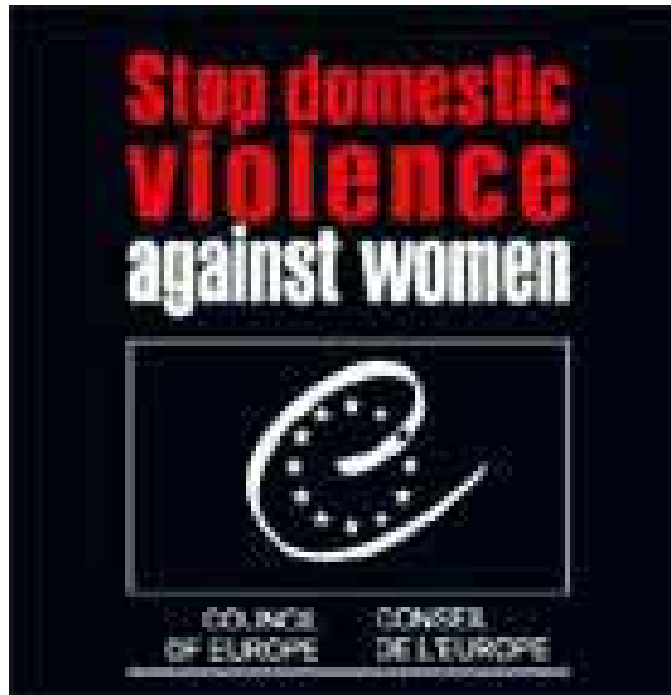


# Short overview on goals, strategies and results of the Council of Europe campaign

By Rosa Logar

*Member of the Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence*



**Council of Europe Campaign 2007-08**  
**Stop domestic violence against women**

[www.coe.int/stopviolence](http://www.coe.int/stopviolence)



# History of the Campaign

- The Council of Europe (CoE) has 47 member states
- The most important instrument of the CoE: European Convention on Human Rights (1950)

In 2005 in Warsaw, at the Third Summit, the CoE adopted an Action Plan consisting in:

- Setting up a **Task Force** to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic violence
- **Implementing a Campaign** to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence



## Why did the CoE start the Campaign?

- **„Violence against women, including domestic violence, is one of the most serious forms of gender-based violations of human rights.**
- **It deprives women of their ability to enjoy fundamental freedoms.**
- **Violence against women represents a serious obstacle to equality between women and men.“**

(Council of Europe fact sheet on the campaign November 2006)



Quote Terry Davis, Secretary General CoE

“Women suffering from domestic violence are not only victims of abuse, they are also victims of silence, victims of indifference and victims of neglect. They are not helpless and weak, but they are often let down. This is what the Council of Europe Campaign is determined to change.”



## Terry Davis - goals of the campaign

“The key words are inform, help and empower. This Campaign is not launched merely to talk about domestic violence; it is meant to do something about it.”

“Eighteen months from now, we must be able to look back and say we have made a difference. We must not let down these victims of a widespread abuse of human rights.”

Speech by Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe at the Launching Conference November 2006, Madrid



The Campaign was build on previous CoE activities to prevent Violence against women such as

- *The Recommendation Rec (2002)5 on the protection of women against violence*
- One of the aims of the campaign was to improve the implementation of Recommendations Rec (2002)5.



# Task Force on Violence against Women TFV

## **8 independent experts were nominated by the Council of Europe and by member states:**

Ms. Ayse Feride ACAR (Turkey)

Ms. Dagmara BARANIEWSKA (Poland)

Ms. Helena EWALDS (Finland)

Mr. Manuel LISBOA (Portugal)

Ms. Rosa LOGAR (Austria)

Ms. Dubravka SIMONOVIC (Croatia), Vice-Chair

– all nominated by the COE member states

Ms. Hilay FISHER (United Kingdom), Chair

nominated by the COE Parliamentary Assembly

Mr. Chris GRENN (United Kingdom)

nominated Congress of Regional and Local Authorities





## Some tasks of the TFV

- to evaluate the effective functioning of the measures adopted at national and international level
- to prepare a **Blueprint for the Council of Europe campaign** and to identify the main subjects
- to make proposals for revising or for adopting new measures



# Objectives of the campaign

The Task Force decided to focus on **domestic violence against women**.

Member states were urged to make significant progress during the Campaign in the following areas:

1. Legal and policy measures
2. Support and protection for victims
3. Data collection
4. Awareness raising

Member States were also advised to set priorities according to their situation.



# Structure for campaign activities

Member States were encouraged to set up a structure on the national level to carry out the campaign:

- in Parliament: A **Contact parliamentarian**
- in government: A **High Level Official** and **Focal Point**
- Name and addresses were listed on the campaign website
- Focal Points were encouraged to install a **national Task Force** which should include women's NGOs
- The role of the national Task Force was to support the delivery of member states' national campaigns



## Overview Campaign Activities Nov 06-June 08

- Launching conference in Madrid (Nov. 2006)
- Activities by the **Parliamentary Assembly (PACE)**
- Activities by the **Congress of Local and Regional Authorities**
- **Inter-governmental activities** organized by the CoE Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking Division and activities by the **Task Force**
- PACE Closing Conference in Vienna April 2008
- Campaign Closing Conference in June 2008 in Strasbourg




## Activities by the Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) - some examples

- In Nov 2007 the PACE Standing Committee adopted a Declaration on „Involment of Men-a crucial factor for change to combat vaw“
- Several parliamentary hearings and Round Tables were organized by the Contact Parliamentarians, in: Cyprus, Slovenia, Denmark, Lithuania, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Sweden, Croatia, Serbia,...
- PACE Parliamenty seminars for different regions took place in Finland, Slovakia, France, Bulgaria, Austria
- PACE Member Mr Mendes Bota prepared an mid-term assessment and the adoption of Recommendation 1817 (seven priority measures)
- Based on the seven priority measures he prepared a report for the PACE closing conference showing that there is still a lot to be done, especially in the area of service provision



## Activities carried out by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

- **Foto exhibition** together with PACE:  
survivors of violence, parliamentarians, local and regional deputies, representatives of non-governmental organisations and others took a stand against violence against women
- **Good practice exchange** – examples for good practice were published on the website
- **Commission of a report on standards for municipalities in the prevention of DV against women** (will be published)



Intergovernmental activities organized by the CoE Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking Division

- Media and campaign activities
- Several audiovisuals, posters, leaflets, etc
- TV spot in 10 language versions was broadcasted in many countries
- Campaign website, Calender of Events
- 5 Regional seminars and several conferences
- Reports of the seminars and the conference were/will be published
- two research reports were commissioned:
  - report on **data and statistics** regarding DVaW
  - report on **standards for services**(they will be published)



# Activities of the Task Force

- **The Task Force held 7 meetings**
- **TFV members participated in and contributed to all seminars and conferences**
- **It developed Recommendations**  
[Council of Europe \(2008\): Recommendations of the Council of Europe Task Force to combat violence against women, including domestic violence, Strasbourg](#)
- **And wrote a Report** (published autum/winter 2008)





## Did the campaign make a difference?

- **Despite the short time – 18 month – we can say yes, the campaign did make a difference**
- Concrete steps to join the Campaign have been taken in the majority of countries
- Out Of 47 CoE member states 35 provided a report about their campaign activities in April 2008
- Even if the activities were not created through the campaign, but had existed before, the campaigning helped to push things forward
- Most activities have been carried out in the area of awareness-raising, national action plans and the introduction or amendment of legal measures
- **Significant fewer improvements were made in the area of service provision**



## Some examples for concrete actions

**Albania:** the Albanian state police established Domestic Violence & Child Protection Units in all regional police departments

- In 2007 members of Parliament engaged in the 16 days of activism (15-Nov-10 Dec) against gender violence

**Austria:** The Federal Government the budget of the 9 NGO run Domestic Abuse Intervention Centers was increased 60%



## Some examples 2

**Azerbaijan:** A law on Domestic violence was drafted and is expected to be adopted in 2009

**Latvia:** The Government prepared a draft National Action Plan on Domestic Violence

**Moldova:** In February 2008 Moldova adopted a law on the prevention of Domestic Violence including a protection order



## Some examples 3

**Norway** started to prepare a legal base that will oblige municipalities to provide funding for good quality women's shelters

**Serbia:** A National Action Plan was drafted, including a budget for implementation

**Slovenia:** In February 2008 the National Assembly adopted the Family Violence Prevention Act, which includes a protection order and several other measures



## Some examples 4

**Sweden:** in 2007 the Government adopted a National Action Plan including 56 concrete measures to combat violence against women and allocated 80 million € to its implementation

**Turkey:** in 2008 a Protocol was signed between the General Directorate On The Status Of Women and Ministry of Health under the name of “The Role of the Health Personnel in the Prevention of Violence against Women...”. With this Protocol, 500 trainers will be trained to reach 75.000 health personnel.



## Some examples 5

**Uk:** The Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 provides civil protection for people threatened with forced marriage by enabling courts to make a Forced Marriage Protection Order. The Act sends out a clear message that forced marriage will not be tolerated. The Act will be implemented in autumn 2008.

### **Source:**

Council of Europe/ Gender Equality, and Anti-Trafficking Division/Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs (2008): Council of Europe Campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence. Country reports presented at the Meeting of National Focal Points 21-22 April 2008 Strasbourg, document No VAW-FP(2008)1





# Recommendations of the Task Force

Based on the assessment that a lot has been done, but that there is still a lot to do, the TFV developed a range of recommendations:

## **Central recommendation:**

- **The need of a legally binding instrument in Europe, a human rights Convention on the elimination of all forms of violence against women**
- The TFV stresses the importance of a broad scope of a convention, that does not only cover dv
- A strong monitoring mechanism should be established to ensure effective implementation



# Recommendations Task Force

Further recommendations – examples:

- The right to adequate support for all survivors of violence, including independent residence permits for immigrant women
- The need for a comprehensive system of legal protection in civil and criminal law, including victim support and free legal aid
- The need for a comprehensive network of services: at least one national toll free helpline, 1 family place in a women's shelter per 10.000 inhabitants and 1 sexual violence centre per 200.000 women.
- And very important: adequate resources, including adequate funding of independent women's NGOs providing services.





The campaign must go on!

- **The campaign to eliminate all forms of violence against women and their children must be an ongoing campaign**
- **We have to invest in the prevention of violence and terror against women - in society and in our communities and families!**
- **This is a good investment in the future of our societies and the promotion of human rights and democracy, it will pay!**



**Thank you for your attention!**



# Links

- Council of Europe Stop domestic violence against women campaign:  
[www.coe.int/stopviolence](http://www.coe.int/stopviolence)
- Council of Europe documents on violence against women:  
[http://www.coe.int/T/E/Human\\_Rights/Equality/05\\_Violence\\_against\\_women/](http://www.coe.int/T/E/Human_Rights/Equality/05_Violence_against_women/)