



Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT  
FOR FAMILY POLICY  
AND GENDER EQUALITY

# 1<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL REPORT ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



ATHENS, NOVEMBER 2020



**GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR FAMILY POLICY  
AND GENDER EQUALITY**

**1<sup>st</sup> Annual Report on  
Violence Against Women**

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ATHENS, NOVEMBER 2020

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*This edition may not be distributed to private individuals for sale, according to the second subparagraph of Article 18(6)(a) through (d) of Law 3469/2006.*

## Abbreviations

Female Genital Mutilation	<b>FGM</b>
General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality	<b>GSFPGE</b>
International Rescue Committee	<b>IRC Hellas</b>
International Organization for Migration	<b>IOM</b>
Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Government	<b>EETAA</b>
National Plan of Action for Gender Equality	<b>NPAGE</b>
Association of Greek Regions	<b>ENPE</b>
European Union	<b>EU</b>
European Institute for Gender Equality	<b>EIGE</b>
Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence	<b>GREVIO</b>
Central Union of Municipalities in Greece	<b>KEDE</b>
Research Centre for Gender Equality	<b>KETHI</b>
Non-Governmental Organization	<b>NGO</b>
United Nations	<b>UN</b>
Women's Shelters	<b>WS</b>
Counseling Centres	<b>CC</b>





## Greetings

**T**he 1st Annual Report on Violence Against Women illustrates the work of the General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality, the European framework on violence against women, and the situation of gender-based violence in our country, with emphasis on the period of Covid-19 pandemic.

The decade-long financial crisis that Greece has gone through, the massive wave of refugees and migrants for which Greece has become the main destination, the new demographics of our population, and the necessary strict measures to avoid the spread of the coronavirus, have resulted in the isolation of many women in violent or suffocating environments, all brought out violence against women as an alarmingly increasing phenomenon, the proportions of which urgently require the creation of a rigorous framework of actions to prevent this violence, protect the victims, and punish the perpetrators.

Violence against women is a phenomenon caused by the stereotypical view of the inferiority of the female gender. It is the manifestation of a well-established, century-old mentality that is prevalent in our country. In order to end this violence, it is necessary to mobilise every form of power, starting from the power of education, and moving on to the power of justice, the power of solidarity, and, of course, the power of culture.

It must become clear to everyone that violence against women is continuously present in the form of verbal threats, physical violence, emotional blackmail, financial subjugation, job insecurity, fear, and humiliation. It must be severely condemned by everyone. Not only because the fundamental rights of dignity and equality are violated, but also because the very essence of being a woman is stripped of its right to freedom.

The General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality, which is responsible for the coordination of the actions required to combat gender discrimination, was also decisively active during the pandemic, another dramatic period for our country. The GSFPE highlighted that gender-based violence was one of the most tragic consequences of social distancing. The following statements may have been heard louder than ever in every home: "Speak up! You're not the only one. You're not alone," "We stay home but we do not remain quiet," and "Ask for help. Become your own strength." This message was heard loud and clear by many victims, who reacted by breaking their silence and turned to friends, specialists, and organizations, seeking protection. For these women victims, but also for all those who will follow in the future, we all have the responsibility of learning how to recognize incidents occurrence of D'Agostino every form of violence. We have the responsibility to approach the victims with discretion and respect, encourage reporting of violent behaviour, and protect their dignity and life.

If any of the above had happened during the short life of Eleni Topaloudi, the young woman would not have died so tragically. Eleni was the victim of savage behaviour by rapists and murderers, all because of one characteristic: her gender. She was a woman.

In Eleni's name, we fight each day to establish the right of women to freedom, love, health, education, work and safety. We all fight together, women and men, citizens and state, to establish the right to equality and life.

**The Secretary General**

Maria Syreggela

*Dedicated to the memory of Eleni Topaloudi*



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## Introduction

**V**iolence against women and girls is a serious violation of human rights and is a manifestation of the historically unequal power between women and men. This has led to the discrimination of women by men and the hindrance of the full advancement of women.<sup>1</sup> It is also one of the main social structures through which women are forced into a subordinate status compared to men.<sup>2</sup>

The impact of violence against women has immediate and/or long-term consequences for the physical, sexual, and psychological health of women and girls. It negatively affects the general well-being of women and obstructs their full and equal participation in society. The negative consequences of violence against women are not only limited to women and girls, but affect their immediate family, the community in which they belong, and, on a more general level, their country. Violence against women has a negative impact on the economy. These consequences involve the increase of expenditure for the establishment, operation and sustainability of specialised support services, the provision of specialised services of public healthcare, legal expenses, and the decline in productivity due to their forced absence from work.

According to research undertaken by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA, 2014), about 13 million women have been victims of physical violence in European Union (EU) namely 7% of women aged 18–74. A total of 3.7 million women have been victims of sexual violence, meaning 2% of women aged 18–74. One in 20 women (5%) has been a victim of rape from the age of 15. Also, more than 18% of women have been victims of stalking from the age of 15. Moreover, about 12% of women under the age of 15 have experienced some form of sexual harassment, or similar incident, by an adult. Last but not least, half of all women in the EU (53%) travel less out of fear of suffering physical or sexual abuse.

During the first period of the Covid-19 pandemic, violence against women was characterised as a “shadow pandemic” by the Council of Europe. In one of her public announcements, GREVIO<sup>3</sup>'s president Marceline Naudi said that **“for many women and children, home is not a safe place.”** That came as a consequence of the policies of confinement and restriction implemented by several states in their attempt to regulate the spread of COVID-19. Many victims of gender-based violence and domestic violence have been trapped to cohabite with their abuser. This danger was even greater for vulnerable groups of women and girls, such as refugee women and those seeking asylum, immigrants, women with disabilities, the elderly, etc.

This report by the General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality (GSFPGE) is the first attempt to comprehensively present the phenomenon of violence against women in Greece and to reflect the actions implemented at an institutional level regarding the prevention, combating, and elimination of this phenomenon.

The GSFPGE aims to regularly publish the “Annual Report on Violence Against Women” on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> of November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

The first chapter presents the institutional framework for addressing this form of violence at an international, European, and Greek level, with special reference to the amendments in Greek law of April 2018, following the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence .

The second chapter presents the forms of violence against women, as defined in texts of institutional bodies at an international, European, and Greek level. It then presents the national mechanisms and bodies among the competences of which is the tackling and elimination of violence against women, and the protection of women victims of gender-based violence and their children. It also presents the Network of Structures for preventing and combating gender-based violence and the support services offered to victims of gender-based violence. This is followed by the actions that have been planned, implemented and are ongoing for women who have suffered multiple discriminations during the 2016–2020 period. A detailed analysis follows, for the data on violence against women produced by the Network of Structures, as well as the indicators provided by the Observatory for Equality. These data include the indicators recommended by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) and the statistical depiction of quantitative measurements of violence against women.

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The third chapter is dedicated to the first period of the Covid-19 pandemic and the actions implemented by the GSFPGE for the protection of women victims of gender-based violence during the first lockdown.

The above-mentioned data presented in this report would not have been collected without the constant work, vision, and perseverance of the outstanding former Head of the Department of Social Protection and Counseling Services, Theodora Katsivardakou. Her fight for social rights and gender equality was unceasing. She passed away prematurely in January 2020.



# Institutional Framework



## A. INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK<sup>4</sup>

### **The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.**

The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) is the first international legally binding instrument for preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. It establishes a complete framework of legal and political measures for the prevention of this form of violence, the support of victims, and the punishment of perpetrators. The Convention entered into force on 1 August 2014. As of March 2019, it has been signed by all EU Member States and has been ratified by 21 of them. The EU signed the Istanbul Convention on 13 June 2017 and since then it is in the process of its ratification (EIGE, 2019).

## B. POLITICAL AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

### **EU strategy for the rights of victims 2020–2025.**

The EU strategy on victims' rights 2020–2025 is the first comprehensive and systematic effort to protect the rights of victims of acts of violence at a European level. Special attention has been given to the specific needs of **victims of gender-based violence**. The EU is committed to making every effort to prevent and combat gender-based violence and to support and protect the victims of such crimes (European Commission, 2020:1). Its strategy is based on a two-strand approach: **empowering victims of crime and working together for victims' rights**.

The five main priorities of the strategy are:

- Effective communication with victims and a safe environment for victims to report crime
- Improving support and protection to the most vulnerable victims
- Facilitating victims' access to financial compensation
- Strengthening cooperation and coordination among all relevant actors
- Strengthening the international dimension of victims' rights (European commission, 2020:4).

### **Directive 2012/29/EU for the protection of victims of crime.**

The purpose of Directive 2012/29/EU is to ensure that victims of crime receive appropriate information, support and protection and are able to participate in criminal proceedings. According to the Directive, victims are recognised and treated in a respectful, sensitive, tailored, professional and non-discriminatory manner, in all contacts with victim support or restorative justice services or a competent authority, operating within the context of criminal proceedings. Special attention must be given to providing specialised support services to victims with special needs, such as the victims of **gender-based violence**, with the goal of protecting them from secondary and repeat victimisation, from intimidation, and from retaliation (European Commission, 2020:3). The Directive expects a sensitive approach towards children, according to which the best interests of a child victim must be the primary consideration throughout their involvement in criminal proceedings (European Commission, 2020:3).

### **Directive 2011/99/EU on the European protection order and Regulation (EU) No 606/2013 on mutual recognition of protection measures in civil matters.<sup>51</sup>**

The Directive 2011/99/EU on the European protection order and Regulation EU No 606/2013 on mutual recognition of protection measures in civil matters **oblige the Member States of the EU** to adopt all civil and criminal protection measures that are ratified by other EU Member States, allowing the cross-border enforcement of such laws throughout the EU (European Commission, 2020:3). This is connected to Article 4, paragraph 1(c) on the right of victims to receive information from the first contact with a competent authority, explicitly in relation to the measures of protection.

## C. NATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK

### **Law 4604/2019 on “Promoting Substantive Gender Equality, Preventing and Combating Gender-Based Violence.”**

Law 4604/2019 (Official Gazette Issue A’ 50/26.03.2019) provides the first stand-alone legal framework on gender equality and the elimination of discrimination against women, governed by a comprehensive overview of gender relations without addressing women as a “special category.”

With regards to violence against women, the law stipulates that:

- The GSFPGE is responsible for coordinating, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the policies and measures taken to prevent and fight all forms of violence covered by the Istanbul Convention (Article 3).
- Municipal equality committees will cooperate with the network of the GSFPGE’s structures to prevent and combat violence against women, as well as with civil society institutions (Article 6).
- Regional gender equality committees will cooperate with the GSFPGE’s network of structures to prevent and combat violence against women in the respective regional units, as well as with civil society institutions (Article 7).
- The GSFPGE awards the “Badge of Equality” to public and private businesses that are distinguished, inter alia, for their implementation of policies for the promotion of products and services in a manner that supports the prevention of gender-based violence and discourages violence against women and sexism (Article 21).
- Articles 25 through 30 stipulate the operation of the Network of Structures for preventing and combating violence and multiple discrimination against women.

### **Law 4531/2018 I) Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and adaptation of the Greek law.<sup>6</sup>**

With the Law 4531/2018 (Official Gazette Issue A’ 62/05.04.2018), the Greek parliament ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), which brought amendments to Law 3500/2006 on domestic violence, the Penal Code (PC), and other provisions.

The regulations that were introduced for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention include:

- The reinforcement of the penal legislation for dealing with crimes against women (female genital mutilation, Article 315B PC; stalking, Article 333(1) PC).
- The dated clause of Article 339(3) PC is repealed.
- Law 3500/2006 on domestic violence is amended with the aim of a broader and more effective implementation. (See below for more information.)
- Law 3811/2009 on the Hellenic Compensation Authority is amended with the aim of easier access to compensation as foreseen by the law for victims.
- Law 2168/1993 on guns is amended so that gun permits are not issued to persons who are prosecuted or convicted for domestic violence crimes.
- Foreign nationals who are victims of domestic violence and present themselves before public authorities to submit a complaint are protected from repatriation.
- The General Secretariat for Gender Equality is designated as the authority monitoring the Convention.

**Law 3500/2006 “On combating domestic violence and other provisions.”**

By ratifying the Istanbul Convention with Law 4531/2018, the following amendments were made to Law 3500/2006, as outlined below:

- Regarding Article 1(2)(a) of Law 3500/2006, “or persons registered under a civil partnership” has been added after the word “spouses.”
- Article 1(2)(c) of Law 3500/2006 is replaced with: “C. The provisions of this law also apply to permanent partners and offspring, whether common or of one of the partners, to former spouses, to parts of a civil partnership that has been dissolved, as well as to former permanent partners.”
- Regarding Article 11(2)(b) of Law 3500/2006, a final subparagraph is inserted, the text of which is as follows: “In the case of non-completion of attendance of the programme, Article 13(3) is to be implemented.”
- Article 16 of Law 3500/2006 is replaced with:  
“If the acts of Articles 6, 7, and 9 are directed against minors, the beginning of the statute of limitations is suspended until the coming of age of the victim and for one year after that, if this relates to a misdemeanour, and for three years after that, if it relates to a crime.”
- Article 18(1) of Law 3500/2006 is replaced with:  
“1. In the case of a domestic crime, it is possible, under the specific circumstances, when deemed necessary for the protection of the physical and psychological wellbeing of the victim, to impose restrictive measures on the defendant by the competent penal court, competent judge, judicial board, or district attorney handling the case, by reasoned order which allows for appeal before the first-instance judicial council, for as long as deemed necessary. These measures include the removal of the defendant from the family home, their relocation, or a restraining order barring them from approaching the residence or place of work of the victim, as well as the residence of close relatives, the schools of their children, or shelters. Violation of the restrictive measures is punishable by imprisonment.”
- Article 18(2) of Law 3500/2006 is replaced with:  
“2. Restrictive measures enforced according to the provisions of the previous paragraph can be revoked, replaced, or amended by the judicial board imposing it, by request of the defendant or the victim, stating the reasons for which the revocation, replacement, or amendment is necessary, or ex officio, if the reasons for the enforcement cease to exist or there is reason to replace the term. The judicial body may rule after hearing the victim and the defendant on which the restrictive measures were imposed.”



# Violence Against Women and Actions of the GSFPGE



## **A. FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN<sup>7</sup>**

### **Domestic violence**

All acts of physical, sexual, psychological, or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit, irrespective of biological or legal family ties, or between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence as the victim.

### **Economic violence**

Acts of control and monitoring of a person's behaviour as it relates to the use and distribution of money, as well as the constant threat of refusing to provide financial means. This form of violence includes: Property damage, personal property theft, restriction of personal freedom, financial dependence, refusal to providing alimony, and forced housework.

### **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

All procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

### **Femicide**

The murder of women and girls because of their gender. These murders are committed or tolerated by private individuals and public institutions. The term includes, inter alia, the murder of women as a result of intimate partner violence, the torture and killing of women due to misogyny, the "honour killings" of women and girls, targeted killing of women and girls in armed conflicts, and other femicides connected to gangs, organised crime, drug dealers, and human trafficking.

### **Forced marriages**

Marriage of an adult or child without their full, informed, and free consent. Forced marriage includes, inter alia, the marriage of underage girls to older men. It is an arranged marriage that takes place without the consent of both parties. It also includes marriages that take place with the aim of circumventing immigration laws and therefore without a real intention of an actual spousal relationship. It should be noted that forced marriages are used by armed forces during conflicts, or as a means of saving a girl from poverty after the conflict is resolved.

### **Forced sterilisation**

Control of the reproductive behaviour of a woman or a specific group of women by another person or persons.

### **Gender-based violence**

Violence directed against a person because of that person's gender, gender identity or gender expression, or which affects persons of a particular gender disproportionately. Gender-based violence and violence against women are terms that are often used interchangeably, as it has been widely acknowledged that most gender-based violence is inflicted on women and girls.

### **Honour killings**

Acts of extreme violence committed disproportionately, though not exclusively, against women and girls. These take place when male (without excluding elderly female) members of a family, believe that certain imagined or real feminine behaviour has brought or is about to bring shame to the honour of the family or the community.

### **Intimate partner violence**

Aggressive and coercive behaviour, which includes physical, sexual, and psychological acts, as well as financial abuse, which may be used by adults or teenagers against their close partners without their consent. The feelings that arise from this kind of violence include shame, fear, and weakness. This form of violence is rarely brought to light, resulting in a relatively small number of convictions. It constitutes a form of violence which affects women disproportionately and which is therefore distinctly gendered.

**Physical violence**

Any act which causes physical harm as a result of unlawful physical force . It is usually linked to sexual and psychological violence and involves injury, despair, and health problems.

**Psychological violence**

Any intentional conduct that seriously impairs another person’s psychological integrity through coercion or threats. Psychological violence includes acts such as social isolation, verbal insults, threats, intimidation, control, stalking, insults, harassment, and defamation

**Rape**

According to the new Article 336 PC (Law 4619/2019), the following constitute rape: Forcing another person to participate or accept a sexual act through the use of physical violence or the threat of serious and immediate risk to life or physical integrity, the aggravated crime of mass rape, the aggravated crime of rape resulting in death, and a sexual act without the consent of the victim.

**Sexual harassment**

The behaviour of a sexual nature, or the behaviour with a strong gender discrimination, that blatantly violates the dignity of the people who enduring it. Sexual harassment can take place in a work environment, in places of education, sports, or worship, and in social institutes, as well as in any part of social life where the hierarchy and relationships of power can become factors of vulnerability. It creates an environment of shame, awkwardness, confinement, even humiliation or hostility. This becomes suffocating for the harassed, especially in situations when people accept such behaviours as banter, or when these incidents occur without the presence of witnesses.

**Sexual violence**

Sexual violence includes the perpetration of non-consensual vaginal, anal, or oral penetration of a sexual nature on the body of another person by means of any organ of the body or item, engaging in other non-consensual acts of a sexual nature with a person, or causing someone else to engage in non-consensual acts of a sexual nature with a third person.

**Stalking**

Repeated and stealthy surveillance or harassment. The perpetrator exhibits obsessive behaviour and often monitors the house and social life of the victim, sending harassing messages to their phone, harassing their friends, family members, etc.

**Violence against women**

Violations of human rights and a form of discrimination against women including all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological, or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

**New emerging forms of violence against women**

**Cyber violence against women**

Gender-based violence that is perpetrated through electronic communication and the internet. Although cyber violence can affect both women and men, women and girls experience different and more traumatic forms of cyber violence. There are various forms of cyber violence against women and girls, including, but not limited to, cyber stalking and non-consensual pornography (or “revenge porn”).

## Specifically:

### **Cyber harassment**

Harassment by means of email, text (or online) messages, or the internet. It can take any of the following forms: Unwanted sexually explicit emails, text (or online) messages. Inappropriate or offensive advances on social networking websites or internet chat rooms. Threats of physical and/or sexual violence by email, text (or online) messages. Hate speech, meaning language that denigrates, insults, threatens, or targets an individual based on her identity (gender) and other traits (such as sexual orientation or disability).

### **Cyber stalking**

Stalking by means of email, text (or online) messages or the internet. Cyber stalking involves repeated incidents, that may or may not individually be innocuous acts, but combined undermine the victim's sense of safety and cause distress, fear, or alarm.

### **Non-consensual pornography**

Non-consensual pornography (its most common form is known as "revenge porn") includes online distribution of sexually graphic photographs or videos without the consent of the individual in the images. Images can be obtained by hacking into the victim's computer, social media accounts, or phone, and can aim to inflict real damage on the target's real-world life (for example, intending to cause a person to be fired from their job, or in some cases causing suicide).

## **B. NATIONAL MECHANISMS AND BODIES AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE<sup>8</sup>**

The national mechanism for gender equality includes all the services and bodies that are responsible, at central, regional, and local level, for planning and implementing policies, measures, and actions for the promotion of gender equality and the equal treatment of women and men, as well as for monitoring and addressing discriminations due to gender, gender identity and sexual orientation.

At a **central level**, the national mechanism includes:

- I. The General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality (GSFPGE)** the governmental body for the planning, execution, and monitoring of the implementations of policies for equality between women and men at all levels of social, civil, and economic life. It is the principal entity for preventing and combating violence against women. With Law 4606/2019, on "Promoting Substantive Gender Equality, Preventing and Combating Gender-Based Violence," the GSFPGE is responsible for the supervision of the 62 structures of the National Network for preventing and combating violence against women and women who are subject to multiple discriminations.
- II. The Research Centre for Gender Equality (KETHI)** a Legal Entity under Private Law of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and is supervised by the GSFPGE. It is actively involved in the promotion of gender equality in all areas of social, civil, and economic life, with its primary goal being the elimination of gender-based discrimination and inequality. KETHI is responsible for the operation of the 14 Counseling Centres of the National Network for preventing and combating violence against women and women who are subjected to multiple discriminations, with headquarters in the 13 regions of the country.
- III. The National Centre for Social Solidarity (NCSS)** was introduced with Article 6 of Law 3106/2003. Based on the law which established it, the goal of the NCSS is to coordinate the network of social support services provided to individuals, families, and population groups that find themselves in a state of emergency. NCSS is responsible for the operation of 2 Women's Shelters in Athens and Thessaloniki. NCSS also runs therapeutic programmes for perpetrators of gender-based violence.

- IV. The Department of Combating Domestic Violence of the Greek Police** established by Presidential Decree (PD) 37/2019. It has 73 stations throughout the country staffed by two members. This department is responsible for monitoring cases of domestic violence as described by Law 3500/2006, the study of measures to prevent and combat domestic violence crimes, the guidance, supervision and coordination of the regional Agencies for their implementation, as well as the monitoring of the results of the aforementioned measures.<sup>9</sup>
- V. The Department of Equal Treatment of the Greek Ombudsman** responsible for monitoring and promoting the implementation, in private and public sectors, of the principle of equal opportunity and equal treatment regardless of gender, race, skin colour, national or ethnic origin, descent, religious or other beliefs, disabilities or chronic illnesses, sexual orientation, identity, or gender characteristics.
- VI. The National Board of Gender Equality (NBGE)** a collective advisory board. It falls under the auspices of the GSFPGE and responsible for holding consultations with women's organisations and organisations that promote gender equality, public and private social entities, representatives of the local governments and representatives of the First and Second level of independent entities with the purpose of submitting proposals to the GSFPGE for the adoption of policies and action to promote gender equality. It also evaluates and assesses existing equality policies.

At a **regional level**, it includes:

- The Regional Equality Committees of the Regions,
- The Independent Office of Equality for each region,
- The Equality Sector of the Association of Greek Regions, and
- The Office of Gender Equality of the Association of Greek Regions (ENPE), which are set up according to Article 282(9) of Law 3852/2010.

At a **local level**, it includes:

- The regional units for the practice of social policies and gender equality policies, according to Article 97 of Law 3852/2010,
- The Municipal Equality Committees,
- The Equality Committee of the Central Union of Municipalities in Greece (KEDE), and
- The Office of Home Equality of the Central Union of Municipalities, which are set up according to Article 282(9) of Law 3852/2010.

## C. GSFPGE NETWORK OF STRUCTURES AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The GSFPGE is the main entity responsible for preventing and combating violence against women. It has developed and continues to implement the “National Programme on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women” since 2010. A comprehensive Network of Structures for preventing and tackling all forms of violence against women has been created for the first time.

### The Network of Structures includes:

- **The national SOS 15900 24-hour helpline.** The nationwide helpline operates 24/7, 365 days a year, with local charges, and provides counseling services in both Greek and English. The helpline also employs two interpreters to support the needs of Farsi and Arab speaking women. Women are informed via a pre-recorded message about the specific hours and days during which interpretation support is available. This helpline also includes an email address: [sos15900@isotita.gr](mailto:sos15900@isotita.gr). Since September 2018, Vodafone has been offering free calls to the SOS 15900 helpline, while calls to the SOS 15900 helpline have also been free for Wind subscribers since 17.09.2020. The OTE group has reduced call charges to the SOS 15900 helpline for Cosmote mobile telephony subscribers, making them equal to OTE local landline charge of 0.138€.
- **42 Counseling Centres** throughout the country, 14 of which are located at the capitals of the regional units and operate under KETHI, while the remaining 27 operate under the respective Municipalities. Anyone interested can find more information about the addresses and working hours of the Counseling Centres at [www.womensos.gr](http://www.womensos.gr).

### Victims of gender-based violence can receive the following services at the counseling centres:

- **Updates and Information** on gender equality, combating violence and multiple discriminations against women,
- **Social, psychological, legal and employability support** (using a gender lens),
- **Referral or accompaniment services** – when necessary – to Women’s Shelters, police and prosecution authorities, courts, hospitals, health and mental health centres, social services for welfare or other benefits, to structures for the promotion of employment and entrepreneurship and to structures for the protection and support of children, etc.
- **Legal aid**, in cooperation with bar associations.

### At the same time, they implement actions for the prevention, information provision and sensitization of the local community.

- **20 Women’s Shelters**, 18 of which operate under the auspices of their respective municipality, two under the NCSS. The shelters provide accommodation and food to women victims of gender-based violence and their children. They also provide psychosocial support, occupation and legal counseling services via the Counseling Centres, they facilitate access to health services, and school enrolment. The provision of services at the network’s structures is based on the principle of victim’s informed consent, the principle of confidentiality, and, particularly at the Women’s Shelters, the address’ confidentiality. The empowerment of women victims of gender-based violence, so that they can regain their self-esteem, take on the responsibilities of their professional, private, and family life and make the best possible decisions for their future.

## D. SPECIALISED ACTIVITIES

The strategic priority of the National Plan of Action for Gender Equality (NPAGE) 2016–2020 was the social integration and equal treatment of women enduring multiple discriminations (migrant and refugee women, women asylum seekers, Roma women, women with disabilities or women with chronic diseases, incarcerated women or women recently released from jail, long-term unemployed women, etc.). The goals of the policies and actions foreseen in the NPAGE 2016-2020 were: a) the adoption of gender mainstreaming in policies of other Ministries targeting vulnerable groups of different ministries, b) the reinforcement policies targeting women facing multiple discrimination and c) the safeguarding of gender equality and the elimination of discrimination against women subjected to multiple discrimination.

Keeping with the values and fundamental human rights, the GSFPGE has designed a number of specialised interventions for women refugees and their children and has been coordinating the actions of the other agencies which share the responsibility for the **provision of services to vulnerable groups of the refugee/migrant population**, through the help of interpreters. These women are citizens of third countries or stateless—applicants for international protection or not—and beneficiaries of international protection (recognised refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection) who are survivors of gender-based violence or potential victims of violence, or the heads of single-parent families, including their children. To achieve this, the **Protocol of Cooperation**<sup>10</sup> was signed, aiming at the cooperation and agreement of all members following a common framework for the identification, referral and shelter provision to refugee women victims of gender-based violence and their children, its dissemination to all professionals working on the refugee crisis, either as part of the public administration, regional and local administration, or non-governmental organisations (NGO's).

At the same time, the GSFPGE is collaborating with a multitude of public agencies, NGOs and international organisations on the protection of refugee women. Special reference should be made to the collaboration between the GSFPGE, UNHCR, UNICEF and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

### In 2019, the GSFPGE was involved as a partner in two European co-funded projects:

- The SURVIVOR project **“Enhancing services for refugee and migrant survivors of gender-based violence”** with the collaboration of the KETHI and the International Rescue Committee (IRC Hellas).  
In this framework, the GSFPGE undertook the implementation of dissemination of information and communication actions such as awareness raising activities. It also updated the referral process guidelines for survivors of gender - based violence and organised six regional meetings with the local administration and a conference, to inform and raise awareness among professionals in the field. Two meetings took place in person, in Athens and Piraeus, while the other 4 took place via videoconference with the bodies of the respective regional units of Thessaly, Western Macedonia, Eastern Macedonia, Thrace and Western Greece. In the two years during which this project was implemented, there have been crucial legislative changes that strengthened the policies for preventing and fighting violence against women. Specifically, with Law 4636/2019 on asylum, the reception and asylum procedures regarding vulnerable groups, such as women heads of single-parent families, or women survivors of gender-based violence, were updated. The GSFPGE took into account these important legislative initiatives and implemented awareness raising meetings with officials from the local authorities and professionals. Moreover, it redesigned and updated the guidelines of the referral procedures of the Reception and Identification Centres and the Open Accommodation Sites, structures of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum in the GSFPGE Network of Structures, in the cases of gender-based violence.
- **The EMPOWER\_REF “Empowering professional and refugee communities to detect, identify, address and prevent sexual and gender-based violence in Greece”**. The project leader was the Centre for European Constitutional Law – Tsatsos Foundation and partners were the GSFPGE and The Médecins du Monde. Primary focus was given on-field analysis, training professionals and informing the community of refugee women.  
The GSFPGE implemented activities required to raise awareness and provide information to refugee women, as to their rights and services they can receive from the GSFPGE Network of Structures.

## E. DATA FROM THE NETWORK OF STRUCTURES

The situation presented is based on data analysis from the period between **1<sup>st</sup> of November 2019 up to 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2020**, using the database of the Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Government (EETAA) and the database kept by the 15900 24/7 SOS Support Helpline.

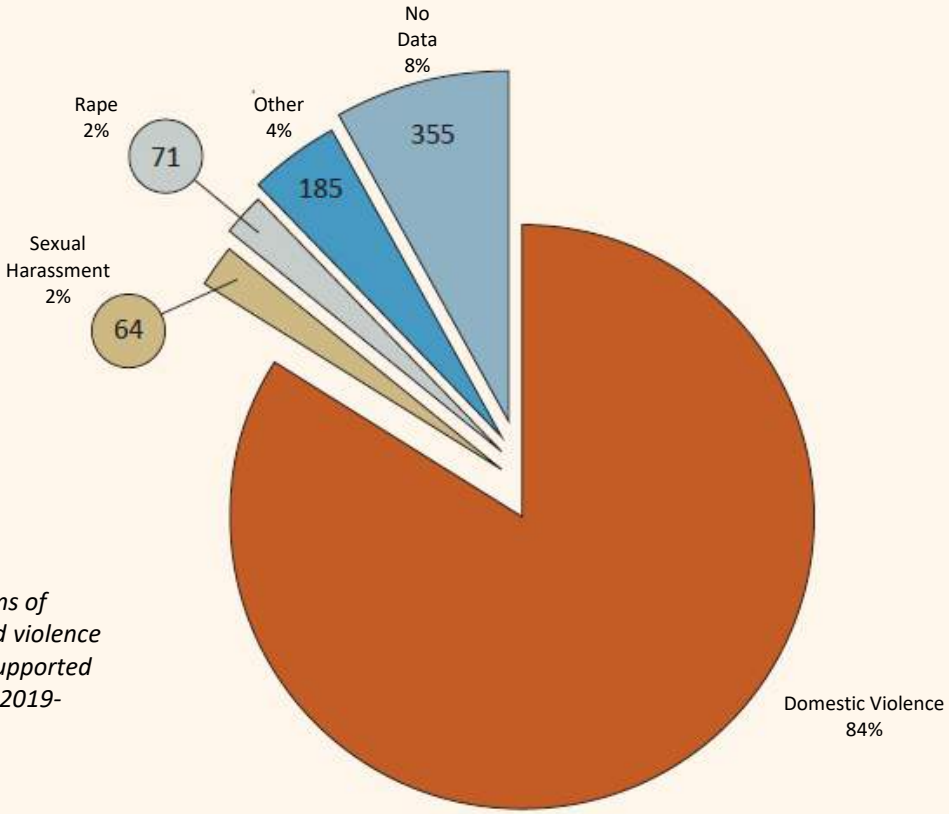
### Counseling Centres<sup>11</sup>

It is indicative that, during the reference period, the Counseling Centres of the GSPGE Network throughout Greece provided support to a total of 4,872 women victims of gender-based violence and multiple discrimination, as well as to third parties (i.e. mother, adult daughter of the victim). During the reference period, the main source of information for the support structures of the network for women beneficiaries and third parties was: 30% through other entities, 21% through the 15900 SOS Helpline, 12% by a friend/acquaintance, while 11% obtained their information online. Moreover, 15% of the total supported women received information through television, radio, and print media, while 11% did not provide this information.

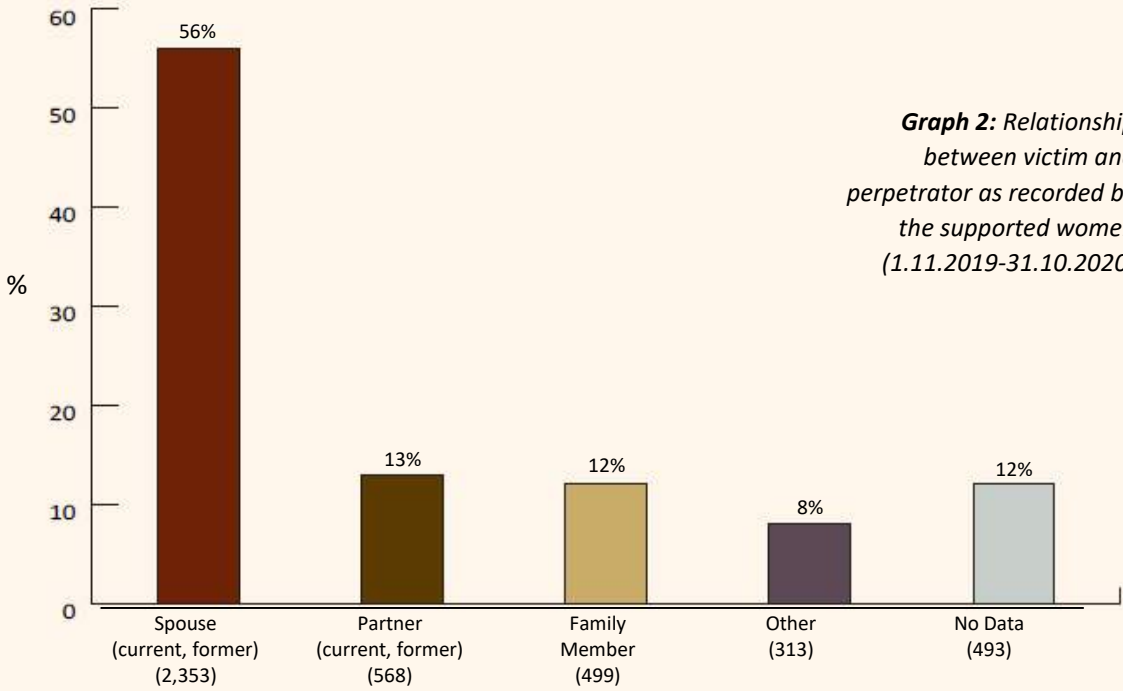
City	Total	Percentage
Attica	1876	38.50%
Thessaloniki	338	7%
Crete	273	5.60%
Kavala	190	3.90%
Patras	180	3.70%
Larissa	136	2.80%
Tripoli	132	2.70%
Serres	115	2.30%
Lamia	103	2.10%
Corfu	102	2%
Chios	98	2%
Lesvos	91	1.80%
Veria	92	1.80%
Kalamata	81	1.60%
Ioannina	78	1.60%
Alexandroupoli	76	1.50%
Komotini	72	1.40%
Other	839	17.70%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4872</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 1:** Women supported at Counseling Centres in Greece (1.11.2019–31.10.2020)





**Graph 1:** Forms of gender-based violence reported by supported women (1.11.2019-31.10.2020)



**Graph 2:** Relationship between victim and perpetrator as recorded by the supported women (1.11.2019-31.10.2020)

## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Report on Violence Against Women

Specifically, during the reference period, 38.5% (**Table 1**) of women received specialised support at a total of 8 Counseling Centres in Attica (Niki, Polykentro, Piraeus, Keratsini-Drapetsona, Peristeri, Filis, Chalandri, and Eleusis Station). A smaller percentage of 7% received counseling in Thessaloniki, while 5.6% of women were supported in Crete Counseling Centres, in Rethymno and Heraklion; 3.9% and 3.7% received support in Kavala and Patra, respectively, and a similar 2.8% in Larissa and Tripoli. In the remaining Counseling Centres of the GSFPGE Network of Structures, the percentage of women victims of gender-based violence and third parties that received support during this period are distributed in a similar percentage.<sup>12</sup> Violence against women during the 12 month period prevails with **86.7%** compared to the cases of multiple discrimination against women which amounted to 13.3%.

The most common form of violence (**Graph 1**) for the reference period is domestic violence, amounting to **84%** of the total reported cases of all forms of gender-based violence in the Counseling Centres throughout Greece. Sexual harassment and rape follow with 2%, “Other forms of gender-based violence” are at 4%, while 8% did not disclose this information.

The data (**Graph 2**) show that, during the reporting period, the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator was mostly spousal (current and former), amounting to **56%**, as well as by partners (current and former), amounting to 13%, while 12% of the total women victims of gender-based violence that received support by the Counseling Centres of the GSFPGE Network of Structures reported that the perpetrator was a family member (i.e. brother, father, or other relative). Regarding the domestic status of the victims of violence, **45%** of the total declared married and living with the perpetrator and 18% of the total was unmarried. An almost equal 19% was made up of separated women and divorced women. The women residing with the perpetrator made up 4% of the total. Moreover, 71% of the total victims reported having children, while 29% reported not having children.

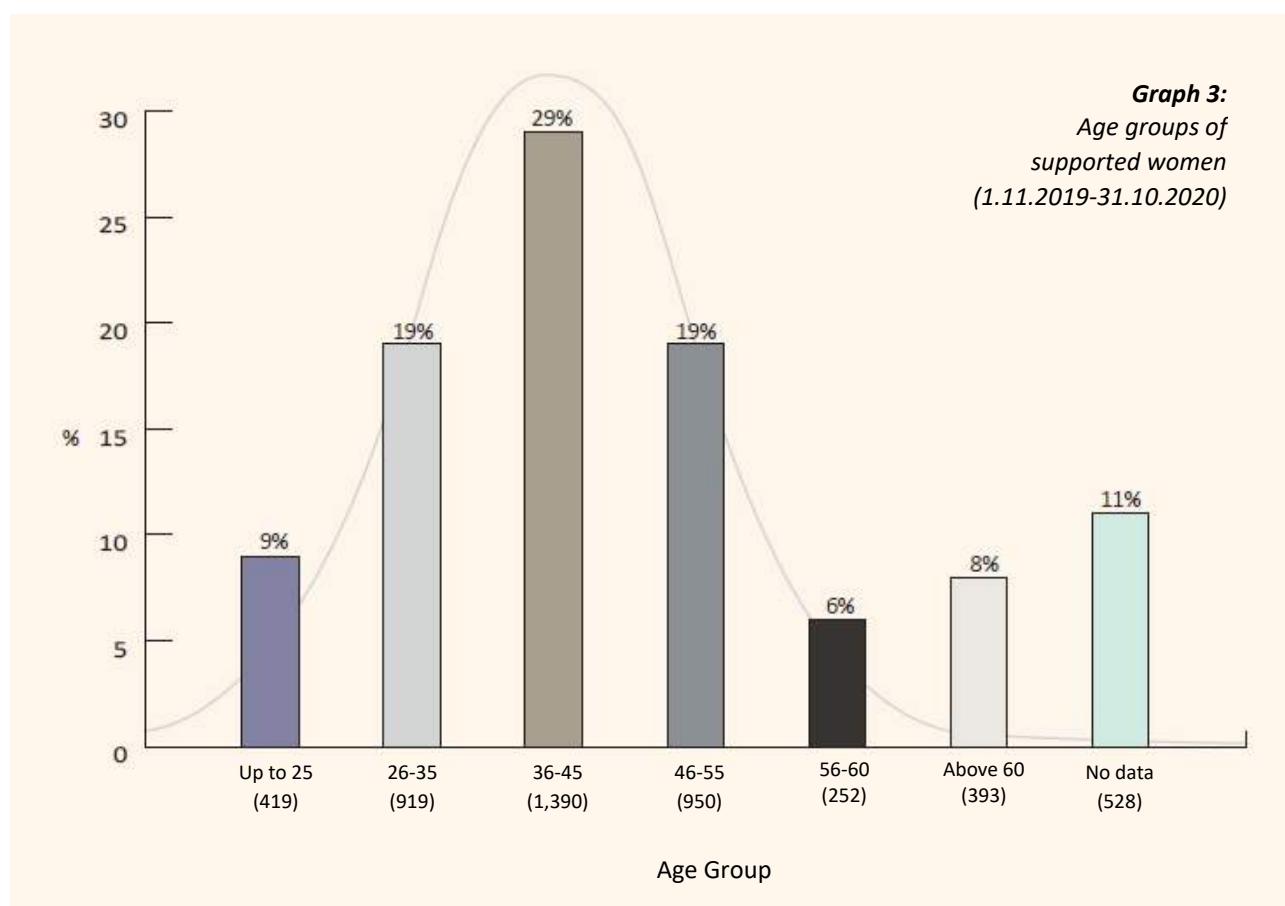
As for the age groups of the women victims and third parties (**Graph 3**) who received specialized support services at the Counseling Centres of the Network during this period, the highest percentage, amounting to **29%**, were women between 36 and 45 years old. The age groups of women between 26 and 35 years old and women between 46 and 55 years old are at 19% of the total, respectively. It is important to note that 9% of the total refers to young girls up to 25 years old. Women over 60 years old make up 8%, while 11% of the total did not provide information regarding their age.

The education level is included in the information provided by the victims of gender-based violence (**Graph 4**) that received specialised services at the Counseling Centres of the GSFPGE Network. During the reporting period, the highest percentage of women with secondary education is **22%**, while **14%** of women have university education and **12%** with post-secondary education. Women with primary educational level and mandatory education amount to 9%, while those who have completed vocational education amount to 7%. A smaller percentage, at 3%, includes women who have completed postgraduate studies, while 1% of the total are illiterate. Lastly, 22% of the total did not provide this information.

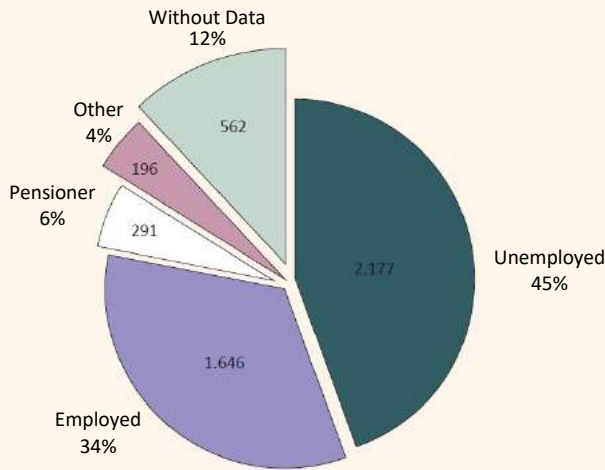
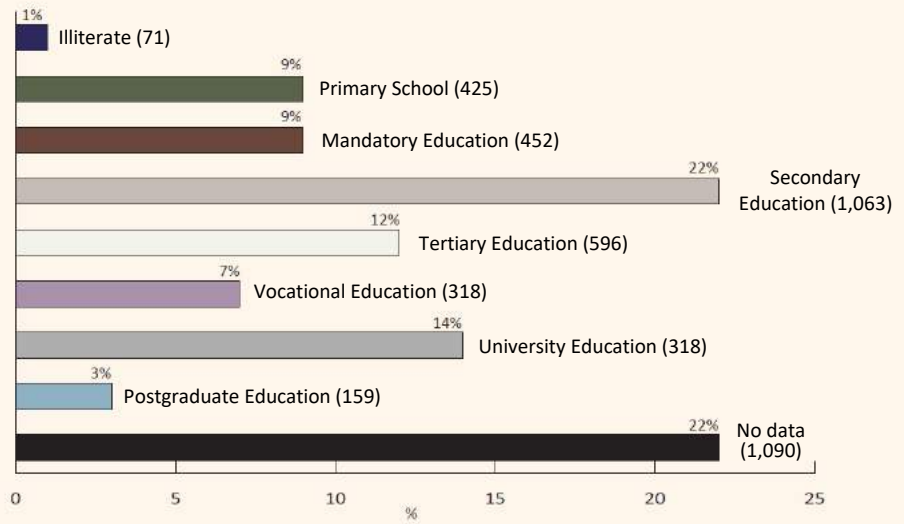
Regarding the employment status (**Graph 5**) of women who received supporting services from the Counseling Centres throughout Greece during the reporting period, **45%** appear to be unemployed, 34% are employed, 6% are pensioners, 4% stated “Other”, while 12% of the total did not provide this information. Of the women seeking specialised support at the Counseling Centres of the Network during the reference period, **77%** stated they are Greek, 14% refugee and migrant women living in Greece, 3% are from the EU, while 7% did not provide this information.

Regarding the victims’ and third parties’ individual service requests (**Graph 6**) from the counselors of the Network throughout Greece, during the reporting period, psychological and legal support made up with the same percentage **27%**, while 17% from totals requested were the provision of useful information regarding beneficiaries rights, legislation, existing services, networks etc. Furthermore, 13% of the total social support received, 6% requested safe accommodation at the Women’s Shelters, while 4% of women received employment counseling.

Moreover, regarding the interpretation services provided by the NGO Metadrasi, through its cooperation with UNICEF Greece and KETHI, and based on the priorities set out by the GSFPGE, with the goal of increasing accessibility of refugee and migrant women victims of gender-based violence and multiple discriminations to the Network of Structures during the period between **April 2020 and October 2020**, in total **71** women received support via interpretation at 12 Counseling Centres and 10 Women’s Shelters. The main languages spoken by the victims were French, Farsi, Kurdish, Urdu, Dari, Somali, Tigrinya, Arabic, Amharic, English, and Pashto. During the reporting period, **263** sessions were supported with interpretation (both in CC and WS), primarily through the physical presence (198 sessions) of the interpreter and women and to a lesser extent via telephone or Skype (65 sessions ). The highest percentage of sessions, **75%** was relevant to the provision of psychosocial support to women, 7% concerned the referrals of refugee and migrant women to health services, 14% of sessions referred to useful information, while 2% pertained to legal information provision and 2% “Other services”.

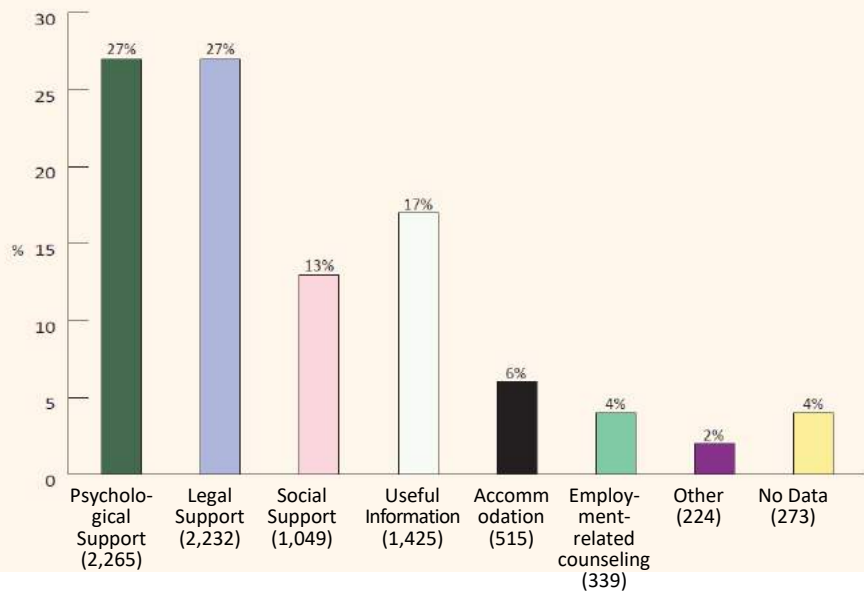


**Graph 4:**  
Education level of supported women (1.11.2019-31.10.2020)



**Graph 5:**  
Employment status of supported women (1.11.2019-31.10.2020)

**Graph 6:**  
Requests by supported women (1.11.2010-31.10.2020)



**Women's Shelters<sup>13</sup>**

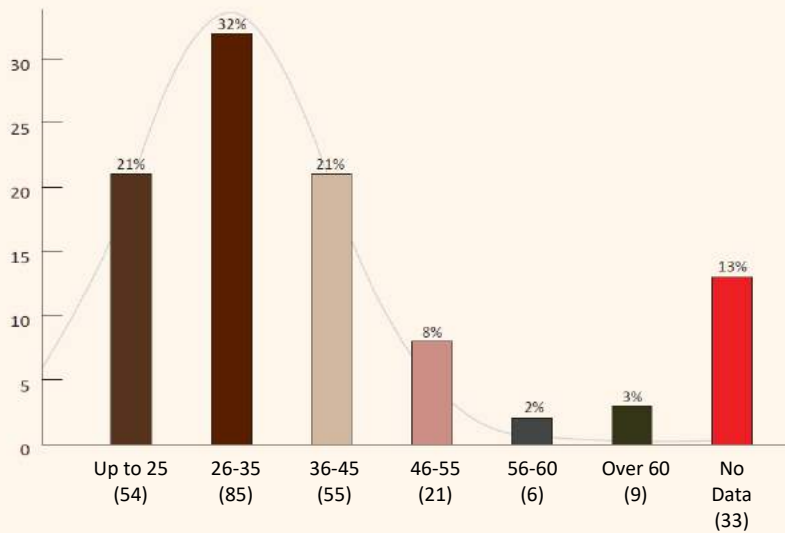
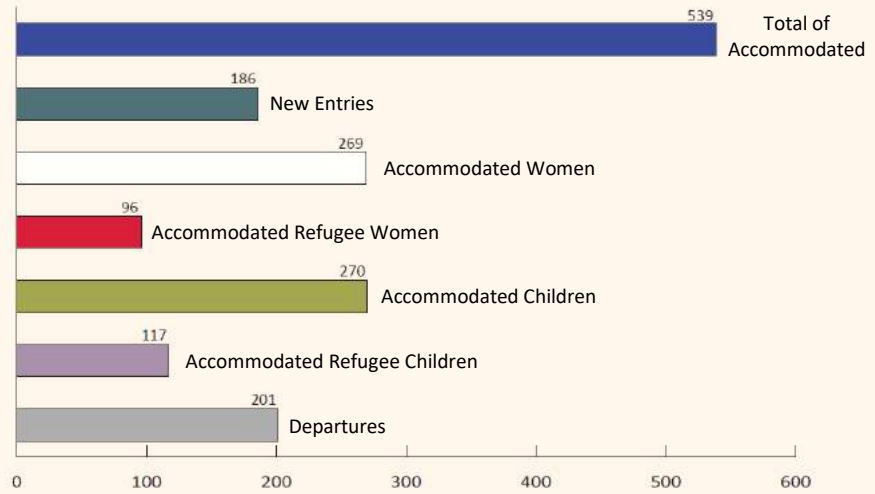
During the 12 month period, the Women Shelters of the GSFPGE accommodated in total **269** women and **270** children (total women and children: **539**). Out of total of women and their children **96** were refugee women and **117** were refugee children. Based on the date of women's entry at the Shelters (**Graph 7**), there were **186** new admissions, while a total of **201** women and children during the reporting period departed towards their own safe destination.

The Women Shelters (**Table 2**) with the highest percentage **26.5%** from total occupancy of women and children was mostly in Attica region, (shelters in Municipality of Athens, Piraeus and Ilion), Larissa with 8.6% occupancy, Thessaloniki with 7.1%, Ioannina with 5%, Lamia and Kozani with the same percentage 4.5% respectively, while 27.1% from total refers to women and children accommodated at the rest of the Women Shelters of the GSFPGE.<sup>14</sup> Regarding refugee women and children accommodated at the Women Shelters **35.2%** were in Attica region, 11.7% of those in Thessaloniki and 10.8% in Ioannina. Furthermore, it should be noted that many women preferred to be accommodated by friends or family, while keeping in touch with the counselors of the Network.

City	Total of accommodated women and children		Total of accommodated refugee women and children	
	Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Attica	142	26.5%	75	35.2%
Larissa	46	8.6%	15	7.1%
Volos	40	7.5%	9	4.2%
Thessaloniki	38	7.1%	25	11.7%
Ioannina	32	6%	23	10.8%
Patras	27	5%	13	6.1%
Lesvos	24	4.5%	13	6.1%
Lamia	24	4.5%	18	8.5%
Kozani	17	3.2%	9	4.2%
Other	146	27.1%	13	6.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>100%</b>

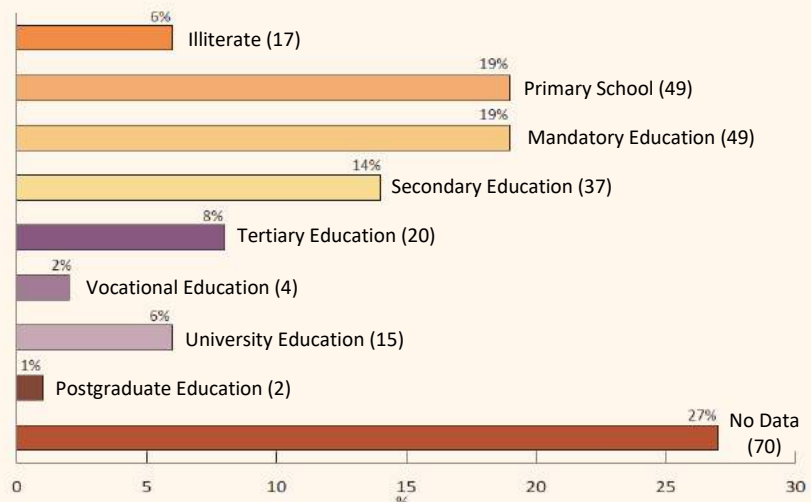
**Table 2:** Occupancy of Shelters throughout Greece accommodating women and children (1.11.2019–31.10.2020)

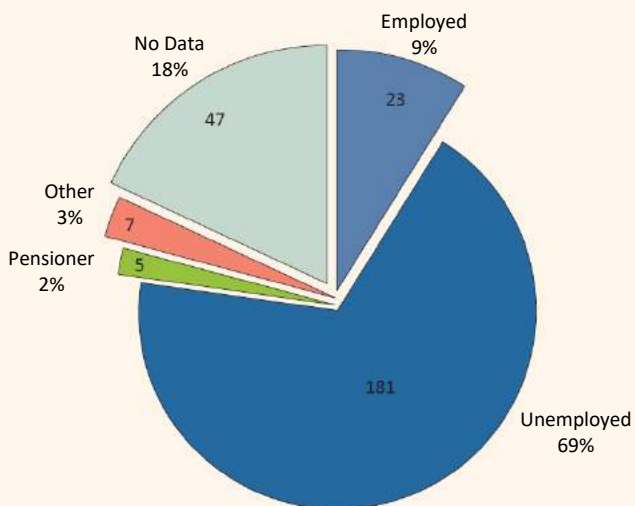
**Graph 7:**  
Accommodated women and children (1.11.2019-31.10.2020)



**Graph 8:**  
Age groups of accommodated women (1.11.2019-31.10.2020)

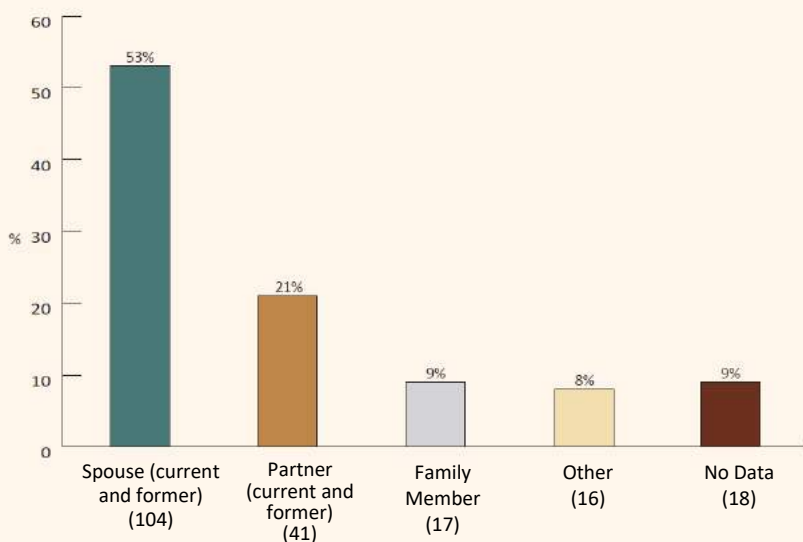
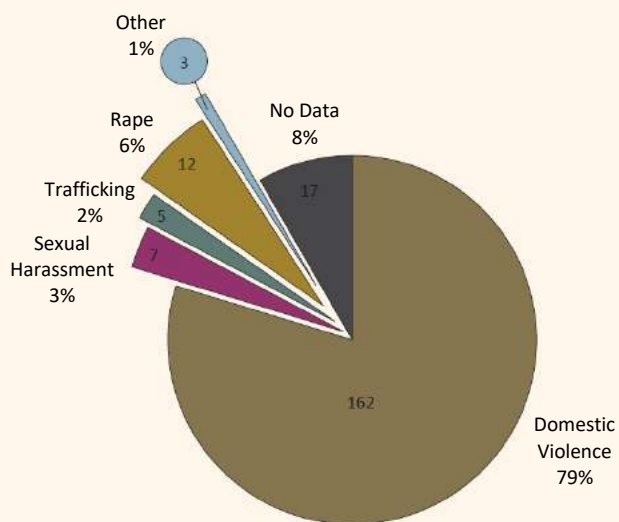
**Graph 9:**  
Education level of accommodated women (1.11.2019-31.10.2020)



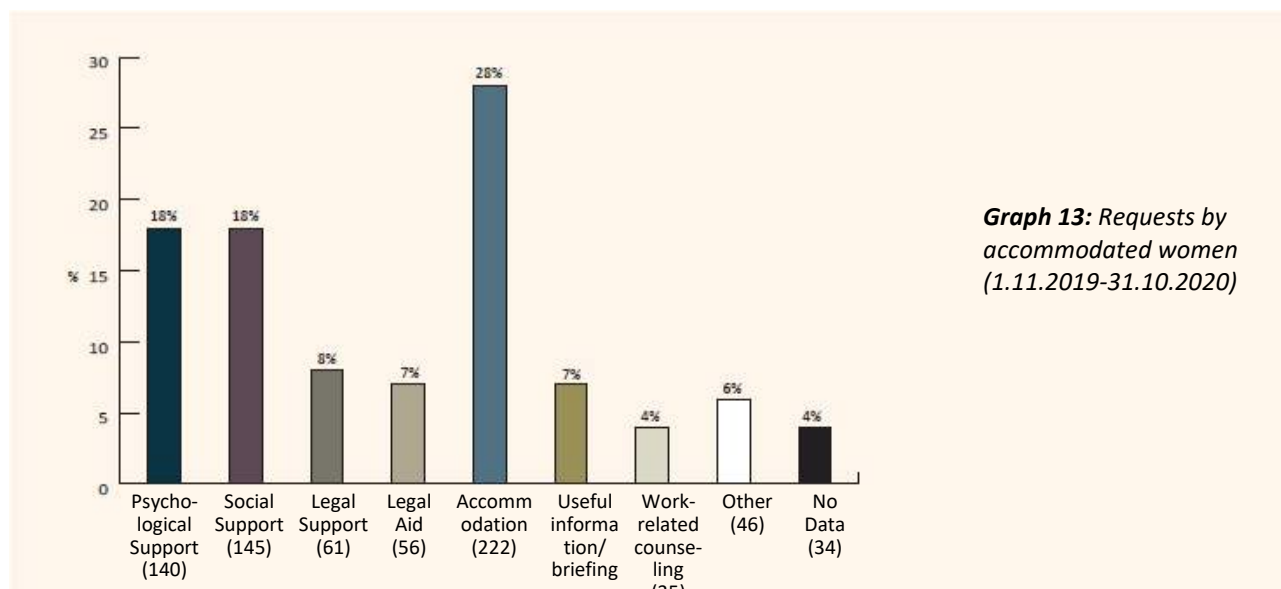


**Graph 10:**  
Employment status of accommodated women (1.11.2019-31.10.2020)

**Graph 11:** Forms of violence reported by accommodated women (01/11/2019-31.10.2020)



**Graph 12:** Relationship between accommodated woman and perpetrator (01/11/2019-31.10.2020)



Regarding the age groups of women accommodated at the Women Shelters (**Graph 8**), during the 12 month period **32%** of the total were women aged between 26 and 35, followed by young girls aged up to 25 and women in the age group between 36 and 45, which were at 21% respectively. It should be noted that women between 46–55 years old were at 8%, while women aged over 60 were at 3% and women aged between 56 and 60 were at 2%. Lastly, 13% of the total women did not provide details regarding their age.

It is indicative that, during the reference period (**Graph 9**), the highest percentage of accommodated women, **19%**, had completed primary and mandatory education. Accommodated women who had completed secondary education are at 14% from total, while 8% had completed vocational education and 6% had a university degree. Only 1% of the total accommodated women had a postgraduate degree, while 6% were illiterate. Lastly, 27% of women did not provide this information.

Regarding the employment status of the accommodated women (**Graph 10**), the highest percentage of **69%** reported being unemployed, while 23% reported being employed. Women pensioners make up 2% from total women accommodated, 31% reported “Other”, while 18% did not provide this information. The accommodated women can receive employment counseling within the Shelter environment and also be referred to other services.

The most common form of gender-based violence (**Graph 11**) during the reporting period was domestic violence, with **79%** from total forms of violence recorded at the Networks Shelters throughout Greece. Rape followed with 6%, sexual harassment with 3%, trafficking with 2%, “Other” with 1%, while 8% of the total did not disclose this information. The 12 months data (**Graph 12**) provided by the Network Shelters highlight the fact that, the relationship between the victim and perpetrator was mostly at **53%** spousal (current or former), 21% partner (current or former) and 9% reported that the perpetrator was a family member (i.e. brother, father, or other relative), while the 8% reported “Other”. Lastly, 9% of total women accommodated at Women Shelters did not provide this information.



The main individual requests of women accommodated (**Graph 13**) at the Networks Shelters throughout Greece during the 12 month period was the continuation of their accommodation and their children at **28%** from total requests. Following with the same percentage 8% psychological and social support of accommodated women. Request for legal support corresponds to 8%, with the same percentage 7% women that received legal aid and useful information, 4% requested help in finding a job, 6% received “Other” services, while 4% of total accommodated women seems to be with no data.

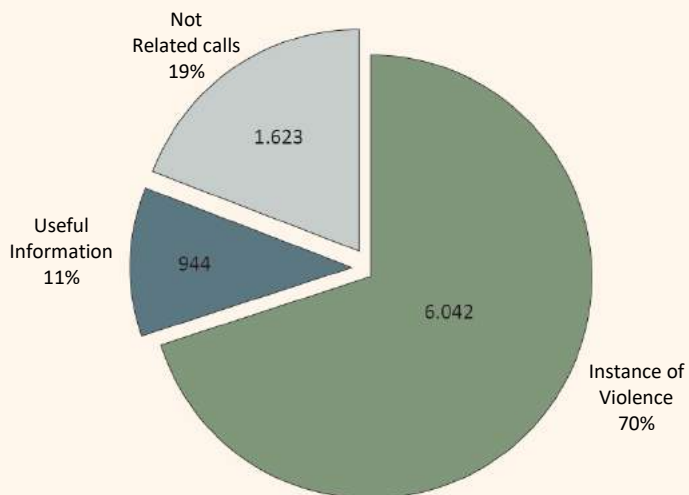
### **SOS 15900 24/7 Helpline**

According to data, the majority of those calling the Helpline were women, with the highest number of calls being made during the day. However, it is also important to note that many calls were also made during the night or early morning.

During the 12 month period (**Graph 14**), a total of **8,609** calls were recorded, 6,042 of which regarded “incidents of violence” and 944 “Useful Information”, while 1,623 calls were not relevant. Of the total calls regarding incidents of violence and useful information recorded by the SOS 15900 Helpline, **68%** were calls by the victim seeking support and 32% by third parties. Moreover, **90%** of the total of calls were made by women who called the SOS 15900 Helpline for the first time, while 8% called it for the second time, and 1% for the third time. Women who called the SOS 15900 Helpline for the first time, 14% had been informed about it from the TV, 11% from the internet, 6% from someone they knew, 5% by another state entity, while 64% did not provide this information during the call. Third parties who called the SOS 15900 Helpline were primarily members of the victim’s family or friends (friend, parent, child, or other relative). Significant reporting came from neighbours, who were often not acquainted with the victim but called the SOS 15900 Helpline to receive useful information, especially regarding the ways of reporting instances of violence to authorities.

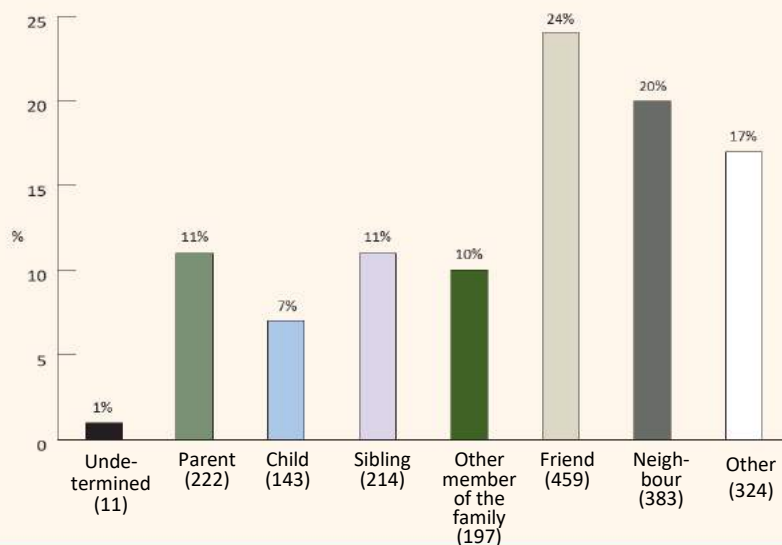
Specifically, during the reporting period (**Graph 15**) most calls recorded by third parties were **24%** friends of the victim, while 20% were neighbors, and with the same percentage 11% were siblings or parents of the victim. Calls recorded by other family members were at 10%, while 17% of the total calls were recorded as “Other” third parties, and 1% of the total was undetermined. Regarding the country of origin of the women who received support from the SOS 15900 Helpline during the reporting period, **73%** were Greek, 8% were migrants living in Greece, while 19% did not provide this information during the call.

During the reporting period the Regions of Greece the highest percentage of calls **45%** (**Graph 16**) were recorded in Attica, 11% in Central Macedonia and the rest of the calls were recorded with almost the same percentage at rest of Regions. Moreover “Other” calls with 8% from total refers to the Regions of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, Western Macedonia, North Aegean, Epirus, the Ionian Islands and Southern Aegean. Lastly, 20% of total calls did not disclose the place from which they are calling.



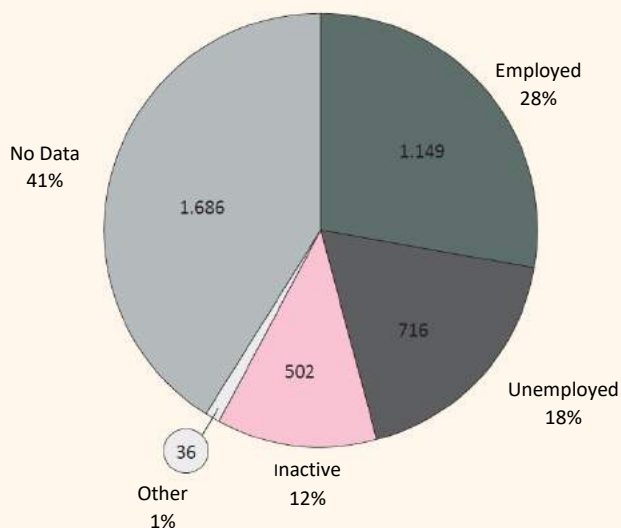
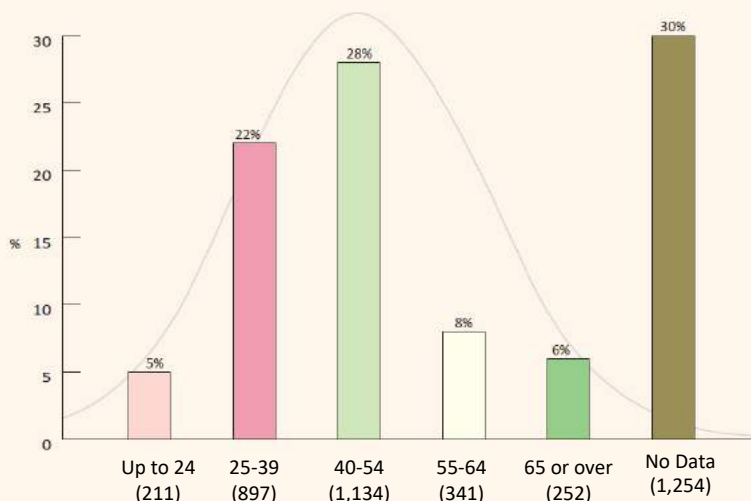
**Graph 14:** Type of call (1.11.2019-31.10.2020)

**Graph 15:** Third party calls (1.11.2019-31.10.2020)



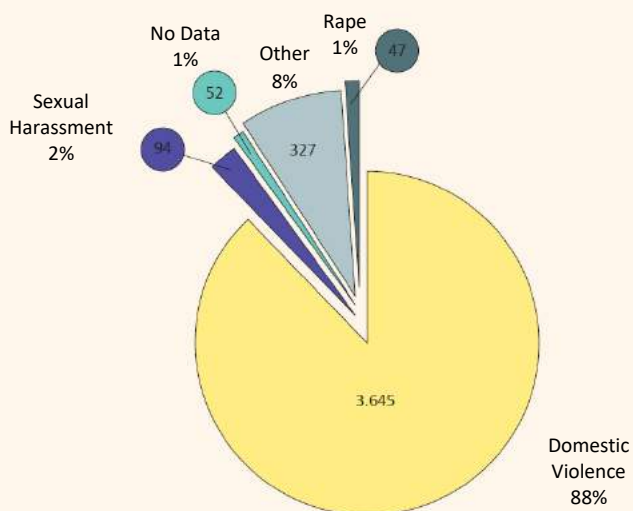
**Graph 16:** Regions from which calls were recorded (01/11/2019-31.10.2020)

**Graph 17:** Age groups of women receiving support from the SOS 15900 Helpline (01/11/2019-31.10.2020)

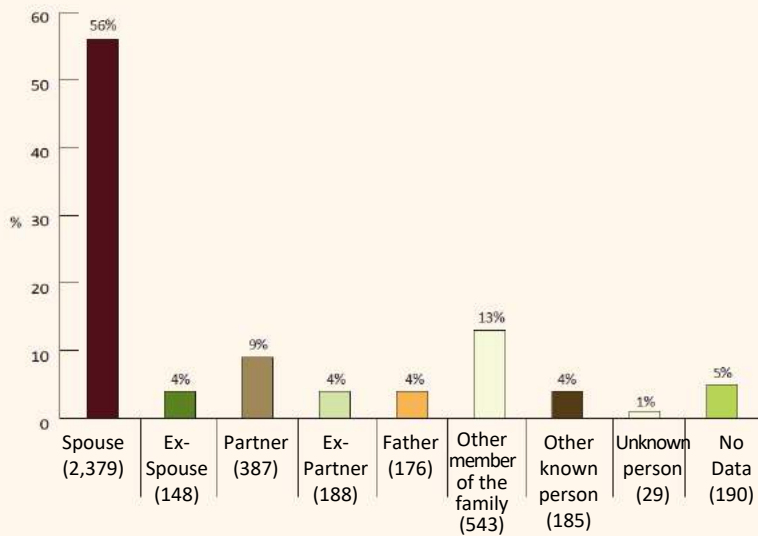
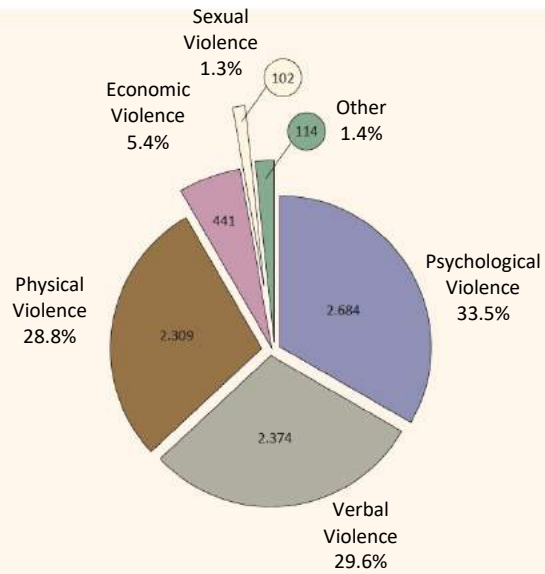


**Graph 18:** Employment status of women receiving support from the SOS 15900 Helpline (01/11/2019-31.10.2020)

**Graph 19:** Form of violence reported by women (1.11.2019-31.10.2020)

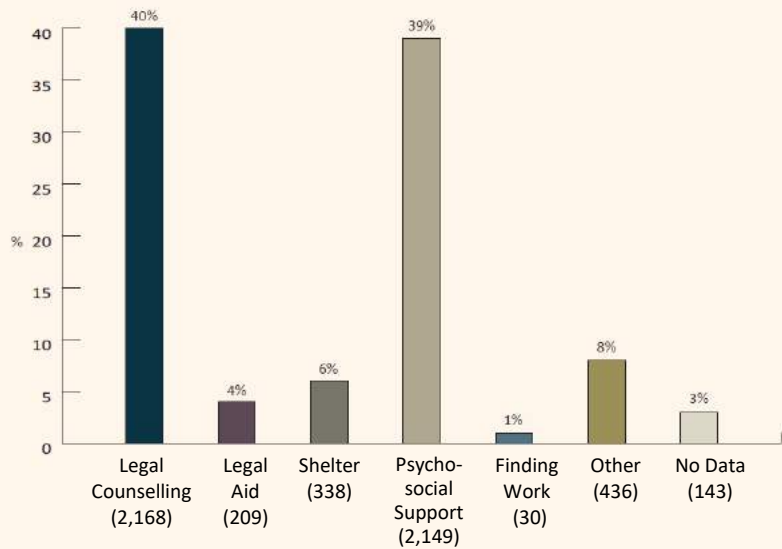


**Graph 20:** Forms of domestic violence reported by women at the SOS 15900 Helpline (01/11/2019-31.10.2020)



**Graph 21:** Relationship between victim and perpetrator as stated by women receiving support from the SOS 15900 Helpline (1.11.2019-31.10.2020)

**Graph 22:** Requests by women receiving support from the SOS 15900 Helpline (01/11/2019-31.10.2020)



Regarding the age group (**Graph 17**) of women who called the SOS 15900 Helpline during the reporting period, it is noted that the highest percentage **28%** represent women aged between 40 and 54 years old, while 22% were women between 25–39 years old, 8% from totals refers to women 55–64 years old, 6% aged over 65, and 5% concerns girls aged up to 24 years old. Lastly, 30% of the total women that received support from the SOS 15900 Helpline did not provide this information.

Regarding the employment status (**Graph 18**) of the women who called the SOS 15900 Helpline during the 12 month period, the majority of **28%** were employed, while 18% unemployed and 12% reported being inactive, 41% from totals did not provide this information, while 1% of the total stated “Other”. It should be noted that 19% of women that called the SOS 15900 Helpline appear to be long-term unemployed, while 89% of the unemployed women reported their unemployment status being temporary.

During the reporting period, domestic violence (**Graph 19**) made up **88% of the total forms of violence**. Moreover, 2% of the women receiving support reported sexual harassment, 1% reported rape, 8% of the total reported “Other” form of violence, and 1% did not provide this information. Regarding the family status of the women receiving support from the SOS 15900 Helpline who reported an incident of domestic violence, 52% were married and 14% reported being unmarried. A total of 6% reported cohabitation with the perpetrator. With the same percentage 3% were divorced and separated women, while 13% did not provide this information.

The main forms of domestic violence (**Graph 20**) that were recorded from the SOS 15900 Helpline during the reporting period were psychological violence at **33.5%**, verbal violence at 29.6%, physical violence at 28.8% economic violence against women was recorded at 5.4%, while sexual violence within domestic violence was 1.3% and “Other” forms of violence 1.4% from totals. Regarding the family status of women who reported incidents of violence 62% have children, 17% reported not having children, 20% did not provide this information, while 1% of women who reported an incident of domestic violence were pregnant.

Regarding the relationship between victims and perpetrators for women that received support from the SOS 15900 Helpline (**Graph 21**), the perpetrator was the husband in **56%** of the cases. “Another member of the family” follows at 13%, partner at 9% and at the same percentage 4% an ex-husband or ex-partner, father or other family member, while 1% of the total reported cases the perpetrator was unknown to the victim and 5% did not disclose this information.

The main individual requests recorded by the SOS 15900 Helpline during the 12 reference months (**Graph 22**) were for legal advice at **40%**, followed by psychological support at 39%. A small percentage of the total, 6%, corresponds to requests for safe shelter, free legal aid at 4%, help with finding a job 1%, 8% of the total received other type of support and 3% appears to be without data.

## **F. OBSERVATORY: DATA ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

The Observatory of Gender Equality of the GSFPGE is responsible for implementing Article 11 of the European Commission on gender-based violence regarding the collection and publication of statistical data on any form of gender-based violence covered by the Istanbul Convention (4(8) of Law 4531/2018). The data indicated by EIGE and the GREVIO questionnaire are presented in this chapter.

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Available data <sup>17</sup>	Year										EIGE Data
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Annual number of women victims of domestic violence			1630	1818	2302	2321	2696	3196	3815	4171	Annual number of women (aged 18 and above) victims of spousal violence
Annual number of reported domestic violence crimes	1303	2005	2455	2896	3512	3572	3839	3134	4722	5220	Number of reported crimes of spousal violence against women (aged 18 and above)
Annual number of male perpetrators of domestic violence			1620	1886	2351	2428	2891	2395	4202	4618	Number of male (aged 18 and above) perpetrators of spousal violence against women
Annual number of crimes of physical domestic violence										1717	Annual number of women (aged 18 and above) victims of physical domestic violence
Annual number of crimes of domestic violence with threats										1420	Annual number of women (aged 18 and above) victims of psychological spousal violence
Annual number of sexual assault crimes in the context of domestic violence					191 <sup>18</sup>	259	263	224		32	Annual number of women (aged 18 and above) victims of sexual spousal violence
Annual number of economic domestic violence crimes										0	Annual number of women (aged 18 and above) victims of economic domestic violence
Annual number of women victims reporting rape	263	226	234	222	194	183	217	215	204	217	Annual number of women (aged 18 and above) victims reporting rape
Women victims of voluntary manslaughter (299 PC) in connection to the law on domestic violence	11	12	6	13	12	11	13	7	13	8	Women (aged 18 and above) victims of femicide by a spouse/partner as a percentage of women victims of manslaughter

**Table 3.** Data on the depiction of violence against women

Ways of expressing GBV	2019					
	Threat	Use of violence	Use of physical violence	Sexual assault	Economic violence	Other
<b>Total</b>	1420	826	1717	32	0	1143

**Table 4.** Forms of violence against women<sup>13</sup>

The structure of this chapter follows the competent bodies and the data collection scopes, as presented below, including the total number of years for which such data is available:<sup>15</sup>

### 1. Police<sup>16</sup>

The first index (annual number of women victims of spousal violence) shows the number of women (**Table 3**) who have reported incidents of domestic violence to the police. During the period between 2012 and 2019, the increase presented in this indicator was around 156%. In 2019, 4,171 women reported domestic violence to the police. This is an increase of 9.3% compared to 2018, when the corresponding percentage was 3,815.

The second indicator (number of reported crimes of spousal violence) regards the reported crimes of domestic violence reported to the police, irrespective of the gender of the victim or the perpetrator, their relationship, or the form of violence. This indicator showed an increase of 10.5% during 2019, while the reported crimes increased from 4,722 in 2018 to 5,220 in 2019.

The third indicator is supplementary to the first two and regards the number of male perpetrators of domestic violence. Since the perpetrators, like the victims, can be more than one, based on this data, it is not possible to draw any firm conclusions regarding the number of men who had perpetrated the crimes reported in the second indicator. By comparing the percentages of male and female perpetrators of domestic violence crimes, the percentage appears to be stable over time. In 2019, the percentage was equal to that of 2017: out of 5,464 perpetrators whose gender is known, 84.5% were men and 15.5% women (846 women perpetrators of domestic violence crimes). Accordingly, for 2018, out of the total 5,022 perpetrators whose gender is known, 83.7% were men and 16.3% women (820 women perpetrators of domestic violence crimes).

For indicators 4, 5, 6, and 7, which refer to the annual number of female victims per form of violence exercised (physical, psychological, sexual and economic, respectively), it was not possible to extrapolate before 2019, as the forms of violence were not recorded by the competent authorities. For the sixth indicator and for years 2014–2017, the data is indicated differently, as, for this period, the data used had been recorded by the police regarding instances of sexual attacks based on Article 337 PC.

Starting from 2019, however, there is available data on the forms of violence exercised, which is presented in **Table 4**.

Thus, the fourth indicator (annual number of crimes of physical domestic violence) includes 1,717 cases.

The fifth indicator (annual number of domestic violence with the use of threat) only records the reports of threat to the police, which amount to 1,420 for 2019.

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The sixth indicator (annual number of insults of sexual dignity within the framework of domestic violence) records the reports of sexual assault in the context of domestic violence. Of the 32 reported cases for 2019, the information regarding the gender and the relationship between victim and perpetrator are pending and do not meet the comparability criteria of the indicator.

As for the seventh indicator (annual number of crimes of economic domestic violence), there do not seem to have been any such cases of economic violence reported to the police.

The eighth indicator (annual number of women victims reporting rape) is the only comparable indicator according to EIGE, **since it does not include the variable of the relationship between victim and perpetrator**. The annual reports of rape by women victims in Greece for the years 2018 and 2019 were 204 and 217 respectively.

The ninth indicator concerns the annual number of women murdered by a family member. In Greece, the number of victims of femicide is estimated with the use of the Article of the Penal Code on voluntary manslaughter (Article 299 PC in conjunction to Law 3500/2006). Eight women were murdered in Greece by a family member in 2019, while, in 2018, the murders of women by family members were 13. According to the data, for most of the years examined, one woman is murdered by a family member every month. Manslaughter with women victims (femicide) ranges from 30.4% to 50%. Specifically, for 2019, the percentage of femicides by a family member of the victim amounted to 42.1%, while, of the 19 murders of women, femicide amounts to 8.

## 2. Justice<sup>20</sup>

The tenth indicator (**Table 5**) concerns the enforcement of restrictive measures by 13 Public Prosecutors for crimes related to domestic violence or against a member of the family. For 2019, 86.8% of the perpetrators to whom restrictive measures were imposed were men (46 men, compared to 7 women), a percentage that ranges to the same levels of the previous years (89.5% for 2016, 95.7% for 2017, 91.7% for 2018).

The eleventh indicator concerns the criminal prosecutions carried out by the 63 Public Prosecutors against perpetrators of domestic violence. Of the total of perpetrators who were prosecuted for domestic violence in 2019, 84.8% of them were men (4,097), while only 15% were women (736). Similar percentages from the previous years are: 85.4% for 2018, 84% for 2017, and 86.2% for 2016.

The twelfth indicator (annual number of sentences for a criminal offence against a member of their family) includes data from 98.7% of the Public Prosecutors of the country (54 of the 63 Public Prosecutors). The sentences of the Public Prosecutors for 2019 concerned men at 92% (92.2% for 2018, 93.4% for 2017 and 92.8% for 2016).

The thirteenth indicator concerns the annual number of perpetrators who are carrying out a sentence in a correctional facility for domestic violence against a member of their family, and comes from the data gathered from the correctional facilities of the country by the Department of Strategic Planning and Evaluation of Anti-criminal Policy of the Ministry of Citizen Protection. In 2019, the percentage was 97.5% (79 men and 2 women). In 2018, it was 96.4% (81 men and 3 women), with 94.5% for 2017 (104 men and 6 women) and 96.3% for 2017 (104 men and 4 women).

The last indicator concerns the annual number of perpetrators subject to the penal mediation institution, and is an initiative by the Ministry of Justice with the aim of monitoring this process. As seen in the table, the majority of Public Prosecutors (48 of 63) were able to provide data. In 2019, 85% of the perpetrators who participated in penal mediation were men.



Data from the Ministry of Justice	2016		2017		2018		2019		Correspondence to EIGE
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	
Annual number of restrictive measures taken (according to Article 18 of Law 3500/2006) Available data from 13 Public Prosecutors of 63 (20.6%)	17	2	45	2	33	3	46	7	Indicator 10: Annual number of orders of protection given during cases of spousal violence against women based on the type of court
Annual number of criminal prosecutions against men (aged 18 and above) for carrying out a criminal act against a member of their family (Articles 6, 7, 8, and 9 of Law 3500/2006)	2890	463	3628	688	4082	697	4097	736	Indicator 11: Annual number of men (aged 18 and above) prosecuted for spousal violence against women
Annual number of sentences against men (aged 18 and above) for a criminal offence against a member of their family (Articles 6, 7, 8, and 9 of Law 3500/2006) Available data from 54 Public Prosecutors of a 63 (85.7%)	634	49	797	58	785	66	1320	115	Indicator 12: Annual number of men (aged 18 and above) sentenced for spousal violence against women
Annual number of men (aged 18 and above) who are serving out a sentence in a correctional facility for a criminal offence against a member of their family (Articles 6, 7, 8, and 9 of Law 3500/2006)	104	4	104	6	81	3	79	2	Indicator 13: Annual number of men (aged 18 and above) convicted for spousal violence against women and held in a correctional facility or sentenced with a deprivation of liberty.
Annual number of cases subject to penal mediation (according to Article 11 of Law 3500/2006) Available data from 48 out of 63 Public Prosecutors (76.2%)	493	60	589	100	529	94	712	125	This Indicator resulted from a proposal by the General Secretariat of Human Rights and does not correspond to a suggested Indicator by EIGE

**Table 5.** Data from the Ministry of Justice regarding violence against women

Relationship between victim and perpetrator	2018			2019		
	Current and Former partners or spouses	Parents – Offspring	Family Members	Current and Former partners or spouses	Parents – Offspring	Family Members
NCSS (Athens & Piraeus)	19		3	41	4	1
NCSS (Thessaloniki)	67	14	14	83	12	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>

	2018		2019	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Granting of residence permit	2	9	1	4
Renewal of residence permit	0	1	2	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>

**Table 6.** Relationship between victim and perpetrator in the correctional programmes for perpetrators (Below)

**Table 7.** Annual number of residence permits granted to foreign nationals for humanitarian reasons as victims of domestic violence, based on gender and year

### 3. Perpetrators Programmes

The institution of penal mediation Article 11(8) of Law 3500/2006 is a compromise for the avoidance of a trial. In it, the perpetrator promises not to inflict any form of domestic violence in the future, agrees to move out of the shared home if the victim requests it, agrees to follow a specialised correctional programme organised by a public body on dealing with domestic violence, and to restore the damage caused to the victim, while also paying financial compensation.

The public agency responsible for preparing and organising perpetrators programmes (Article 11(2)(b) of Law 3500/2006) is NCSS.

The data shows (**Table 6**) that the vast majority of perpetrators of domestic violence participating in such a programme by NCSS are current or former partners or spouses of the victims. Specifically, based on the data from 2019, 84.3% of the perpetrators (124) were partners of the victim, 10.9% (16 perpetrators) were a parent or child, and 4.8% had another family relationship. The respective data from 2018 is as follows: 73.5% of the perpetrators (86) were partners of the victim, 12% (14 perpetrators) were a parent or child, and 14.5% (14 perpetrators) had another family relationship.

The remaining Public Prosecutors of the country are not able to refer perpetrators of domestic violence to the process of penal mediation of the NCSS. The organisations which the perpetrators are referred to are public and under the jurisdiction of Municipalities, Regional Units, hospitals of the regions and of civil society (NGO, non-profit civil partnerships etc.) The Observatory has proceeded to survey the remaining structures which organize perpetrators programmes for perpetrators and, in 2021, will be gathering data for 2019–2020.

#### 4. Migration

According to Article 19A(1)(c) of Law 4251/2014, the victims of domestic violence defined by Law 3500/2006 are granted a one-year residence permit, which can be renewed for two years upon expiration, if the same conditions are met. At the same time, a residence permit of equal duration is granted to underage offsprings of victims of domestic violence, as long as they themselves are not the perpetrator of said crime (Table 7).

Even though the number of citizens of third countries granted a residence permit for humanitarian reasons as victims of domestic violence is small – 5 persons for 2019 and 11 for 2018, 80% and 81.8% respectively were women. During 2019, there were 54.5% fewer residence permits granted compared to 2018. Numbers are even lower when it comes to renewals of existing residence permits. During 2019, the residence permits renewed for victims of domestic violence were for two men and one woman only, while only one renewal was granted to a woman in 2018.

#### 5. Asylum

The cooperation among the Observatory of GSFPGE and the Asylum Service of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum has shown that domestic and gender-based violence are not included in the list of vulnerabilities for the data kept by the Asylum Service. The two categories eventually selected for collecting the necessary data approach the phenomenon to a considerable extent.

However, it should be noted that the data presented here may be lacking in completeness, either due to incorrect entry into the Asylum Service's database, or because the asylum applicants subsequently revealed any vulnerabilities (i.e. during the interview process and not during the initial application). Based on further clarification by the Asylum Service, these vulnerabilities may not constitute the main reason for granting the refugee status or subsidiary protection.

Thus, the first category of data collected by the Asylum Service involves: 96.7% of the cases (**Table 8**) related to victims of torture, rape, or other forms of violence or exploitation which were granted some status of asylum during 2019, were granted refugee status, while 3.3% were granted subsidiary protection. The data for 2018 is 85.9% and 14.1% respectively. The percentage of asylum or subsidiary protection granted concerns 70% men. In total, for the two asylum categories, in 2019, the percentage of men victims granted asylum was 69.7% and 69.5% in 2018. This reverse image compared to the evidence examined up to now regarding gender-based violence is explained by the inclusion of victims of torture in this category, most of whom are men. This data cannot be corroborated due to the impossibility of distinction between these forms of vulnerability.

The second vulnerability category which leads to asylum or subsidiary protection granting, and is connected to gender-based violence, involves:

The data regarding human trafficking (**Table 9**) that are managed by the Asylum Service but are extremely scarce and concern two cases of granting refugee status to women in 2019 and one case of granting subsidiary protection to a woman in 2018.

**Table 8.** Annual number of citizens of third countries granted asylum due to vulnerabilities related to torture, rape, or other forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence or exploitation, divided by gender and type of protection granted (asylum and subsidiary protection)

	2018		2019	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Refugee status granted	106	46	82	36
Subsidiary protection granted	17	8	3	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>37</b>

**Table 9.** Annual number of citizens of third countries asylum granted due to vulnerability related to human trafficking divided by gender and kind of protection granted (asylum and subsidiary protection)

	2018		2019	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Refugee status granted	0	0	0	2
Subsidiary protection granted	0	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

**Table 10.** Calls to the 197 Helpline related to domestic violence

	2018		2019	
	Women victims of violence	Third Parties	Women victims of violence	Third Parties
NCSS 197	104	59	106	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>163</b>		<b>162</b>	

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Annual number of applications	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Annual number of grants	-	-	-	-	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	-

**Table 11.** Number of requests for financial compensation to women victims of violence

## 6. NCSS Helpline 197

The Helpline for Emergency Social Help 197 of the NCSS receives calls involving cases of gender-based violence and domestic violence, and offers psychosocial support services to victims of domestic violence. The table below presents the data gathered by the Observatory for 2018 and 2019 regarding women victims of violence, as well as third parties who called the NCSS 197 Helpline.


In 2019, **(table 18)** 106 women victims of violence called, four of whom were underage, with 56 reports of an incident of gender-based or domestic violence by third parties. For 2018, 104 women and 59 third parties used the Helpline. The age of women victims who called the 197 Helpline was recorded for 84 women, four of whom were below 18 years of age.

## 7. Compensation

According to Law 3811/2009, the Hellenic Compensation Authority for victims of acts of violence is responsible for providing compensation to women victims of violence submitting the appropriate request.

Based on the data gathered by the Observatory **(Table 11)** for the period between 2006 and 2019, there were 6 applications for compensation made to the Hellenic Compensation Authority, while no compensation was granted for any of the aforementioned applications.

# Actions Against Violence Against Women During the 1<sup>st</sup> Covid-19 Lockdown



## A. ACTIONS

The GSFPGE promptly responded to the needs of women victims of gender-based violence during the first period of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic by implementing a series of actions. The primary concern for the GSFPGE during the emergency measures was the protection of health of both staff and those supported, while also maintaining active the services of the Counseling Centres and the Women Shelters and providing access to services for women victims of domestic violence. The SOS 15900 Helpline played a key part in this effort. The members of the Network of Structures were given the option of teleworking and remote case management, while the GSFPGE also implemented the measure of urgent accommodation in safe houses for women survivors of domestic violence, while updating the latter's and Women Shelters' referral process and ensuring the safe movement of supported women and their underage children to shelters during the lockdown period.

The members of the GSFPGE and the Network of Structures were in the front line, in order to support women in need. Psychosocial support and case management during the reporting period took place either remotely via phone or videoconferencing, or in person, following all preventive measures against the spread of the Covid-19.

Moreover, during the first wave of the pandemic, the GSFPGE provided information to international and European institutions about the actions developed to prevent and combat violence against women, while broadening its partnerships with other institutions.

### **The following list summarizes GSFPGE response o and the Network of Structures during the Covid-19 pandemic:**

- The Networks Shelters were operational, with the shelter staff working in shifts and/or teleworking, ensuring the provision of services via Skype or phone.
- Implementation of the TV campaign “**We stay home but we do not remain quiet**” promoting the SOS 15900 Helpline and the [sos15900@isotita.gr](mailto:sos15900@isotita.gr).
- Free and safe accommodation for urgent cases of women victims of gender-based including catering, as well as the simultaneous operation of the Women's Shelters so that they may accept cases.
- The GSFPGE updated civil society organizations regarding the actions and measures taken during the period of the pandemic for dealing with urgent cases of women victims of domestic violence and the provision of support services and shelter in the Network of Structures and the safe houses.
- New collaborations with the Hellenic Society of Forensic Medicine, The Smile of the Child, and Region of Attica.
- Maintaining and recording data – Daily monitoring.
- Constant update and exchange of information with international and European organisations (UN, Council of Europe, EU, OECD, etc.).
- Constant update of the Special Permanent Committee on Equality, Youth and Human Rights of the Greek Parliament.
- Addition of the National Helpline SOS 15900 to the official webpage of EIGE “Helplines for supporting victims of gender-based violence”.
- Support the participation of the Panhellenic Pharmaceutical Association in the “Mask-19” campaign for the fight against domestic violence.
- Commence a cooperation with UNICEF and METAdrasi, with the goal of increasing accessibility to the Network of Structures of the GSFPGE for refugees and immigrants who are victims of domestic violence, via interpretation by professionals trained on the topic of violence in 22 languages.
- Translation of informational leaflets in the main languages of women refugees regarding the restrictive measures of Covid-19, the available services of the GSFPGE Network, as well as the availability of interpretation for the SOS 15900 Helpline in Farsi and Arabic.
- Cooperation with the newly founded Services to Combat Domestic Violence by the Greek Police.

## B. DATA

During the first Covid-19 lockdown and, specifically, during the period between March 2020 and April 2020, **549** women sought support at the Counseling Centres of the Network of Structures for preventing and combating violence against women. During this period, the main source of information for women was the SOS 15900 Helpline for April 2020, at 39% while 18% was informed by another body.

Specifically, in April 2020 almost **55%** of women were supported at the Counseling Centres in Athens, Piraeus, Patras, Thessaloniki and Alexandroupoli, 17% were supported in Crete, Kos, Corfu, Chios and Lesvos, and 28% from total women were supported in the remaining Counseling Centres of the Network. The most prevalent form of violence against women during these two months period was domestic violence, at almost 84% from total form of violence against women. About 28% of women received psychological support and 26% received legal support. The relationship between the victim and perpetrator was mostly **spousal** (current and former), with 56% for March 2020 and 51% for April 2020. The age groups of women who received support services at the Counseling Centres of the Network during the two months reported were 7% for women aged 26–35, 25% for women aged 36–45, and 23% for women aged 46–55. Women enduring multiple discrimination belong to the age group of 60+ were about 5% in March 2020 and 12% in April 2020, with the main forms of violence being physical neglect, psychological and economic violence by their spouses or partners, by their adult children, and/or other family members or caregivers. The level of education of the women who received help at the Counseling Centres ranges between secondary education and post-secondary education, and, regarding the employment status of these women, 42% were unemployed and 36% employed, while 5% were pensioners.

During the reference period, there were **19 new admissions** to the Women's Shelters of the Network of Structures throughout Greece, and, by the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2020, 35 women refugees had been accommodated, 25 of which were mothers. Out of total 79 children accommodated during the reporting period at Women's Shelters 43 were refugee children. Regarding the temporary shelters for safe accommodation that were introduced by the GSFPGE during April 2020, 12 women victims of domestic violence were accommodated in Athens, Thessaloniki, Rhodes and Lesvos. Of the total of women who were successfully removed from the abusive environment during the pandemic, 7 were refugee and migrant women, while the total number of children accommodated with their mothers in the temporary shelters were 10. The Counseling Center staff offered support services and referral to health services for the accommodated women, while care was provided for their minor children by specialised professionals from the Greek NGO "The Smile of the Child".

During the two month period the SOS 15900 Helpline recorded **325 calls** of "violent incidents", while 69 calls involved the provision of "useful information". Comparing the two month period, during April 2020 there was a significant increase of **227.4%** in calls concerning "violent incidents" and 142% concerning the provision of "useful information". Of the total calls recorded by the SOS 15900 Helpline in March 2020, reports of violent incidents or useful information by women in need or third parties who called the SOS 15900 Helpline for the first time was 85% while the respective percentage for April 2020 was 91%. The Regions of Greece from which most calls were made during this period were Attica, at 42% for March 2020 and 45% for April 2020, the Region of Central Macedonia, at 9% for each reference month, and Crete at 4% for each month. Regarding March 2020, 92% of the total calls were recorded cases of domestic violence and 87% respectively in April. Regarding the relationship of victim and perpetrator for the women supported or the third parties who called the Helpline and reported a violent incident, the perpetrator was the husband for 57% of the cases for March 2020 and 54% for April 2020. The main request made during the calls for these two months was for legal counseling, at 41% for March 2020 and 33% for April 2020. In addition, psychosocial support of women victims or the third parties by the specialised staff of the SOS 15900 Helpline was sought by 36% for March 2020 and 41% of the calls for April 2020.





# Priorities



The strategic participation of the GSFPGE in the National Action Plan for 2021–2025 and the fight against gender-based violence is based on the implementation of the obligations set out by the Istanbul Convention. We find ourselves before a very important year for Greece, given that a report on the progress achieved in specific areas set out by the Istanbul Convention, in response to the relevant questionnaire, will be submitted to the committee of independent specialists of GREVIO in 2021. It is clear that the response by all state bodies and by civil society to the coronavirus pandemic will be taken into consideration and be evaluated. In this context, the executive functions of the GSFPGE are strengthened, putting emphasis on cross-sectoral collaboration and the coordination between state entities, civil society organisations, citizens, and local authorities, so as to comprehensively address violence against women through coordinated efforts. At the same time, care shall be taken for the collection of data on gender-based violence, research and systematic study on new forms of violence such as stalking, cyber violence against women, etc.

The GSFPGE has secured the extension of the funding programme by the Regional Operational Programmes for 2021–2023 in the entirety of the Network of GSFPGE. Emphasis is placed on upgrading the Network of Structures and the provision of high-quality services to women beneficiaries and their children, both through the modernisation of their technological equipment and the potential for remote support, as well as by updating the database, the methodologies and the tools of the counseling process.

Furthermore, the main principles of the GSPGE include raising awareness among the general public on eliminating gender-based stereotypes, violence against women and the procedures for reporting cases of gender-based violence and domestic violence, as well as raising awareness specifically among school students. Furthermore, focus will be given to the continuous training of professionals who provide general and specialised services to women victims of gender-based violence and their children.

The steady focus of the GSFPGE is the defense of human rights of women and girls and the elimination of gender-based discrimination and inequality. In this effort, no woman should feel unprotected or alone against gender-based or domestic violence.

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## Endnotes

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- <sup>1</sup> Council of Europe.(2011).Explanatory Report to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. Treaty Series – No. 210, p.2
- <sup>2</sup> Council of Europe.(2011).Explanatory Report to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. Treaty Series – No. 210, p.2
- <sup>3</sup> GREVIO is the independent body of experts in charge of monitoring the correct application of the Istanbul Convention. The main means of monitoring legislative and other measures that have been taken by the EU member states is the questionnaire prepared by GREVIO in March 2016 (<https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000016805c95b0>).
- <sup>4</sup> The initiatives taken to end violence against women include the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women by the United Nations (CEDAW), the Elective Protocol of the Contract for the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, the Resolution for the elimination of violence against women by the UN, the Beijing Platform for Action and its plan of action.
- <sup>5</sup> Directives regarding the protection of victims:
  - **Directive 2004/80/EU** of the Council of Europe of 29 April 2004, on compensation for crime victims (hereafter: Directive on compensation).
  - **Directive 2011/36/EU** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA.
  - **Directive 2011/93/EU** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA.
  - **Directive (EU) 2017/541** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on combating terrorism and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA and amending Council Decision 2005/671/JHA of the Council (hereafter: Directive for combating terrorism).
- <sup>6</sup> The complete title of the law is “Law 4531/2018 I) Ratification of the Agreement of the European Council on the Prevention and Fight against Violence against women and Domestic Violence and the adaptation of the Greek legislation II) Integration of 2005/214/DEY decision, as amended by decision 2009/299/DEY, on the implementation of the principle of mutual recognition of monetary penalties, and III) Other provisions of the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights and other provisions.”
- <sup>7</sup> The forms of violence against women are outlined in alphabetical order and have been taken from the glossary of EIGE, <https://eige.europa.eu/thesaurus/overview>, there could a be difference in order between the Greek and English version of the report, but this was necessary due to the difference in terminology in both languages. In the English version the English alphabetical order is followed.
- <sup>8</sup> According to Article 4 of Law 4604/2019 “Promotion of the essential equality of genders, the prevention and fight of gender-based violence – Regulations on granting citizenship – Provisions on the elections of Local Governments – Other provisions.”
- <sup>9</sup> More information on the responsibilities of this specific department are delineated in Article 1 of PC 37/2019.
- <sup>10</sup> The Cooperation Protocol has been signed by the following organisations:
  - GSFPGE
  - General Secretariat of Reception and Identification
  - Ministry of Health
  - Ministry of National Defence

- KETHI
- NCSS
- EETAA
- KEDE
- ENPE

<sup>11</sup> Reference period from 1.11.2019 to 31.10.2020.

<sup>12</sup> This is affected by multiple factors, such as the number of Counseling Centres per Municipality, combined with the higher needs of the population density in the given municipalities. It thus should not be taken into consideration when forming specific conclusions.

<sup>13</sup> Reference period from 1.11.2019 to 31.10.2020.

<sup>14</sup> This is affected by multiple factors such as the capacity of the Shelters per Municipality, combined with the higher needs of the population density in the given municipalities. It thus should not be taken into consideration when forming specific conclusions.

<sup>15</sup> Available data for 2010–2017 is presented by the 23<sup>rd</sup> GC, repeated in this chapter and added to the newer data for 2018–2019 (found in bold in the table).

<sup>16</sup> The collection of the necessary data is based on the provisions of the law on addressing domestic violence (Law 3500/2006), as amended by the ratification of the Istanbul Convention (Law 4531/2018). Until 2018, the main shortage in data provided by the Greek Police, regarded the recording of the relationship between victim and perpetrator, as well as the kind of violence. With the sanction of the Istanbul Convention, the Greek Police proceeded to amend the recording method of the cases of domestic violence, so that, from 2019, it is possible to depict both the relationship between the victim and perpetrator and the form of violence. However, the combination between necessary variables when exporting data from the system used by the Greek Police is still pending.

<sup>17</sup> The numbering of the indicators follows EIGE numbering. Regardless of the variables which may be missing from part of the indicators and which render them non-comparable, the presented data are a substantial depiction of domestic violence in Greece.

<sup>18</sup> The data is indicated differently for the sixth indicator and for 2014–2017, as data recorded by the police for this period on sexual assaults was based on Article 337 PC.

<sup>19</sup> The above data is not yet available in relation to the gender and the relationship between victim and perpetrator. Following clarifications given by the Greek Police, the crimes reported in “use of violence” regarding the manner of violence committed, includes cases of physical violence, threat or unlawful violence. Thus, this manner of violence committed, just like the “other manner” reported in the table, has not been taken into account during the recording and analysis of the data.

<sup>20</sup> For the collection of the necessary data from the Ministry of Justice, GSFPGE cooperated with the Supreme Court and the Department of Strategic Planning and Evaluation of Anti-criminal Policies of the General Secretariat of Anti-Criminal Policy of the Ministry of Citizen Protection. The Observatory collected data from the 63 Public Prosecutors of Greece based on current legislation (Law 3500/2006 and Law 4531/2018). The lack of a unified information system from all Public Prosecutors in Greece is a major obstacle for data collection and analysis, both for the employees of the Public Prosecutor Offices and for the potential recipients of the data.

<sup>21</sup> The data was taken from the Bimonthly Report Newsletter #1: Policies and Actions of the GSFPGE for the Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, During the Movement Restriction Due to the Pandemic of the Covid-19 in Greece. Analysis of the statistical data from the Network of Structures and the SOS 15900 Helpline of GSFPGE March 2020-April 2020.



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