

PUBLIC OPINION ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

*Representative survey of the population over 18 years of age,
125 units in 55 residence areas
done by the National Center for Public Opinion Polling*

Domestic violence is a private issue according to 49,2% of the respondents, while 50,8% consider it a public issue.

To the question regarding the incidence of violence respondents put on top street violence (65%), followed by media covered violence(52,5); last comes violence at the workplace (17,6%).

With regards to domestic violence/between partners physical violence against women comes first with 66,2% followed closely by family rows with 65,3% .
The main reasons for domestic violence respondents see in financial issues (i.e. poverty) – 76,1%; unemployment – 51,2% and there were even numbers for bad upbringing and every-day stress – 42,2%.

The police is seen as the institution that people will usually advise victims of violence to go to (66,5%) and only 10,6% from all think that the assistance of the NGO's should be sought.

Respondents have most often encountered children witnesses of frequent rows between parents (43,8%), women victims of physical (40%) and psychological (37,8%) abuse within the family; elderly people victims of abuse from their children (38%), children abused by their parents (26,6%) and women victims of sexual abuse in the family (12,8).

As for personal experience 5,5 % of the respondents have experienced either physical or more often psychological (12,2%) abuse from their spouses/partners; 4-5% refused to answer such a question and we can only guess their reasons.

The idea of taking abuser away from the family for a certain period of time has won a lot of supporters – 68,4%; while 81,7% agree that the contacts between the abuser and the victim should be restricted and 78,3% consider it correct to limit the contacts between the abuser and the children.

Assistance from social workers should be offered to the victims according to 73,2% of the respondents and to the abuser according to 56,7%.