

Countries Work to Monitor and Implement Laws on Violence against Women and Girls, Part 2

As part of The Advocates for Human Rights' work in creating the section on Developing Legislation on Violence against Women and Girls for UNIFEM's new website, the Global Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls (<http://endvawnow.org>), we recently asked our colleagues from around the world to share information on projects on advocacy, monitoring and implementation of laws on violence against women and girls that have worked well in their countries. In the next several VAW Monitors, The Advocates will highlight some of the responses we received. We thank all who sent us examples of their work. The scope of the work that dedicated activists accomplish each year to end violence against women is truly inspiring!

In August 2009, the [Animus Association](#), **Bulgaria**, which operates the only shelter of its kind in the Sofia region for women and children who have experienced violence, made its 24-hour hotline for women and adolescent victims of violence toll-free. The NGO has also implemented a project to develop specialized services to facilitate the economic rehabilitation of trafficked persons. Another project focuses on the identification and assessment of good practices currently employed by NGOs working to prevent domestic violence in Bulgaria. Animus has partnered with the National Commission on Combating Human Trafficking and La Strada International to create a National Referral Mechanism which would increase cooperation between state agencies and NGOs in protecting victims of trafficking.

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In 2008, the Association Demetra, **Bulgaria**, founded the Alliance for Protection against Domestic Violence. Between 2007 and 2008, Demetra organized seminars in 12 Bulgarian cities and trained various professionals on the community response model. Between 2007 and 2009, Demetra carried out activities to educate children at risk of trafficking.

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[Medica Zenica](#), **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, launched an innovative six-month campaign last year to educate government officials about gender-based violence. The project consisted of trainings and roundtable discussions for members of municipal gender equality boards and council chairpersons in the Zenica Doboј Canton territory. These workshops introduced municipal officials to international mechanisms for promoting gender equality, including the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#) (CEDAW). As a result of the project, officials who participated in the training

expressed their intent to amend local documents in accordance with these international standards.

Contact information: [Medica Zenica](#)

Rights for All (Prava za sve), an organization working to end violence against women and girls in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, is preparing a survey on violence against Roma women.

[United Women](#) (Udruzene zene), an organization based in Banja Luka, **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, monitored 27 out of 30 print and electronic media outlets in 2006 to assess the position of women within these media organizations as well as the portrayals of women in the news.

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The [Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team \(RRRT\) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community](#), based in Suva, **Fiji**, recently launched the “Changing Laws, Protecting Women” project, which aims to effect change in family law and laws on violence against women through targeted lobbying campaigns in six Pacific Island countries. The lobbying campaigns are based on draft model legislation and are implemented by core groups established in each country.

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