35 years ago and more recent innovations include the adoption of a National Strategy to address domestic violence, national funding streams and a national training strategy.

Scottish Women's Aid is an organization that deals with policy issues around violence against women and supports 39 local projects that deal with assistance and advocacy. An important component of the work of Scottish Women's Aid is its **emphasis on the participation of survivors** of violence, especially young people, in reform efforts. In combination with programs on prevention, protection and prosecution, participation could be considered the "fourth P" in anti-violence work.

The second presenter, a young man who has been active in anti-violence work for seven years, since age 14, described his experiences working with Women's Aid. The Listen Louder campaign aimed to make the voices of **young people who had experienced domestic violence**, heard. This three-year national campaign targeting government policy-makers and service providers **gave young people a platform** to present their unique insights, to describe the types of support they need as well as what services were actually helpful in their cases.

Through the campaign, youth spoke directly with government ministers about

domestic violence.

After the campaign, the government created a high-level **working group to develop policies** for assisting young people and children. Young people have also been active participants in designing, developing and overseeing research projects, which shed light on the **specialized support that children require**.

As a result of the active involvement of children and youth, in June 2008, Scotland adopted a National Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan for Children and Young People with £10 million in dedicated funds for its implementation. Young people will also play a role in the implementation and monitoring of the plan. An important message from the presenter was that **young people have a great deal to contribute to advocacy work** around violence against women. Not only are they willing to share their specific perspectives as young survivors of violence, but young people are willing to commit their time as volunteers to ensure that other children do not have the same negative experiences.



Scottish Women's Aid:
www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk

National Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan for Children and Young People:
www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/17115558/12

Making a Difference - Young People Speak to Scottish Ministers:
<http://openscotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/17120134/9>

Children & Young People as Partners in the Design and Commissioning of Research:
www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk/assets/files/publications/research_reports/SWA_Children_As_Partners_In_Research.pdf

Support Needs of Children and Young People who have to move because of Domestic Abuse:
www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk/assets/files/publications/research_reports/SWA_Support_Needs_Of_Children_Who_Have_To_Move_House_Because.pdf

SAGHIR BUKHARI, UNIFEM PAKISTAN AND MEN ENGAGE REGIONAL ALLIANCE, PAKISTAN

Partners in Prevention: Engaging Boys and Men Against Gender-based Violence

All violence has a gender dimension, but gender stereotypes, unequal power relations and lack of women's participation are specific factors that perpetuate gender-based violence.

In Pakistan, a great deal of work has been done with women to raise their awareness and to involve them in changing the situation. At the same time, there has been a recognition that **men must acknowledge their shared responsibility** for violence against women, and if they remain silent about the problem, violence will continue. While Pakistan has an official zero tolerance policy towards gender-based violence, in reality the predominantly male leadership presents a very different model of behaviour and masculinities. The aim is to promote **positive masculinities and responsible male behaviour**.

Work in male institutional settings is one example of such an initiative. After a request to work in the National Police College to train police in more positive behaviour, the opportunity was used to develop a curriculum to address negative male behaviour and gender-based violence more broadly. What began as a two-hour course has now been expanded to a **21-day training** that is part of the established **curriculum for all police**. Specialized experts lead the course in cooperation with police staff. The course does not aim to provide gender sensitization but instead is based on the theory of **attitudinal change**. The police learn to be more aware of their own attitudes and behaviours. They learn self-respect as well as respect for others, interpersonal skills, communication skills and leadership skills. The course includes specific sessions on gender-based violence that are linked to the goals of the overall course. Another important component of the course is the links it establishes between the police and their community and the promotion of an atmosphere of safety, trust and respect between police and community members.



Children is important to promote a responsible
could be developed further in Central Asia

This project, as well as others in the region, has lead to the development of key recommendations and learning experiences for working with men and boys, the key points of which are summarized here. There is no uniform discourse on masculinities, and therefore there are many different kinds of men and boys. Traditional notions of masculinities can change over time, but positive role models can always be found in any culture and promoted. It is important to focus on the culture that creates violence and not on individual men.

Involving a “critical mass” of men and boys, or working in male-dominated institutions such as the police, can be a way to affect positive change. It has proven effective when both male and female trainers work together as they themselves present a positive example of partnership. Small group work is useful as it creates an atmosphere of trust and respect and facilitates the open discussion of feelings, something that men also need.

Finally, it is important to begin work on gender from an early age, before boys and girls have internalized societal messages, and to promote examples of healthy gender relationships to young people.

NEIL BLACKLOCK, RESPECT, UK
Strategies for Engaging with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence

Respect is a program that works with perpetrators of domestic violence by **responding to those who are seeking to change their behaviour**. Respect operates a national telephone line for men who are using violence in their relationships, which annually receives **calls from 7,000 men** in the United Kingdom. The telephone line helps men to understand the situation they have created and to see the negative impacts on their partners, children and selves and also refers men to outlets where they can receive help.

Respect also operates a program of **counselling for perpetrators**. Respect’s programs for perpetrators are underlined by concern for the safety of the survivors of violence. The programs themselves validate the women’s experiences by taking a clear stance that the men are responsible for their behaviour, but it is also understood that the fact that a perpetrator is participating in such a program may give a partner unrealistic expectations about her own safety.

For this reason, Respect **cooperates closely with services** for women and children to keep them informed about the progress made by the partner in counselling. Such an approach aims to **empower the woman** by providing her with information about the perpetrator programs so that she can focus on her safety and the safety of her children and make informed decisions.

The program for perpetrators is based on **four central objectives**: to enable the **man to understand** and acknowledge the extent, frequency and seriousness of his violence and to see how damaging it is; to promote the **acceptance of responsibility** (it was pointed out that this is not couples counselling but a program to show perpetrators that violent behaviour is a choice and that they are agents of this choice). A third goal is to **encourage men to question** their sense of gender-based entitlement, and the final goal is the **development of respectful behaviour**.



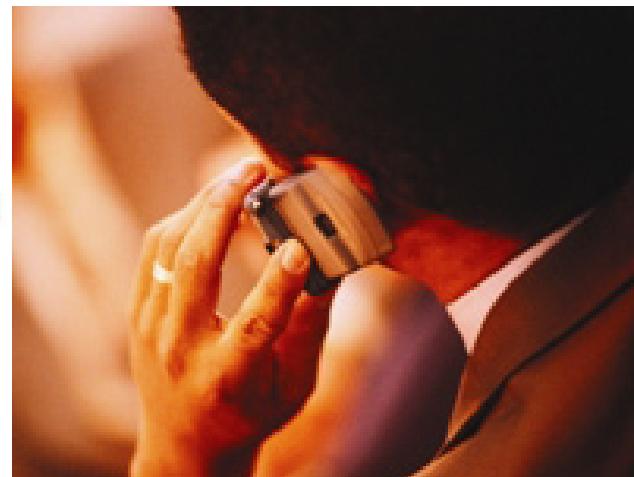
www.menengage.org

Men Engage Alliance website:
www.menengage.org

White Ribbon Campaign (a men's campaign against violence) website:
www.whiteribbon.ca

Data on the effectiveness of perpetrator programs is somewhat limited, but studies conducted in the U.S. suggest that most repeated violence occurs in the first 12 months of the program (supporting the notion that services for women's safety should operate in parallel to perpetrator programs). Such studies have shown an eventual **overall reduction in violence** (at 30 months, 80% of men had not used violence in the past year and at 48 months, 90% had not used violence in the past year) as well as a reduction in other abusive behaviours (such as the use of psychological violence, threats and sexual abuse).

RESPECT website:
www.respect.uk.net



Respect annually receives calls from 7,000 men who are aware of their violent behaviour and want to stop it.

Good practices in working with men:

The presentations each highlighted the importance of involving young people, including boys, and men as advocates against violence against women. Youth experience violence, in particular family-based violence, in a unique way and therefore they can be powerful advocates for improving the system as a whole to make it more responsive to children's needs. Working with children is also an opportunity to present examples of healthy gender relationships and positive male and female role models which can work to end the cycle of violence.

It is also a good practice for programs that work with perpetrators of violence to insist that men take responsibility for their violent behavior, assist them to see the negative consequences such violence has on their own families and to encourage them to become role models for their own children.

Recommendations

During the seminar, the participants worked in small groups dedicated to the topics of prevention, protection, prosecution, youth participation and involving men and boys in efforts to combat violence against women. The discussions followed specific topics: the aspects of the experts' presentations that participants found particularly innovative and effective and ways that the approaches could be replicated or adapted for their contexts. The groups also came up with central themes and recommendations for future work that they thought noteworthy. Below is a summary of the main points of the working group discussions.

Prevention of Violence Against Women

- 1 Preventing violence is the best way to address violence against women.
- 2 Demonstration of political will to address violence against women by senior officials and the government is a critical component of prevention work. Good work at the local level may not be sufficient if the head of State does not have the political will to support such efforts on a large scale.
- 3 Prevention work should take a gender-sensitive approach and acknowledge that violence against women is not a gender-neutral topic but is a violation of women's human rights.
- 4 Awareness raising campaigns are a useful preventive tool and can include a number of specific activities. For example, the mass media can be engaged to highlight prevention messages. Campaigns can be connected to visible events, such as sports competitions, or use recognizable logos, posters, t-shirts and other materials.
- 5 Education, in particular of children and young people, is a useful entry point to address violence against women. Early education to instill in children positive socialization as a preventive tool is a good practice. Peer education programs can be particularly effective with teenagers. Educating women, and raising awareness of their rights, is an important complement to educating children and young people.
- 6 Specialized training programs for all stakeholders can be very effective in preventing violence. Such stakeholders should include social workers, law enforcement structures, prosecutors, the judiciary, medical-legal experts, State structures and NGOs. It was noted that the lack of a law on gender violence or mechanisms for working with law enforcement mean that this important stakeholder is often left out of prevention efforts. A suggestion followed that laws on gender equality could be used to engage with the police.
- 7 Working with perpetrators, not only the victims of violence, is an innovative approach to preventing future violence. When developing programs for men, it is

important to involve women.

- 8** During this session, concern was raised over increasing numbers of illegal polygamous marriages that are taking place in some parts of Central Asia and the fact that women in such circumstances are vulnerable to violence and other violations of their rights. Some participants suggested that dialog with religious leaders could be an area to explore and this might be a way to combat polygamy as well as other practices harmful to women that are justified as based in religion or tradition.

OSCE/Genadiy Ratushenko



Experts from the whole OSCE region sharing experiences in Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Protection from Violence Against Women

- 1** Effective protection depends on multi-disciplinary coordination between NGOs and the State structure in developing and carrying out interventions on violence against women.
- 2** Social partnership between the State and NGOs is an effective way to deliver services and assistance to survivors of violence. In Tajikistan, for example, the Gulrukhsor Center is an NGO that operates a crisis center and shelter for women, and the local administration supports the center by providing rent-free space.
- 3** Monitoring and analysis of the situation of violence against women, the implementation of laws and the effectiveness of social services are tools

to improve protection efforts. Similarly, the standardization of statistics and data on services provided to women are necessary to have a clear picture of whether progress is being made.

- 4** Educational and training programs can also be used as a form of protection. Courses for couples entering marriage were seen as particularly effective. It was also suggested that work with perpetrators and training for police can be oriented towards improving protection for survivors of violence.
- 5** The media can also play a role in protection, for example, by promoting existing services or by highlighting the need for better protection of women and their children.



Media can play a role in prevention as well as in protection from violence against women.

Prosecution of Violence Against Women

- 1 Violence against women is a crime and the law should treat it as any other crime. However, criminalization of violence against women is not sufficient, and laws should be accompanied by comprehensive programs that address protection and prevention.
- 2 Women survivors also have economic and social rights that should be addressed in parallel with the prosecution of perpetrators. For example, the victim has a right to remain in the home in cases of domestic violence as well as the right to housing, either through temporary shelter, or in a new residence.
- 3 Innovations in the law, such as temporary restraining orders, courts of combined
- 4 criminal and civil jurisdiction and quick trials, serve the needs of survivors of violence rather than the interests of the legal system. Women should also be empowered throughout the prosecution process. Free legal aid and advocates who can accompany victims in court can provide opportunities for women to be involved in legal proceedings. Here, it was also noted that NGOs have a role to play in the area of prosecution by working directly with survivors.
- 5 Even developing countries with limited resources can provide good services when violence against women is prioritized and funds allocated accordingly. A law on victim support can also push the government to delineate a specialized budget.

Addressing and Involving Men as Role Models and Actors in Ending Violence Against Women

- 1 The “fourth P” is participation! Young people have an important role to play in public advocacy and their specific experiences, mentality and needs should be considered in programs that address violence against women. It was generally agreed among the participants that work with men, children and youth could be developed further in the Central Asian region.
- 2 The creation of programs for male perpetrators of violence is critical, but providing the necessary support for women and child victims and ensuring their safety is the first priority, especially in situations where resources are limited.
- 3 Perpetrator programs should involve those men who want to change their behavior and should focus on enabling men to take responsibility for their own actions. Specialized telephone hotlines or crisis centers for violent men are also innovative and could be developed in countries that have nothing like this, perhaps by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Programs for perpetrators should be closely linked to women’s services. There should also be follow-up with the criminal justice system to confirm that perpetrators are participating in such programs and to evaluate their long-term effectiveness.
- 4 Work with men should not be limited to counseling programs. Men should also commit to social change around eliminating violence against women. Male role models should be encouraged to publicly take a stand against violence, and there are several examples of sports figures, pop stars, politicians and other celebrities who speak publicly about gender-based violence. Additionally, it was thought that campaigns that involve men and boys in anti-violence work, such as the White Ribbon campaign, could be replicated in Central Asia.
- 5 Working in predominantly “male spaces,” such as the police force, can have a real impact on changing dominant masculinities. In the case of Pakistan, such a program has become institutionalized within police academies and is led by a combination of specialized and police trainers.



Summary Remarks

Hairiniso Yusufi, Chairperson, Committee on Women and Family Affairs, Ambassador Mara Marinaki, Permanent Representative of Greece to the OSCE, and Jamila Seftaoui, OSCE Senior Advisor on Gender Issues, delivered **closing remarks** to the seminar. The speakers expressed satisfaction that the seminar had been productive and that many new ideas had been shared.



The problem of violence against women is one to which the OSCE is deeply committed and it will remain a priority for future work. Like the UN, the OSCE calls for an intensification of efforts to address violence against women, and such a seminar is an important tool to allow for the exchange of knowledge and to launch new initiatives.

OSCE/Zorica Nsevic



Ms. Seftaoui concluded the seminar by summarizing several of the **common aspects that emerged** from the presentations and discussions. These aspects can be characterized as "enabling" factors in developing responses to violence against women:

Internationally-recognized human rights standards are the best entry point to combat violence against women, based on the understanding that the problem is universal and that there are no cultural justifications for violence against women.

Evidence-based data and statistics about the prevalence, causes, scope and consequences of violence against women are instrumental and essential for the success of interventions on violence against women.

Strategies to combat violence against women require a comprehensive and coordinated approach, which includes coordination between government and NGOs, cross-sectoral coordination at the government level and coordination from local to national to international levels.

While funding is an important and in some cases an essential factor, it should not be understood as a condition sine qua non, a precondition. Many successful efforts to combat violence against women began with limited resources or were based on voluntary work. This indicates that progress can be made even in the absence of significant funds.

Critique from civil society in a country or from the international community towards a country's programs to address violence against women have both proven to exert positive pressure on States to improve their responses to this problem.

Considering males as potential parts of the solution is an important enabling factor. Of course, it should always be kept in mind that the primary victims are women, and their protection should be at the heart of any action involving men.

Violence against women should be addressed through national programs and in a holistic manner, looking closely at the different types of victims, including not only men but also youth, as the future generation.

The seminar offered a diversity of examples of ongoing solutions to violence against women from different parts of the world, under different conditions and with different actors. Yet, it is thought that despite the originality of each situation, some of these solutions might be replicable elsewhere.

Transferability of good, effective ideas is nothing more and nothing less than the process of learning. Learning starts with reflection on one's own problems taking into account one's specific starting points, resources, desired goals and good examples.

A photograph of two elderly women standing outdoors. The woman on the left is wearing a yellow patterned headscarf and a blue and white striped top. The woman on the right is wearing a brown headscarf and a brown shirt. They are both smiling.

Annexes

Annex I

Agenda

OSCE EXPERTS' SEMINAR ON INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
DUSHANBE, OCTOBER 20-22, 2008

Monday, 20 October	
15.00	Registration of participants
16.00	
16.00	Opening <i>Chairperson and opening remarks: Ms. Rukiya Kurbonova- Deputy Prime Minister</i> Ambassador Kari Kahiluoto, Human Rights Ambassador Ambassador Vladimir Pryakhin, Head of OSCE Office in Tajikistan
	Introduction: Compiling & disseminating good practices: How this matters in the OSCE? Ms. Jamila Seftaoui - OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues
16.30	VAW in Central Asia: Situation, progress and challenges Ms. Elisabeth Duban, OSCE consultant
16.45	Panel I: Efforts to combat VAW in Tajikistan: <i>Moderator: Ms. Jamila Seftaoui, Senior Adviser on Gender Issues</i> 1. Ms. Hairiniso Yusufi, Chairperson of Government Committee on Women and Family Affairs. 2. Ms. Tatiana Bozrikova, Founder of the Coalition of NGOs to implement CEDAW 3. Ms. Nargis Azizova, Gender and Governance Adviser, UNIFEM /Tajikistan
17:45	
18:30	Reception

Tuesday, 21 October	
9.00	
10.30	Panel II: Expert's panel on prevention of VAW: campaigns addressing men and women, treatment programmes with male aggressors, educational work, working with the youth, anti-trafficking measures, presentation of tool kits and educational material from different countries, etc. <i>Moderators: Ms. Alla Kuvatova, Association of NGOs on gender equality and prevention of violence against women & OSCE</i> 1. Campaigns on VAW: Council of Europe and the United Nations' examples: Ms. Rosa Logar, member of the Council of Europe task force. Ms. Gemma Connell, Programme Officer on violence against women, Women's Rights Section, United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women. 2. Strategies for post conflict rehabilitation for women internally displaced from the conflict zone: Ms. Ema Kamkia, The Cultural Humanitarian Fund Sukhumi, Georgia. 3. France's awareness raising campaigns: Ms. Crespy, Regional delegate for women's rights, Limousin, France. Q&A/Debate
10.30	Break

Tuesday, 21 October

	Tuesday, 21 October
11.00	<p>Panel III: Expert's panel on protection from VAW: standards for service provision, effective legislation, NGO and government co-ordination, referral mechanisms, etc.</p> <p><i>Moderators: Ms. Bikhodjal Rakhimova, UNIFEM Consultant & OSCE</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Women's Human Rights and Violence against Women: Monitoring as a Tool for promoting changes in the response to gender based violence: Mr. Andrei Sinelnikov, ANNA- Association No to violence- Moscow, Russia. 2. Multi-professional coordination and cooperation in combating violence against women - practical experiences from Finland: Ms. Helena Ewalds, Development Manager, National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health (STAKES), Finland. 3. Shelter assistance for women suffering violence in Tajikistan: Ms. Orzu Ganieva, Women Center "Gulrukhsor", Kudjand, Tajikistan.
12.30	Q&A/Debate
12.30	Lunch
14.00	<p>Panel IV: Expert's panel on prosecution of VAW: legal frameworks, protection orders, police response, etc.</p> <p><i>Moderators: Mr. Navruz Samadov, Chief of the sector of the Legal Department of the Presidential Apparatus of Tajikistan & OSCE</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Good Laws are not enough. Experiences from Austria in Developing a comprehensive Intervention System to Prevent Violence against Women and support Survivors: Ms. Rosa Logar, Interventionstelle Wien-Austria. 2. Impacts of the development of the Spanish procedural system on the effectiveness of prosecuting VAW: Ms. Sonia Chirinos, Judge in the gender-based violence court number 2, Madrid.
15.30	Q&A/Debate
15.30	Break
16.00	Parallel working groups - prevention, protection, prosecution (Panel II – IV).
17.30	
17.45	Film: "Sign of escape", Nina Kusturica, 2003, 90 min (German with English subtitles).

Wednesday, 22 October

		Wednesday, 22 October
9.00	<p>Panel V: Expert's panel on addressing and involving men as role models and actors in ending VAW.</p> <p><i>Moderators: Mr. Ulugbek Norov, Head of legal department of the Committee on Women and Family Affairs & OSCE.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategies for youth involvement in combating violence Mr. Scott Cameron & Ms. Heather Coady from Scottish Women's aid, Scotland. 2. Partners in Prevention- Engaging boys and men against GBV/VAW Mr. Saghir Bukhari, Programme Officer, UNIFEM Pakistan and Men Engage Regional Alliance Coordinator. 3. Strategies for engaging with perpetrators of domestic violence Mr. Neil Blacklock, Respect, Managing director, UK. 	
10.30	Q&A/Debate	
10.30	Break	
11.00	Working groups on subject of panel V	
12.30		
12.30	Lunch	
14.00	Results of working groups: presentation & discussion	
15.30		
15.30	Break	
16.00	<p>Conclusions Ms. Jamila Seftaoui</p> <p>Closing Ms. Hairiniso Yusufi, Chairperson of Government Committee on Women and Family Affairs</p>	
17.00	Ambassador Mara Marinaki, Permanent Representative of Greece to the OSCE	
17.45	Documentary: "Women in an insecure world", DCAF & Amnesty International, 2007, 45 min (English).	

Annex II

List of participants

OSCE EXPERTS' SEMINAR ON INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
DUSHANBE, OCTOBER 20-22, 2008

Government Representatives and OSCE Delegations

Mr. Kari KAHILUOTO Ambassador kari.kahiluoto@formin.fi	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland
Ms. Mara MARINAKI Ambassador osce-greece@osce-greece.at	Permanent Mission of Greece to the OSCE
Mr. Alexandros DIMITRAKOPoulos Counsellor osce-greece@osce-greece.at	Permanent Mission of Greece to the OSCE
Mr. Alexandros KATSANIS Counsellor osce-greece@osce-greece.at	Permanent Mission of Greece to the OSCE
Ms. Mariana POPA Consultant	Gender Department of the Ministry for Social Protection, Family and Child Moldova
Ms. Anara NURDINOVA Expert comitet.mgp@mail.ru	Department on Youth, Gender Policy, Physical Culture and Sport Kyrgyzstan
Ms. Rukiya KURBONOVA Deputy Prime Minister	Prime Minister's Office of the Republic of Tajikistan
Ms. Kimatgul ALIBERDIEVA First Deputy Chairperson	Committee on Women and Family Affairs of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
Ms. Marifat SHOKIROVA Head of Gender Department	Committee on Women and Family Affairs of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
Mr. Ulugbek NOROV Head of Legal Department	Committee on Women and Family Affairs of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

Ms. Matluba SATTOROVA Head	Committee on Women Affairs of Sugd region, Tajikistan
Ms. Kurbongul PIRKHONOVA Head	Committee on Women Affairs of Khatlon region, Tajikistan
Ms. Zulfiya LASHKARBEKOVA Chief Specialist	Committee on Women Affairs of Pamir region, Tajikistan
Mr. Navruz SAMADOV Chief of the Sector of the Legal Department	Presidential Apparatus, Tajikistan
Ms. Saida JOBIROVA First Deputy Minister	Ministry of Health of the Republic of Tajikistan
Ms. Bakhtiya MUHAMADIEVA First Deputy Chairperson	State Committee on Statistics, Tajikistan
Mr. Muloali ALIEV Chief Specialist on Religion Affairs	Ministry of Culture, Tajikistan
Ms. Saodat AZIMOVA Chairperson of the Women's Union asaodat_57@mail.ru	Academy of Science, Tajikistan
Ms. Nazira GAFOROVA ngaforova@mail.ru	Institute of Increasing Qualifications of Governmental Employees, Tajikistan
Ms. Sanavbar KASYMOVA sanavbark@mail.ru	Institute of Increasing Qualifications of Governmental Employees, Tajikistan
Ms. Bibihavo SHAROFOVA Deputy Head of Personnel Department	Ministry of Education of the Republic of Tajikistan
Ms. Shahnoz BENAZIR Deputy Chairperson shahnoz2000@hotmail.com	Government Committee on Youth and Tourism, Tajikistan
Ms. Lola OTABOEVA Inspector of Legal Department and International Relations otaboeva_11@mail.ru	Ministry of Interior, Tajikistan
Ms. Tatiana BURIEVA Chief Specialist of Legal Department	Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Tajikistan
Ms. Nuriniso DADABAeva Senior specialist of the main Board on international legal relations anora_d@hotmail.com	Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan
Mr. Mehmet TATAR Attaché	Turkish Embassy in Tajikistan

Non-Governmental Organizations

Mr. Douglas MOONEY Legal Specialist douglasgeorgemooney@yahoo.com	American Bar Association, Tajikistan
Ms. Andrea STRASSER-CAMAGNI Researcher for Central Asia andrea.strasser-camagni@amnesty.org	Amnesty International, United Kingdom
Ms. Yakubova MUKHIBA awst2001@mail.ru	Association "Women of Science of Tajikistan"
Ms. Jasmina FRISCIK Executive Director jasminafriscik@esem.org.mk	Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women(ESE), Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Ms. Alla KUVATOVA Member of the Board akuватова@gmail.com	Association of the NGOs for Gender Equality to Combat Violence against Women, Tajikistan
Ms. Ecaterina VIERU Executive Director caps@mail.md	Casa Marioarei Shelter, Moldova
Ms. Maryam DAVLATOVA malizoda@mail.ru	Centre for Gender Politics, Tajikistan
Ms. Maksuda BOBOHOJIEVA Director	Dushanbe Reproductive Health Centre, Tajikistan
Ms. Margarita KHEGAY Expert mkhegai@irex.tj	Expert on Gender Issues, Tajikistan
Ms. Nurgul DJANAЕVA President dnurgul@yahoo.com	Forum of Women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan
Ms. Zamira RAZZAKOVA Director	J. Rasulov District Reproductive Health Centre, Tajikistan
Ms. Savriniso BOIMATOVA Obstetrician/gynaecologist	Kairakum District Reproductive Health Centre, Tajikistan

Ms. Roza KUZAHMEDOVA Director keik.okara@mail.ru	Keik Okara, Turkmenistan
Ms. Zebo KAMBAROVA Acting Director	Khatlon Province Reproductive Health Centre, Tajikistan
Ms. Kavginiso UMAROVA Director	Kulyab district Reproductive Health Centre, Tajikistan
Ms. Nadejda MACARI Lawyer, own firm and international relations officer nadejdama@yahoo.com	Moldovan Bar Association, Moldova
Ms. Gulnora AKHMEDJONOVA Deputy Director	National Reproductive Health Centre, Tajikistan
Ms. Rano KULOBIEVA Obstetrician/gynaecologist	National Reproductive Health Centre, Tajikistan
Ms. Matluba AHUNOVA Programme Coordinator	NGO "Gender and Development", Tajikistan
Ms. Orunbaeva TURGANBUBU Director bakybat@rambler.ru	NGO Bakubat, Kyrgyzstan
Ms. Oinikhol BOBONAZAROVA Head perspective@tajik.net	NGO Perspectiva, Tajikistan
Mr. Saidrahmon MAKSUDOV Imam of the Muslin Church	Religion leader from Rudaki District, Tajikistan
Ms. Mary ELLINGEN Staff Attorney mellingen@advrights.org	The Advocates for Human Rights, United States of America
Ms. Robin PHILLIPS Executive Director rphillips@advrights.org	The Advocates for Human Rights, United States of America
Ms. Rasuli KHAIRINISO Head of Social Sector jumhuriyat@mail.tj	The newspaper Jumhuriyat, Tajikistan
Ms. Khamidova KANOAT lwl--_toj@rambler.ru kanoat_kh@yahoo.com	Women Lawyer's League, Tajikistan
Ms. Guljahon BOBOSADIKOVA Head bguljahon@mail.ru	Women with University Degree, Tajikistan

Ms. Tsovik KARAPETYAN Psychologist tsovik82@mail.ru	Women's Rights Center, Armenia
Mr. Khizir ERGASHEV Volunteer ergashev@y-peer.org	Y-PEER Network of Tajikistan
Ms. Mavzuna ZAKIROVA Volunteer zakirova@y-peer.org	Y-PEER Network of Tajikistan

International Organizations

Ms. Maria MACAYONOK Project Manager mmacayo@essex.ac.uk	Children Legal Center, Tajikistan
Mr. Zaitoona NAIMOVA Population and Development Programme Associate zaitoona.naimova@undp.org	UNFPA Tajikistan
Mr. Bihodjal RAHIMOVA Adviser of project bihodjal@sudinter.com	UNIFEM, Tajikistan

Panelists

Ms. Orzu GANIEVA Manager of Shelter orzu-77@mail.ru	NGO Women Centre "Gulruhsor", Tajikistan
Mr. Andrey SINELNIKOV Deputy Director annamosc@rol.ru	ANNA, National Center for the Prevention of Violence, Russia

Ms. Hairiniso YUSUFI Chairperson	Committee on Women and Family Affairs of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
Ms. Rosa LOGAR rosa.logar@interventionstelle-wien.at	Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre Vienna and WAWE Network, Austria
Ms. Helena EWALDS Development Manager helena.ewalds@stakes.fi	Finnish National Research and Development Center, Finland
Ms. Marie-Christine CRESPY Déléguée Régionale aux Droits des femmes et a l'égalité drdfe87.crespy@wanadoo.fr	France
Ms. Ema KAMKIA Assistant for co-operation with Mass-Media fundsukhumi@yahoo.com	NGO Cultural Humanitarian Fund Sukhumi, Georgia
Mr. Neil BLACKLOCK Development Director neil.blacklock@respect.uk.net	Respect, United Kingdom
Ms. Heather COADY Children's Policy Worker heather.coady@scottishwomensaid.org.uk	Scottish Women's Aid, Scotland
Mr. Scott CAMERON Student sos_deadlysnake@hotmail.com	Scottish Women's Aid, Scotland
Ms. Tatiana BOZRIKOVA Head of--_panorama@mail.ru	Social Fund Panorama, the NGOs' Coalition to implement CEDAW, Tajikistan
Ms. Sonia CHIRINOS Judge soniachirinos@hotmail.com	Spanish General Council for the Judiciary, Spain
Mr. Syed Saghir BUKHARI Programme Officer, MenEngage Regional Alliance Coordinator South Asia saghir.bukhari@unifem.org	UNIFEM Pakistan
Ms. Nargiz AZIZOVA	Advisor on Gender and Governance UNIFEM, Tajikistan
Ms. Gemma CONNELL Programme Officer on Violence against Women connell@un.org	Women's Rights Section, United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, United States of America

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Ms. Jamila SEFTAOUTI Senior Adviser on Gender Issues jamila.seftaoui@osce.org	OSCE Secretariat, Austria
Ms. Monica GUTIERREZ Adviser on Gender Issues monica.gutierrez@osce.org	OSCE Secretariat, Austria
Ms. Linda KARTAWICH Gender Officer linda.kartawich@osce.org	OSCE Secretariat, Austria
Ms. Elisabeth DUBAN OSCE Consultant eduban@hotmail.com	
Ms. Shahlo ISMOILAVA Assistant shahlo.ismoilova@osce.org	OSCE Khudjand Field Office in Tajikistan
Ms. Renate FRECH Deputy Director of Human Rights renate.frech@osce.org	OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina
Ms. Judith HALE Senior Anti-Trafficking & Gender Adviser, Programme Manager of Anti-Trafficking and Gender Programme judith.hale@osce.org	OSCE Mission to Moldova
Mr. Veaceslav BALAN Project Coordinator of Anti-Trafficking and Gender Programme veaceslav.balan@osce.org	OSCE Mission to Moldova
Mr. Vladimir PRYAKHIN Ambassador vladimir.pryakhin@osce.org	OSCE Office in Tajikistan
Mr. Michael UNLAND Media Officer michael.unland@osce.org	OSCE Office in Tajikistan
Ms. Zulaykho USMONOVA National Gender Officer zulaykho.usmonova @osce.org	OSCE Office in Tajikistan

Ms. Dilorom KHAIDAROVA Programme Assistant dilorom.khaidarova @osce.org	OSCE Office in Tajikistan
Mr. Olim OLIMOV Administrative Assistant olim.olimov@osce.org	OSCE Office in Tajikistan
Ms. Jasna DOBRICIK National Rule of Law Officer jasna.dobricik@osce.org	OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje
Ms. Tone TINGSGARD MP, Vice President of the OSCE PA, Special Representative on Gender issues tone.tingsgard@riksdagen.se	Swedish Parliament

Annex III

Mini CVs of moderators, guests and speakers

**OSCE EXPERTS' SEMINAR ON INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
DUSHANBE, OCTOBER 20-22, 2008**

Moderators and Special Guests

Mr. Kari KAHILUOTO

Ambassador Kari Kahiluoto took up the position as the Finnish Human Rights and Democracy Ambassador in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on 1 September 2008. He will pay special attention to the Finnish human rights priorities, including the promotion of women's human rights and gender mainstreaming. He has broad experience in foreign policy and diplomacy, including from several Finnish Embassies/Permanent Missions during the last twenty years. Ambassador Kahiluoto was for long involved in arms control and disarmament, most recently as Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN Conference of Disarmament at the Permanent Mission of Finland in Geneva.

Ms. Alla KUVATOVA

Dr. Kuvatova is Assistant Professor at the Department of History and Theory of Journalism and Electronic Mass Media in the Russian-Tajik Slavonic University. As a Gender Expert, she is also engaged in the Association of NGOs on Gender Equality and Prevention of Violence against Women as well as serving as the Board Chair of Open Society Institute-Assistance Foundation (Soros Foundation) in Tajikistan. For several years, Dr. Kuvatova was the Chairperson of a women's NGO "Traditions and Modernity" and Leading Researcher at the Tajik Academy of Sciences.

Ms. Rukiya KURBONOVA

Ms. Kurbonova is currently Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan. Previously she served as Head of the Committee for Women and Family Affairs in Tajikistan, Deputy Chairperson of the local Government of the Khatlon region and Chairperson of regional capital government.

Ms. Mara MARINAKI

Ms. Marinaki is Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Greece to the OSCE. She has broad experience from foreign policy and diplomacy, most recently as Special Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) at the Greek Inter ministerial Committee on Migration. Ambassador Marinaki has held the position as Director for Justice, Home Affairs and Schengen in the EU General Direction at the MFA and has years of experience as a Political Counsellor at the Office of the Secretary General of the MFA, at the Prime Minister's Diplomatic Office and at the Greek Embassy in Washington DC.

Mr. Ulugbek NOROV

Mr. Norov is Head of the Legal Department of the Committee for Women and Family Affairs in Tajikistan. Prior to this appointment, he served as Docent of Law in the Training Institute of Civil Servants of Tajikistan.

Mr. Vladimir PRYAKHIN

Ambassador Vladimir Pryakhin from the Russian Federation has been the Head of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan since June 2007. Among several appointments within international policy and diplomacy, Ambassador Pryakhin has led the USSR Embassy in Rwanda and worked in the Department of Economic

Co-operation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). Following this, he became Head Counsellor, first in the Department of Scientific and Technological Co-operation, and then in the Department of Security and Disarmament Problems, both within the MFA.

Ms. Bihodjal RAHIMOVA

Ms. Rahimova has been a UNIFEM Advisor on Defence of Women's Rights during land reforms in Tajikistan since 2003. She is the Chair of the board of the NGO "Chashmai Khayot", acting on Women's Rights Protection and managing Shelter for Children and Teenagers - victims of violence and human trafficking. Previously, Ms. Rahimova served as Government and Civic Actor at regional, national and Union level. She is a nominee of the project "1000 women of the World for Nobel Prize", and a participant of the Movement "Women for Peace".

Mr. Navruz SAMADOV

Since 2004, Mr. Samadov has been Chief of the Sector of the Legal Department of the Apparatus of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan. By education he is a lawyer.

Ms. Jamila SEFTAOUI

Ms. Seftaoui is currently the Senior Adviser on Gender Issues in the OSCE Secretariat. Prior to this appointment, she served as team leader and senior adviser with the German Technical Co-operation (GTZ), initiating and managing the first gender project in Morocco. Her earlier international postings with GTZ and the UN Population Fund include Germany, Tanzania, the Central African Republic and Bangladesh, where she was responsible for managing technical co-operation projects and building local capacity for the improvement of women's rights and health services.

Ms. Tone TINGSGAARD

Ms. Tone Tingsgaard is currently Vice-President and Special Representative on Gender Issues for the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE. She has participated in and led numerous OSCE PA election observation missions. After 15 years of experience in politics in Uppsala, Ms. Tingsgaard has been a Member of the Swedish Parliament since 1994; she had a special interest on foreign affairs, development and security issues.

Panelists

Ms. Nargiz AZIZOVA

Ms. Azizova is currently a Gender and Governance Advisor for UNIFEM in Tajikistan. Prior to this appointment, she was the Head of the UNDP Gender Theme Group in Tajikistan. She has also been UNDP's Assistant to both the Resident Representative on Programme and the Programme Officer, responsible for environmental, economic and gender issues. She started her career at the Strategic Research Center under the President of Tajikistan in the Department on Foreign Economic Relations.

Mr. Neil BLACKLOCK

Mr. Blacklock is Development Director at Respect and leading on new services including Dad's Space, a web based service for fathers who are separated from their children. Prior to this, he set up an accreditation system and service standards for organisations providing a Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme. He was the founder of the Domestic Violence Intervention Project where he pioneered a model of integrated working between services working with the perpetrators of abuse and those working with those at risk from abuse. He has published books on gender issues and domestic violence.

Ms. Tatiana BOZRICOVA

Ms. Bozrikova is currently Chairwoman of the Public Fund Panorama in Tajikistan. She was head of the working group developing the NGO Shadow Report on the CEDAW implementation in Tajikistan, and she is one of the initiators of the Coalition of NGOs "From Legal Equality to Factual Equality". She has also been Advisor to the President of the Republic of Tajikistan on social development and public

relations.

Mr. Saghir BUKHARI

Mr. Bukhari is a Consultant with the UNIFEM Programme Office in Pakistan working on the issues of gender equality, gender mainstreaming in development, gender based violence and women's political and economic empowerment. Additionally, he serves as MenEngage Regional Alliance Coordinator for South and Central Asia. He has facilitated a series of training on gender issues including men and masculinities, violence against women, reproductive health and gender sensitization.

Mr. Scott CAMERON

Mr. Cameron became involved in local campaigning in 2001 and was engaged in a major national three year campaign "Listen Louder!" by Scottish Women's Aid which ran from 2002 to 2004 aiming at preventing domestic abuse. A culmination of the "Listen Louder!" campaign was a government commitment to establish a National Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan for Children and Young People Experiencing Domestic Abuse. He has also participated in a major piece of refugee research and further research looking at the experiences of children and young people living with domestic abuse.

Ms. Sonia CHIRINOS

Ms. Chirinos is a judge at the Violence Gender Court #2 in Madrid and has more than 20 years of experience working as a judge. Last year, she was also Adviser on Issues of Gender Violence and of International Judicial Co-operation to the Cabinet Advisor to the Secretary of State of Justice. Additionally, she has directed three different Programmes of Support for Reform and Modernization of the State and Strengthening the Justice System in Latin America. Ms. Chirinos has also been Inspector Delegate of the Spanish Courts, and General Director of Justice.

Ms. Heather COADY

Ms. Coady has worked as Children's Policy Officer at Scottish Women's Aid since June 2000. Her remit includes shaping and influencing all policy and legislation impacting on children and young people experiencing domestic abuse in Scotland. She works closely with the Scottish government to implement national strategies and currently sits on the Ministerial group to implement both the Violence Against Women Strategy in Scotland as well as the National Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan for Children and Young People.

Ms. Gemma CONNELL

Ms. Connell is a Programme Officer on Violence against Women in the United Nations' Division for the Advancement of Women, since January 2007. She is working on the establishment of a coordinated database on violence against women; researches and prepares analysis on trends and action in regard to violence against women; and prepares and provides support to expert group meetings. Previously she worked as a consultant on the 2006 Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women.

Ms. Marie-Christine CRESPY

Since 2001, Ms. Crespy has been a regional delegate for women's rights and gender equality in the Limousin region in France, developing policies on equality between men and women. The activities are initiated by the Ministry of Employment, Social Relations and Family and Solidarity. Ms. Crespy has also managed the European programme "NOW" (New Opportunities for Women) aiming at empowering women in rural areas and underprivileged regions.

Ms. Helena EWALDS

Ms. Ewalds is Development Manager in the National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health of Finland, working on national co-ordination and development of the work to prevent intimate partner and domestic violence. She has worked for the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health on the prevention of intimate partner and domestic violence and has extensive experience in the work on family counselling issues. Ms. Ewalds has been involved in a number of projects on violence against women and is a member of the Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women.

Ms. Ema KAMKIA

Ms. Kamkia is currently working for the NGO "Cultural Humanitarian Fund Sukhumi" in Georgia where

she is a trainer and assistant of TV and radio broadcasts in the Department of Public Relations. The NGO aims at increasing women's role in building a democratic and peaceful society by e.g. protecting women's rights; combating domestic violence; empowering women in politics; and raising public awareness. Ms. Kamkia has participated in activities organized by a number of international organizations on peace-building and combating violence against women.

Ms. Rosa LOGAR

Ms. Logar is a lecturer at the University of Applied Sciences/Department of Social Work and the Executive Director of the Domestic Abuse Intervention Programme Vienna, a victim/survivor service established with the new Domestic Violence Act. She was one of the founders of the first Austrian women's refuge (1978) and of the European Network WAVE (Women Against Violence Europe, 1994). Among other international activities she has contributed to the new UN Study on Violence against Women (2006) and is a member of the Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence.

Mr. Andrei SINELNIKOV

Mr. Sinelnikov is the Deputy Director of ANNA - National Centre for the Prevention of Violence in Russia. ANNA is developing and implementing the national model of support systems for women suffering under different forms of violence. Mr. Sinelnikov is a member of the Independent National Women's Human Rights Commission on Violence against Women. He is the editor of the Violence and Social Changes Journal and author of articles and books on violence against women and gender issues published in Russia and abroad.

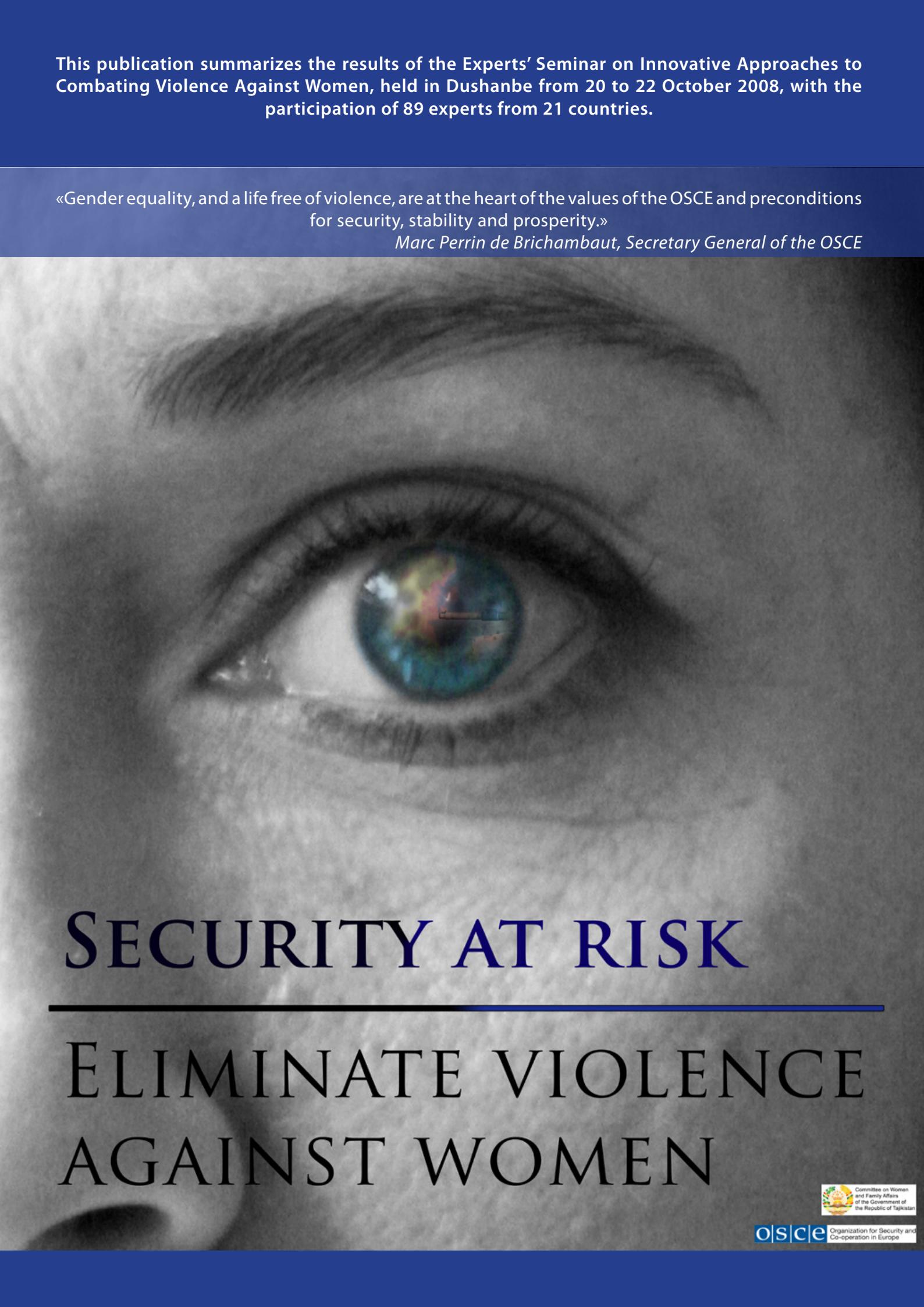
Ms. Hairiniso YUSUFI

Ms. Yusufi is Head of the Committee for Women and Family Affairs in Tajikistan. After four years as Deputy Governor in the Sughd Region, she was appointed Vice Premier Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan for four years. Ms. Yusufi holds three high education diplomas; she is a lawyer and philologist and has a degree from the Russian Academy for State Service.

This publication summarizes the results of the Experts' Seminar on Innovative Approaches to Combating Violence Against Women, held in Dushanbe from 20 to 22 October 2008, with the participation of 89 experts from 21 countries.

«Gender equality, and a life free of violence, are at the heart of the values of the OSCE and preconditions for security, stability and prosperity.»

Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Secretary General of the OSCE



SECURITY AT RISK

ELIMINATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



OSCE Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe