



The current newsletter was drafted within the framework of cooperation between the General Secretariat for Demographic and Family Policy and Gender Equality (GSDFGE) and UNICEF Country Office in Greece and is the third official report that presents the overall prevention and response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Multiple Discrimination Against Women, from the National Network of Structures (Counselling Centres, Safe Shelters)¹. The situation described in the newsletter is based on the GBV data collected in the database operated by E.E.T.A.A.² and the 24/7 SOS Helpline 15900, covering a three month period – November 2020 and January 2021 - in quarantine conditions/restrictions due to the pandemic of COVID-19 in Greece.

Violence against women, including domestic violence, is one of the most serious forms of gender-based human rights violations and a worldwide phenomenon. 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, which provides a comprehensive framework of legal and political measures for the prevention, protection and prosecution against domestic violence and violence against women. The Convention defines violence against women as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women in the sense that it includes all acts of violence against women on the basis of sex which result in or are likely to lead to physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether in public or in private (Art.3). The Convention defines domestic violence as all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit or between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the survivor. (Art. 3) At the same time, the Istanbul Convention imposes on Parties, which have signed and ratified it, the obligation to

You are not the only one
You are not alone



exercise due diligence in preventing, investigating, punishing and compensating for acts of violence covered by the Convention which are not State agencies. Greece ratified the Istanbul Convention under the Law 4531/2018 and the Convention entered into force in October of the same year. According to European Institute of Gender Equality the victimization of women and girls, repeated violence and the risk of femicides are some of the serious consequences of GBV. The impact of domestic violence on children also is evaluated for the physical and psychological changes / impacts, with the component of their potential morbidity and/or mortality. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a negative impact on the health and well-being most of women in

Greece and especially those of socially vulnerable women and girls with limited access to services such as psychosocial support, education, work, health care, legal aid etc. The executives of the Network of Structures of GSDFPGE are aware that for many women the biggest fear during this pandemic is not only the new coronavirus, but also their inability to escape from their violent partner. The GSDFPGE calls on all women throughout Greece who experience or have experienced GBV and/or multiple discrimination to break their silence and seek support for themselves and their children at the SOS Helpline 15900 Helpline, 43 Counseling Centers and 19 Safe Shelters throughout Greece.

¹ Official Website of Violence Against Women: <http://womensos.gr/en/about-us/>

² The Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Government (E.E.T.A.A.) S.A, has been the institutionalized operational partner of the G.S.F.P.G.E. that supports the creation and maintenance of a Database of the Network (counseling centers and safe shelters)



The current newsletter is covering the period when the Greek Government reintroduced a series of measures to protect public health and to reduce the spread of the virus and the rates of infection from COVID-19 disease. Therefore, this report cannot be used for further generalization and / or analysis of the situation of GBV in Greece.

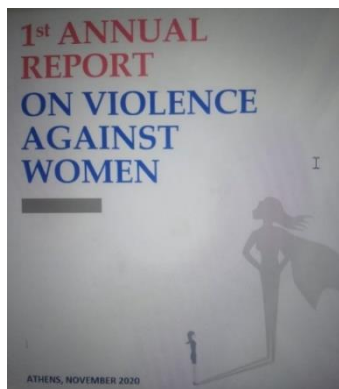
Ministerial appointment of Ms. Maria Syregela and the Renaming of the General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality

In the government reshuffle of January 4, 2021, the Secretary General of Family Policy and Gender Equality, Ms. Maria Syregela undertook a new portfolio at the level of Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, responsible for Demographic and Family Policy (Government Gazette 2/A/5-1-2021). In this context, the General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality, with Presidential Decree 3/2021, was renamed to “ **General Secretariat for Demography and Family Policy and Gender Equality-GSDFPGE**”. Under the responsibilities of the new Deputy Minister the government decision to rename it to GSDFPGE and upgrade the portfolio, aimed at further highlighting and prioritizing both gender equality and demographic policies while strengthen the family policies that are inextricably linked and constitute both horizontal policies with great social impact.

Initiatives and Actions of the GSDFPGE During the Reporting Period (November 2020-January 2021)

Indicatively, the following actions were undertaken:

- On the occasion of November 25th, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, GSDFPGE in collaboration with UNICEF Greece published the **1st Annual Report on Violence Against Women**, dedicated to the memory of Eleni Topaloudi³. The Report presents the institutional framework at international, European and national level for the response to violence against women, with special reference to the Law 4531/2018 which ratified the Istanbul Convention. In addition, the report presents the actions of GSDFPGE in the first period of the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as the detailed presentation of the GBV data from the national operation of the Network of Structures (Counseling Centers, Safe Shelters and the SOS helpline 15900) and the indicators of the GSDFPGE Equality Observatory relevant to violence against women.
- On November 25th, the **Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis** met online with the executives of the Network of Structure of the GSDFPGE, the Ministry of Civil Protection, the Police Departments of Domestic Violence and other State Bodies⁴.



³ General Secretariat of Demographic Family Policy and Gender Equality. (2020). 1st Annual Report on Violence Against Women. Athens Retrieved from :<https://www.isotita.gr/1%CE%B7-%CE%B5%CF%83%CE%AE%CF%83%CE%B9%CE%B1-%CE%AD%CE%BA%CE%B8%CE%B5%CF%83%CE%B7-%CE%B3%CE%B9%CE%B1-%CF%84%CE%B7-%CE%B2%CE%AF%CE%B1-%CE%BA%CE%B1%CF%84%CE%AC-%CF%84%CF%89%CE%BD-%CE%B3%CF%85%CE%BD/>

⁴ Online discussion with the Prime Minister, 25th of November 20120, Athens. World Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women: Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDzCvGpgeNM&feature=emb_logo



- On November 25th the GSDFPGE in collaboration with actresses published on social media the video spot **"Ask for help, be your strength"**⁵.
- On November 25th, the Directorate of Social Protection and Counseling Services of GSDFPGE participated at the event organised by the National Center of Public Administration and Local Government (EKDDA) entitled: "Violence against women: Good practices on GBV prevention and response during the pandemic COVID-19".



COVID-19 pandemic and VAW- response of Greece and the GSFPG in quarantine conditions

In Greece, during quarantine, the General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality (GSFPG) ensured the accessibility of our network to women survivors across the country (24 counselling centres, 20 shelters, 24/7 SOS helpline 15900), allowing survivors and their children to seek immediate help and support from the network professionals and also ensuring the health and safety of staff and beneficiaries.

The GSDFPGE provided the network staff with guidelines on teleworking, remote GBV case management and data protection. In this context:

- Collaboration with the Hellenic Society of Forensic Medicine and the police domestic violence department.
- For free medical tests for the victims' children collaboration with the organisation "The Smile of the Child".
- Communication with NGOs and CSOs Government TV/social media spot: www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcGfDm0d8d4
- Info newsletter: www.oaedia.gr/en/observability-report-newsletter-pdfs-gr-march-april-2020
- Research Centre for Gender Equality (RCGE), an entity under the auspices of the GSDFPGE, sponsored information campaign on support structures for violence victims on social media.



Hellenic Manpower Employment Organization (OAED) proceeded in modification of employment and entrepreneurship programs as part of the reintegration of women survivors GBV and multiple discriminations⁶

- The Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, Maria Syregela met with the Olympic gold medalist Sofia Bekatorou with the aim on briefing her for the Network of Structures of GSDFPGE and the planned actions on empowering women to break the cycle of violence and seek for support.
- The Directorate of Social Protection and Counseling Services of GSDFPGE in collaboration with UNHCR Greece restarted in January 2021 the National Working Group for Preventing and Combating GBV in refugee and migrant community in Greece.



⁵ General Secretariat of Demographic Family Policy and Gender Equality. (2020). November 25th - International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cl6EYw674g>

⁶ Work reintegration of women survivors of GBV in cooperation with Hellenic Manpower Employment Organization (OAED). Retrieved from <https://www.liberal.gr/news/ergasiaki-epantaxi-gunaikon-thumaton-emfulis-kai-endookogeneiakis-bias-me-ti-sunergasia-oaed-ggopif/343726>



Co-financed European Projects for the Prevention and Response to Violence against Women and Girls in the Refugee and Immigrant Population



- In the framework of the EMPOWER project "Empowerment of professionals and refugee communities for the detection, response and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence in Greece" GSDFPGE produced an information leaflet in Arabic, Farsi, French and English for refugees and migrant women to be informed about available services at the Counseling Centers of the Network⁷.
- The Empower Project published the "Training Manual for the Identification, Management and Prevention of GBV for the front line workers supporting refuge and migrant community in open accommodation sites of ESTIA accommodation program.

- In January 2021, the GSDFPGE and their partners of the Survivors Project "Enhancing services for refugee and migrant GBV survivors" submitted the closure of the project at the EU relevant electronic reporting platform. The project was co-funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the EU, DG-Justice, with partners the Research Center for Gender Equality (KETHI), the Centre for Research on Women's Issues (CRWI) "Diotima" and International Rescue Committee. The basic results of the project were to increase awareness about rights and culturally appropriate services for refuge and migrant women. The increased referrals to service providers by female community focal point and the adapted GBV services meeting cultural and linguistic needs. In addition the improved knowledge, attitudes, skills of professionals and institutional standard operational procedures (SOPs) and the increased European access to best practices and resources.



The Research Center for Gender Equality (KETHI),



KETHI dedicated the month of November 2020 in the fight against GBV. Ongoing activities which were intensified while approaching the 25th the World Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. In particular, on November 23rd the Executives of the 14 Counseling Centers, together with uniformed police officers, carried out information and public awareness actions. Information and communication events in most central parts of the fourteen cities. They talked to the community while distributing printed information material. This is the first time that such an action is carried out at the national level, with the cooperation and support of the GSDFPGE, the Ministry of Citizen Protection and the Hellenic

Police Headquarters. The executives of the Counseling Centers also participated in many informative radio and television programs, while most of their activities during those days were broadcast at many online sites.

⁷ General Secretariat of Demographic Family Policy and Gender Equality. Empower Project. Retrieved from <https://empowerref.gr/en/wp4/>



Indicatively, the following actions were undertaken:



- Public information and awareness-raising activity organized by Arta Counseling Center, the police station for domestic violence and the police women's secretariat of the Arta police officers association through statements, which were broadcast on the 25th of November at the local ArtTv station.
- Between 24-25th of November 2020 the City Hall of Veria was illuminated in orange, a color established internationally by the United Nations to symbolize the fight against violence against women⁸.
- On the World Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women the consultant of the Counseling Center in Zakynthos island Video gave an information interview at the local channel "IONIAN CHANNEL"⁹.
- In the context of 16 Days of Activism Against GBV the Crete Regional Committee for Gender Equality in co-organization with the Counseling Center of Municipality of Heraklion and the Municipal Committee for Equality, on November 26th organised the 1st online conference on "Ending Violence Against Women, Experience and Intervention Practices". The main message of the conference was **"We are painting the world Orange. We Join Forces - We End Violence"**¹⁰.
- Popular local TV personalities participated at the awareness raising campaign **"Stand By Her"** organised by the Women's Counseling Center of the Kavala Municipality¹¹.
- Ahead the International Day Kavala Counseling Center and the NGO Action Team produced an awareness raising campaign through photographing popular to community women in the role of abused women¹².
- The executives of the Kefalonia Counseling Center participated at the local radio, television shows and online discussions by presenting the work of the Women Center¹³.
- The Municipality of Kozani on November 25th sent a strong message about women's abuse in collaboration with the singer Eleni Peta and the song **"Tired Women"**¹⁴.



⁸ Municipality of Veria, 2020. The City Hall of Veria was illuminated in orange <https://www.inveria.gr/2020/11/fotistike-portokali-to-dimarxeio-verias.html>

⁹ Counseling Center in Zakynthos, 2020. IONIAN CHANNEL <https://ioniantv.gr/xamili-ptisi-25-11-2020/>

¹⁰ Counseling Center of Municipality of Heraklion, 2020. 1st Conference on "Elimination of Violence Against Women <https://www.crete.gov.gr/press-releases/1i-diadiktyaki-imerida-tis-perifereias-kritis-perifereiaki-epitropi-isotitas-ton-fylon-kritis-se-syndiorganosi-me-to-dimo-irakleioy-dimotiki-epitropi-isotitas-irakleioy-exaleipsi-tis-vias-kata-ton-gyn/>

¹¹ Counseling Center of Kavala, 2020. Awareness Raising on Violence Against Women https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oy65rQg3r1g&feature=emb_logo

¹² Counseling Center of Kavala, 2020. Awareness Raising on Violence Against Women <https://www.kavalanews.gr/15625-kavala-kampania-imerax-exaleipsis-vias-kata-gynaikon-fotografies.html>

¹³ Counseling Center Kefalonia, 2020. Awareness Raising on Violence Against Women <http://www.kefallonia.gov.gr/pages/posts/25i-noemvrioy-pagkosmia-imerax-exaleipsis-tis-vias-kata-ton-gynaikon-4941.php>

¹⁴ Municipality of Kosani, 2020. Eleni Peta's song "Tired Women" 2020. Awareness Raising on Violence Against Women https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PwR7Chbmtzo&feature=emb_logo



- The Equality Committee of Komotini Municipality in order to send its message to women and all community and at the same time to inform about the women network of structures, created a video with the participation of the local journalists¹⁵.
- The Mytilene Counseling Center on November 25th organised an open event to inform and raise public awareness outside the Municipal Theater of Mytilene.
- The Counseling Center of Trikala in collaboration with the administration of urban local busses painted a bus where for the next six months it will have the well-known slogan **"You are not the Only one, You are not Alone"**¹⁶.
- The Municipality of Chios island in collaboration with the Counseling Center through youtube promotes the information and awareness raising video **"Break Your Silence"**.¹⁷
- On the 25th of November KETHI and UNICEF presented online the Education Guide of the book **"The World Anew"**¹⁸. At the event participated more than 100 local teachers.

Counseling Centres (reference period from 01.11.2020 to 31.01.2021)

It is indicative that, during the reference period, the Counseling Centres of the GSDFPGE Network throughout Greece provided support to a total of **1,189** women survivors of GBV and multiple discrimination, as well as to

Beneficiaries	Violence	Multiple Discrimination	Total
Intake Forms	1,082	107	1,189

third parties that mostly received useful information (i.e. mother, adult daughter of the

survivors etc.). Violence against women¹⁹ during the three month period prevails with **91%** compared to the cases of multiple discrimination against women which amounted to **9%**²⁰. During the reference period, the main source of information for the support structures of the network for women beneficiaries and third parties was: 29% through other entities, 24% through the 15900 SOS Helpline, 12% obtained their information online, 10% by a friend/acquaintance and 5% from other beneficiary. Moreover, 1% of the total supported women received information through television, radio, and print media, while 10% did not provide this information. **Table 1: Women supported at Counseling Centres in Greece (01.11.2020–31.01.2021)** Specifically, during the reference period, 40.9% of women

Region	Total	Percentage
Attica	486	40,9%
Thessaloniki	80	7%
Crete	59	5%
Kavala	54	4,5%
Patra	50	4%
Larissa	29	2,4%
Tripoli	22	1,8%
Serres	13	1%
Lamia	23	1,9%
Corfu	26	2%
Chios	25	2%
Lesvos	9	0,75%
Veria	21	1,7%
Kalamata	21	1,7%
Ioannina	15	1,3%
Alexandroupoli	24	2%
Komotini	24	2%
Other	208	17,5%
Total	1189	100%

¹⁵ Equality Committee of Komotini Municipality, 2020. Awareness Raising on Violence Against Women:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=941OL8IOYXU&feature=emb_logo

¹⁶ Municipality of Trikala, 2020. Awareness Raising on Violence Against Women: https://www.larissacitynews.gr/2020/11/blog-post_771.html

¹⁷ Municipality of Xios, 2020. Awareness Raising on Violence Against Women:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aiha2eYVUq8&feature=emb_logo

¹⁸ KETHI, 2020. «The World from the Beginning» <https://www.kethi.gr/ekdoseis/o-kosmos-apo-tin-arhi>

¹⁹ Refugee/migrant women, women with disabilities, drug addict women, the long-term unemployed women, single parent women, etc.

²⁰ **Note:** unique beneficiaries supported at the Counselling Centres may report both an incident of GBV and an incident of discrimination(s)



received support at a total of 8 Counseling Centres in Attica²¹. A smaller percentage of 7% were reported at the counseling center in Thessaloniki, while 5% of women were supported in Crete Counseling Centres (Rethymno and Heraklion). Moreover, with same percentage 4% received support in Kavala and Patra, respectively and the total of 39.4% received support in the remaining Counseling Centres of the Network²².

Figure 1: Forms of GBV reported by supported women (1.11.2020-31.01.2021) The most common forms of violence for the reference period is domestic violence, amounting to **83%** of the total GBV reported cases in the Counseling Centres throughout Greece. Sexual harassment follow with 2% and 1% were incidents of rape.

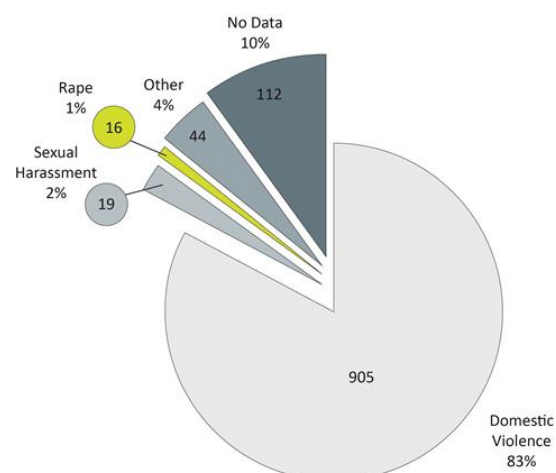
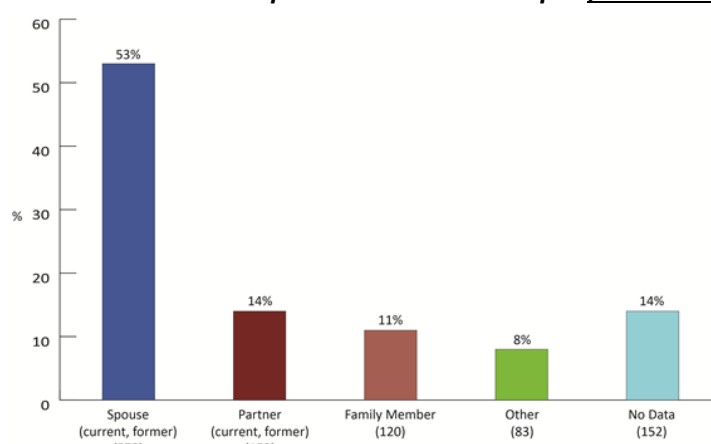


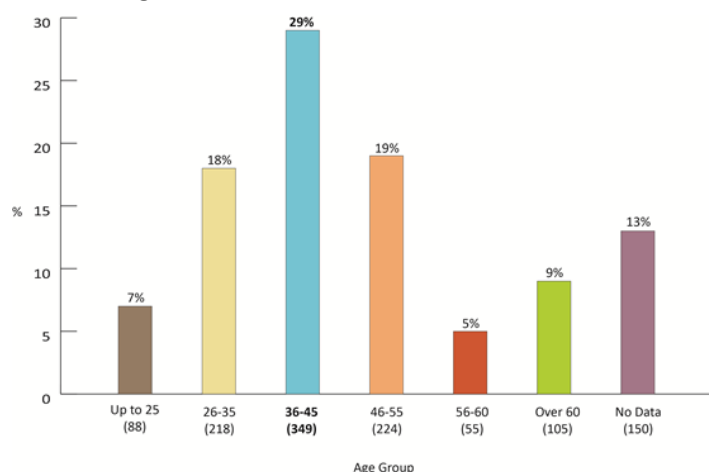
Figure 2: Survivor-Perpetrator Relationship (1.11.2020-



31.01.2021). The data show that, during the reporting period, the relationship between the survivor and the perpetrator was mostly spousal amounting to **53%**, as well as by partners amounting to 14%, while 11% of the total women survivors of GBV that received support by the

Counseling Centres of the GSDFPGE Network of Structures reported that the perpetrator was a family member

(i.e. brother, father, or other close relative). **Figure 3: Age groups of supported women (1.11.2020-31.01.2021.)** As for the age groups of the women survivors of GBV and third parties who received specialised support services and useful information at the Counseling Centres of the Network during this period, the highest percentage, amounting to **29%**, were women between 36 and 45 years old. With almost same percentage 18,5% the age groups of beneficiaries between 26 and 35 years old and between 46 and 55 years old, respectively, while 9% of the total refers to women over 60 years old and 5% from totals women beneficiaries and third parties were between the age of 56 and 60 years



²¹ Note: C.C of Athens (Nikis), C.C Athens (Polykentro), C.C Piraeus, C.C D. Keratsiniou-Drapetsonas, C.C.D. Peristeriou, C.C D. Fili, C.C D. Chalandri, C.C Elefsina Station

²² Note: Multiple factors such as awareness-raising activities, in combination with higher needs of women, due to the concentration of population in these areas. Therefore, presented results should not be taken as an outcome from which specific conclusions can be drawn



old. It is important to note that 7% of the total refers to young girls up to 25 years old, while 13% of the total did not provide information regarding their age.

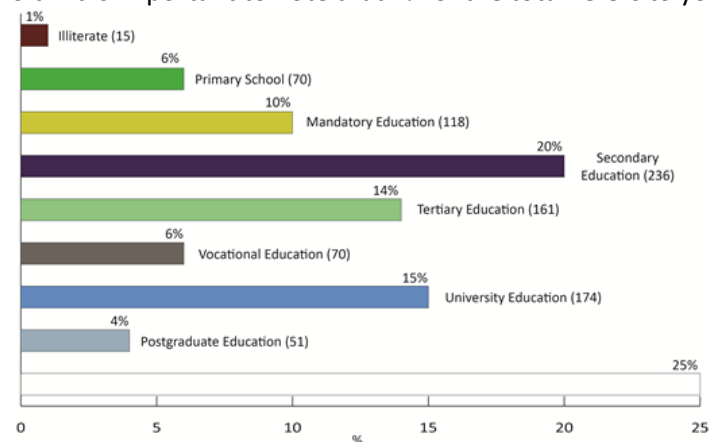


Figure 4: Education level of supported women (1.11.2020-31.01.2021).

Among the characteristics of women survivors of GBV who received support services is their educational level. During the reporting period, the highest percentage of beneficiaries 20% reported having completed secondary education, while 15% of totals have university education and 14% with post-secondary education. Beneficiaries with mandatory education amount to 10%, follows with almost same percentage 6% beneficiaries who have completed vocational education and primary school, respectively. A smaller percentage, at 4%, includes beneficiaries who have completed postgraduate studies. Lastly, 25% of the totals did not provide this information.

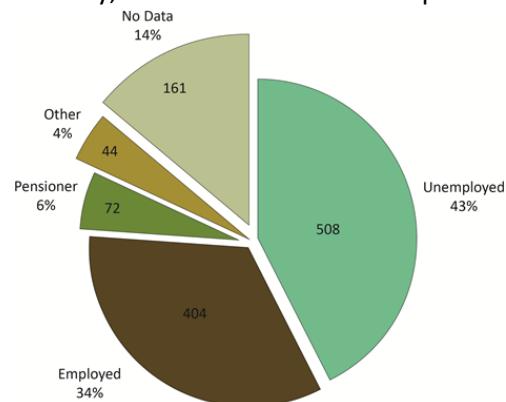
beneficiaries who have completed vocational education and primary school, respectively. A smaller percentage, at 4%, includes beneficiaries who have completed postgraduate studies. Lastly, 25% of the totals did not provide this information.

Figure 5: Employment status of supported women (1.11.2020-31.01.2021).

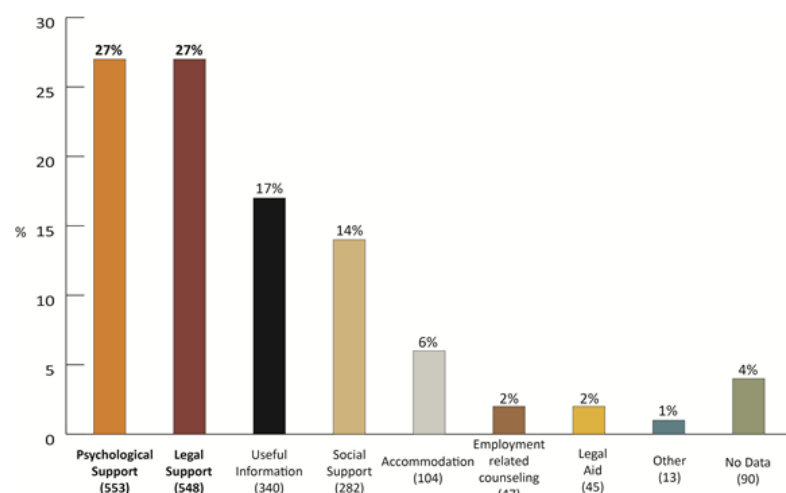
Regarding the employment status of women who received supporting services from the Counseling Centres throughout Greece during the reporting period, 43% appear to be unemployed, 34% are employed, 6% are pensioners, while 14% of the total did not provide this information. Of the women seeking specialised support at the Counseling Centres of the Network during the reference period, 75% stated they are Greek, 8% refugee women and 2% migrant women living in Greece, while 15% did not provide this information.

Figure 6: Requests by supported women (1.11.2020-31.01.2021).

Regarding survivors individual service requests 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, 14% of the total received social support, 6% requested safe accommodation at the Women's Shelters, while with the same percentage 2% of women received employment counseling and legal aid. Moreover, regarding the interpretation services provided by the NGO Metadrasi, through its cooperation with UNICEF Greece and KETHI, and based on the

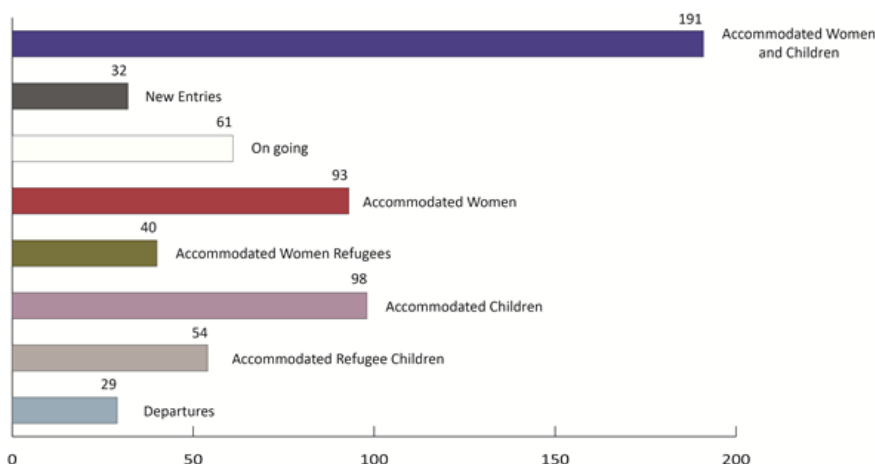




priorities set out by the GSDFPGE, with the goal of increasing accessibility of refugee and migrant women survivors of GBV and multiple discriminations to the Network of Structures during the reference period, in total **38** women received support via interpretation at 7 Counseling Centres and 11 at Women's Shelters. The main languages spoken by the survivors were French, Arabic, Farsi, Kurdish, Kirmanji and Sorani, Lingala, Urdu, Dari and Albanian. In addition, **81** sessions were supported with interpretation (both in Counseling Centers and Women's Shelters), primarily through the telephone/Skype calls (49 sessions) and to a lesser extent via physical presence (32 sessions). The highest percentage of sessions, **78%** was relevant to the provision of psychosocial support to women, 11% concerned legal counseling and with the same percentage 4.5% were referrals of refugee and migrant women survivors of GBV to health services and women sessions in regards to useful information.

Women's Safe Shelters (reference period from 01.11.2020 to 31.01.2021)

According to the standards and regulations of the Network of Structure of the GSDFPGE at the Safe Shelters are accommodated adult women survivors of GBV and multiple discrimination, such as unemployed women, single mother women, Roma women, refugees and immigrants women, women with disabilities, etc. and their children,



for girls up to 18 years old and for boys up to 12 years old²³. **Figure 1: Accommodated women and children (1.11.2020-31.01.2021)**. During the three months period, Safe Shelters accommodated in total **93** women and **98** children (total women and children: **191**), covering about 45.5% of the total occupancy capacity of the Network Shelters²⁴. Out of total of women and their children **40** are refugee women and **54** are refugee children. Based on the date of women's entry at the Shelters there

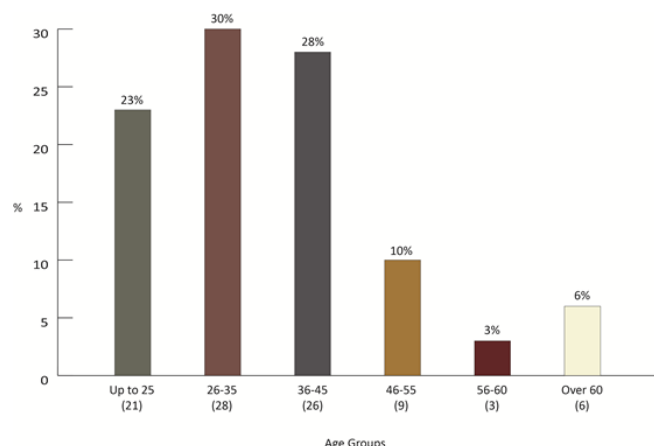
were **31** new admissions, while a total of **29** women and children during the reporting period departed towards their own safe destination.

²³ General Secretariat Demographic and Family Policy and Gender Equality, 2013. Standards and regulations of the Network of Structure of the GSDFPGE https://womensos.gr/wp-content/uploads/Kanonismos_Shelters.pdf

²⁴ Note: 20 Shelter Structures across Greece, about 420 beds for women and their children



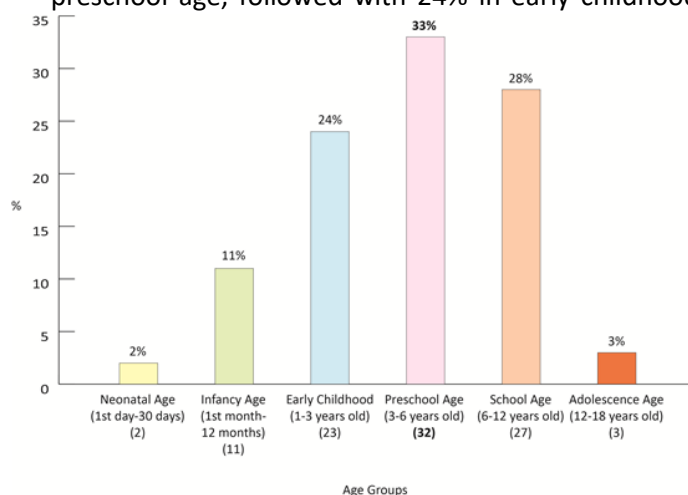
Table 1: Occupancy of Safe Shelters throughout Greece (1.11.2020-31.10.2021). Safe Shelters with the highest percentage **28.3%** from total occupancy of women and children was mostly in Attica region, (shelters in Municipality of Athens, Kordeliou-Evosmou, Piraeus and EKKA Ilion), Patra, Ioannina and Larissa with almost the same percentage of 10%, Agrinio with 8% occupancy, Tripoli and Chania with the same percentage of 6%. The 22% from total refers to women and children accommodated at the rest of the Safe Shelters of the GSDFPGE. Regarding refugee women and children accommodated at the Safe Shelters **39.4%** were in Attica region and with the same percentage 13% of those in Thessaloniki and Patra. 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. **Figure 2: Age groups of accommodated women**



and school-age children with 28%, while 11% of totals were infants. The mothers have the full responsibility for the care of their children, while at the same time the staff of the Shelters through the "social support" facilitate the access of the mothers to enroll their children in school, to make routine appointments with health care services and referrals to specialised centers for children etc.

	Accommodated women and children		Accommodated refugee women and refugee children	
City	Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Attica	54	28,30%	37	39,40%
Patra	20	10,50%	12	13%
Ioannina	18	9,40%	12	13%
Larissa	18	9,40%	6	6,40%
Agrinio	16	8%	3	3,20%
Tripoli	12	6%	5	5,30%
Chania	11	6%	0	0%
Lesvos	7	3,60%	6	6,40%
Volos	7	3,60%	4	4,20%
Thessaloniki	10	5,20%	4	4,20%
Lamia	5	2,60%	5	5,30%
Other	13	7%	0	0%
Total	191	100,00%	94	100,00%

(1.11.2020-31.01.2021) Regarding the age groups of women accommodated at the Safe Shelters, during the three month period and with almost same parentage **29%** were women aged between 26 and 35 and between 36 and 45 years old, followed by young girls aged up to 25 which were at 23% and women between 46 to 55 years old with 10% from totals. Lastly, 6% corresponds to women aged over 60, while 3% were women aged between 56 and 60. **Figure 3: Age groups of accommodated children (1.11.2020-31.01.2021).** For children (98) who were accommodated with their mothers during the reference period, 49 are girls and 49 boys, while their age group mainly concerns 33% of preschool age, followed with 24% in early childhood



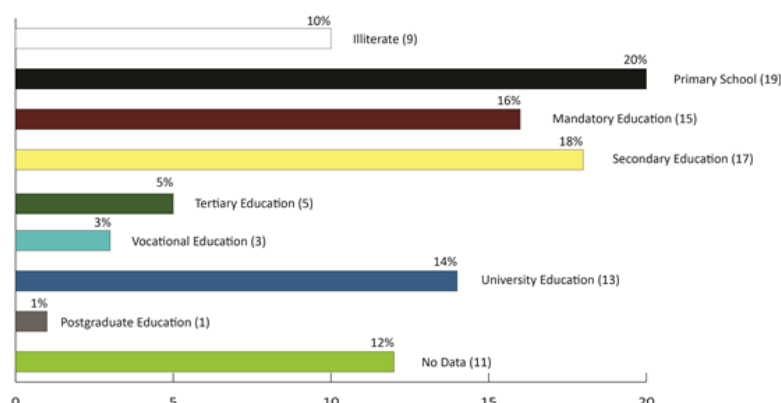
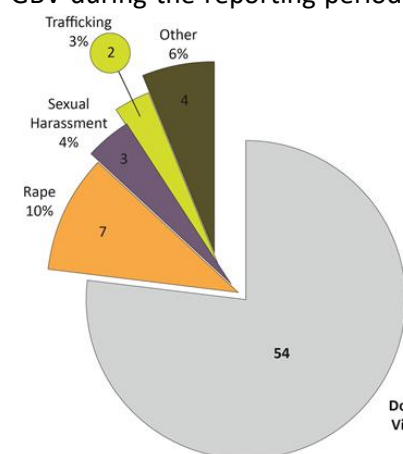
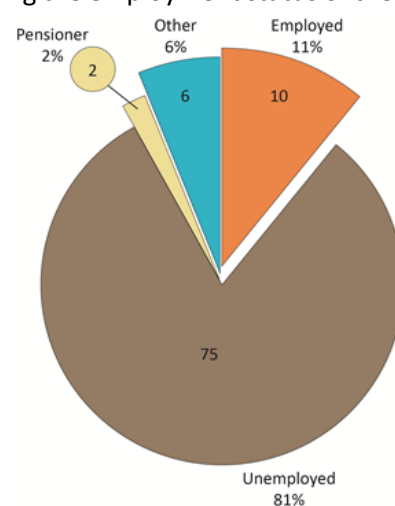


Figure 4: Education level of accommodated women (1.11.2020-31.10.2021)

It is indicative that, during the reference period, the highest percentage of accommodated women, **20%**, have completed primary school and with 16% mandatory education. Accommodated women who have completed secondary education are at 18% from total, while 14% have university degree. Only 5% of the total accommodated women had a tertiary degree, while 3% were with vocational education. Lastly, 10% from

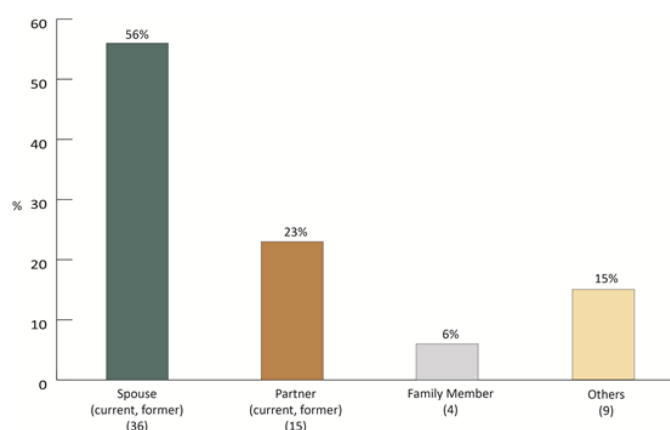
total accommodated women are illiterate and 12% of them did not provide this information. **Figure 5: Employment status of accommodated women (1.11.2020-31.01.2021).**

Regarding the employment status of the accommodated women, the highest percentage of **81%** reported being unemployed, while 11% reported being employed. Women pensioners make up 2% from total women accommodated, 6% reported "Other. Women can receive employment counseling within the Shelter environment and also be referred to other relevant services. **Figure 6: Forms of GBV reported by accommodated women (1.11.2020-31.01.2021)**



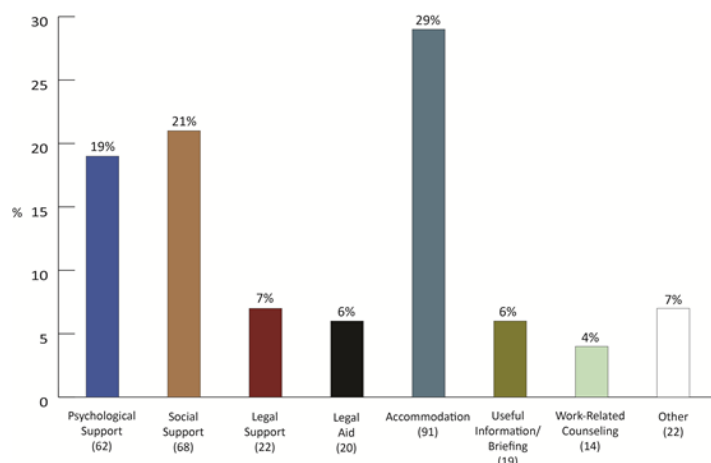
The most prevalent form of GBV during the reporting period was domestic violence, with **77%** from total forms of violence recorded at the Networks Shelters throughout Greece. Incidents of rape followed with 10%, sexual harassment with 4% and trafficking with 3%. **Figure 7: Survivor-Perpetrator relationship (1.11.2020-31.01.2021).**

The three months data provided by the Network Shelters highlight the fact that, the relationship between women survivors and perpetrator was mostly at



56% spousal (current or former), 23% partner (current or former) and 6% reported that the perpetrator was a family member (i.e. brother, father, or other relative). **Figure 8: Requests by accommodated women (1.11.2020-31.01.2021).**

The main individual requests of women accommodated at the Networks Shelters throughout Greece during the three month

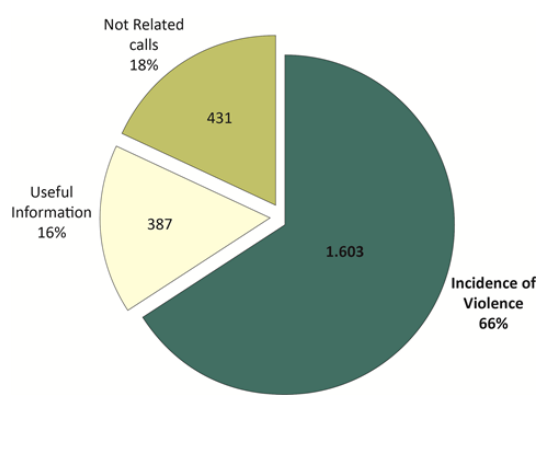


period was the continuation of their accommodation and their children at **29%** from total requests. Following with 21% social support of accommodated women and 19% their psychological support. Request for legal support corresponds to 7%, with the same percentage 6% women that received legal aid and useful information. Regarding the Temporary Accommodation Facilities across the country that the GSDFPGE initiated in April 2020 throughout Greece, until all the necessary medical exams are completed and women and their children can be placed at the Safe Shelters of the Network, during the reporting period in total 13 women were

accommodated and 8 children. Out of the total number of women 7 were refugee and migrant women and 6 Greeks. At the end 5 women and their children were placed at the Safe Shelters of the Network, while the other 8 women left for their own safe destination on their informed consent, while continuing their communication and support with the staff of the Counselling Centres. In addition during the reference time movement certificates were issued for women to access Counseling Centers and Safe Shelters

SOS 15900 24/7 Helpline (reference period from 01.11.2020 to 31.01.2021)

The SOS 15900 Helpline is a nationwide service that enables women survivors of GBV or any third party to communicate with a state agency dealing with GBV. The Helpline is staffed by psychologists and sociologists who provide immediate assistance to emergency incidents of violence on a 24-hour basis, 365 days a year. In addition,

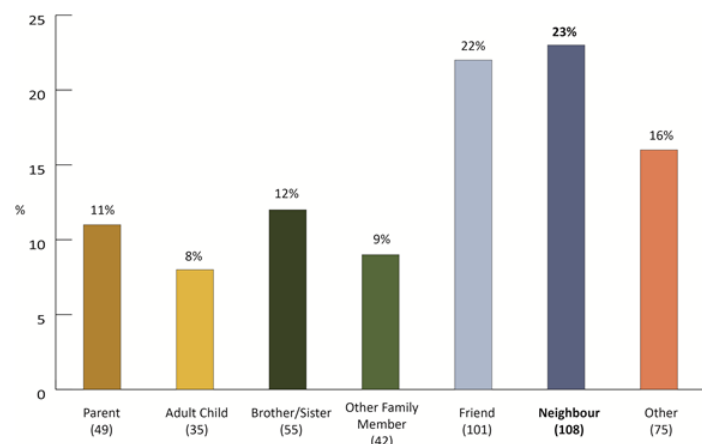


there is the possibility of electronic communication via the address : sos15900@isotita.gr. According to data, the majority of people who communicate with the executives of the Helpline via email are women beneficiaries. Specifically, during the reporting period, the SOS 15900 Helpline received a total of **214 emails**, most of which concerned useful information about response services such as psychological and legal support and safe accommodation of women and their children. **Figure 1: Type of call (1.11.2020-31.01.2021)** During the three month period, a total of **1,990 calls** were recorded, **1,603** of which regarded “incidents of violence” and **387** “Useful Information”²⁵. Of the total calls regarding incidents of violence and useful information recorded by the SOS

²⁵ **Note:** Irrelevant calls, such as pranks, etc. are not analysed in this newsletter

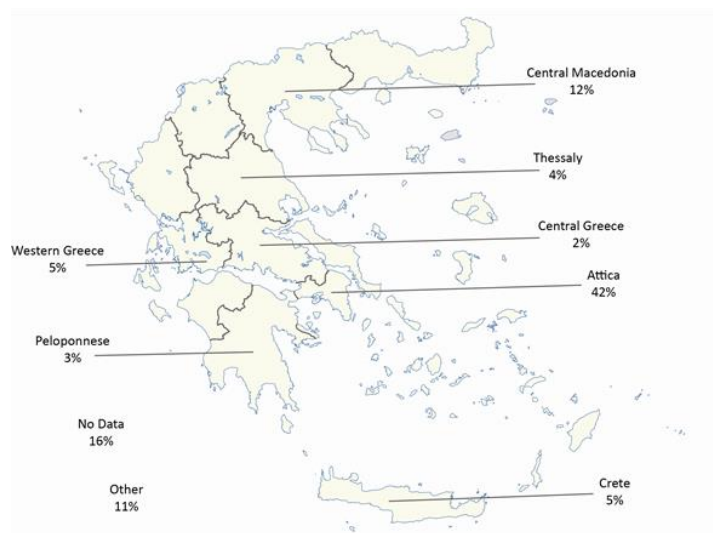


15900 Helpline, 71% were calls by women survivors seeking support and 29% by third parties seeking mostly useful information. **Figure 2: Person who is calling (1.11.2020-31.01.2021).**



Third parties who called the SOS 15900 Helpline were the neighbor with 23% and primarily members of the survivor's family or friends (friend, parent, child, or other relative) with 22%, while with almost the same percentage 11.5% were siblings or parents of the survivor. Lastly calls recorder by the adult child of the survivor were at 8% from total calls. Moreover, **87%** of calls were made by women calling the SOS 15900 Helpline for the first time, while 10% called for the second time, and 3% for the third and fourth time. Women who called the SOS 15900 Helpline for the first time, 10%

had been informed about it from the internet, 9% from the TV, with the same percentage 6% from someone they knew and by another entity, while 69% did not provide this information during the call. Regarding the country of origin of the women who called for the first time the Helpline and received support during the reporting period, **92%** were Greek, 7% were migrants and 1% refugee women living in Greece, while 19% did not provide this information during the call. **Map 1: Regions from which women beneficiaries calls were recorded (1.11.2020-31.01.2021)** During the reporting period the Regions of Greece the highest percentage of calls **42%** were recorded in Attica, 12% in Central Macedonia and the rest of the calls were recorded with almost the same percentage at rest of Regions. Lastly, 16% of total calls did not disclose the place from which they are calling.



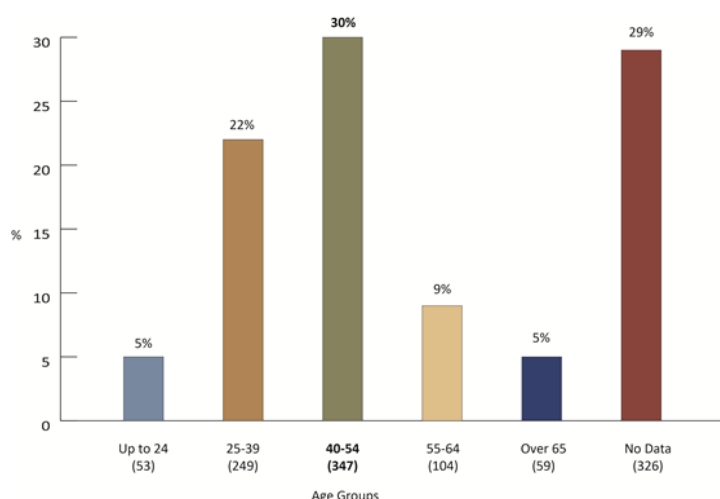


Figure 3: Age groups of women receiving support from the SOS Helpline 15900 (1.11.2020-31.01.2021) Regarding the age group of women who called the SOS 15900 Helpline during the reporting period, it is noted that the highest percentage **30%** represent women aged between 40 and 54 years old, while 22% were women between 25–39 years old, 9% from totals refers to women 55–64 years old, with the same percentage 5% aged over 65 and girls up to 24 years old. Lastly, 29% of the total women that received support from the SOS 15900 did not provide information regarding their age. **Figure 4: Employment**

status of women receiving support from the SOS Helpline 15900 (1.11.2020-31.01.2021) Regarding the employment status of the women who called the SOS 15900 Helpline for the first time during the 3 month period, the majority of **28%** were employed, while 20% unemployed, 11% reported being inactive and 40% from totals did not provide this information. Regarding the education level of accommodated women it is indicative that, during the reference period, the highest percentage **78%** did not provide this information. This can be explained by the fact that during the call beneficiaries are emotionally charged and much emphasis is given to their support by the counsellor of the Helpline. In addition 11% of women who call for the first time it seems to have completed university education, while 4% have completed secondary education.

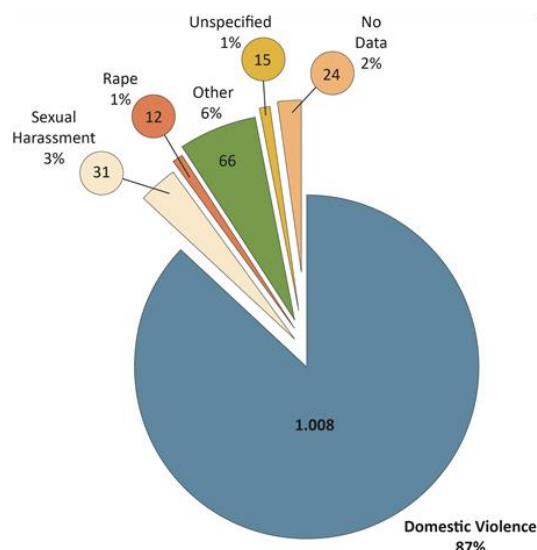
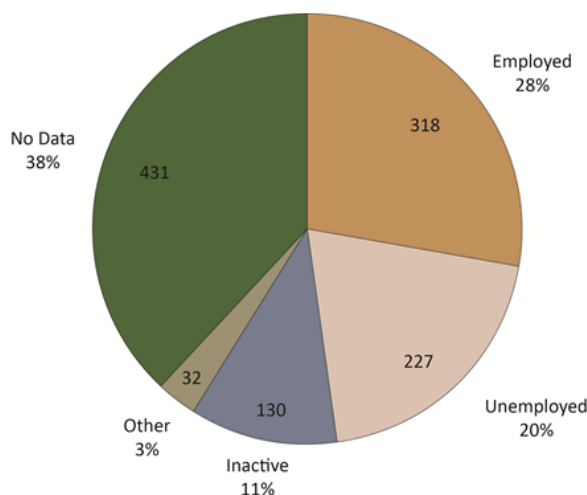
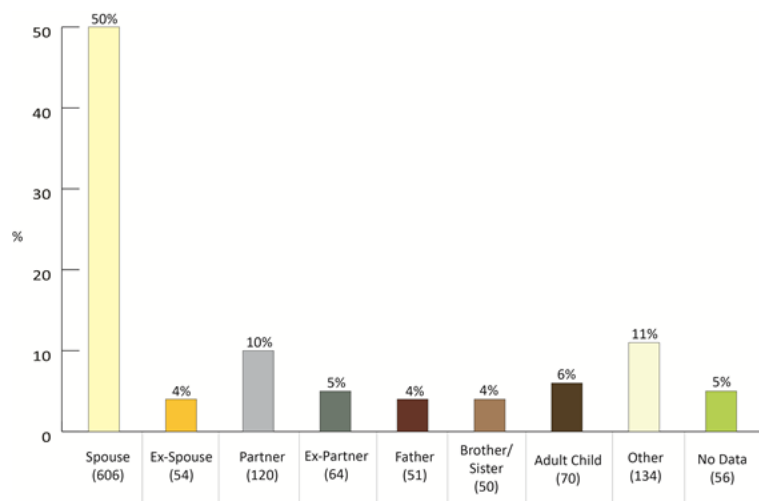


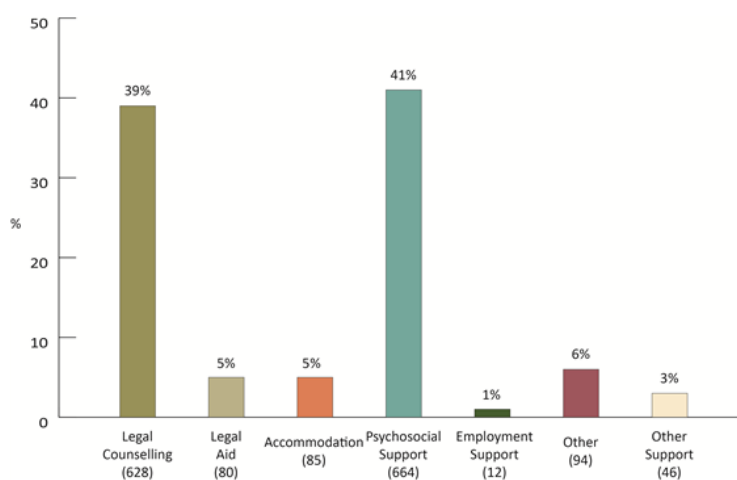
Figure 5: Form of violence reported by women beneficiaries at the SOS Helpline 15900 (1.11.2020-31.01.2021) During the reporting period, domestic violence made up **87%** of the total forms of violence recorded at the SOS Helpline 15900. Moreover, 3% of the women receiving support reported sexual harassment, 1% reported rape, 6% of the total reported “Other” form of violence, and 2% did not provide this information. The main forms of violence within the context of domestic violence were psychological violence at **33%**, verbal violence at 30%, physical violence at 28%, economic violence against women was recorded at 6%, while sexual violence within intimate partner violence at 2.5%. Regarding the family status of women who reported incidents of domestic violence 59% have children, 20% reported not having children, 21% did not provide this information. In



addition with the same percentage 1% of women who reported an incident of domestic violence were pregnant, single mothers with minor child (less than 16 years old) and women with disabilities, while 10% reported having health issue problems. **Figure 6: Survivor-Perpetrator relationship (1.11.2020-31.01.2021) as recorded by women who called the SOS helpline.** Regarding the relationship between the survivors of GBV and the perpetrator it seems that at a percentage of 50% was the husband. Follows the partner with 10% and at the same percentage 4.5% an ex-husband or ex-partner, while the father, other family member and a third know person

are distributed at almost the same rate of 4%. **Figure 7: Women Beneficiaries requests (1.11.2020-31.01.2021).**

The main women's individual requests recorded by the SOS 15900 Helpline during the reference months were for psychological support at **41%**, followed by 39% legal advice and support while a significant number corresponds to the requests for legal aid and safe accommodation of women survivors and their children. The above data show once again that domestic violence is a timeless social phenomenon of GBV, a socially acceptable behavior with ever-increasing incidence, without discriminating on social classes, educational and economic level of women and girls. GSDFPGE is calls on both women and third parties not to be silent and to speak out for the violent behaviors that either they survive or fall into their attention.



Below we quote an electronic message (e-mail) from a woman beneficiary that received support during the reporting period from the Psychologist of the SOS Helpline 15900

" Thank you very much for the useful information you gave me.. I never expected to ask for help from a counseling center, but you never know.. happy new year.. If anything happens I will contact you "



Priorities of the GSDFPGE

The GSDFPGE works systematically within the framework of the obligations arising from the CoE Convention on the Prevention and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) by incorporating those new actions and initiatives in the new National Action Plan 2021-2025 which is under development. The main axes of interventions are the upgrading of the executive functions of GSDFPGE, including the service provision of the Network of Structures for women survivors of GBV, the inter-ministerial coordination, and the cooperation with the civil society organizations and the international organizations. Finally, the main axes of the new National Action Plan are the design and implementation of training activities on violence against women for public against and private sector executives, the implementation of information-awareness activities and the analysis of GBV data.