



*Quarterly Newsletter Report #5: Policies and Actions of the GSDFPGE
for the Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence
Analysis of Gender-Based Violence Data from the Network of Structures
and the SOS Helpline 15900 (May 2021- July 2021)*

The current newsletter was drafted within the framework of cooperation between the General Secretariat for Demography and Family Policy and Gender Equality (GSDFGE)¹ and UNICEF Country Office in Greece and is the fourth 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 and the SOS Helpline 15900)². The situation described in the newsletter is based on the GBV data recorded in the database operated by E.E.T.A.A.³ and the 24/7 SOS Helpline 15900, covering a three month period – May 2021- July 2021 during the pandemic of COVID-19 in Greece⁴.

Note from the Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs

The 10th anniversary of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence coincides with the health crisis, Turkey's withdrawal from the Convention, and generally challenging women's rights. The implementation of the Convention by the country members has an important impact on the lives of women and men, girls and boys. It has contributed to the public awareness on violence based on gender. In addition, has inspired and brought about changes in the laws and practices. It has led to increasing capacity building training for lawyers, health professionals and security forces. In short, for the past 10 years the Convention has protected thousands of women and girls from all forms of gender and domestic violence by fulfilling its purpose. Celebrating the 10th anniversary from the ratification of the Istanbul Convention, jointly with the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, we co-signed with other competent Ministers of the European Union a statement in support of the Convention. The prevention of any form of violence is not controversial. The protection of survivors of abuse is not disputed. And above all, it is non-negotiable.

The 11th of May this year marks the ten year anniversary since the signature of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in Istanbul, known as the Istanbul



Convention, named after the city where the Convention was first open for signature. Today, it is still the most comprehensive international legal instrument to set out binding obligations to prevent and combat violence against women. The Convention recognises violence against women as a

violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women. So far thirty-four member states of the Council of Europe have ratified it, twelve have signed it – along with the European Union – and it is used as a basis for action by many countries outside Europe. Based on a survivor-centred approach, it offers practical tools to ensure the protection of women and girls, their safety and empowerment and links to the wider goal of

¹ Official website of the General Secretariat for Demography and Family Policy and Gender Equality: <https://www.isotita.gr/en/home/>

² Official Website of Violence Against Women: <http://womensos.gr/en/about-us/>

³ 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)

⁴ **Note:** There is a possibility of a unique beneficiary to receive services from all three Support Structures of GSDFPGE (Counseling Centers, Safe Shelters, and SOS Helpline 15900). For example, a beneficiary can call the SOS Line 15900, visit at a Counseling Center and finally be accommodated in one of the available Safe Shelters of the Network.



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achieving equality between women and men. **The Convention is based on 4 pillars: I. Prevention II. Protection III. Prosecution IV. Coordinated policies.** Over the past 10 years, it has guided numerous states in advancing their legislation and policies in order to prevent and combat violence against women effectively. The Convention makes a difference for women and girls and represents an important advocacy tool. The celebration of its 10th anniversary, despite the unfortunate development of Turkey's withdrawal from the Convention, is about the celebration of its transformative power and the unity behind this landmark treaty. On the occasion of celebrating the 10 years after the adoption of the Istanbul Convention, the German Presidency of the Council of Europe organized an event entitled: «**Gender Equality and the Istanbul Convention** »⁵.

The current newsletter is covering the period May-July 2021 during the Covid-19 pandemic in Greece. Therefore, this report cannot be used for further generalization and / or analysis of the situation of GBV in Greece.

National Legislation Reforms During the Reporting Period (May – July 2021)

- Publication of Law 4808/2021 (Government Gazette A' 101, 19.06.2021), "For the Protection of Labor - Establishment of an Independent Authority "Labor Inspection" - Ratification of Convention 190 of the International Labor Organization for the Elimination of Violence and Harassment in the World of Labor - Ratification of Convention 187 of the International Labor Organization on the Framework for the Promotion of Safety and Health at Work - Incorporation of Directive (EU) 2019/1158 of the European Parliament and the Council on 20th of June, 2019 on the balance between work and private life".



- The Greek parliament voted for law 4808/2021 in which the Convention 190 of the International Labor Organization was ratified to eliminate violence and harassment in the

workplace. Along with other law reforms, especially the provisions and measures that apply the requirements of the Convention, a comprehensive protection grid is established for employees, women and men. It also includes the integration into national law of Directive 2019/1158 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20th of June 2019, related on the work-life balance for parents and caregivers. With the incorporation of the Directive - but mainly with its adaptation to the special conditions and needs of the Greek society, a series of innovative provisions are introduced, such as the 14-day paid paternity leave, the 4-month parental leave for each parent, a subsidy from the Employment Agency -OAED for 2 months, while the paid leaves and the allowance shall be raised to double for single parents. Moreover, for a certain period the law also promotes flexible working arrangements for parents, in order to be able to support their family needs and for the first time the law introduces a 6 month protection from work dismissal for the father starting from the birth of the child.



⁵ Official website of the Council of Europe: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/10th-anniversary>



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Initiatives and Actions of the GSDFPGE During the Reporting Period (May – July 2021)

Indicatively, the following actions were undertaken:

- The new **National Action Plan for Gender Equality (2021-2025)** was published for public electronic consultation on the 13th of July 2021, and all stakeholders and partners could submit their proposals for improvement of its provisions. The new Action Plan posted on the website www.opengov.gr (<http://www.opengov.gr/minlab/?p=5334>) promotes a coherent policy nexus with a



horizontal integration of the gender perspective in all sectoral policies and takes into account both the social and economic environment of women, as well as all the particular conditions that came with the pandemic in Greece. In addition, for the first time a coordinated effort is made from all Ministries so as to integrate their policy proposals from the inclusion of actions that promote gender equality in all planned policies and a process of monitoring their implementation at central, local and regional level is envisaged. The National Action Plan for Gender Equality 2021-2025 is organized around four thematic Priority Axes, each of which focuses on a specific dimension of gender equality policy. The four Priority Axes are:

- 1. Preventing and Combating Gender-Based and Domestic Violence** and Protecting Women from all Forms of Violence and the Importance of Awareness Raising among Stakeholders and the Greek society.
- 2. Equal Participation of Women in Decision-Making / Leadership Roles**, Aiming to Enable Women and Girls to Participate in Public Affairs and Prepare them for Positions of Responsibility.
- 3. Equal Participation of Women in the Labor Market** to Strengthen Women's Employment and Entrepreneurship and Harmonization Between Work and Personal Life.
- 4. Gender Mainstreaming in Sectoral Policies**, in order to Highlight its Benefits for everyone Involved, Society the Economy and Development.



The Hellenic Post in collaboration with the Secretary General of Demography and Family Policy and Gender Equality depicted the 4 Priority Axes of the National Action Plan for Gender Equality 2021-2025 on postage stamps, which already are in a public circulation. The post stamps are sending a message against domestic violence, gender segregation, labor discrimination and the equal participation of women in a society where all its members share equally goods, rights and

obligations in all areas: at work, in politics, in power, in free time, care, family.



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- The Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs conducted an informative online meeting on the Istanbul Convention with representatives of Civil Society Organizations and the Greek Police.



- In addition, the Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs visited the Counseling Centers in Chalkida and Katerini and the Safe Shelter in Thessaloniki. During the visit the Deputy Minister was briefed for the operation of the structures of the GSDFPGE network.

- Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs and the Secretary General of Demography, Family Policy and Gender Equality participated at the Special Standing Committee on Equality, Youth and Human Rights of the Parliament.

The main topic of discussion was "**metoo_greece**"⁶ and the measures to prevent and combat violence in public life. In addition the members of the Committee were briefed on the steps taken by the GSDFPGE to protect women from all forms of violence or harassment.

- The Minister, the Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs and the General Secretariat for Demography and Family Policy and Gender Equality organised a meeting with Civil Society Organizations. At the center of the discussion were the initiatives on regulations for prevention and response to sexual harassment and violence in the workplace.



- In a joint event on July 14th the Ministry of Citizen Protection and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs presented their actions for responding to domestic violence, in the presence of the President of the Hellenic Republic

- On the 30th of July 2021, the World Day Against Trafficking in Human Beings, the Minister and the Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs participated at the joint meeting of the Committees on Social Affairs, Public Administration, Public Order and Justice and the Subcommittee on Combating Human Trafficking and Exploitation of in Parliament.

- As part of its cooperation with International Organizations, GSDFPGE had the following meetings:**



- On 27th of May 2021 the Secretary General had a meeting with Mr. Luciano Calestini, Representative of UNICEF Office in Greece and Ms. Antigoni Angelaki, UNICEF Child Protection Specialist.

- Respectively, on 3rd of June 2021, the Secretary General, had a meeting with Mrs.

Mireille Girard, UNHCR Representative in Greece, Aneta Ostasz UNHCR's



⁶ State Website-To metoogreece.gr: <https://metoogreece.gr/>



**Quarterly Newsletter Report #5: Policies and Actions of the GSDFPGE
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Analysis of Gender-Based Violence Data from the Network of Structures
and the SOS Helpline 15900 (May 2021- July 2021)**

Community- Based Protection Officer and Tatiana Papanastasiou, Protection Associate of the Protection Unit at UNHCR Greece.

- The Manpower Employment Organization- OAED in collaboration with GSDFPGE introduced for the first time the employment program of Vulnerable Social Groups for women survivors of gender-based and domestic violence. The program subsidizes for 12-24 months 90% of the total cost (paid and non-paid), up to 800 € per month for a full time position and 400 € for a part-time job, for the recruitment of persons that are unemployed by companies and employers of the private and social sector engaged in economic activity⁷. Within the framework of this program, during the reference period, in total 40 certificates were given to beneficiaries of the Network of Structures in order to submit an application to OAED employment program.



- The review of the composition of the National Project Management Team, responsible for the monitoring of the implementation of the Istanbul Convention is ongoing.

- Following the actions that the GSDFPGE started in September 2020 in the context of the extension of the current programming period 2014-2020 until 2023, is starting new actions under the requirements of the Istanbul Convention. In particular:
 - Specialized Support of the Gender Equality Monitoring Mechanism-Structure" (IIS 5001377) **sub-project 7** entitled: "Study on the profile of perpetrators of domestic violence, the evaluation of intervention programs for perpetrators of intimate partner violence aimed at preventing domestic violence " and the **sub-project 9** entitled: "Awareness raising activities under Article 13 of the Istanbul Convention".
 - "Horizontal nationwide measures to combat violence against women" (IIS 5000490) **sub-project 7** entitled: "Awareness raising activities for the new implementation period" and the **sub-project 8** entitled "Horizontal risk assessment tool for survivors of domestic violence".
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and after a publication of a legislative act Δ1α / ΓΠ.οικ.10002 KYA (Government Gazette B '768 / 26.2.2021, article 8)⁸, executives and beneficiaries of the Network of Structures can receive free of charge COVID-19 rapid tests.



- The Directorate of Social Protection and Counseling Centres of GSDFPGE in the frame of its cooperation with UNICEF office in Greece launched an assessment carried out by the Institute of Child Health: "Programmatic Review of Services available and accessible to Children in the shelters of the Network of the GSDFPGE".

⁷ PRESS RELEASE-OAED: <https://www.oaed.gr/storage/apaskholisi/06-07-2021-nthe-met/dt-06-07-2021-nthe-met.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2nUV-tTT5kF1YSEtx2BW8t9gufCDQB4BaAvsVpnImAWKCFbaNyLesRc9Y>

⁸ Government Gazette : https://www.karagilanis.gr/files/kya_d1a_gp_oik_10002_2021.pdf



*Quarterly Newsletter Report #5: Policies and Actions of the GSDFPGE
for the Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence
Analysis of Gender-Based Violence Data from the Network of Structures
and the SOS Helpline 15900 (May 2021- July 2021)*

Initiatives and Actions of the Directorate of Social Protection and Counseling Services of the GSDFPGE during the Reporting Period (May – July 2021)

Indicatively, the following actions were undertaken:

- The Directorate of Social Protection and Counseling Services participated at the training organised for the executives of the newly established Counseling Center of Municipality of Athens.
- In addition, in the context of its cooperation with the Greek Parliament, the Directorate of Social Protection and Counseling Services shared the following written contributions: **a.** “to the responsible Directorate of European Affairs, in view of the plenary work of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean”, **b.** “an information note for Part II Session 2021 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe”, **c.** “for the purpose of briefing the National Delegation in the CoE, the Directorate forwarded relevant data from the Network of Structures as well as its policies to prevent and respond to violence against women”.
- The Directorate systematically contributes by sending “evidence based information notes” to international bodies for the prevention and response to violence against women in Greece. In this context, during the reporting period, the following contributions were shared: **a.** “to the Permanent Mission of Greece to the UN regarding the contribution of Member States in relation to violence against migrant women workers, with a view to drawing up a report”, **b.** comments on the NATO Draft Policy Text on the “Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence”, **c.** submitted comments with a view to discussing and voting on a report on the impact of COVID-19 on children's rights, at a meeting of the Committee on Social Affairs of the Council of Europe”.
- The Directorate contributed by sending comments to the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings in view of the country's second evaluation, regarding the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking by the Group of Experts (GRETA).



- Respectively, contributed to the competent Independent Department of International and European Cooperation of the GSDFPGE, in the context of the preparation of the 8th National Report to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

Operations of the National Gender-Based Violence Sub-Working Group (GBV - SWG)

**GBV
Sub-Working Group**

The SWG for the protection and response to GBV under the auspices of the UNHCR Greece office, co-chaired by the GSDFPGE is functioning as an information sharing and discussion forum aiming to– among other priorities– coordinate and strengthen the actions taken by actors who are active in the field of GBV, including trafficking in



**Quarterly Newsletter Report #5: Policies and Actions of the GSDFPGE
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Analysis of Gender-Based Violence Data from the Network of Structures
and the SOS Helpline 15900 (May 2021- July 2021)**

human beings. The target population is refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons – survivors of GBV, including LGBTQI persons and victims of trafficking. Participants in the SWG include representatives of civil society organizations, NGOs and international organizations as well as government agencies who are active in above areas, focusing on the provision of services to the vulnerable groups of asylum seekers and refugees.

Indicatively, the following actions were undertaken by the GBV - SWG during the reporting period:

- Completion of the Mapping tool in Greek and English for the available services for GBV survivors, asylum seekers and refugees.
- Presentation of the 2020 1st Annual Report on Violence Against Women of the GSDFPGE.
- Presentation of the Annual Report for the protection of victims of trafficking in human beings of the National Reporting Mechanism (EMA-EKKA).
- Presentation by Médecins Sans Frontières of the report "Substantiating the crisis at the European borders" and,
- Presentation of the role of the Greek police in responding to survivors of GBV by the Domestic Violence unit of the Greek General Police Directorate.

Initiatives and Actions of the GSDFPGE Network of Structures During the Reporting Period (May – July 2021)

Indicatively, the following actions were undertaken:

- The Thessaly Regional Committee for Gender Equality in collaboration with the Equality Committees of the Municipalities organized an open online event entitled: "Let's meet You are not alone", with the aim of informing the public on the available services of the Counseling Centres and Safe Shelters of Thessaly⁹.
- The Safe Shelter of Kozani participated in: a) an online workshop, "Gender Stereotypes - Identify & Demystify", by the University of Western Macedonia and b) an online meeting between executives of the National Center for Public Administration and Local Government and the Municipality of Kozani.



- Kefalonia Counseling Centre in collaboration with the radio station Kiss fm 100.6, as well as the company "ON THE SPOT" produced a radio spot "He did not kill her out of love. IT'S A FEMICIDE"¹⁰.

- Kefalonia Counseling Center organized an open online awareness raising event on "The Impact of the Pandemic and the Increase of Domestic Violence".



⁹ Thessali Counseling Centres and Safe Shelters You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5CdwCZjouE>

¹⁰ Kefalonia Counseling Centre, YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpTwxkI479M>



**Quarterly Newsletter Report #5: Policies and Actions of the GSDFPGE
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Analysis of Gender-Based Violence Data from the Network of Structures
and the SOS Helpline 15900 (May 2021- July 2021)**

- Veria Counseling Center in collaboration with NGO DATAWO, founded by a group of women - lawyers to protect women's rights in the digital age organised an online event on "GBV in the Digital Age." The event was attended by the Thessaloniki Women's Counseling Center, the Cybercrime Prosecution Directorate, the National Center for Safe Internet of the Institute of Technology and Research and the NGO Women on Top.



- The Larissa Safe Shelter participated in a two-day training program entitled: "My Body, My Rights", organized by AID - Alternative Innovative Development.
- The Safe Shelter in Komotini organised an awareness raising and information sharing event for Second Chance Schools on "Operation and actions of the Shelter and the phenomenon of violence against women".



Counseling Centers (reference period May – July 2021)^{11,12}

At the Counseling Centers of the GSDFPGE survivors of gender-based/domestic violence and multiple discrimination receive specialist support / counseling, while third parties receive useful information over the phone or in person for themselves and / or for people who they are concerned about. For the latter the aim is that the survivors themselves can contact the executives of the Centres and/or to be referred to other services, if what they need does not fall within the services offered by the Network of Structures. In addition, third parties (e.g the mother or sister or daughter of the survivor) can also benefit from the counseling process. It is indicative that, during the reference period, the Counseling Centres of the GSDFPGE



Counseling Center - Reference Period : 01-05- 2021 έως 31-07-2021	Beneficiaries	Third Parties	Total
Intake Forms	1,271	127	1,398

Network throughout Greece provided support to a total of **1.398** women survivors of GBV and multiple discrimination (**1.271**), as well as to third parties (**127**, i.e. mother, adult daughter of the survivor etc.) who mostly received useful

¹¹ **Note:** This newsletter **does not** analyze the characteristics of the "Third Persons" who received mainly useful information from the Counseling Centers of the Network of Structure.

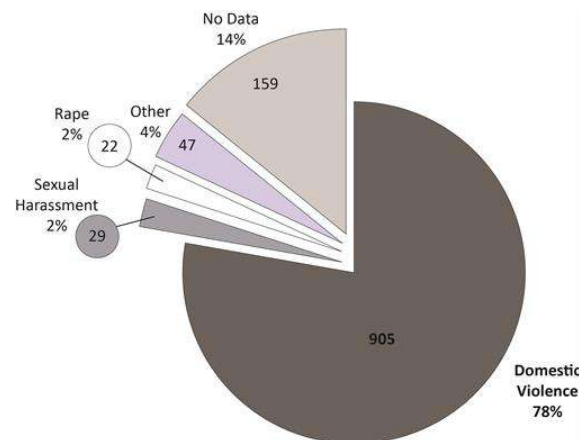
¹² The Statistical data in the graphs and tables, throughout the Newsletter, are depicted by rounding to the nearest main unit, this explains any small deviations in the total (100%).



Quarterly Newsletter Report #5: Policies and Actions of the GSDPGE for the Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence Analysis of Gender-Based Violence Data from the Network of Structures and the SOS Helpline 15900 (May 2021- July 2021)

information. For the reporting period violence against women¹³ prevails with **90%** (1.255) compared to the cases of multiple discrimination against women which amounted to **10%** (143)¹⁴. During the reference period, the main source of information for the support structures of the network for women beneficiaries were: 27% through other entities, 21% through the 15900 SOS Helpline, 12% obtained their information by a friend/acquaintance, 9% online, 7% from another beneficiary and 6% from an “other” source. Moreover, 1% received information through the press, while 17% did not provide this information.

Table 1: Women supported at the Counseling Centers in Greece (01.05.2021–31.07.2021) Specifically, during the reference period, 34% of women received support in 8 Counseling Centers in Attica¹⁵. A smaller percentage of 8% were supported by the Counseling Center in Thessaloniki, Crete at 5%, Ioannina and Patras with almost the same percentage of 3.75%, while 23.1% received support in the remaining Counseling Centers of the Network¹⁶. **Figure 1: Forms of GBV reported by supported women (01.05.2021–31.07.2021).** The most common form of violence for the reference period is domestic



violence, amounting to **78%** of all the GBV reported cases by the beneficiaries to the Counseling Centers throughout Greece. Sexual harassment and rape follows with 2%, while 4% from total incidents refers to “other” forms of violence.

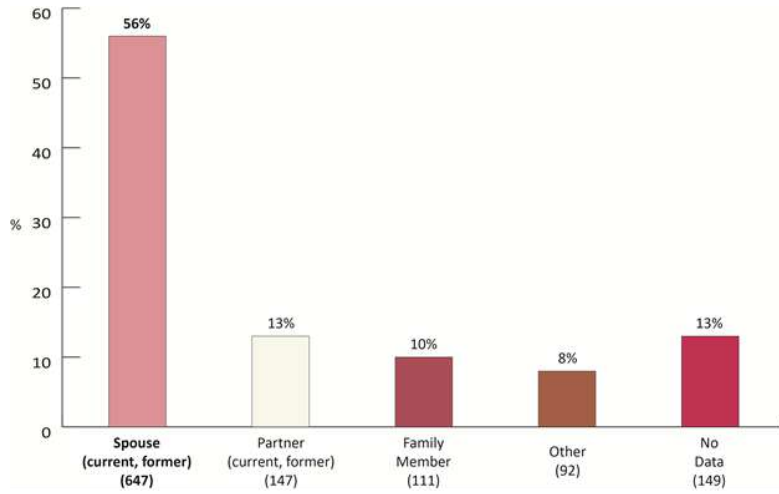
Counseling Centres- Beneficiaries and Third Parties Reference Period: 01-05-2021 to 31-07-2021	Total	%
Attica	471	34.00%
Thessaloniki	108	8%
Crete	70	5.00%
Kavala	40	2.90%
Ioannina	50	3.60%
Patra	54	3.90%
Larissa	36	2.60%
Tripoli	37	2.60%
Serres	18	1.30%
Lamia	29	2.00%
Corfu	26	2%
Chios	22	2%
Mytilene	15	1.00%
Veria	32	2.30%
Kalamata	25	1.80%
Alexandroupoli	21	1.50%
Komotini	21	1.50%
Other	323	23.10%
Σύνολα	1,398	100%

¹³ Refugee/migrant women, women with disabilities, drug addict women, the long-term unemployed women, single parent women, etc.
¹⁴ Note: unique beneficiaries supported at the Counselling Centres may report both an incident of GBV and an incident of discrimination(s)
¹⁵ Note: C.C of Athens (Nikis), C.C Athens (Polykentro), C.C Piraeus, C.C D. Keratsiniou-Drapetsonas, C.CD. Peristeriou, C.C D. Fili, C.C D. Chalandri, C.C Elefsina Station
¹⁶ 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



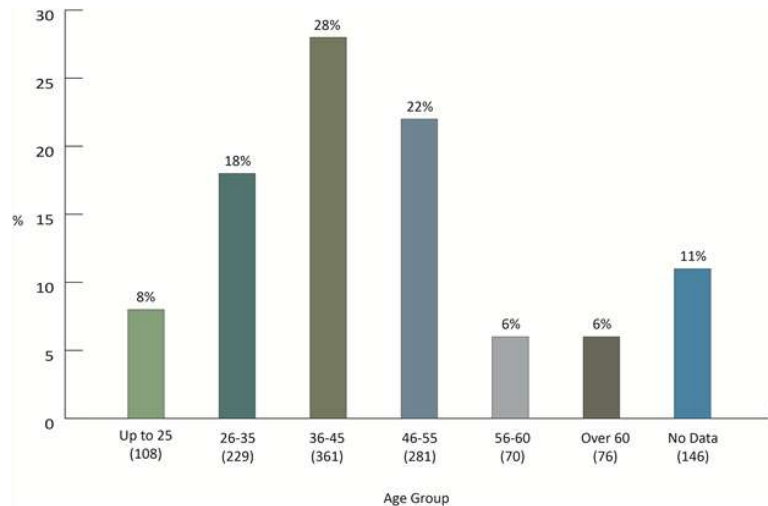
Quarterly Newsletter Report #5: Policies and Actions of the GSDFPGE for the Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence
Analysis of Gender-Based Violence Data from the Network of Structures and the SOS Helpline 15900 (May 2021- July 2021)

Figure 2: Survivor-Perpetrator Relationship (01.05.2021–31.07.2021). The data show that, during the reporting period, the relationship between the survivor and the perpetrator was mostly spousal amounting to **56%**, 13% of women suffered violence by their partner, while 10% of the women- survivors of GBV who received support by the Counseling Centers under GSDFPGE Network of Structures, reported that the perpetrator was another family member (i.e. brother, father, or other close relative). Regarding the marital status of the survivors, 45% are married, 18% of the total stated that they are single, while almost at the same percentage 11% of women reported as being separated and divorced, while 3% are in a cohabitation status. In addition, out of total women beneficiaries 71% stated that they have a child / children while 29% stated that they do not have children. **Figure 3: Age groups of supported women (01.05.2021–31.07.2021).** As for the age groups of women-survivors of GBV who received specialized services at the Counseling Centers of the Network during said period, the highest percentage, amounting to **28%**, were women between 36 and 45 years old. 22% belonged to the age group of beneficiaries between 46 and 55 years old, and a 18% belonged to the age group between 26 and 35 years old, while 8% were young women over 25 years old and with the same percentage 6% women beneficiaries at the ages of 56 to 60 years old and over 60, while 11% of the beneficiaries did not provide information regarding their age. **Figure 4: Education level of supported women (01.05.2021–31.07.2021).** Among the recorded characteristics of women- survivors of GBV who received supportive services is their educational level. During the reporting period, the highest percentage of beneficiaries (**23%**) reported having completed secondary education, while **16%** have university education and **14%** tertiary education. Equally beneficiaries having completed mandatory education and



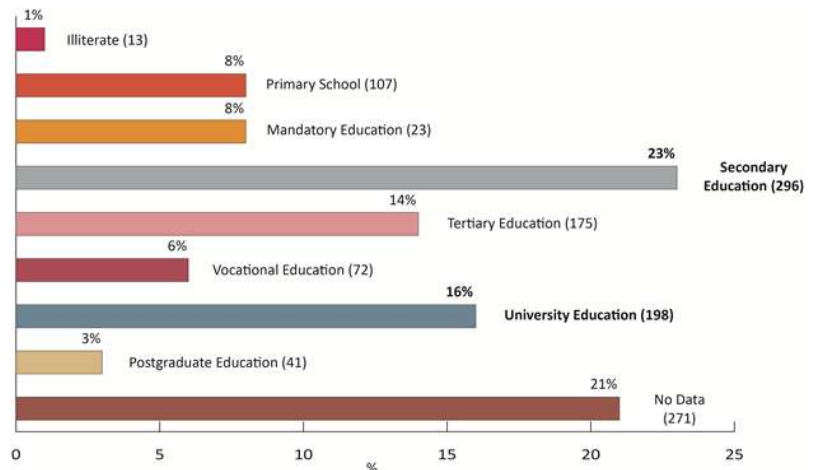
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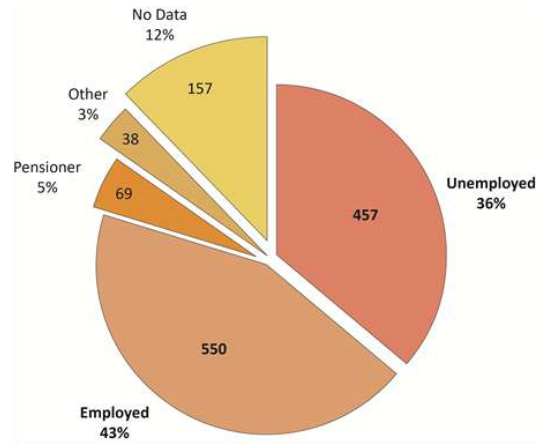
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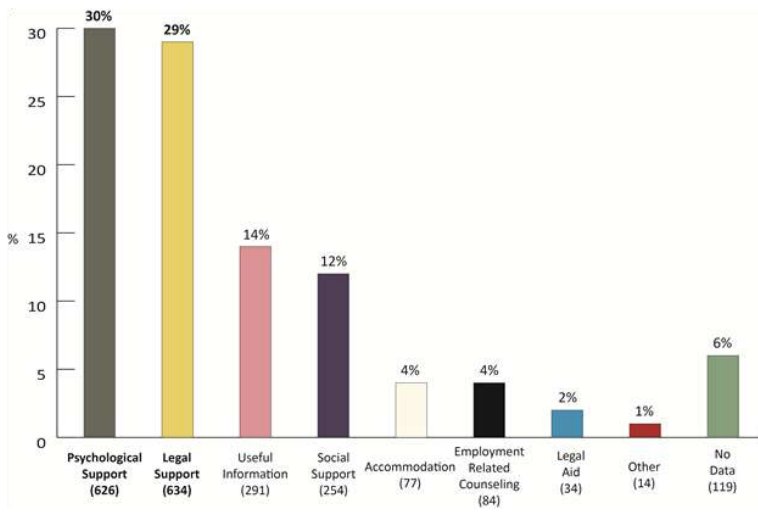
Quarterly Newsletter Report #5: Policies and Actions of the GSDFPGE for the Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence Analysis of Gender-Based Violence Data from the Network of Structures and the SOS Helpline 15900 (May 2021- July 2021)

primary education amount to 8%, and 6% of the beneficiaries has completed vocational education. A smaller amount of 3%, includes beneficiaries who have completed postgraduate studies and 1% from total women beneficiaries reported being illiterate. Lastly, 21% of said population did not provide this information. **Figure 5: Employment status of supported women (01.05.2021–31.07.2021).** Regarding the employment status of women who received supportive services from the Counseling Centers throughout Greece during the reporting period, **43%** appear to be employed, 36% unemployed, 5% pensioners, while 12% did not provide this information. The women seeking specialized support at the Counseling Centers of the Network during the reference period, stated being Greek in a percentage of **76%**, 5% were refugee women and 2% of the women did not provide this information. **Figure 6: Requests by supported women (01.05.2021–**



were migrant women living in Greece, while 17% were migrant women living in Greece, while 17% of the women did not provide this information. **Figure 6: Requests by supported women (01.05.2021–**

31.07.2021). Women survivors of violence and multiple discrimination requested specialized support from GSDFPGE Network of Structures, during the reporting period, as follows: 30% received psychological support; 29% legal support, while 14% requested useful information regarding legal rights, specialized services etc. Furthermore, 12% of all women received social support and with the same percentage 4% requested safe accommodation at the Women’s Shelters and employment related counseling. Moreover, regarding the interpretation services provided by the NGO METAdrasi, through its cooperation with UNICEF Greece



and KETHI, based on the priorities set out by the GSDFPGE aiming to increase accessibility of refugee and migrant women survivors of GBV and multiple discriminations to the Network of Structures during the reference period, in total **45** women received support via interpretation at 8 Counseling Centers and at 5 Women’s Shelters. The main languages spoken by the survivors were French, Urdu, Sorani, Farsi, Lingala, Albanian, etc. In addition, 45 sessions were supported with interpretation (both in Counseling Centers and Women’s Shelters), primarily via telephone/Skype calls (40 sessions) and secondly via physical presence (5 sessions). The highest percentage of sessions, 74% referred to the provision of psychosocial support to women, 12% corresponded to referrals of refugee and migrant women survivors of GBV to health services and individual information sessions, 9% to legal counseling and 5% to general information provision.



**Quarterly Newsletter Report #5: Policies and Actions of the GSDFPGE
for the Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence
Analysis of Gender-Based Violence Data from the Network of Structures
and the SOS Helpline 15900 (May 2021- July 2021)
Women’s Safe Shelters (reference period May – July 2021)**

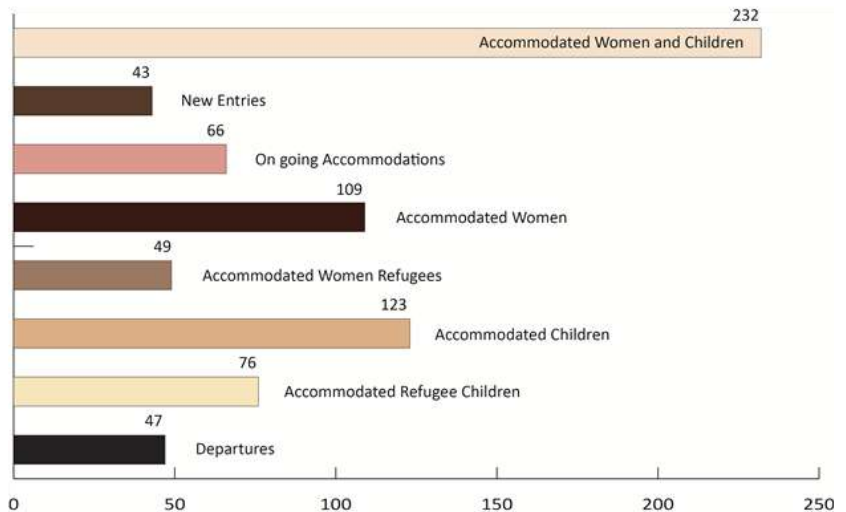
Shelters for women survivors and their children operate 24 hours a day, on weekends and public holidays throughout the year, and are guarded by security staff. Moreover, they provide women and their children with safe accommodation, food, networking, psychosocial support and care by specialised staff (social workers, psychologists, educators). The aim of the shelters is to support, empower and reintegrate women into the community and the labor market. Women’s Shelters have a transitional character and can accommodate women of all ages, religions, nationalities who have survived any form of GBV such as: physical, psychological, sexual and financial violence. Legal counseling and aid is provided to women through the social services of the Municipalities, their Counseling



Centers and those of the General Secretariat for Demography and Family Policy and Gender Equality or other bodies that facilitate their access to employment, education, health and welfare agencies.

Figure 1: Accommodated women and children (1.05.2021-31.07.2021).

During the three months period, the Safe Shelters accommodated in total **109** women and **123** children, a total of **232** persons, covering about 58% of the total occupancy of the Network’s Shelters¹⁷. Out of all women and children, **49** are refugee women and **76** are refugee children. Based on the entry date of women at the Shelters there were **43** new admissions, while a total of **47** women and children during the reporting period departed towards their own safe destination.



¹⁷ **Note:** 19 Shelter Structures across Greece, about 400 beds for women and their children



Quarterly Newsletter Report #5: Policies and Actions of the GSDPGE for the Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence Analysis of Gender-Based Violence Data from the Network of Structures and the SOS Helpline 15900 (May 2021- July 2021)

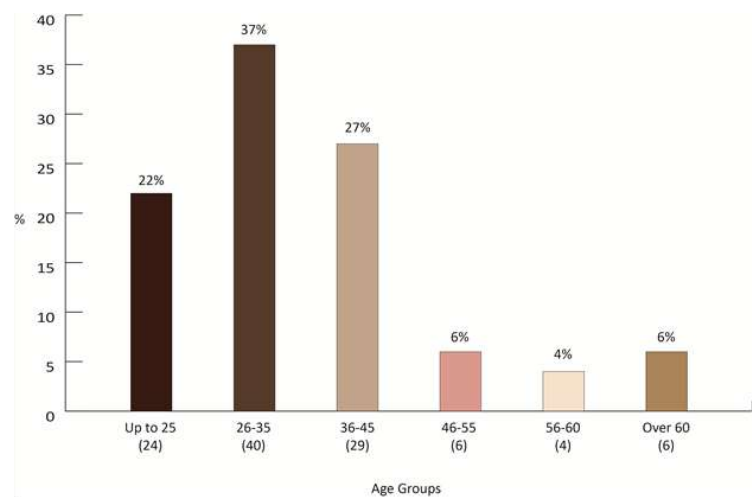
Table 1: Occupancy of Safe Shelters throughout Greece (1.05.2021-31.07.2021). The Safe Shelters with the highest percentage of occupancy **23%** were the ones located in Attica, (Municipality of Athens, Piraeus and EKKA Ilion), Thessaloniki with 12%, Larissa and Volos equally amounted to 9%, Ioannina with 8% occupancy, Kozani 7%. Out of all the women and children accommodated in the Safe Shelters the percentage of refugee women and children is **21.6%** in Attica, , and **15.2%** in Thessaloniki, **14.4%** in Volos and **11%** in Ioannina respectively. **Table 2: Accommodated children and refugee children (1.05.2021-31.07.2021).** Out of all children (123) accommodated at the Safe Shelters, 62% are refugee children. Specifically, during the reporting period refugee boys up to 12 years old were 43%, while refugee girls up to 18 years old, reached 57%. 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, help women to enroll their children in school, to book appointments with health care services and make arrangements for the referral of children to specialized centers etc. **Figure 2: Age groups of**

Accommodated Women and Children in Shelters	Total Accommodated Women and Children	%	Total Accommodated Women and Children Refugees	%
Attica	53	23,0%	27	21,6%
Patras	13	5,6%	9	7,0%
Ioannina	17	8,0%	14	11,0%
Larissa	20	9,0%	6	4,8%
Agrinio	11	5,0%	0	0,0%
Tripoli	7	3,0%	5	4,0%
Heraklion-Crete	5	2,0%	0	0,0%
Chania	8	4,0%	0	0,0%
Mytilene	9	4,2%	7	5,6%
Volos	19	9,0%	19	15,2%
Thessaloniki	26	12,0%	18	14,4%
Kozani	15	7,0%	12	9,6%
Komotini	8	3,7%	3	2,4%
Lamia	6	2,8%	5	4,0%
Rhodes	15	7,0%	0	0,0%
Total	232	100,0%	125	100,0%

Accommodated Children at Safe Shelters	Total Children	Total Refugee Children
Boys (<12 years old)	52	33
Girls (<18 years old)	71	43
Total	123	76

accommodated women (1.05.2021-31.07.2021) Regarding the age groups of women accommodated at the Safe Shelters, during the three month period, **37%** of all women aged between 26 and 35 and 27% between 36 and 45 years old, followed by 22% of young girls aged up to 25. Moreover, 6% corresponds equally to women between 46 to 55 years old and over 60 years old. Lastly, 4% are women aged between 56 and 60.

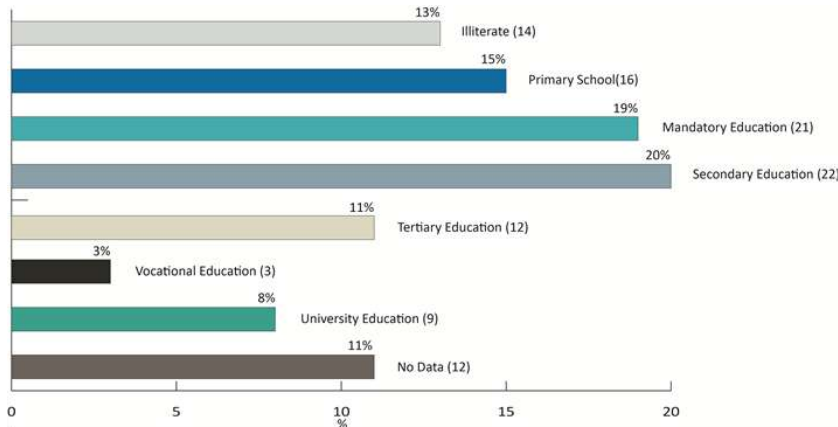
Figure 2: Age groups of





Quarterly Newsletter Report #5: Policies and Actions of the GSDPGE for the Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence Analysis of Gender-Based Violence Data from the Network of Structures and the SOS Helpline 15900 (May 2021- July 2021)

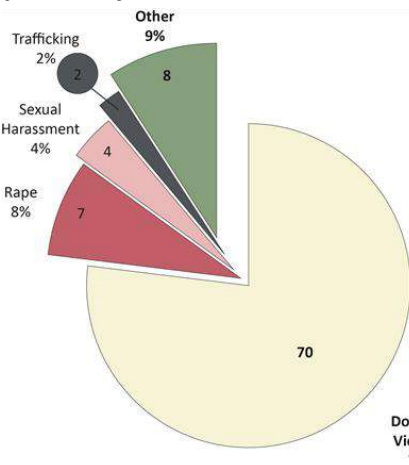
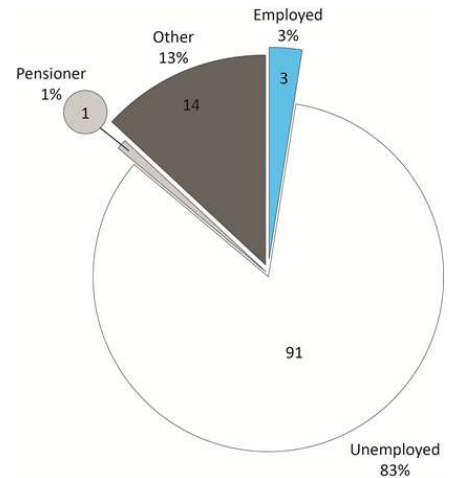
Figure 3: Education level of accommodated women (1.05.2021-31.07.2021) It is indicative that, during the reference period, the highest percentage of accommodated women, **20%**, have completed secondary and 19% mandatory education, 15% primary school and 13% are illiterate. Women who have tertiary education follow at 11%, university degree with 11%, Only 9% of all accommodated women had a tertiary degree, while 3% have completed vocational education. Lastly, 12% of them did not provide this information.



It is indicative that, during the reference period, the highest percentage of accommodated women, **20%**, have completed secondary and 19% mandatory education, 15% primary school and 13% are illiterate. Women who have tertiary education follow at 11%, university degree with 11%, Only 9% of all accommodated women had a tertiary degree, while 3% have completed vocational education. Lastly, 12% of them did not provide this information.

Figure 4: Employment status of accommodated women (1.05.2021-31.07.2021). Regarding the employment status of the accommodated women, the highest percentage of **83%** reported being unemployed, while only 3% reported being employed. Women pensioners make up to 1% of all accommodated women. Women accommodated can receive employment counseling at the Shelter and be referred to relevant services.

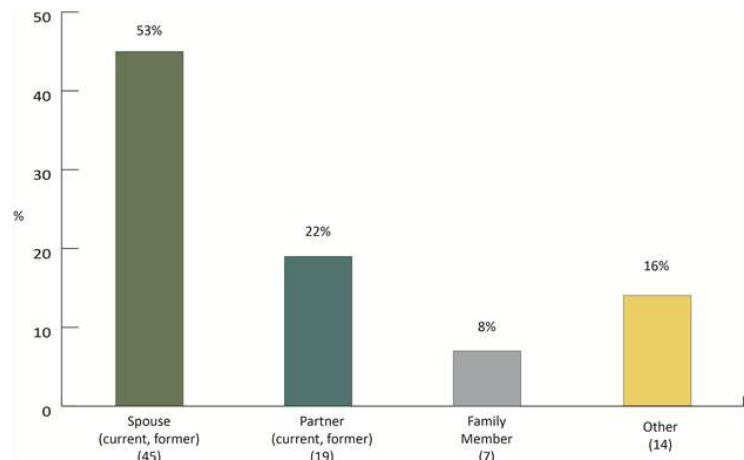
Figure 5: Forms of GBV reported by accommodated women (1.05.2021-31.07.2021) The most prevalent form of GBV during the reporting period is domestic violence, with **70%** of all recorded forms of violence at the Network's Shelters throughout Greece. Incidents of rape follow with 8%, sexual harassment with 4% and trafficking with 2%.



The most prevalent form of GBV during the reporting period is domestic violence, with **70%** of all recorded forms of violence at the Network's Shelters throughout Greece. Incidents of rape follow with 8%, sexual harassment with 4% and trafficking with 2%.

Figure 6: Survivor-Perpetrator relationship (1.05.2021-31.07.2021). The three

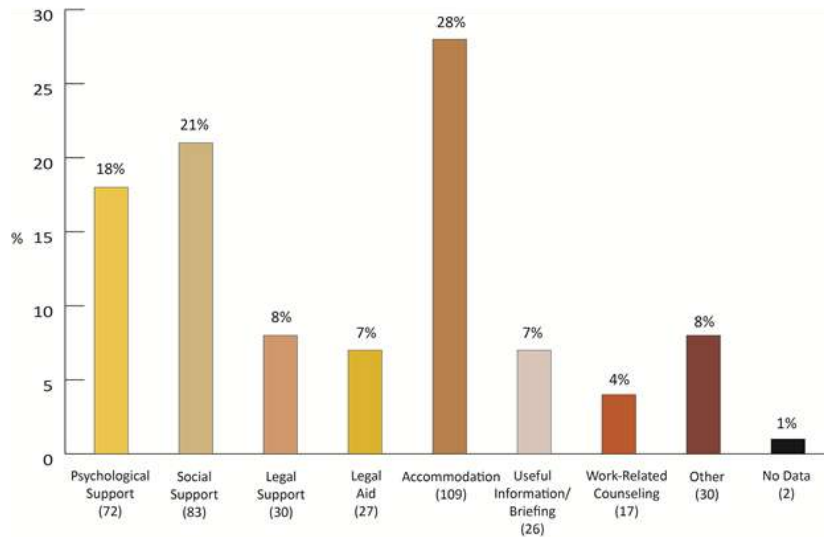
months data provided by the Network Shelters highlight the fact that, the relationship between woman survivor and perpetrator is at **53%** spousal (current or former spouse), 22% coming from the partner (current or former) and 8% reported that the perpetrator was another family member (i.e. brother, father, or other relative).





Quarterly Newsletter Report #5: Policies and Actions of the GSDFPGE for the Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence Analysis of Gender-Based Violence Data from the Network of Structures and the SOS Helpline 15900 (May 2021- July 2021)

Figure 7: Requests by accommodated women (1.05.2021-31.07.2021). The main requests of women (with their children) accommodated at the Networks Shelters in Greece during the three-month period was the continuation of their accommodation amounting at **28%** of all requests. While a 21% refers to the need for social support and 18% to psychological support. Requests for legal support corresponds to 8%, and equally 7% of all women requested legal aid and useful information.



Accommodation Facilities that the GSDFPGE initiated in April 2020 throughout Greece.

For the month of May 2021, in total 4 women and their children were accommodated at the facilities of Athens, Mytilene and Thessaloniki. Out of total women survivors, one was pregnant and was referred from the SOS Helpline 15900, the other two women were referred by Civil Society Organisations and the last one by the Reception and Identification Center in Mytilene. Two of them are Iraqi, one Greek and the last one from Albania. Finally, out of total women three left for their own safe destination, while receiving support from the Counselling Centres and was placed at a Safe Shelter of the Network. The accommodation facilities across the country that the GSDFPGE initiated in April 2020 for women survivors of domestic violence and their children ended on 15.05.2021 and beneficiaries can be placed directly at the Safe Shelters of the Network.

SOS 15900 24/7 Helpline (reference period May – July 2021)

The SOS Helpline 15900 is addressed to women survivors of GBV and to third parties who wish to receive useful information. The Helpline is staffed by psychologists and social scientists who provide immediate assistance to people in need. The executives of the Helpline provide specialised counseling, demonstrating empathy and offering relief to women. During the call women could be emotionally charged and the emphasis from the Helpline counselors is given mainly to their support and secondly to collect personal information which is related to the GBV data analysis. Moreover, the executives of the Helpline ensure all survivors regarding the confidentiality of the call and their data protection. They also encourage women to come out of isolation, to understand that they are not alone and that they are not responsible for the violence they suffer. In addition, there is the possibility of electronic communication via the address :



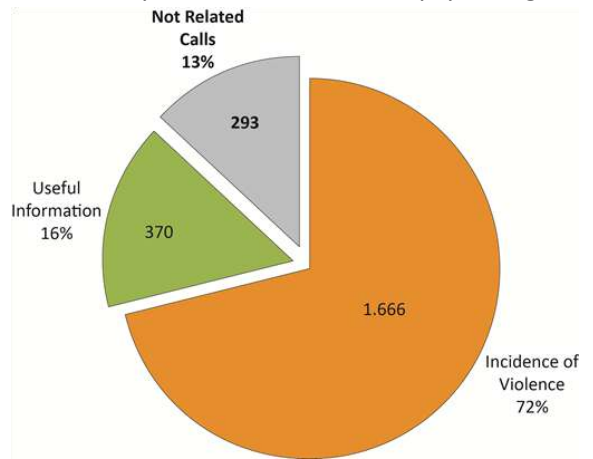


Quarterly Newsletter Report #5: Policies and Actions of the GSDPGE for the Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence Analysis of Gender-Based Violence Data from the Network of Structures and the SOS Helpline 15900 (May 2021- July 2021)

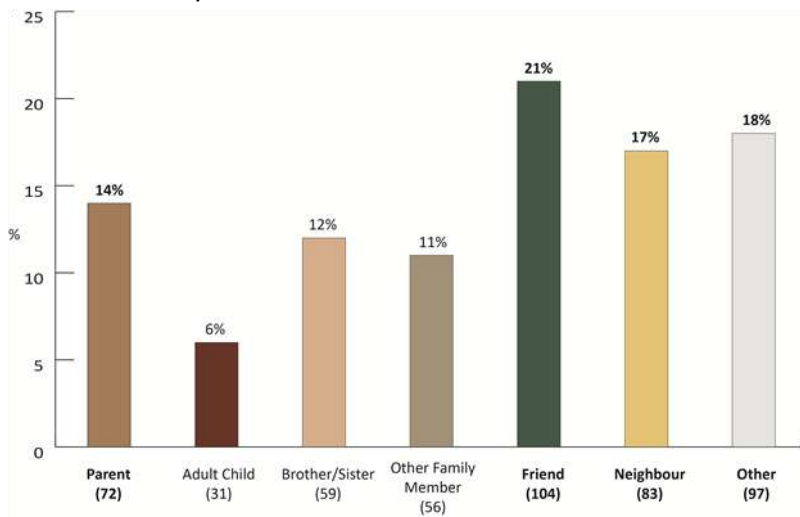
sos15900@isotita.gr. According to the data, most people who communicate with the executives of the Helpline via email are women beneficiaries. Specifically, during the reporting period, the SOS 15900 Helpline received a total of **219 emails**, most of which concerned useful information about response services such as psychological and legal support and safe accommodation of women and their children.

Figure 1: Type of call (1.05.2021-31.07.2021) During the three-month period, a total of **2.329** calls were recorded, **1.666** of which referred to “incidents of violence” and **370** to “Useful Information”¹⁸. Out of all the calls regarding incidents of violence and useful information recorded by the SOS 15900 Helpline, 70% were calls by women survivors seeking support and 30% by third parties seeking mostly useful information.

Figure 2: Person who is calling (1.05.2021-31.07.2021). Third parties who called the SOS 15900 Helpline were disaggregated as follows: friend of the survivor at 21%, neighbor at 17%, the parents of the survivor at 14%, with almost same percentage 11.5% brother/sister and other family member. Lastly, recorded calls by the adult child of the survivor amounted to 6%.



Moreover, **89%** of calls were made by women calling the SOS 15900 Helpline for the first time, 8% called for the second time, and 3% for the third and fourth time. Women who called the SOS 15900 Helpline for the first time, had been informed about it via the internet at a rate of 10%, equally by TV and by someone they know at 6%, by another entity at 4%, while 73% did not provide this information during the call.

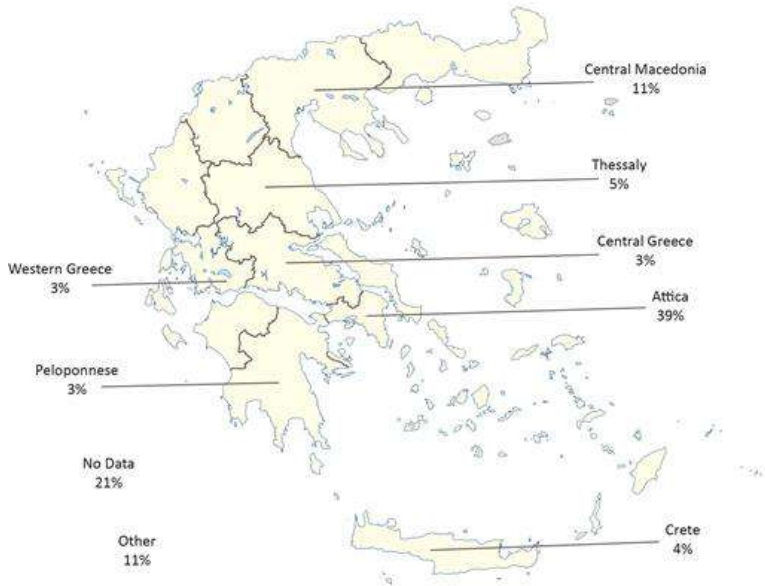


¹⁸ **Note:** Irrelevant calls, such as pranks, etc. are not analyzed in this newsletter

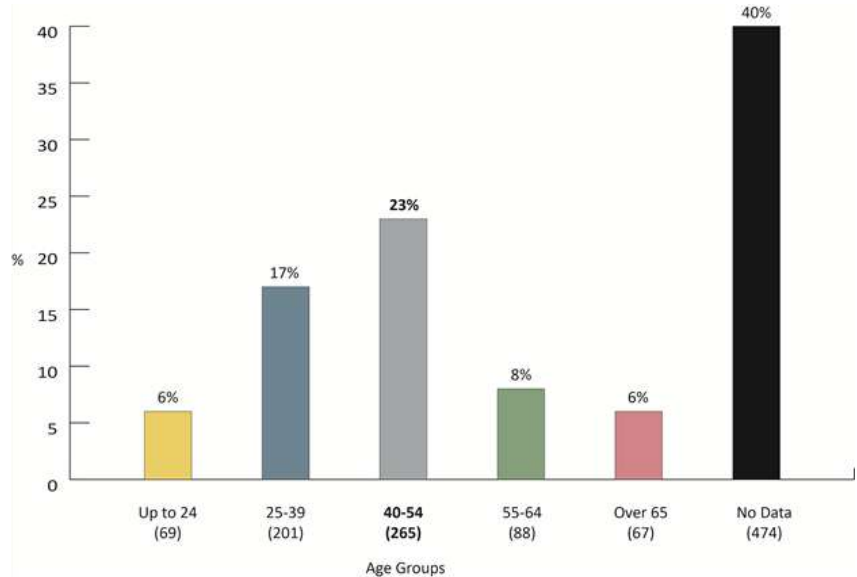


Quarterly Newsletter Report #5: Policies and Actions of the GSDPGE for the Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence
Analysis of Gender-Based Violence Data from the Network of Structures and the SOS Helpline 15900 (May 2021- July 2021)

Map 1: Regions from which women beneficiaries calls were recorded (1.05.2021-31.07.2021) During the reporting period the Regions of Greece with the highest percentage of recorded calls is Attica with **39%**, Central Macedonia with 11% while the rest of the recorded calls is equally divided among the rest of the Regions of the Greek territory. Lastly, 21% of total calls did not disclose the place of the call. Out of all women survivors who called the 15900 Help Line, 63% are Greek, 5% are immigrants while, no call from refugee women was recorded and this can be attributed to the fact that refugee women survivors of GBV or multiple discrimination are usually referred to the Counseling Centers of the Network by Civil Society Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations which are exclusively active in the refugee and immigrant sector in Greece. Finally, 32%



did not reveal the details concerning their citizenship. **Figure 3: Age groups of women receiving support from the SOS Helpline 15900 (1.05.2021-31.07.2021)** As for the age group of women who called the SOS 15900 Helpline during the reporting period, the highest percentage **23%** are women aged between 40 and 54 years old, 17% are women between 25–39 years old, 8% are women 55–64 years old, equally 6% women aged up to 24 years old and over 65. Lastly, 40% of all women who received support from the SOS 15900 did not provide this information.





**Quarterly Newsletter Report #5: Policies and Actions of the GSDFPGE
for the Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence
Analysis of Gender-Based Violence Data from the Network of Structures
and the SOS Helpline 15900 (May 2021- July 2021)**

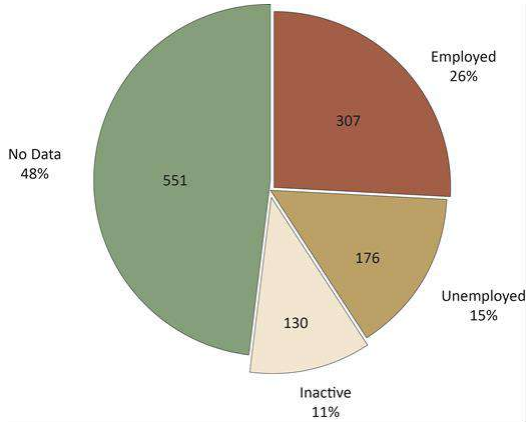


Figure 4: Employment status of women receiving support from the SOS Helpline 15900 (1.05.2021-31.07.2021) Regarding the employment status of the women who called the SOS 15900 Helpline for the first time during the 3 month period, the majority of **26%** were employed, while 15% unemployed, 11% reported being inactive and 48% out of all women did not provide this information. Regarding the education level of women who called the SOS Helpline, during the reference period, the highest rate of **88%** did not provide this information. This can be explained by the fact that during the call beneficiaries are emotionally charged and counsellors focus on their support. Moreover, 7% have

completed university education, equally with 1% have completed primary, upper secondary and higher education. **Figure 5: Forms of violence reported by women beneficiaries at the SOS Helpline 15900 (1.05.2021-31.07.2021)** During the reporting period, domestic violence made up to **83%** of the total forms of violence recorded at the SOS Helpline 15900, followed by sexual harassment at 2% and incidents of rape at 1%. The main forms of violence in the context of domestic violence were psychological violence at **35%**, verbal violence at 31%, physical violence at 27%, economic violence against women was recorded at 5%, while sexual violence within intimate partner violence at 3%. Regarding the family status of women who reported incidents of domestic violence: 56% have children, 15% reported not having children, 28% did not provide this information. Moreover, equally 1% from totals reported being pregnant, single mothers with minor child (<16 years old) and women with disabilities, while 10% reported having health issue problems.

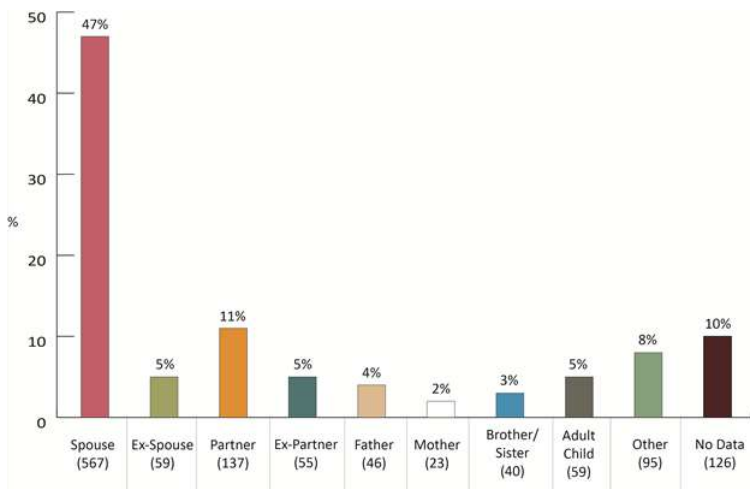
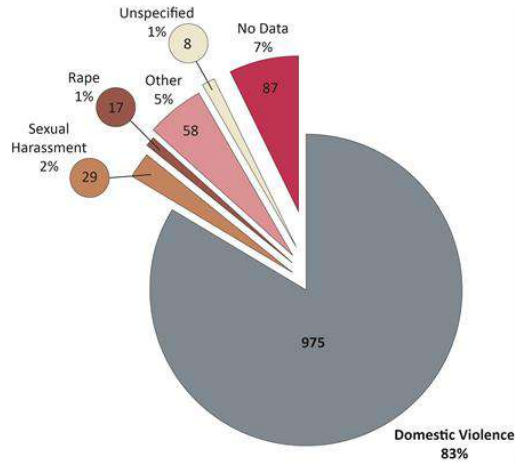
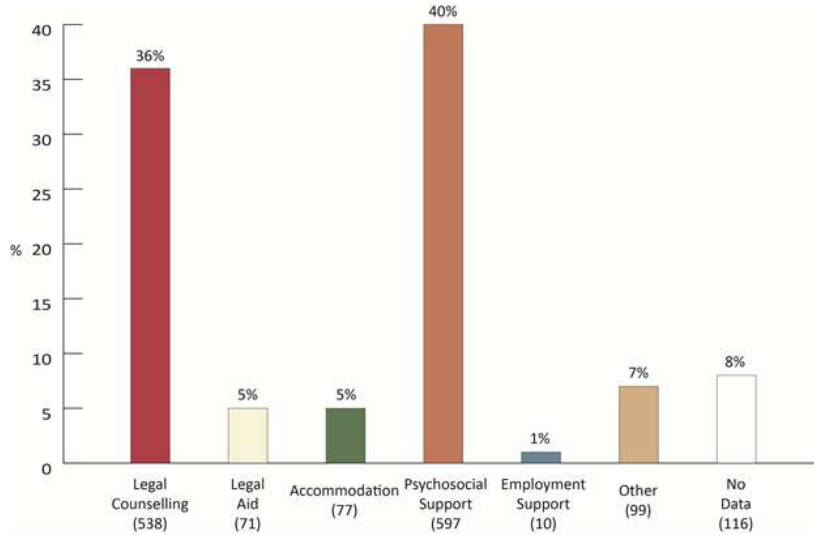


Figure 6: Survivor-Perpetrator relationship (1.05.2021-31.07.2021) as reported by women who called the SOS helpline. Regarding the relationship between the survivors of GBV and the perpetrator it seems that at a rate of 47% the perpetrator was the husband. The partner follows at 11% and with the same rate of 5% the ex-husband, the ex-



**Quarterly Newsletter Report #5: Policies and Actions of the GSDFPGE
 for the Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence
 Analysis of Gender-Based Violence Data from the Network of Structures
 and the SOS Helpline 15900 (May 2021- July 2021)**



partner, and the child equally. The father of the survivor follows at 4%, the brother at 3% while another family member reaches 8%. **Figure 7: Women Beneficiaries requests (1.05.2021-30.07.2021).** The majority of women’s individual requests recorded by the SOS 15900 Helpline during the reference months was for psychological support at **40%**, followed by 36% for legal advice and support while a significant number corresponds to the requests for legal aid and safe accommodation of women survivors and their children.

Priorities of the GSDFPGE for the Next Reporting Period

- ✓ The finalization of the new **National Action Plan for Gender Equality (2021-2025)** is foreseen in the next reporting period. In this context GSDFPGE will be gathering and evaluating all the individual proposals submitted by agencies, women's and feminist organizations and other civil society organisations.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the implementation of the new Law. 4808/2021 regarding the response to sexual harassment in the workplace will follow with the creation of new tools and procedures and the cooperation of co-competent services. In this context, the national **#metoogreece platform** through which information is provided will be utilized and enriched, while the same will apply for the telephone lines where an incident of sexual harassment, abuse or authoritarian violence can be reported.
- ✓ Lastly, the **GREVIO Committee of Independent Experts “questionnaire” for the country's first assessment** of the Council of Europe's implementation of the Prevention and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) is expected.