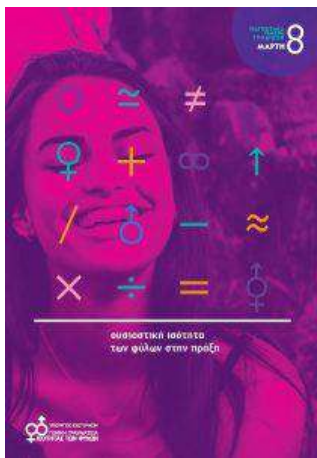




**Quarterly Newsletter Report #4: Policies and Actions of the GSDFPGE for the Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence During the Reintroduction of Covid-19 Measures Analysis of Gender-Based Violence Data from the Network of Structures and the SOS Helpline 15900 (February- April 2021)**

The current newsletter was drafted within the framework of cooperation between the General Secretariat for Demography and Family Policy and Gender Equality (GSDFGE)<sup>1</sup> 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)<sup>2</sup>. The situation described in the newsletter is based on the GBV data collected in the database operated by E.E.T.A.A.<sup>3</sup> and the 24/7 SOS Helpline 15900, covering a three-month period – February - April 2021 - in quarantine conditions/restrictions due to the pandemic of COVID-19 in Greece.

March 8 was established as World Woman’s Day by the United Nations Organization in 1977. It was preceded by numerous campaigns for women’s rights around the world. The United Nations set for the first time the World Woman’s Day in the International Women’s Year in 1975 and in 1977 the UN General Assembly called on the member-states to declare March 8 as UN Day for women’s rights and World Peace. This year, the European parliament dedicated Women’s Day to the global fight against COVID-19. While the European parliament’s Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) honoured the day by organizing an inter parliamentary meeting entitled: “We are strong: Women leading the fight against COVID-19”<sup>4</sup>. In the context of the said conference, the President of the European Committee Ursula von der Leyen dedicated the Day to the women on the front line, to the health workers, the sales assistants who have kept the supermarkets open, the mothers who have taken care of their children during the lockdowns while also working from home and for the women who lost their job during the crisis. The president of the Hellenic Republic, Katerina Sakellaropoulou focused on the impact that the pandemic has had on different vulnerable groups of women: single mothers, migrants, elderly women, and women victims of domestic violence under lockdown<sup>5</sup>.



On March 30, the World Economic Forum released its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Report on the gap between women and men in the planet<sup>6</sup>. The Report depicts the results of a survey examining 156 countries in four dimensions: economy, education, politics, and health. It is worth mentioning, among other, that the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighted gender inequalities in the labour sector as 5% of all employed women lost their jobs, compared with 3.9% of all employed men. The economic sector strongly reflects the gender gap, where

<sup>1</sup> Official website of the General Secretariat for Demography Family Policy and Gender Equality: <https://www.isotita.gr/en/home/>  
<sup>2</sup> Official Website of Violence Against Women: <http://womensos.gr/en/about-us/>  
<sup>3</sup> 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)  
<sup>4</sup> European Parliament. (2021). World Woman’s Day: women leading the fight against covid-19. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/el/headlines/priorities/pagkosmia-imeras-tis-gunaikas-2021/20210218STO98125/pagkosmia-imeras-tis-gunaikas-2021-oi-gunaikes-ston-agona-kata-tou-covid-19>  
<sup>5</sup> European Parliament. News. (2021). Press release. IWD 2021: the gender dimension must be included in the COVID- 19 recovery plans: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210226IPR98811/iwd-2021-the-gender-dimension-must-be-included-in-the-covid-19-recovery-plans>  
<sup>6</sup> World Economic Forum. (2021). Global Gender Gap Report 2021. March 2021. Available at: [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GGGR\\_2021.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2021.pdf)



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prejudices and stereotypes still emerge in many areas of the world and act as a brake to the economic activity with equal terms for women and men. Indicatively, in the first place for the 12<sup>th</sup> time is Iceland and in the 156<sup>th</sup> place debuts the newly assessed Afghanistan. Our country is at the 98<sup>th</sup> place.

On April 12, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Report of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO<sup>7</sup>) of the Council of Europe was published, stating that the implementation of the Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) and the Commission’s monitoring work have garnered strong support and brought significant progress in the fight against violence against women among states parties<sup>8</sup>. Nonetheless, strong opposition to basic premises of the Istanbul Convention persists in some member states of the Council of Europe. On the occasion of the publication of the Report and in the aftermath of Turkey’s withdrawal from the Convention on March 20, Marceline Naudi, President of the Committee stated that the Convention’s objectives are clear and simple, it is a treaty that places a comprehensive set of obligations on states parties to keep women safe from gender-based violence and to ensure perpetrators are held accountable<sup>9</sup>

**Statement by the Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, responsible for Demography, Family policy and Gender Equality, Ms. Maria Syrengela:**

“The 4<sup>th</sup> Newsletter Report: Policies and Actions of the GSDFPGE for the Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women coincides with March 8, World Woman’s day.

Nowadays, although women’s rights have been established, women continue to face many obstacles in their path, as they continue to be the target of violence, stereotypes, multiple discrimination, and gender inequalities. Therefore, on a daily basis we -state and government, collectively and individually, men and women- must strive for equality and continue to support, promote and protect women’s rights. Since, the struggle for women’s rights is a struggle to defend human rights. Every person, regardless of gender should live in safety and dignity and pursue the life she/he desires.

In this context, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs honoured World Woman’s Day with the online event “Equality in Practice”. At the event, in the presence of the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, Mr. Kostis Chatzidakis, the policies, actions, and proposals of the Ministry of Labor



<sup>7</sup> The GREVIO Group is an independent group of experts that monitors the implementation of the Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against women and Domestic Violence by member-states and publishes reports assessing the legislative and other measures taken for its purposes.

<sup>8</sup> Council of Europe. (2021). Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO). Second General Report on GREVIO’s activities. Council of Europe. April 2021. Available at: <https://rm.coe.int/grevio-s-second-activity-report-2021/1680a2165c>

<sup>9</sup> Council of Europe. *Statement by the President of GREVIO, Marceline Naudi, 12 April 2021.* <https://rm.coe.int/grevio-president-statement-12-april-2021/1680a2165b>



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and Social Affairs to prevent and combat violence against women were presented<sup>10</sup>. You can watch the event on GSDFPGE YouTube channel<sup>11</sup> ”

**Assumption of duties by the new SG for Demography and Family policy and Gender Equality Ms. Yanna Hormova**



The Secretary General, in taking up her duties, stated the following:

“On February 16, 2021, I assumed the position of Secretary General for Demography and Family Policy and Gender Equality. Taking on my duties is not only a great honour but also a challenge. Achieving gender equality in every aspect of life is a top priority, especially on a time of pandemic that has exacerbated inequality between men and women. Nonetheless, the implementation of a comprehensive plan that includes targeted actions to integrate the gender dimension into all public policies, empowering of women in the public and private spheres and tackling all forms of violence will certainly bring us closer to the goal.”

*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.*

**Initiatives and Actions of the GSDFPGE During the Reporting Period (February- April 2021)**

**Indicatively, the following actions were undertaken:**

- On the occasion of March 8, World Woman’s Day, the GSDFPGE and the Institute for the Prevention and Treatment of Violence and Promotion of Gender Equality “Via- Stop” and the Laboratory of Forensic Science of Democritus University Medical Department co-organized a virtual Conference entitled: “Sexual Abuse: From trauma to Justice”. The aim of the Conference was to present the phenomenon of sexual abuse through experimental experiences, to the experience of the complaint, to the examination



<sup>10</sup> General Secretariat for Demography and family Policy and Gender Equality. (2021). Online event: “Equality in practice- policies- actions- proposals”: <https://www.isotita.gr/%ce%b4%ce%b9%ce%b1%ce%b4%ce%b9%ce%ba%cf%84%cf%85%ce%b1%ce%ba%ce%ae%ce%b5%ce%ba%ce%b4%ce%ae%ce%bb%cf%89%cf%83%ce%b7-%ce%b9%cf%83%cf%8c%cf%84%ce%b7%cf%84%ce%b1-%cf%83%cf%84%ce%b7%ce%bd-%cf%80%cf%81/>

<sup>11</sup> General Secretariat for Demography and family Policy and Gender Equality. (2021). Online event: “Equality in practice- policies- actions- proposals”: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o\\_48N8DMo44](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_48N8DMo44)



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protocols of the victim, to the trial and finally to the treatment of the perpetrator<sup>12</sup>. The event was opened by the welcome speech of the Secretary General for DFPGE, Ms. Yianna Hormova, while Ms. Katerina Kostaki, from the Counseling Center of the GSDFPGE in Athens participated and presented the thematic entitled: “The trauma of sexual abuse/ Experimental incidents”.

- On March 19, #metoogreece has been printed by the Hellenic Post on 10 self-adhesive stamps. This special edition was launched in collaboration with GSDFPGE on the occasion of the recent emergence of the #metoo movement in our country, which has led to the creation of a government portal to collect information and complaints about sexual harassment, sexual abuse, and abusive power and control, as well to coordinate actions to combat them<sup>13</sup>.



**Indicative actions of GSDFPGE Network of Structures in Greece on World Woman’s Day:**



- Online paint exhibition entitled: “Woman”, of women and girls who reside at the Open Refugee Accommodation Center in Thiva and participate in art workshops with the support of NGO Solidarity Now. Eighteen paintings were created and posted at Thiva’s Counseling Center Blog<sup>14</sup>.

“Woman’s affair” of the Municipality of Kavala and the city’s Counseling Center, with photos of women working and becoming active in the city of Kavala, in professions considered “male- dominated”, at the front line of the fight against coronavirus, in job posts with high responsibility, etc. Quotes of those women referring to what means to them to be a woman framed the photos and were posted online, at the Counseling Center’s and Kavala’s Municipality websites<sup>15</sup>.

- MANTILITY gallery and manufacture Tsiakiri supported the Women’s Counseling



Center of the Municipality of Kavala. Specifically, as part of the women’s project entitled “woMANTILITY”, a silk scarf dedicated to women was created. The scarf was named “Woman man”, in reference to the titular poem of the poet Zoe Karelli, while collectible posters illustrating three works of the illustrator “Rima Lyma” were printed.



<sup>12</sup> Institute for the Prevention and Treatment of violence and Promotion of Gender Equality “Via- Stop”, Virtual Conference: “Sexual Abuse: From trauma to Justice”: <http://www.viastop.gr/index.php/2-uncategorised/177-diadiktyaki-imerida-seksoualiki-kakopoiisi-apo-to-trayma-stin-apodosi-dikaiosisynis>

<sup>13</sup> General Secretariat for Demography and family Policy and Gender Equality. (2021). Press release: Hellenic Post supports the #metoogreece. <https://www.isotita.gr/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/DT-Ta-Elta-yposthrizoun-to-metoogreece.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Counseling Center for the support of women victims of violence of Thiva’s Municipality, Paint Exhibition entitled: “Woman”, <http://sumvoueutikothivas.blogspot.com/>

<sup>15</sup> Women’s Counseling Center of the Municipality of Kavala, “Woman’s affair”, <https://www.womansday.gr/>



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- On March 6 and 7, Karditsa’s Counseling Center for women conducted a two-day online training for Kindergarten and Primary school teachers and professionals who encounter children aged 5-7, with the thematic “Gender equality for primary school”.
- Karditsa’s Counseling Center for women continued organizing information and awareness raising activities on the phenomenon of violence against women and with regard to the services that the Centre provides to high school students and students of Karditsa’s technical high school, with an online event that took place on World Woman’s Day. While on March 17, the Counseling Center organized an online information session with the beneficiaries- recognized refugees of Helios Program of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), regarding the current legal framework in Greece.



- On March 8, the staff of the Women’s Counseling Center of the Municipality of Veria participated in an online event organized by the Highschool of Plateos- Koryfis entitled: “Female abuse in modern society”, and informed 170 students regarding the abuse of women, the perpetrators and victims’ pathology as well as the legal framework for the protection of the victims.

- The staff of Women’s Counseling Center in Serres collaborated with NGO PRAKSIS Greece, and gave interviews to the volunteers of the organization regarding women’s rights in the workplace and provided information on the work of the Counselling Center in the city of Serres.

- The staff of the Counseling Center in Kastoria in collaboration with 8 women from the municipal council, distributed 300 face masks against Covid- 19 in the open area of the City Hall, branded with the logo “you are not alone” and the contact details of

the Counseling center, an initiative of the latter.

- On March 6 and 7, Heraklion Counseling Center participated in a two-days online conference organized by the European Law Student Association (ELSA) Athens regarding the approach of the gender-based violence phenomenon and its legal implications. Specifically, the legal counselor of the Center, Ms. Elena Konidaki presented the thematic: “Domestic violence: Legislative framework and case law approach, combatting the phenomenon”.
- Kos Counseling Center completed the awareness raising campaign intitled: “Violence Lessons” . The campaign included the creation and promotion by the local media of three short tv spots with the participation of children and adults<sup>16</sup>. The spots presented gender- based violence behaviors at three different age groups. The campaign aimed to reflect on the seemingly (non) innocent behaviors which in fact “train” females and males on reproducing and tolerating the phenomenon.
- On World Woman’s Day, Kefalonia Counseling center created a radio spot that was broadcasted throughout March by the local radio stations, encouraging all women victims of gender-based violence and/or multiple discriminations to break their silence and contact Kefalonia’s Counseling Center to receive specialized services free of charge and with respect to confidentiality.



<sup>16</sup> Counseling Center for the support of women of the Municipality of Kos, “Violence Lessons”:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zP-dP2PgL7Q>



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- The Municipality of Kozani and the Safe Shelter for abused women, published a press release on March 9, supporting the campaign “We stay home, but we don’t stay silent” of the GSDFPGE, sending the message of zero tolerance to any form of violence. The press release referred also to the 1<sup>st</sup>Annual Report on Violence Against Women of the GSDFPGE and informed the public on the services provided to women victims of violence by the Municipality.
- With the press release: “There is only one pandemic...this of a gender- equal society” the Municipality of Rhodes called for the “electronic” voices of all to be united by broadcasting messages on social media for World Woman’s Day<sup>17</sup>.
- Arta Counseling Center created a video for all women entitled: “Equalities- Inequalities” aiming to raise awareness to the local society. The video included testimonies of women of various professional backgrounds regarding equality issues and the multiple roles that they are called to play as women<sup>18</sup>.
- On World Woman’s Day, Komotini Counseling Center broadcasted a radio show from Komotini’s Holy Metropolis radio station with the participation of the psychologist of the Centre, entitled “Global Attitudes towards Gender Equality”.
- Municipality of Athens, via the Directorate of Social Solidarity created a tv spot, released on World’s Woman Day, with the participation of the staff from the Safe Shelter for women victims of violence and their children, regarding the creation of Athens first “Women’s Counseling Center”<sup>19</sup>.
- On March 5, the staff of Corfu’s Counseling Center participated in an online event organized by the Region of Ionian Islands, entitled: “We put an end to intimidation and violence. We support the victims everywhere”. The event was part of an awareness raising campaign addressed to all actors (operating in the region) and included information on the services provided by the Counselling Center, aiming to present the framework of cooperation as well as the good practices through networking with local actors of Corfu’s community.
- On March 8, the psychologist of Piraeus Counselling Center, Ms. Vassiliki Xirou, participated at the web Conference: “Today’s Aspects of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence”, organized by the Local Psychological Health Support Group (TOPSI) of Nea Smyrni Municipality<sup>20</sup>.



<sup>17</sup> Municipality of Rhodes, Directorate of Social Policy and Health. (2021). Press release: <https://www.facebook.com/koinonikipolitikidimouroudou/>

<sup>18</sup> Municipality of Arta (2021), Municipality of Arta: Arta Counselling Center 2021: <http://www.arta.gr/2021/03/08/%CE%AD%CE%BD%CE%B1-%CE%B2%CE%AF%CE%BD%CF%84%CE%B5%CE%BF-%CE%BC%CE%B5-%CE%B8%CE%AD%CE%BC%CE%B1-%CE%B9%CF%83%CF%8C%CF%84%CE%B7%CF%84%CE%B5%CF%82-%CE%B1%CE%BD%CE%B9%CF%83%CF%8C%CF%84/>

<sup>19</sup> Municipality of Athens Directorate of Social Solidarity, (2021), The first Women’s Counseling Center is being created in Athens: <https://www.facebook.com/659456640829622/posts/3822359487872639/>

<sup>20</sup> Municipality of Nea Smyrni, World Woman’s Day- Conference TOPSI 8-3-2021: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cvCmgUrnc8>



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**Other significant actions of the GS for Demography and Family Policy and Gender Equality**

- The Greek Manpower Employment Organization (OAED) modified the program of vulnerable social groups following the cooperation with GSDFPGE, to support unemployed women- victims of gender -based violence, including victims of domestic violence. Through this program 90% of the total cost (salary and non- salary) is subsidized for 12- 24 months up to 800€ per month for a full-time position and up to 400€ for a part-time position, for the recruitment of unemployed persons by private and public enterprises, actors and organizations that carry out economic activities as well as by Municipal and Regional enterprises. As of March 2021 OAED, in the framework of its cooperation with GSDFPGE, decided to include for the first time the unemployed women- victims of gender- based violence and domestic violence. The program is still open for applications and women who are supported by GSDFPGE's Network of structures have shown interest.
- The GSDFPGE in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and based on the provisions of the relevant Joint Ministerial Decision received and provided for free tests for the detection of Covid-19, both for the staff and the beneficiaries of the shelters of the GSDFPGE. Since then, the latter monitors and records on a monthly basis the use of the tests per structure in order to cover the needs by allocating additional ones.



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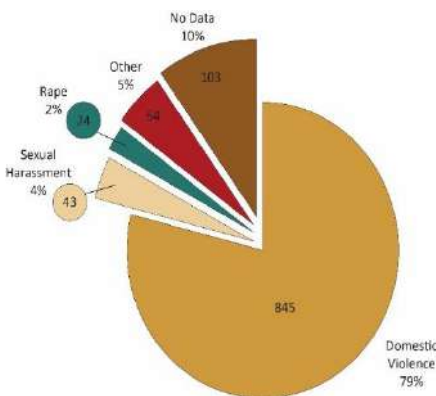
**Counseling Centers (data analysis<sup>21</sup> covering the period February – April 2021)**

It is indicative that, during the reference period, the Counseling Centres of the GSDFPGE Network throughout Greece provided support to a total of **1,212** women survivors of GBV and multiple discrimination, as well as to third parties (i.e., mother, adult daughter of the survivor etc.) who mostly received useful information.

Beneficiaries	Violence	Multiple Discrimination	TOTAL	
Intake Forms	<b>1,063</b>	149	<b>1,212</b>	100 %

For the reporting period violence against women<sup>22</sup> prevails with **88%** compared to the cases of multiple discrimination against women which amounted to 12%<sup>23</sup>. While the main source of information for the support structures of the network for women beneficiaries and third parties was: 31% through other entities, 22% through the 15900 SOS Helpline, 11% obtained their information online, 10% by a friend/acquaintance and 6% from another beneficiary. Moreover, 1-2% of all, received information through television, radio, and press, while 12% did not provide this information. **Table 1: Women supported at the Counseling Centres in Greece (01.02.2021–30.04.2021)** Specifically, during the reference period, 36% of women received support in 8 Counseling Centers in Attica<sup>24</sup>. A smaller percentage of 6% were supported by the Counseling Center in Thessaloniki, 4% by the new Counseling Center of Salamina, as well as in Crete

Women and Third Parties Supported at the Counseling Centres	Total	Percentage
Attica	<b>441</b>	36%
Thessaloniki	71	6%
Crete	44	4%
Kavala	39	3%
Salamina	50	4%
Patra	41	3%
Larissa	21	2%
Tripoli	47	4%
Serres	25	2%
Lamia	25	2%
Corfu	22	2%
Chios	25	2%
Lesvos	14	1%
Veria	22	2%
Kalamata	26	2%
Ioannina	34	3%
Alexandroupoli	24	2%
Komotini	19	2%
Other	222	18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1212</b>	<b>100%</b>



Moreover, 3% of women received support in Kavala and equally in Patra (4%) and a total of 44% received support in the remaining Counseling Centers of the Network<sup>25</sup>. **Figure 1: Forms of GBV reported by supported women (01.02.2021–30.04.2021)** The most common form of violence for the reference period is domestic violence, amounting to **79%** of all the GBV reported cases in the

<sup>21</sup> 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%).

<sup>22</sup> Refugee/migrant women, women with disabilities, drug addict women, the long-term unemployed women, single parent women, etc.

<sup>23</sup> Note: unique beneficiaries supported at the Counselling Centres may report both an incident of GBV and an incident of discrimination(s)

<sup>24</sup> 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

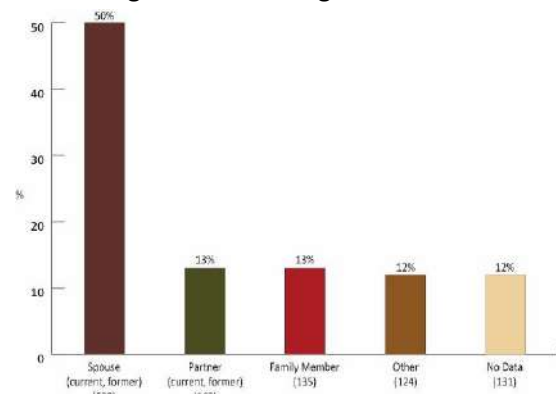
<sup>25</sup> Note: Multiple factors such as awareness-raising activities, in combination with higher needs of women, due to the concentration of population in these areas. Therefore, presented results should not be taken as an outcome from which specific conclusions can be drawn





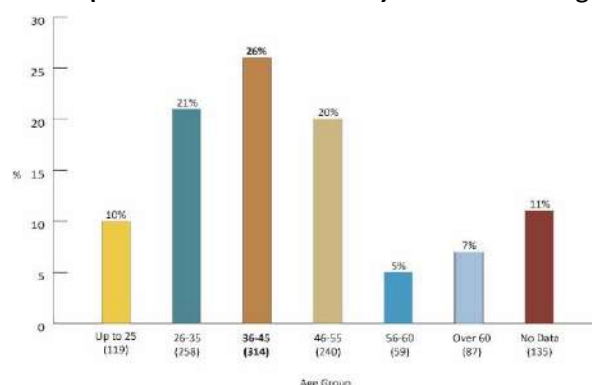
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Counseling Centers throughout Greece. Sexual harassment follows with 4%, while 2% were incidents of rape.

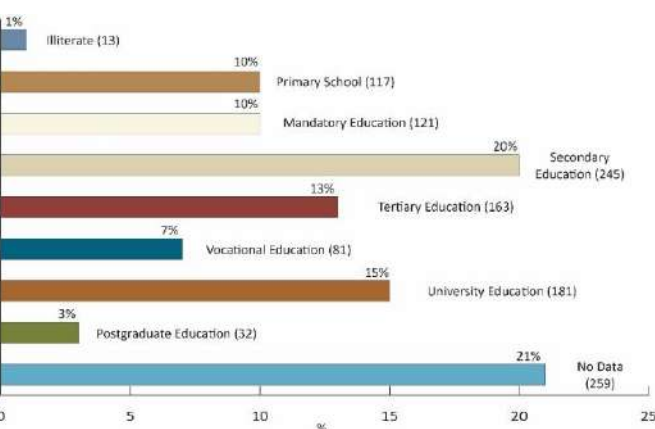


**Figure 2: Survivor-Perpetrator Relationship (01.02.2021–30.04.2021).** The data show that, during the reporting period, the relationship between the survivor and the perpetrator was mostly spousal amounting to **50%**, 13% of women were submitted to violence by their partner, while equally 13% of the 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).

As for the age groups of women- survivors of GBV and third parties who received specialized services and useful information respectively at the Counseling Centers of the Network during the said period, the highest percentage, amounting to **26%**, were women between 36 and 45 years old. A 21% refers to the age group of beneficiaries between 26 and 35 years old, and a 20% refers to the age group between 46 and 55 years old, while 7% refers to women over 60 years old and 5% to women beneficiaries and third parties at the age of 56 to 60 years old. It is important to note that 10% represents the young girls up to 25 years old, while 11% of the beneficiaries did not provide information regarding their age.



As for the age groups of women-

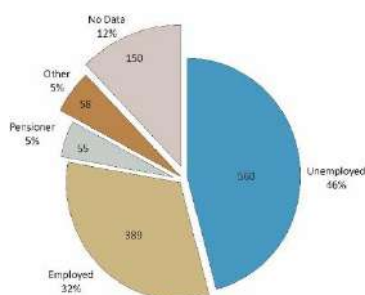


**Figure 4: Education level of supported women (01.02.2021–30.04.2021).** Among the recorded characteristics of women- survivors of GBV who received supportive services is their educational level. During the reporting period, the highest percentage of beneficiaries (**20%**) reported having completed secondary education, while **15%** have university education and **13%** post-secondary education. Beneficiaries with mandatory education amount to 10%, equally to beneficiaries who have completed primary school, and 7% of the beneficiaries has completed vocational education. A smaller amount of 3%, includes beneficiaries who have completed postgraduate studies. Lastly, 25% of the said population did not provide this information.

**Figure 5: Employment status of supported women (01.02.2021–30.04.2021).** Regarding the employment status of women who received supportive services from the Counseling Centers throughout Greece during the reporting period, **46%**

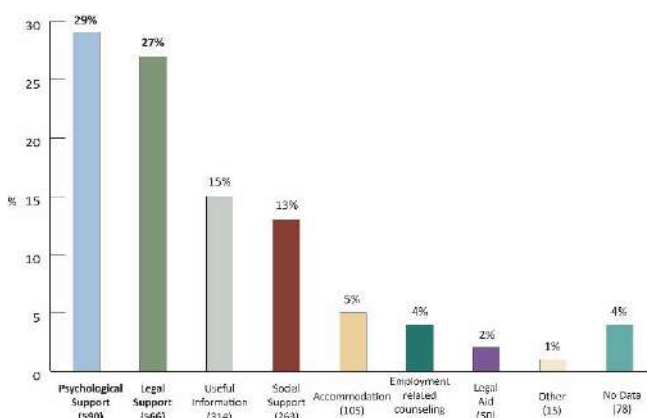


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appear to be unemployed, 32% employed, 5% pensioners, while 12% did not provide this information. The women seeking specialized support at the Counseling Centers of the Network during the reference period, stated being Greek in a percentage of **76%**, a 6% refers to refugee women and 3% to migrant women living in Greece, while 15% of the women did not provide this information. **Figure 6: Requests by supported women (01.02.2021–30.04.2021).** Women survivors of violence and multiple discrimination requested specialized support and useful information from GSDFPGE Network of structures, during the reporting period, as follows: 29% received psychological support; 27% legal

support, while 15% requested useful information regarding legal rights, specialized services etc. Furthermore, 13% of all women received social support and 5% requested safe accommodation at the Women’s Shelters. 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 **71** women received support via interpretation at 5 Counseling Centers and at 7 Women’s Shelters.

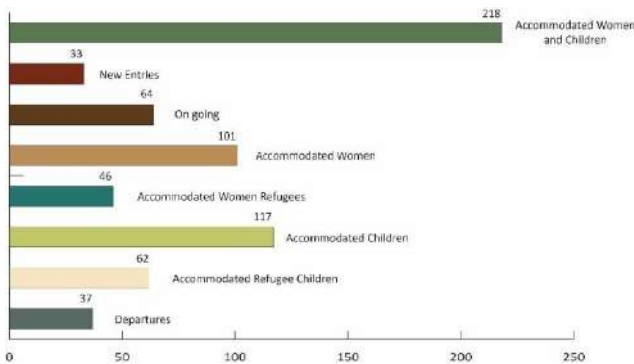


The main languages spoken by the survivors were French, Arabic, Farsi, Kurmanji, Sorani, Lingala, Urdu, Panjabi, English and Albanian. In addition, 86 sessions were supported with interpretation (both in Counseling Centers and Women’s Shelters), primarily via telephone/Skype calls (53 sessions) and secondly via physical presence (33 sessions). The highest percentage of sessions, **83%** referred to the provision of psychosocial support to women, 7% concerned legal counseling and 8% corresponds to referrals of refugee and migrant women survivors of GBV to health services and individual information sessions.



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**Women’s Safe Shelters (reference period February – April 2021)**



According to the standards and regulations of the GSDFPGE’s Network of Structures, the Safe Shelters accommodate adult women survivors of GBV and multiple discrimination, such as unemployed, single mothers, Roma, refugees and migrants, women with disabilities, etc. and their children, girls up to 18 years old and boys up to 12 years old<sup>26</sup>. **Figure 1: Accommodated women and children (1.02.2021-30.04.2021)**. During the three months period, the Safe Shelters accommodated in total **101** women and **117** children, a total of **218** persons, covering about 55% of the total occupancy of the

Network’s Shelters<sup>27</sup>. Out of all women and children, **46** are refugee women and **62** are refugee children. Based on the entry date of women at the Shelters there were **33** new admissions, while a total of **37** women and children during the reporting period departed towards their own safe destination.

**Table 1: Occupancy of Safe Shelters throughout Greece (1.02.2021-30.04.2021)**. The Safe Shelters with the

highest percentage of occupancy **24%** were the ones located in Attica region, (Municipality of Athens, Kordeliou-Evosmou, Piraeus and EKKA Ilion), Patra, Larissa and Agrinio equally amounted to 9%, Ioannina and Volos with 7% occupancy each, Tripoli and Thessaloniki 6% each and Chania and Mytilene equally reached 5% of occupancy. While 14% of all women and children disaggregated at the rest of the GSDFPGE’s Safe Shelters. Out of all the women and children accommodated in the shelters in Attica region, **26%** are refugee women and children, and same applies for 12% and 11% of the population accommodated in the Safe Shelters of Volos and Ioannina respectively. **Table 2: Accommodated children and refugee children (1.02.2021-30.04.2021)**. Out of all children

Region	Total of Accommodated Women and Children	Percentage	Total of Accommodated Refugee Women and Refugee Children	Percentage
Attica	52	24%	28	26%
Patra	20	9%	9	8%
Ioannina	16	7%	12	11%
Larissa	20	9%	8	7%
Agrinio	20	9%	0	0%
Tripoli	13	6%	5	5%
Chania	11	5%	0	0%
Lesvos	10	5%	7	6%
Volos	15	7%	13	12%
Thessaloniki	12	6%	7	6%
Lamia	8	4%	8	7%
Other	21	10%	11	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

<sup>26</sup> General Secretariat for Demography 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](https://womensos.gr/wp-content/uploads/Kanonismos_Shelters.pdf)

<sup>27</sup> Note: 19 Shelter Structures across Greece, about 400 beds for women and their children

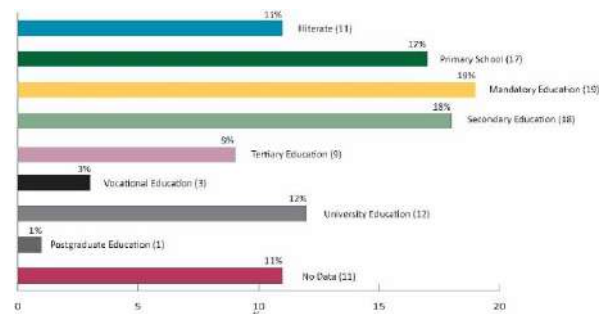
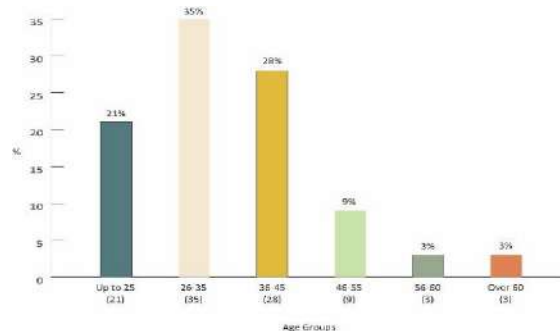


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Accommodated children	Total of accommodated children	Total of Accommodated refugee children
boys (<12 years old)	51	32
girls (<18 years old)	66	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>62</b>

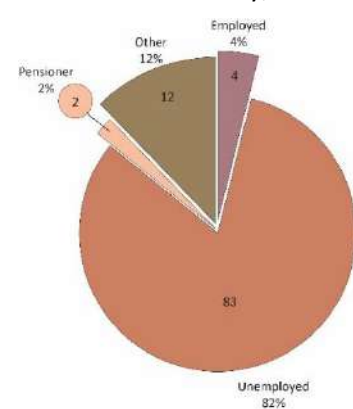
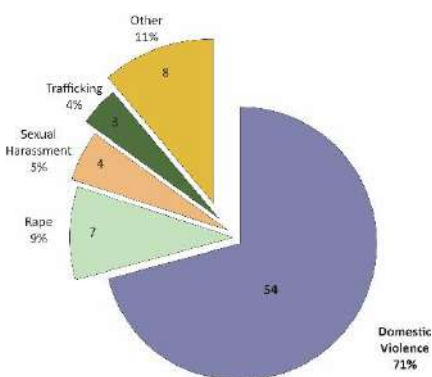
(117) accommodated at the Safe Shelters, 53% refers to refugee children. Specifically, the reporting period refugee boys up to 12 years old amounted to 27%, while refugee girls up to 18 years old, reached 26%. The mothers have the full responsibility for the care of their children, while at the same 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 the children to specialized centers etc.

**Figure 2: Age groups of accommodated women (1.02.2021-30.04.2021)** Regarding the age groups of women accommodated at the Safe Shelters, during the three-month period, **35%** of all women aged between 26 and 35, 28% between 36 and 45 years old, followed by 21% of young girls aged up to 25 and 9% of women between 46 to 55 years old. Lastly, 3% corresponds equally to women aged over 60 and those aged between 56 and 60.



**Figure 3: Education level of accommodated women (1.02.2021-30.04.2021)** It is indicative that, during the reference period, the highest percentage of accommodated women, **19%**, have completed mandatory education, 18% secondary education and 17% primary school. Women who have university degree follow with 12% and women who are illiterate with 11%. Only 9% of all accommodated women had a tertiary degree, while 3% have completed vocational education. Lastly, 11% of

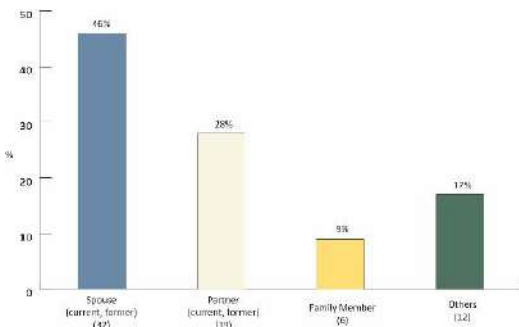
them did not provide this information. **Figure 4: Employment status of accommodated women (1.02.2021-30.04.2021).** Regarding the employment status of the accommodated women, the highest percentage of **82%** reported being unemployed, while only 4% reported being employed. Women pensioners make up to 2% of all accommodated women. The latter can receive employment counseling at the Shelter and be referred to relevant services. **Figure 5: Forms of GBV reported by accommodated women (1.02.2021-30.04.2021)** The most prevalent form of GBV during the reporting period is domestic violence, with **71%** of all





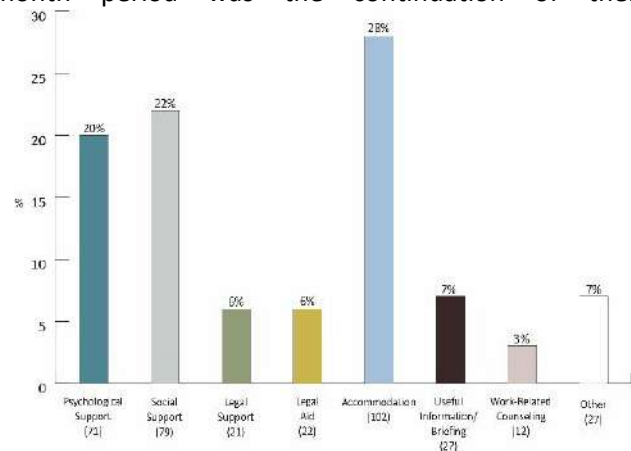
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recorded forms of violence at the Network’s Shelters throughout Greece. Incidents of rape follow with 9%, sexual harassment with 5% and trafficking with 4%. **Figure 6: Survivor-Perpetrator relationship (1.02.2021-30.04.2021).**



The three months data provided by the Network Shelters highlight the fact that, the relationship between woman survivor and perpetrator is at **46%** spousal (current or former spouse), **28%** coming from the partner (current or former) and **9%** reported that the perpetrator was another family member (i.e., brother, father, or other relative). **Figure 7: Requests by accommodated women (1.02.2021-30.04.2021).** 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 **22%** refers to the need for social support and **20%** to psychological support. Requests for legal support corresponds to **6%**, and **7%** of all women requested useful information. Regarding the Temporary Accommodation Facilities across the country, that GSDFPGE had initiated on April 2020, for the temporary placement of women with their children until all the necessary medical exams are completed and the latter are placed at the Safe Shelters of the Network, GSDFPGE in collaboration with the Hotel Chamber in Greece and the Hellenic Forensic Medicine Society continued to provide them, giving the opportunity to women to leave the abusive environment.



During the second lockdown period and specifically during the quarter of February, March, April, emergency accommodation procedures initiated for 16 women with their children. Eventually, 15 women with their children were placed in temporary accommodation facilities in Athens, Thessaloniki and Mytilene, while one woman did not accept the accommodation. Of these, six were placed in the Safe Shelters of the Network and nine left to their own safe destination, while they continued to receive consultation by the Counselling Centers of GSDFPGE. Moreover, six out of the 15, were referred by the SOS 15900 Helpline and the rest were referred by the Counseling Centers of the Network and/or by Civil Society Organizations. Out of the 15 women, six were refugees, four were Greeks and the rest of the women were coming from other countries.

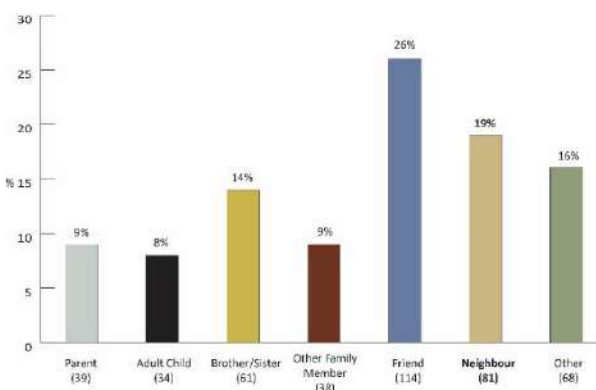
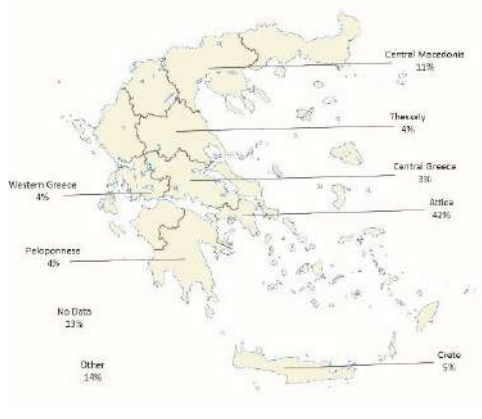


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**SOS 15900 24/7 Helpline (reference period from 1.02.2021-30.04.2021)**

The SOS 15900 Helpline is a nationwide service that enables women survivors of GBV or any third party to communicate with a state agency committed to addressing 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](mailto: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 **212 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 (1.02.2021-30.04.2021)** During the three-month period, a total of **2.037** calls were recorded, **1.354** of

which referred to “incidents of violence” and **376** to “Useful Information”<sup>28</sup>. Out of all the calls regarding incidents of violence and useful information recorded by the SOS 15900 Helpline, 68% were calls by women survivors seeking support and 32% by third parties seeking mostly useful information. **Figure 2: Person who is calling (1.02.2021-30.04.2021)**. Third parties who called the SOS 15900 Helpline were desegregated as follows: the neighbor with 19%, some friend with 26%, a sibling with 14%, the parents of the survivor with 9%. Lastly, recorded calls by the adult child of the survivor amounted to 4%. Moreover, **87%** of calls were made by women calling the SOS 15900 Helpline for the first time, 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, had been informed about it via internet at a rate of 13%, by the TV at 8%, by another entity at 5% and by someone they know at 4%, while 69% did not provide this information during the call. **Map 1: Regions from which women beneficiaries calls were recorded (1.02.2021-30.04.2021)** During the reporting period the Regions of Greece with the highest percentage of recorded calls is Attica with **42%**,



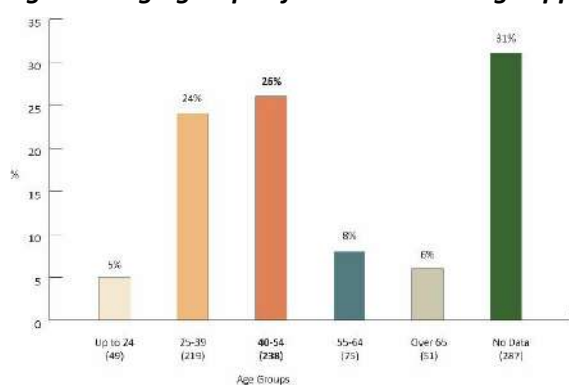
<sup>28</sup> Note: Irrelevant calls, such as pranks, etc. are not analyzed in this newsletter



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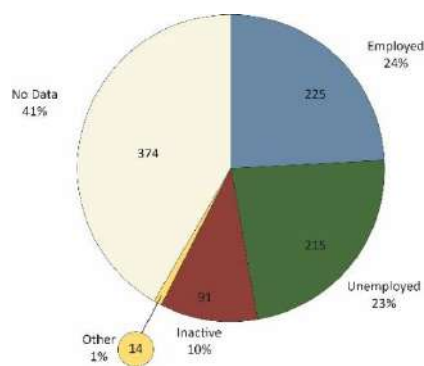
Central Macedonia with 11% while the rest of the recorded calls is equally divided among the rest of the Regions of the Greek territory. Lastly, 13% of total calls did not disclose the place of the call. Out of all women survivors who called the 15900 Help Line, 70% are Greek, 9% are immigrants while, no call from refugee women was recorded. The latter can be attributed to the fact that refugee women- survivors of gender- based violence or multiple discrimination are usually referred to the Counselling Centers of GSDFPGE Network of Structures by Civil Society Organizations and Non- Governmental Organizations (NGOs) helping refugee and migrant population.

**Figure 3: Age groups of women receiving support from the SOS Helpline 15900 (1.02.2021-30.04.2021)**



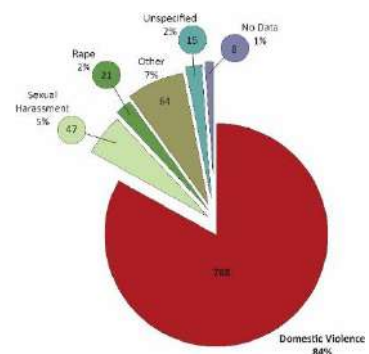
As for the age group of women who called the SOS 15900 Helpline during the reporting period, the highest percentage **26%** refers to women aged between 40 and 54 years old, 24% are women between 25–39 years old, 8% refers to women 55–64 years old, 6% to women aged over 65 and 5% to girls up to 24 years old. Lastly, 31% of all the women who received support from the SOS 15900 did not provide this information.

**Figure 4: Employment status of women receiving support from the SOS Helpline 15900**



**(1.02.2021-30.04.2021)** 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 **24%** were employed, while 23% unemployed, 10% reported being inactive and 41% out of all women did not provide this information. Regarding the education level of women who called SOS Helpline, during the reference period, the highest rate of **85%** did not provide this information, 10% have completed university education, while 2% the secondary education. This can be explained by the fact that during the call beneficiaries are emotionally charged and counsellors focus on their support.

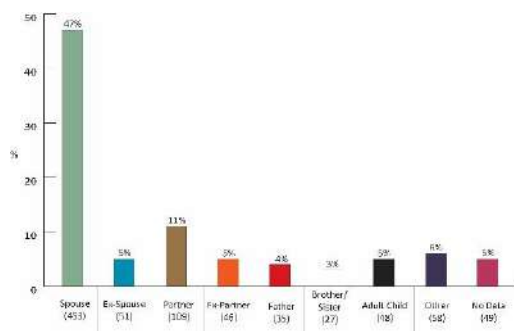
**Figure 5: Form of violence reported by women beneficiaries at the SOS Helpline 15900 (1.02.2021-30.04.2021)**



**(1.02.2021-30.04.2021)** During the reporting period, domestic violence made up to **84%** of the total forms of violence recorded at the SOS Helpline 15900. The main forms of violence in the context of domestic violence were psychological violence at **34%**, verbal violence at 30%, physical violence at 29%, economic violence against women was recorded at 6%, while sexual violence within intimate partner violence at 2%. Regarding the family status of women who reported incidents of domestic violence: 59% have children, 19% reported not having children, 21% did not provide this information. Moreover, pregnant, single mothers with minor child (less than 16 years old) and women with disabilities, reached equally to 1% of all the women who reported domestic violence, while 9% reported having health issue problems.



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**Figure 6: Survivor-Perpetrator relationship (1.02.2021-30.04.2021) 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 rate of 47% the perpetrator was the husband. The partner follows with 11% and with the same rate of 5% the ex-husband, the ex-partner, and the child equally. The father of the survivor follows with 4%, the brother with 3% while another family member reaches 6% and relatively high is the rate that refers to a third person at 6%. **Figure 7: Women Beneficiaries requests (1.02.2021-**

**30.04.2021).** The majority of women’s individual requests recorded by the SOS 15900 Helpline during the reference months was for psychological support at **41%**, followed by 37% 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. 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 calls both women and third parties to break their silence and speak out for the violent behaviors that either they survive or fall into their attention.

