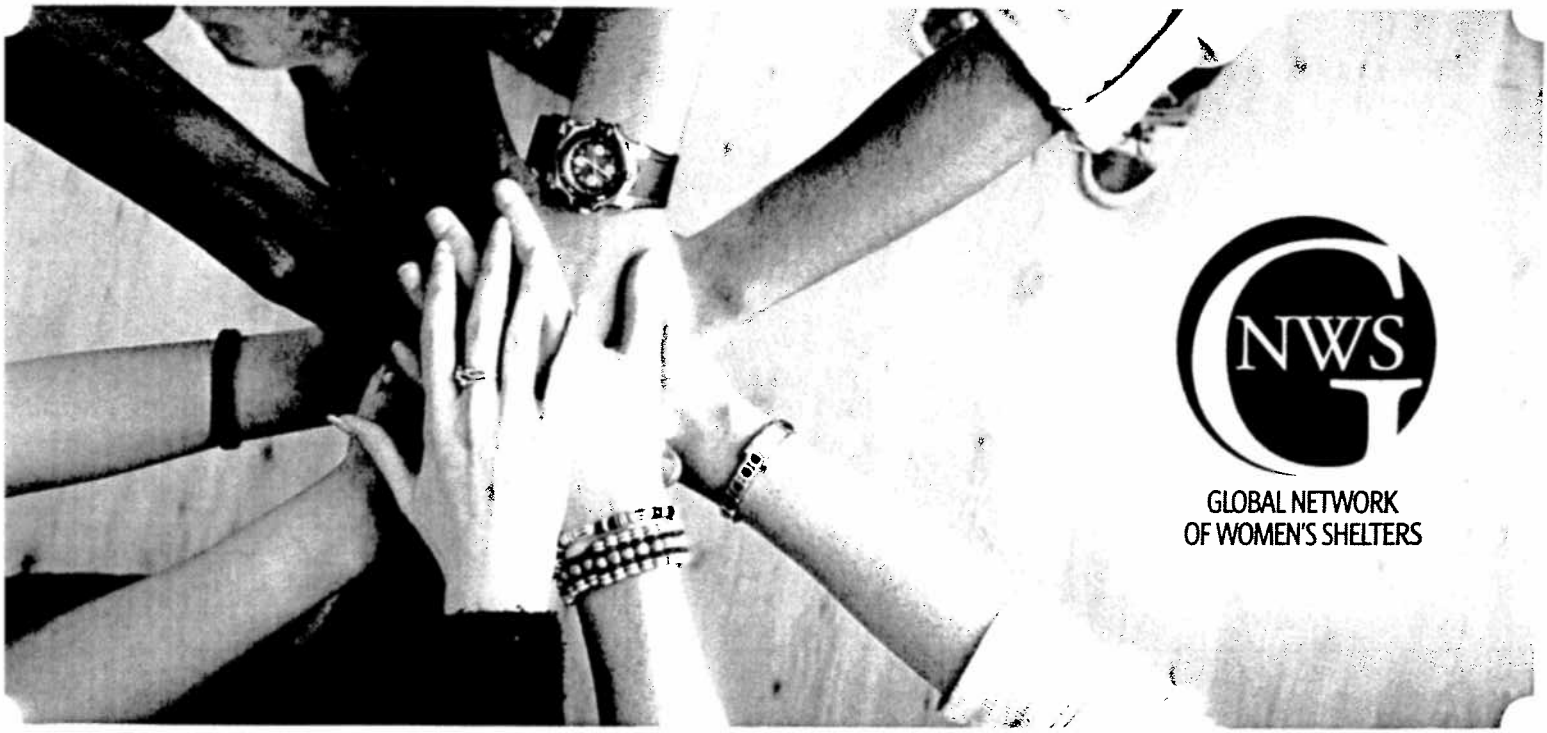


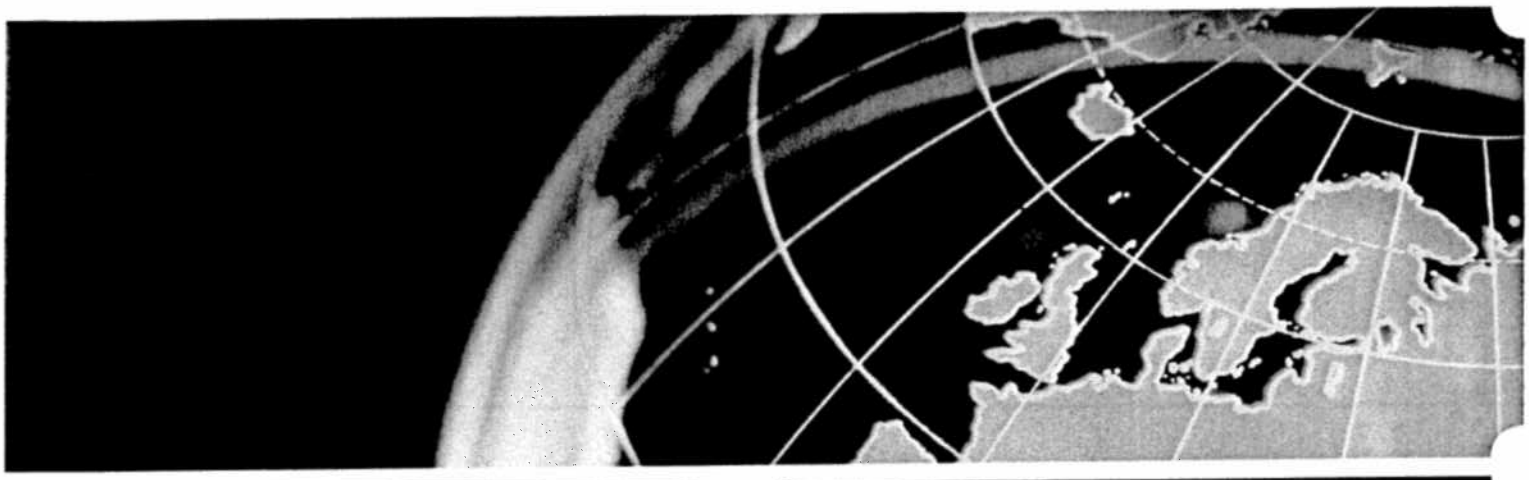
# Global DATA COUNT 2011

Violence against women is a manifestation of the historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men, and to the prevention of women's full advancement.

- Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women in 1995.



GLOBAL NETWORK OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS



## Acknowledgements

*The Global Network of Women's Shelters would like to thank the 2,636 sheltering organizations who participated in the 2011 Global Count. Your willingness to take on one more task in an already busy day speaks to the desire of shelters everywhere to be united as we work to end violence against women and their children.*

*The Global Network's Communication Committee took the lead on this ambitious project and formed the Global Data Count Sub-Committee comprised of Maria Stetter, Chair of the Communications Committee, (DANNER, Denmark), Margaret Augerinos (EASE Inc. & Centre For Non-Violence, Australia), Silvia Sinnmayer and Felice Drott (WAVE) and Jan Reimer (Alberta Council of Women's Shelters, Canada).*

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*This report produced by the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters*

ACWS
Alberta Council of Women's Shelters

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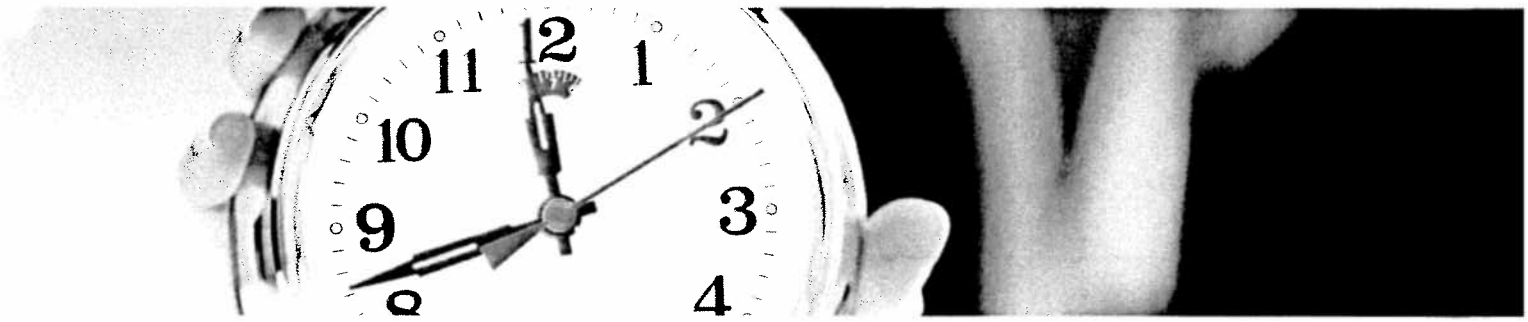
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# One 24 hour day...



**One day in the life of women and children fleeing domestic violence around the world...**

**One day's work at a local women's shelter offering safety, support, community and a sense of hope...**

**One day for each of us to reflect on the global scope of domestic violence and the impact of violence against women in our homes, communities, and workplaces.**

The 2011 Global Count is a snapshot of one day in the lives of women seeking refuge at women's shelters around the world. It is the third census conducted by the Global Network of Women's Shelters. Formed in 2008, its international membership is a united body, speaking with one voice, with the common purpose to support and strengthen the women's shelter network; and to advocate for the creation and implementation of social policy and social values that will end violence and oppression against women and their children.

The 2011 Global Count represents information provided by **2,636** participating shelters and 25 shelter networks[1] from **36** countries[2]. Shelter workers collaborated to gather the stories of the **56,308 women** who sought refuge and reached out for the support that they and their **39,130** children needed to start new lives free from the fear of violence on just this **one day**.

The purpose of the Global Count is to highlight the prevalence of violence against women around the world – it is also a call to action. The startling numbers of women and children captured by the count make visible the vulnerability of women and children in our communities. It also points to the important role that shelters play in protecting women and in leading efforts to bring about social change.

It is important to note that while the number of shelters participating in the Global Count continues to grow, the census does not represent a complete picture of the extent or the impact violence against women has on our communities. The Global Count does not include information gathered from every country, let alone every women's shelter offering safe haven. Not all shelters were able to quantify the total number of women they helped in one day, and some reported only those who accessed residential services. The story it tells is therefore incomplete; however, we can safely extrapolate that on this one day, a yet untold number of women and children around the world sought refuge and relief from domestic violence. And, sadly, in some countries, no shelters exist at all.

The Global Network of Women's Shelters is sincerely grateful to all the agencies who participated in this ambitious project. We look forward to working with you in the future as we strive towards an equal world where women and children live free from violence.

*Sincerely,*
*Global Network of Women's Shelters*

[1] *Networks participated from Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Canada, Chile, Denmark, England, Germany, Israel, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Guatemala, Holland, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, Rwanda, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, United States, Vietnam*

[2] *See page 14 for a listing of participating countries*

# Who we served...



## *On just one day around the world 56,308 women and 39,130 children sought refuge from domestic violence*

The Global Count found that women, children, seniors, minorities, immigrants, persons without legal status, and women involved in the sex trade were all vulnerable to physical, sexual, emotional, and psychological violence perpetrated against them by their most trusted family members and intimate partners.

**Armenia:** *"I had a lot of difficulties in my life but never had the strength to fight them. When I came to the Shelter, I understood that in me there still is a wish to live. I am grateful to the Women's Rights Center for the caring, devotion and help in bringing me back to life."*

## *Out of 56,308 women seeking shelter 520 were known to be pregnant*[3]

Many shelters reported an inability to open their doors to women and children escaping violence in their communities. Despite an overwhelming demand for services, respondents from eleven (11)[4] countries indicated shelters had been closed, primarily due to lack of government funding (8), or a change in policy direction (4). In only one case (Denmark), was low use intensity cited as the reason for the closure of a shelter.

**Estonia:** *"If I were not here, I would probably be dead."*

**Australia:** *"Our shelter takes pride in the fact that women do have the right to live without fear and their children have the right to live in an environment that is free of abuse."*

[3] *Not all countries collected this information (Albania, Denmark, Hong Kong, Netherlands, Scotland, United States)*

*7,608 Women were turned away from shelters + their 4,734 Children = 12,342 Women and Children who were subject to continued risk*

## OFFERING REFUGE FOR CHILDREN

Women's shelters were also a refuge for the thousands of children who were exposed to, and the most vulnerable targets of, domestic violence. The numbers of affected children in the shelters were astonishing. The impact of witnessing abuse can be profound: their need for safety and security shaken, children may contend with severe psychological and emotional distress. The need for specialized supports for children in shelter is a necessity.

**Israel:** *"A woman [with three children, a young son and two daughters] who left two weeks ago and visited the shelter... [The] two older sisters are still coming to the shelter for help in school, and asked the social worker if they could continue to participate in group therapy or individual conversations. This is just an example of much help given to children at the shelter, which makes them feel that the Shelter is a home and family for them. Women appreciate emotional support, concrete help, legal support, learning and enrichment, parenting assistance, and more."*

The shelters played an important role in providing counseling for women and their children: strengthening parenting skills, and offering a safe space for families to rebuild trust.

**Nepal:** *"With the care and support I have received in the shelter, I have been able not only to heal my physical wounds but also overcome emotional trauma and most importantly, I have got a new hope to begin a new life, a violence free life I deserve. While my painful past has not been erased completely from my mind, I still fear that my father will come to get me though he is in prison right now, I am relieved to be away from my father under the protection of Saathi." [a 16-year-old girl who was brought to the shelter with a history of being repeatedly raped by her own father for 3 years.]*

Refuge in the shelter however may not be sufficient if legislation is not in place to provide for a child's right to protection from potential re-victimization by an abusive parent.

**Australia:** *"The challenge in giving their children to the abusive parent for contact without them there to protect the children is by far the biggest and most frightening experience for the women and their children. Children deserve the same right to protection as do children living in a two parent family."*

*39,130 Children found relief from the physical, psychological and emotional abuse they experienced as victims of domestic violence*

## PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR SENIORS

In many industrialized countries, the proportion of seniors in the general population is increasing at a higher rate than any other age group. Abuse of older adults is becoming increasingly common. Fragile and isolated seniors are particularly vulnerable to abuse by family members and caregivers. They may find themselves subject to emotional, mental, financial and physical violence.

**Canada:** *"As an older woman, I am fearful of my future and finding a job."*

[4] *Albania, Armenia, Chile, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Nicaragua, Peru, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States*

Like other vulnerable populations, on the day of the Global Count, the seniors who sought refuge required a wide range of supports from their local women's shelters.

**Australia:** *"Senior women who come here also have comfort coming to our weekly bread mornings. Often the senior women have no support networks in the form of family to visit them and our centre provides a free women's centred service in which the senior women can come and have a coffee, meet other women in their position, make friends and also have a support network to assist them with their needs. Senior women are often vulnerable to door to door salesman and scams over the phone offering them goods and services and then taking advantage of them financially. Senior women come here because we can advocate for them and advise them of their rights. Often senior women are lonely and our service provides the social interaction they so need."*

## PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF MARGINALIZED AND AT RISK POPULATIONS

**Germany:** *"The biggest problems arise when women from Eastern Europe are affected by domestic violence as they are not entitled to receive financial benefits."*

Economic instability, labour shortages, climate change, warfare and civil unrest are all contributing factors to an unprecedented global migration of immigrants, refugees, migrants and temporary foreign workers seeking a new life for themselves and their families.

A number of shelters reported the growing abuse and denial of human rights to migrant women and women without legal status. Isolated and in many cases disenfranchised, they are increasingly vulnerable to their abusers.

> *[W]omen migrants may have already faced violence, including domestic violence, in their home countries before migrating, and may, during the migration process (for example in cases of trafficking), also have faced severe forms of violence. ... Irregular migrant women have to deal not only with two-fold discrimination related gender and origin, but also face the additional problem posed by their irregular status, which means they have great difficulties in contacting the authorities when they are victims of violence and are reluctant to do so.*
>
> *- Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe, 2009.*

**Israel:** *"Recently, we helped many women suffering from violence who have no legal status in Israel ... they have an Israeli man's baby, who is not registered on any certificate. We accompany them in the courts to prove paternity, DNA testing and registration ID of the parent, [so] that the child receives the status of a citizen with full rights that come with it - health insurance, child support, etc.. Without the help of the shelter, these women would have trouble surviving, without a right to assistance in housing and without a way to make a living."*

Women engaged in the sex trade are particularly vulnerable to gender based physical and sexual violence. Lacking social and institutional supports, often contending with substance abuse, they fall through the cracks, their need for supports unmet. To address this issue, shelters reported the development of specialized centres, thus filling an important gap in services.

**Iceland:** *"In September 2011, Stigamot established a shelter for individuals who want to get out of prostitution or have been in prostitution. This is the first shelter for individuals in prostitution in Iceland. Stigamot is now both a counseling center for survivors of sexual abuse and a shelter for individuals that have been or are in prostitution."*

On the day of the Global Count, shelters also drew our attention to the need for services that adequately support diversity within their shelters and of the greater vulnerability of disabled people to all forms of violence and exploitation.

**Hong Kong:** *"In daily operation, there is a language barrier in communication with minority groups, so that some of their needs may be under-estimated or even missed."*

**The Netherlands:** *"National research released concerning sexual violence against mentally disabled people (much higher report of rapes and other forms of sexual violence)."*

# Overcoming Violence...



**Canada:** *"I believe we did good work today. Even though there are a lot of sad and difficult situations in people's lives, we kept the shelter safe. We de-escalated tense situations. We worked with a variety of ages from 8 months to 55 years. We cooked, cleaned, had some time with each woman and child individually. We networked with other agencies. We made referrals. We affirmed woman's strengths. We collaborated on cases."*

Shelters are not just beds. Workers assisted those who sought refuge to recognize their resilience as survivors of violence, to regain their self esteem, to navigate complex legal and government systems, to find housing, and to support children who have been victimized by violence.

**Chile:** *"The role of the shelters for women, boys, girls and the elderly has been very significant regarding their protection, recovering their self-esteem and recreating their lives. The main needs women have stated are establishing safety and protection of themselves and their children, becoming part of the work environment for their independence, guidance and support to cover the needs of housing, secondary networks, promotion of primary networks, psychological support, recreation and entertainment, constant legal support (the need to be heard and feel dignified through the justice system)."*

**The Netherlands:** *"We succeed more and more in coping with the various problems and challenges women and their children have to face: financial problems, physical problems, psychological problems.*

*We can offer them Dutch language courses, computer lessons, job coaching, sports for children, etc. There is more understanding in society that violence effect all areas of life."*

**Taiwan:** *"... cases have become more complicated. For example, the increase in incest and mentally disabled cases has prompted caregivers to undergo specific training to meet the challenges."*

## LEGAL PROTECTION

**Rwanda:** *"Most women's rights abuse, especially around women wanting to assert their property and reproductive health rights, incites violence against them. ... Men in Rwanda are reverting to emotional and psychological abuse which women find difficult to report to authorities."*

For women escaping violence, their most pressing need in many cases was to put in place legal protections for themselves and their children. Shelter workers helped women to overcome multiple barriers to the justice system including the lack of affordable and accessible legal services.

**Slovenia:** *"The challenges they are facing are lengthy court proceedings, emotional, psychological crisis, lack of money, unemployment...It is very difficult for them to take all this problems like a challenge, but they are trying."*

**Armenia:** *"Most of the women staying at Women's Rights Center get legal counselling which is stopped only when the beneficiary herself refuses the services, not being ready to take a decisive step to solve the problem. In case of need, before applying to the lawyer, beneficiaries get psychological consulting in order to be able to discuss and solve the problems they face. Women apply to a lawyer to solve problems connected with divorce, allocation of housing, children's upbringing and other similar issues."*

## BREAKING ISOLATION

The shelters offered an opportunity for women to regain their sense of self and community. They were a place where they had a chance to be truly heard, accepted and respected. To help women to express their stories, in some cases, shelters took advantage of new technologies to create virtual communities, functionally breaking isolation, and providing safe spaces for women to reach out and share with others their stories of their voyage of healing.

**England:** *"It's a year today.... since my first ever post! I can clearly remember how nerve-wracking it was ... pouring out my story and quickly turning off my lap-top, too scared to look. ... It's over 3 years since I fled, barefoot, with my young daughter and baby, and my recovery only really began after that first post. ...I've made friends for life on here.....real, beautiful, caring women who understand like no one else can. ... This forum changed my life.....and it's all because of incredible women like YOU.....Thank you"*

**Ireland:** *"We launched Europe's first iPhone App that provides information about domestic violence to victims, friends and family and professionals as well as details of domestic violence services in Ireland."*

**Vietnam:** *"People who greeted me were officers of the shelter – the Peace House. Only a nod of head, a handshake and a hug were enough to warm my heart. There were other two women coming on the same day, but I could not ask for their names because I was exhausted. I only remember people took great care of me and concerned a lot about me. In days my child and I stayed in the Peace House, I took my balance back very fast thanks to the care and sharing of women who had the same circumstances like me... I do not know what to say and how to express my thankfulness, just want to show all of my gratitude to people who established this House and this Project. This place deserves its name – the PEACE HOUSE – for all people like us to find ourselves again!"*

**The Netherlands:** *"It sounds funny perhaps, but to me those first days in shelter were like heaven. A room for myself and my children. No eyes staring at me, wanting to control everything I did. A safe place, were people were caring and took interest in me as a person and mother."*

# Challenges we faced...



The shelters were generally challenged by a lack of funding and government support. With limited resources and in some cases little societal support, they struggled to provide refuge and a wide range of interrelated supports in what were often difficult circumstances.

*Shelters operating in high conflict areas/war zones: 4* [5]
*Shelters contending with a lack of security: 11* [6]

## POLITICAL INSTABILITY, CIVIL UNREST, & WAR

Shelters operating in high conflict, war torn or politically unstable areas face additional challenges to maintaining operations within the broader context of social unrest, ethnic conflict, and in a growing number of cases, the use of violence against women as a weapon.

In addition, the dispossession of Aboriginal lands, and the imposition of alien modes of governance began a cycle of social, physical and spiritual destruction that creates significant safety challenges for those shelters delivering services on aboriginal reserves.

## LACK OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING

**United States:** *"The economy has impacted the resources for shelters and programs, and the economy has made it harder for survivors to find jobs."*

**Ireland:** *"The core funding for SAFE Ireland was terminated, however extensive lobbying and commitment from domestic services is working to overturn this decision. Over 1 million euros has been cut from domestic violence services since 2008. (11% cut nationally, while some services have had up to 35% of their core funding cut under austerity measures.)"*

[5] *Australia, Canada, Guatemala, Israel*

[6] *Armenia, Austria, Chile, Cyprus, Germany, Guatemala, Iceland, Pakistan, Peru, Sweden, Vietnam*

The global recession has created an environment of economic and governmental instability with far reaching effects. Failing markets have lead to high unemployment; declining revenues have contributed to a reduction in government benefits and a decline in their support for essential social services - including funding for women's shelters.

*25 countries highlighted lack of government funding as a challenge to providing services.*[7]

The full impact of the recession, funding cuts, and government policies of budgetary restraint on the wellbeing of community's most vulnerable members is yet to be seen. The effects of decreasing employment opportunities and shrinking access to government benefits may directly impact women lacking economic resources - they may feel they have no option but to stay with their abuser.

**Denmark:** *"In Denmark, shelter managers work with women to assess how long a battered woman should stay at a shelter. But shelters are feeling pressure from the municipalities paying for the stays. Due to tight budgets, the municipalities want as short a stay as possible. The average cost of one days stay is 1.500 DKK*[8]*. The State refunds 50 % of the municipal spending."*

**Italy:** *"The worst thing in Italy: there is no national funding. Only a few big centers (about 10-15) manage to pay professionals with local government funding. This funding is never long lasting and stable as they are continuously re-contracted. The rest of the shelters depend upon their volunteer base. There are only 61 shelters in all of Italy because many women's NGO's can't afford to open a shelter; therefore they have only local help lines and consulting/crisis centers with no accommodation possibilities."*

The potential is very real that there may be an even greater demand for shelter services to meet the needs of marginalized and economically disadvantaged women fleeing violence. Unemployed women, children, seniors, migrants, persons without status, individuals with disabilities, and sex trade workers may all be at greater risk of abuse.

**Germany:** *"The help in the women's shelter is often not enough for the women who face multiple problems (e.g. young mothers). The employees are constantly trying to get better and more secure funding (e.g. through youth welfare) for more staff and to meet the real needs of the women. It is a continuous struggle to fight for funding, there is no security at all and no possibility to offer care after the women leave the shelter."*

Meeting the increasing demand for service is of immediate concern to all of us - shrinking resources are already one of the greatest challenges faced by members of the Global Network. Overwhelmingly, shelters noted their greatest challenge was a lack of government funding and diminishing supports for women once they leave the shelter.

**Iceland:** *"It is very hard to find places for rent in Reykjavik today and it is very expensive to rent an apartment."*

**Austria:** *"Beneficiaries can stay in our shelter over 3 months. Sometimes if they don't have any place to go, we make this period longer, 6 months. In some cases, we had beneficiaries who stayed in our shelter over a year."*

Poverty, lack of affordable housing, and limited social supports created additional barriers for women wishing to leave abusive situations.

[7] *Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Estonia, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein, Nepal, Nicaragua, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, Vietnam*

[8] *Approximately 200 EUR*

A number of shelters noted that women and children had nowhere to go to from the shelters and lacked the resources to move on with their lives. Minorities, women without status, and seniors were particularly vulnerable.

*In 17 countries, low wages for staff were cited as a challenge to shelters providing service in their communities.[9] In 9 countries, shelters struggled to find trained professional staff.[10]*

**Australia:** *"Appreciate the assistance to secure housing and have somewhere safe to stay.... Challenges of being indigenous and trying to secure housing in a competitive rental market and a shortage of public housing due to high demand."*

## STRUGGLING TO MEET STAFFING NEEDS

Without adequate funding, shelters struggled to meet their staffing needs, attract and retain professional staff, and maintain the range of necessary services.

**Australia:** *"Only two domestic violence workers were rostered to work today due to funding cuts."*

With limited government support, shelters were taxed to find the resources they needed to offer reasonable wages for staff and the professional services women and children require to leave abusive relationships and to end the cycle of violence.

**Sweden:** *"Women's shelters are not supported so well in Sweden. Many are having problems with getting money from their community. Politicians think that women's shelters can be run only by volunteer workers."*

However, staff at the shelters remained positive, finding fulfillment in the awareness of the role their work plays in supporting the resilient women and children who find their way to the shelters and leave them knowing they are no longer alone.

**Albania:** *"Our staff is very dedicated and likes to work with the victims of domestic violence. We have a motto as a staff: together we can make a difference."*

*No national violence against women policy reported by 8 countries participating in Global Data Count 2011. Armenia, Canada, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Nicaragua, Pakistan*

**Cyprus:** *"Dealing with domestic abuse and battered women is very challenging and sometimes even dangerous. However, seeing how these people recover through their traumas over time is so rewarding that compensates for all the negatives of this profession."*

## LACK OF SUPPORTIVE NATIONAL LEGISLATION

While advances in the development of national legislation have been made in some countries

[9] *Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Nicaragua, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, United States, Vietnam*

[10] *Australia, Canada, Chile, Guatemala, Ireland, Peru, Portugal, Sweden, Vietnam*

(Azerbaijan, Nicaragua), others pointed to the need for more effective legislation and stronger commitment by governments and law enforcement agencies in the implementation of measures to combat domestic violence. Delay and lack of will to implement legislation puts women at continued risk of violence.

**Pakistan:** *"NGOs are initiating dialogues for smooth implementation of ... laws and maybe we succeed in making some procedural changes in police institutions and judiciary but what about our culture that protects men?"*

A number of countries noted concern as to the repeal of legislation that were viewed as beneficial to the safety and protection of women and the larger community.

**Canada:** *"Conservative MPs [passed] their bill [C-19] to abolish the long-gun registry and destroy all its records ... Bill C-19 ... [will] end the legal requirement for owners of rifles and shotguns to register their firearms under a federal gun control law inspired by the 1989 École Polytechnique massacre."*

*Poor legislation or bad implementation contributing to challenges faced by shelters 18 countries.*[11]

## FEMICIDE

**Chile:** *"In Chile up to today there are 16 femicides and 4 of them in the region of Araucanía, and there are 82 frustrated femicide attempts in the country."*

**Pakistan:** *"We offer shelter to women free of charge... our government spends millions every year but what happens to many women who return home? Many are murdered during court trials either on their way to the court or in the court and some are killed when they return home. Government cannot offer protection to women in their homes and if there are no complainants who will fight their case. Culture is stronger than religion and in Pakistan women are victims of traditional practices."*

**Italy:** *"In 2011, 127 femicides were committed. The government lacks specific measures for data collection. Femicide and domestic and sexual violence are strongly connected."*

The practice of gender-based murder, in particular by a woman's intimate partner, is the most violent offense against women. In a number of countries, steps are being taken to address this growing problem through policy and legislation specifically targeting the perpetrators. Guatemala and Chile have both taken steps to create legislation and to develop judicial process to address the crime of femicide.

**Taking Action Against Femicide - Armenia**

*After the death of twenty year old Z., who was viciously beaten to death by her husband and mother in law, a Coalition to Stop Violence Against women was created in Armenia, consisting of seven local non-governmental organizations, which aims at calling for justice in the death of the woman, so that a fair and just verdict is issued in the case against her abusers.*

*The members of the Coalition actively participated in the court session of Z.'s husband, organizing different activities and inviting media representatives to increase awareness. One of the successful actions was a march devoted to her memory, during which a petition was organized to call for a fair and just verdict for the murderer. The march was continued with silent candle lighting. At the end of the march the petition was handed to the Government of Armenia and to the General Prosecutor's Office demanding fair trail process and fair verdict on Z.'s murder.*

[11] *Albania, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Germany, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Nepal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Sweden, Vietnam*

# Public Education, Advocacy, & Prevention



Change is possible. Shelters highlighted a number of positive developments in efforts to bring about greater awareness of the societal impact of domestic violence. Especially significant activities include the organization of shelters into supportive networks, national prevention and awareness campaigns, programs working with men to bring about change, and in some cases, new national legislation to combat violence against women.

**Germany:** *"The German Bundestag voted for a national women's helpline that will be introduced in 2012."*

**Mexico:** *"Allocation of nearly $10 million to fund 41 shelters ... [W]ork beginning by an interagency group to formulate public policy for shelters."*

**Georgia:** *"More and more survivors are seeking our services. A 24 hour hot-line helps them receive consultations any time. Services of the State Fund help them begin new life free from violence and be stronger and motivated. Support is ... what they need most of all."*

A wide variety of innovative advocacy and prevention programs were noteworthy accomplishments in the reporting countries, including:

- Toll free help lines (Chile, Georgia, Germany)
- National, state/provincial or municipal plans to reduce violence against women and their children (Australia, Canada, Italy, Vietnam)
- Opening of new shelters (Albania, Chile, Iceland)
- Establishment and strengthening of networks and alliances to combat violence (Australia, Austria, Sweden)
- Strengthening of supports to victims of violence in family court systems (Australia, Canada)
- Development of public awareness conferences, resources and web-based tools (Austria, Canada, Chile, England, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Sweden)
- Days of action against violence (Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Vietnam)
- Research studying the costs, prevalence and roots of violence against women and in same sex relationships (Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden)
- First national outcome evaluation study of domestic violence support and information services published (Ireland)

**Sweden:** *"In 2011, the governing body that dictates how social services are run published a handbook that specifies what responsibilities different levels of government have when it comes to providing help for women who have been victims of violence/abuse. This has led to a better working environment between women's shelters and the municipalities they are located in."*

## ADVOCACY

**Europe:** *"In May 2011, the Council of Europe released the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. It is the first legally binding instrument in Europe to create a comprehensive legal framework to protect women against all forms of violence. By December 2011, 18 countries had signed the convention, but it has yet to be ratified."*

In addition to international efforts by the Council of Europe, national policies addressing violence against women were instituted in two participating countries (Azerbaijan, Nicaragua). Efforts were also underway in others to create legislation and policy that will protect women and children from continued abuse through the institution of restraining and protection orders. Initiatives included partnerships to provide better coordination of law enforcement and legal systems in the protection of women and children and the prosecution of perpetrators of violence. Forward-looking legislation included:

- CEDAW/femicide laws (Chile, Taiwan)
- Laws against human trafficking (Chile)
- Domestic homicide reviews (England)
- Domestic violence protection orders (England, Iceland, Sweden)
- Specialized courts to deal with family matters and domestic abuse (Australia, Canada)
- Anti-sexual harassment in the workplace legislation, laws against forced marriage, Quran marriage, and acid throwing (Pakistan)
- Parents with a child in common are now able to apply for Safety Orders without any specific duration of cohabitation required (Ireland)

**England:** *"The implementation of ... legislation requiring domestic homicide reviews-with the aim of identifying ways to improve the range of responses to protect women at risk. ... Piloting of domestic violence protection orders, to extend the range of legal options available to enable women to remain safe in their own homes."*

## CHANGING ATTITUDES TOWARDS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

**Sweden:** *"The problem that [victims of violence] encounter is that as long as they have someone from the shelter with them when they meet with various government agencies, they get the help they need but when they go on their own looking for help, they are not given the respect they should be given and help is not forthcoming.... It is very frustrating for staff to see women leave the shelter, knowing that this lack of help and respect is going to make that woman's adjustment to a new life much more difficult. It can feel as if we are abandoning those who leave, to a municipality that does not give them any support."*

Violence against women has no place in our societies. Cultural attitudes that promote and perpetuate violence against women however are pervasive and deeply seated in continuing global inequities between the genders.

**Estonia:** *"A national survey found that Estonia has the biggest gender wage gap in Europe, and now various organisations are more focused on dealing with this problem."*

Shelters highlighted a number of prevention programs that address these attitudes promoting violence against women including prevention programs and treatment programs for violent men. Other programs focused on bringing men into the effort to address domestic violence.

**Chile:** *"Implementation by SERNAM of centers specialized in assisting men who exert violence... During 2011, our country has the priority of implementing centers specialized in assisting men who exert violence, enabling an integral approach to the problem, through a "re-education" intervention that combines psychosocial support with the purpose of stopping, eliminating or reducing the violence problem and the probabilities of repeats for couples."*

# The 2011 Global Count

| | Country | Number of women helped today | How many were pregnant? | Number of children helped today | Number of women turned away from your shelter today due to lack of resources | Number of children turned away from your shelter today due to lack of resources |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Albania | 9 | - | 18 | 1 | 2 |
| 2. | Armenia | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 3. | Australia | 613 | 30 | 509 | 43 | 0 |
| 4. | Austria | 114 | 6 | 125 | 2 | 3 |
| 5. | Azerbaijan | 97 | 5 | 12 | 60 | 20 |
| 6. | Canada | 2,975 | 146 | 1,614 | 345 | 219 |
| 7. | Chile | 284 | 13 | 377 | 3 | 9 |
| 8. | Cyprus | 3 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 1 |
| 9. | Denmark | 318 | - | 272 | 0 | 0 |
| 10. | England | 6,386 | 215 | 6,952 | 320 | 370 |
| 11. | Estonia | 9 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 12. | Georgia | 955 | 4 | 49 | - | - |
| 13. | Germany | 165 | 6 | 131 | 16 | 5 |
| 14. | Guatemala | 351 | 6 | 76 | 30 | 0 |
| 15. | Honduras | 2 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| 16. | Hong Kong | 36 | - | 30 | - | - |
| 17. | Iceland | 42 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| 18. | Ireland | 556 | 10 | 341 | 10 | 0 |
| 19. | Israel | 135 | 9 | 221 | 6 | 17 |
| 20. | Italy | 283 | 6 | 110 | 4 | 0 |
| 21. | Liechtenstein | 3 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| 22. | Luxembourg | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 23. | Mexico | 134 | 32 | 233 | - | - |
| 24. | Netherlands | 1,698 | - | 1,349 | 127 | 104 |
| 25. | Nepal | 27 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| 26. | Nicaragua | 16 | 0 | 9 | 3 | 2 |
| 27. | Pakistan | 245 | 15 | 130 | 0 | 0 |
| 28. | Peru | 44 | 1 | 100 | 45 | 120 |
| 29. | Portugal | 12 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| 30. | Rwanda | 40 | 10 | 10 | 15 | 1 |
| 31. | Scotland | 839 | - | 428 | 57 | 42 |
| 32. | Slovenia | 78 | 0 | 54 | 2 | 0 |
| 33. | Spain | 7 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| 34. | Sweden | 40 | 2 | 34 | 0 | 0 |
| 35. | USA | 39,773 | - | 25,871 | 6,518 | 3,819 |
| 36. | Vietnam | 15 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| | **TOTAL** | **56,308** | **520** | **39,130** | **7,608** | **4,734** |

*A (-) wherever indicated on the above chart means information was not collected.*

** Taiwan provided annual figures. In addition to numerous services provided, one shelter served 382 women and 380 children.*

# Who is the Global Network of Shelters?




The Global Network of Women's Shelters is made up of **20** shelter organizations from **17** countries.

Its international membership is bound together by the following goals:

1. To be a strong and active global network with a recognized international voice
2. To ensure global awareness of violence against women and their children
3. To support and strengthen the women's shelter movement
4. To promote effective policies and their implementation in order to prevent violence and protect and empower women and their children
5. To promote social change that ends violence and oppression against women and their children

# How was the Global Count Conducted?

## HOW IT STARTED

In September 2008, shelters from around the world came together for the first ever world conference of shelter workers in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. A number of action items were identified at the conference – one of which was the need to conduct a global data count. The first Global Data Count was conducted on one day during the fourth quarter of 2009. These outcomes represented the Global Network of Women's Shelters first attempt at generating a tool to better link shelters and generate appreciation of their vital place in the world. In February, 2010, the results were presented to the Commission on the Status of Women in New York. This was followed by the 2010 and the 2011 Global Data Counts.

## DATA COUNT 2011

Members of the Global Data Count Committee garnered feedback from participants in the 2010 data count and solicited questions for the 2011 data count. An information package was developed and disseminated to the Global Network members, past participants of the 1st World Conference of Women's Shelters, and to those who had expressed interested in attending the 2nd World Conference to be held in Washington in February, 2012.

The questions were translated into Spanish, French, Russian and German and placed online. In some cases, Networks incorporated the questions into their own national or regional counts; in other cases, shelters entered their data through the use of an on line survey. The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters collated the results and produced this report. The draft report was circulated to all participants for comment and review prior to its finalization.

# The Global Network of Women's Shelters

**Executive Committee**

**Co-Chair:** Sue Else, NNEDV, United States of America

**Co-Chair:** Bandana Rana, Saathi, Nepal

**Communication-Awareness Committee Chair:** Maria Stetter, Danner, Denmark

**Governance-Structure Committee Chair:** Pat Vargas, A Safe Place, Canada

**Policy Committee Chair:** Margarita Guille, Inter American Network of Women's Shelters, Mexico

The Interim Global Network Board is comprised of the founding networks and programs from Armenia, Australia, Europe, Canada, Denmark, England, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sweden, United States, and Vietnam.

The following individuals have been supported by their organizations in the development of the Global Network of Women's Shelters.

**Armenia**

Susanna Vardanyan is the founder and President of the Women's Rights Centre. The Women's Rights Centre works to prevent domestic violence against women and their children and to protect women's reproductive and sexual health and rights.

**Australia**

Julie Oberin is the National Chairperson of the Women's Services Network Australia (WESNET).

Margaret Augerinos is the Victorian Representative of WESNET.

Shirley Slann is the WESNET Indigenous Representative of WESNET.

Women's Services Network Australia (WESNET) is the national peak body for women's domestic and family violence services in Australia.

**Canada**

Tracy Gierman is the Executive Director of the Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses, a network of provincial, territorial, regional and aboriginal organizations representing women's shelters and transition houses.

Manon Monastesse, Directrice/ Provincial Director of the Fédération de ressources d'hébergement pour femmes violentées et en difficulté du Québec (FRHFVDQ) which represents thirty-seven shelters in the province of Québec.

Jan Reimer is the Provincial Co-ordinator of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters an umbrella organization of all women's and seniors shelters in the province of Alberta, Canada.

ACWS hosted the first World Conference of Women's Shelters in 2008.

Patricia Vargas is the Executive Director of A Safe Place, a women's emergency shelter operating in Sherwood Park, Alberta.

**Denmark**

Maria Stetter Rubin is the Head of Communications at Danner.

Danner is a privately funded humanitarian organization, working nationally and internationally on stopping violence against women and children.

**England**

Marai Larasi is Joint Chair of Women's Aid Board of Trustees and is also Director of Imkaan.

Nicola Harwin is the Chief Executive Officer of Women's Aid.

Women's Aid is the national charity working to end violence against women and children, co-ordinating a network of over 300 national and local domestic and sexual violence services in England, and campaigning for effective protection from, and prevention of, all forms of gender-based violence. Imkaan is a national organisation, led by black and minority ethnic (BME) women, which works to end violence against BME women.

**Europe**

Rosa Logar is the Program Coordinator for Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) as well as Executive Director of the Domestic Violence Intervention Centre in Vienna, Austria.

Maria Rösslhumer is the Managing Director of WAVE and a director of the Austrian Women´s Shelter Network.

Women Against Violence Europe is one of the main and most influential European-wide networks of women NGOs (women's shelter, counselling and intervention centres, women's helplines, as well as aid organisations for migrant and refugee women). It aims at establishing gender equality by ending all forms of domestic violence against women.

**Iceland**

Gudrun Jonsdottir is founder and a spokesperson for Nordic Women against Violence and represents Stigamot, a counseling and information Centre on Sexual violence.

**Israel**

Ruth Ozery is the director of Na'amat's Shelter For Battered Women in Tel Aviv. NA`AMAT strives to achieve equality between the sexes and full participation of women in social, economic and political spheres. NA`AMAT mobilizes and leads women to bring about social changes by initiating campaigns to influence public opinion and increase public awareness.

**Italy**

Anna Pramstrahler is the Vice-Chair of DIRE, the Italian Women's Network Against Violence. DIRE was established by women NGO's from all over Italy and represents 60 Women Shelters and Antiviolence Centres. As a national umbrella organization, DIRE supports all local centres as they work to towards cultural and social change to end violence against women in Italy.

**Mexico**

Rosa María Salazar is the Director of Red Nacional de Refugios (RNR) an umbrella organization that works to unify and represent the interests of the refuges in Mexico, promoting gender equality and the defense of the human rights of women and their children. They work to improve public policies, programs and services in Mexico and on the American Continent.

**Nepal**

Bandana Rana is the Executive President of Saathi, a national NGO in Nepal. Established in 1992, Saathi works in the area of violence against women and children. In 1995, it opened the first shelter in Nepal and presently runs three shelters for women and four shelters for children.

**Netherlands**

Riekje Kok is the Federatie Opvang's representative to the Global Network and the Executive Director of Stichting Toevluchtsoord, an organization for women shelters in Groningen and Drenthe (two provinces in the northern part of the Netherlands).

Liesbeth van Bemmel is Federatie Opvang's Senior Policy Advisor and Project Manager and provides support for Riekje Kok on the GNWS Board.

The Federatie Opvang promotes the interests of homeless shelters and women's shelters in the Netherlands. The Federation monitors trends and developments, encourages innovation, initiates cooperation at the national and local level and influences policy making.

**Pakistan**

Khola Iram is the Principal Adviser for the Gender Responsive Policing Project (Deutsche Gesellschaft fur International Zusammenarbeit) in Pakistan.

**Rwanda**

Mary Balikungeri is the Executive Director and founder of Rwanda Women's Network, a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting strategies that empower Rwandan women. The organisation has been in existence since 1997, taking over

from its parent organisation Church World Service (USA). The organisation promotes practices that respond to SGBV (sexual and gender based violence) recovery in post conflict settings.

**Sweden**

Katarina Björkgren is the Co-chair of the Swedish Association of Women's Shelters and Empowerment Centres (SKR).

Olga Persson is the Secretary General of SKR.

The Swedish Association of Women's Shelters and Young Women's Empowerment Centres (SKR) is a national association of women's shelters (kvinnojour), young women's empowerment centres (tjejjour), relatives' associations and other organisations working to prevent and put a stop to men's violence against women. The association is not affiliated to any political party or religion. SKR has around 90 member organisations.

**The Americas**

Margarita Guillé Tamayo is the first Executive Coordinator of the Inter American Network of Women's Shelters (RIRE). RIRE was established in 2006 to promote quality services to victims of violence against women and to reduce the rates of femicide suffered by various countries in the continent. Currently there are 17 countries participating actively in the region, including Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Perú, Puerto Rico, United States and Venezuela.

**United States**

Sue Else is President of the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV).

Cindy Southworth is Vice President of Development & Innovation of NNEDV.

Kaofeng Lee is a Safety Net Project & Communications Specialist with NNEDV and the Project Manager of the 2nd World Conference of Women's Shelters.

Cynthia Fraser is a consultant with NNEDV.

Krista Niemczyk is a Public Policy Co-ordinator with NNEDV.

The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), a social change organization, is dedicated to creating a social, political and economic environment in which violence against women no longer exists.

Colleen Schmitt is the Day One® Manager, a statewide program of Cornerstone Advocacy Service (Minnesota, U.S.). Cornerstone offers a continuum of services that builds sustainable self-reliance and revives the human spirit.

**Vietnam**

Nguyen Van Anh, is the Chairwoman of the Center for Studies and Applied Sciences in Gender- Family - Women and Adolescents (CSAGA). The CSAGA is a non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to the implementation of the rights of women and children who are affected by violence and discrimination.




GLOBAL NETWORK
OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS