

# NEWSLETTER

## COMBATING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

### GEORGIA

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### UNFPA GEORGIA HOSTS WHITE RIBBON CO-FOUNDER MICHAEL KAUFMAN

On April 14-17, UNFPA/Georgia hosted a prominent international expert and a public speaker Michael Kaufman to conduct a regional Training of Trainers (TOT) within the framework of the UNFPA implemented “Combating Gender Based Violence in the South Caucasus” project in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Michael Kaufman has worked in over fifty countries for governments, business, NGOs and the United Nations to promote gender equality and end violence against women through “men talking to men” methodology. He is also the co-founder of the White Ribbon Campaign, the largest effort in the world of men working to ensure that our future has no violence against women.



The South Caucasus Regional TOT on “Male Involvement in Advancing Gender Equality and Ending Violence against Women” brought together 30 representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Participants – all male, represented different public sectors including governmental institutions, non-governmental organizations, media and academia. The initiative aimed at engaging men and advancing their role in eliminating violence against women and contributing to establishing gender equality in the region.

Tamar Khomasuridze, Assistant Representative of the UNFPA in Georgia: “Traditionally most efforts and funds in the gender-related work are focused on women. Meanwhile, as set out in the ICPD programme of action, men play a key role in bringing about gender equality since, in most societies, they exercise preponderant power in nearly every sphere of life. The objective is to promote gender equality and to encourage and enable men to take responsibility for their social and family roles. We are hopeful that this initiative will serve as a catalyst in mobilizing men nation-wide to engage them, along with women, in the struggle against gender-based violence in Georgia and in the South Caucasus region.”

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At the opening session of the TOT, Michael Kaufman delivered a public advocacy speech complemented by a press conference at the Metekhi Sheraton Palace Hotel. Other speakers at the event included Vice-speaker of the Parliament of Georgia, Chair of the Advisory Gender Equality Council Rusudan Kervalishvili, Vice-Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia George Tsereteli, Ambassador of the United States of America John R. Bass, Ambassador of France to Georgia Eric Fournier and UNFPA Assistant Representative in Georgia Tamar Khomasuridze. The event was further attended by the representatives of the parliament, government, diplomatic corps, international organizations, local NGOs and media.

Michael Kaufman: *“Violence against women and gender inequity remains pandemic worldwide. The most widespread problems are physical and sexual violence and emotional abuse against spouses and girlfriends (from hitting right up to murder). This contradicts a common myth that most violence is committed by strangers. The fact is, when a woman faces violence it is usually by a man she knows – her husband, boyfriend, father, or employer. By remaining silent about these things, we allow other men to poison our work, schools and homes. The good news is that more and more men and boys want to make a difference. Caring men are tired of the sexism that hurts the women around them. Caring men are also concerned with the impact of this violence on the lives of men and boys and societies in general.”*

The participants of a four-day TOT were selected under high scrutiny with regards to their professionalism, gender sensitivity and ability to further transfer their knowledge and skills to different target groups. However, challenging stereotypical attitudes and cultural norms of 30 Caucasian males by a Canadian expert was a difficult undertake, that proved to be a success.



Beka Berikashvili, training participant, 23 years of age: *“Up to-date, these type of trainings have been conducted for women and focusing on women. Kaufman managed to bring about importance of male involvement in the gender related work and have managed to get us thinking that establishing gender equality is a responsibility that we as men have to take upon. Now, it is important to elaborate an action platform in order to engage more men in this work. Together, we will be able to eliminate gender-based violence and create an equitable society, where women will be given opportunity to use their potential to the fullest.”*

National action plans on future activities for male involvement for each country were drafted as an outcome of the training. The trained participants are expected to implement awareness raising activities for project's male target groups in their respective countries in the near future.

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### GBV-SC GEORGIA INTRODUCES THE UNITE CAMPAIGN: DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



In November 2009, UNFPA/Georgia first introduced the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign in Georgia through elaborating a **Declaration of Commitment to End Violence against Women**. The declaration was adopted on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the official opening of the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence organized by the GBV-SC project at the Parliament of Georgia .

Launched in 2008, the UNiTE campaign is a multi-year effort aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls in all parts of the

world. UNiTE calls on governments, civil society, women's organizations, young people, the private sector, the media and the entire UN system to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of violence against women and girls.

The signatories of the Declaration, joined the new network of men leaders headed by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, established on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 within the framework of the United Nations UNiTE campaign to end violence against women and girls. In adherence to the UNiTE campaign, the undersigned pledged to achieve the following five goals in Georgia by 2015:

- Adopt and enforce national laws to address and punish all forms of violence against women and girls
- Adopt and implement multi-sectoral national action plans
- Strengthen data collection on the prevalence of violence against women and girls
- Increase public awareness and social mobilization
- Address sexual violence in conflict (*with special reference to the UN Security Council resolutions 1888 and 1889 that strengthen accountability to women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations*)

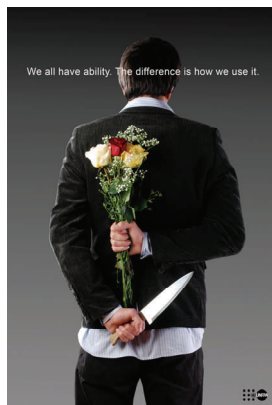


Over 2 000 signatures were generated from parliament, governmental organizations, donor organizations, local NGOs, academic circles, media and youth Within the framework of the 16 Days of Activism 2009.

The collection of signatures is still ongoing aiming at generating commitment of different target groups and public at-large to prevent and eliminate violence against women in Georgia and in all parts of the world. The declaration is currently available for signatures at the Parliament of Georgia, office of the Vice-Speaker of the Parliament, Chair of the Gender Equality Parliamentary Council Ms. Rusudan Kervalishvili.

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### GBV-SC TAKES A LEAD IN WORKING WITH MALE PERPETRATORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



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In today's world, prevention and elimination efforts on domestic violence are generally focused on working with exclusively women, more ever; intervening efforts take place mostly after a battering episode. In the meantime, engaging boys and men in the education and rehabilitation services to prevent violence by changing the attitudes and behaviors of male perpetrators of domestic violence is increasingly crucial as men are predominantly the perpetrators of domestic violence, committing 90% of the violent crimes against women.

An increasing need of working with male perpetrators of domestic violence is stressed in the Georgian National Action Plan (NAP) on Domestic Violence 2009-2010. In order to facilitate the government of Georgia in the implementation of NAP commitments, GBV-SC Georgia collaborated with the Inter-Agency Council on Domestic Violence establishing an Ad Hoc Working Group to elaborate a concept paper on rehabilitation for male perpetrators of domestic violence.

An Ad Hoc working group comprised of domestic violence experts, lawyers and psychologists was recruited to elaborate a national concept paper on rehabilitation of male perpetrators of domestic violence in March 2010, reflecting on international practice and experiences and setting out principles, guidelines, approaches and programme directions for domestic violence perpetrator rehabilitation.

The completion of the concept paper is projected as of May 2010. Hence, the concept note will be discussed by the State Inter-agency Council on Domestic Violence and will be endorsed by the government of Georgia as a policy document to guide further work on perpetrators rehabilitation programs.

GBV-SC Georgia plans to further support work with regards to male perpetrators rehabilitation through assisting the government in adopting standards, guidelines and programs to ensure necessary work is carried out with male perpetrators to increase the safety of victims and to prevent violence by changing the attitudes and behaviors of male perpetrators of domestic violence.

*GBV-SC project web-site is now operational. Please visit [www.genderbasedviolence.ge](http://www.genderbasedviolence.ge)*

*or*

*Find us on Facebook:  
Combating Gender-Based  
Violence in the South Caucasus*

## COMBATING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

### POLICE FORCE AND ATTORNEYS TO BE TRAINED ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In line with its commitment to support capacity building of the government of Georgia in addressing domestic violence, GBV-SC Georgia supports trainings of police officers and Legal Aid Office attorneys throughout Georgia.



Police play a pivotal role in managing the domestic violence problem being the first contact for violence-prone families. Georgian legislation on domestic violence uses restrictive and protective orders issued by police and a court of law respectively as a provisional measure to stop the offender and to protect the victim. While these instruments have been in place since 2006, there remain geographic areas in Georgia, as Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli region where police trainings on the use of these instruments are still required.

Providing legal aid, including representation and consultancy is another issue of utmost importance for potential and existing victims of domestic violence. While necessary legislative regulations and shelters of victims are available, it is vital to ensure this information is properly delivered by professional legal service providers to those in need.

In order to respond to the growing need of capacity building within the police system on addressing domestic violence and improve accessibility to legal counseling for the victims of domestic violence, GBV-SC is collaborating with the State Fund for Protection of and Assistance to (Statutory) Victims of Trafficking in Persons (ATIP fund), a governmental unit directly responsible for the implementation of the NAP on domestic violence, in order to build capacity of immediate service providers on domestic violence.

For these purposes, GBV-SC Georgia in collaboration with the ATIP Fund and the Inter-agency Council on Domestic Violence has established an ad hoc working group to provide overall coordination on all activities related to capacity building of the police force. In addition, the project advocacy efforts resulted in the development of the unified training module that will be used by all stakeholders for police force trainings. Currently, GBV-SC Georgia supports the ATIP Fund in conducting domestic violence trainings for approximately 200 patrol and district police officers in Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli region, as well as for 100 Legal Aid service attorneys country-wide.

Legal Aid Service attorneys were selected as an appropriate target group, due to their governmental mandate to provide country-wide free of charge legal assistance, primarily for those who cannot afford paying for the legal costs. As the studies show, women with limited funds and lower social status are more likely to become victims of gender-based violence. Therefore, UNFPA deemed necessary to strengthen Legal Aid attorneys' capacity through comprehensive trainings on domestic violence to ensure they can provide professional legal assistance to vulnerable women.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the UNFPA Georgia and the ATIP Fund has already been signed. The trainings are projected to commence in the late spring of 2010.

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### CAPACITY BUILDING ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITHIN THE POLICE FORCE

In order to ensure sustainability of the efforts aimed at building capacity of the police officers in handling domestic violence cases, UNFPA Georgia has taken a further step to ensure that domestic violence is thoroughly mainstreamed in the police professional training tools.

In collaboration with the Inter-agency Council on Domestic Violence and the ATIP fund, UNFPA supports a group of experts to update current police manual on domestic violence. In addition, master class sessions are planned to be conducted for the trainers at the Police Academy to ensure they are thoroughly informed of the upgrades in the system and have necessary skills and knowledge to transfer them to the Police Academy fellows.

To further support sustainability of the above mentioned efforts, UNFPA/Georgia additionally assists the Inter-Agency Council and the ATIP Fund to elaborate a pocket-sized manual on domestic violence for the police staff. The manual will include the Georgian law on Domestic Violence with special focus on the police interventions; their roles and obligations, newly adopted NRM and psychological aspects in dealing with domestic violence cases. The final document will be endorsed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and is anticipated to become a tool of mandatory use for the police officers country-wide.

### INFORMATION SESSIONS ON GENDER COVER THE EAST OF GEORGIA



Roll-out Peer Education Trainings is the second stage of the GBV-SC project information sessions initiative serving as an active public awareness raising tool to disseminate information about gender-based violence and domestic violence among different target groups and public at large.

The first stage of the project was the “Target Group Education” – series of trainings in seven main cities of Georgia (Tbilisi, Gori, Kutaisi, Batumi, Zugdidi, Gurjaani, Bolnisi). As a result of nine 5-day TOT trainings some 180 Educators have been trained on Gen-

der based violence issues.

Roll-out Peer Education Trainings is the second stage of the project supported by UNFPA/Georgia and conducted by International Center for Conflict and Negotiation (ICCN) entailing 80 1-day Roll-out Peer Education Trainings for 1,000 participants in Georgia. Trainings started in October 2009 and are currently being conducted in Tbilisi and in the following locations in East Georgia – Shida Kartli, Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti through an adapted training module on gender issues, gender rights and equality and will be completed by August 31, 2010.