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NETWORK WOMEN'S PROGRAM  
VAW MONITORING PROGRAM

V I O L E N C E  
A G A I N S T  
W O M E N

DOES THE GOVERNMENT CARE  
IN  
L I T H U A N I A ?

Country Monitoring Reports  
and Fact Sheets

from  
Central and Eastern Europe,  
the Commonwealth of  
Independent States,  
and Mongolia

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Október 6. u. 12.  
H-1051 Budapest  
Hungary

*Website*

<[www.soros.org/women](http://www.soros.org/women)>

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## Preface

*“...states have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish acts of violence, whether those acts are perpetrated by the state or private persons, and provide protection to victims...”*

(Recommendation No. R (2002) 5 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to member states on the protection of women against violence)

Violence against women is a global epidemic, constituting the serious violation of women’s human rights and fundamental freedoms. Combating this phenomenon has been one of the main priority areas of the Network Women’s Program (NWP) of the Open Society Institute since its establishment in 1998.

NWP’s main activities in this field included initiating, managing and supporting several international projects,<sup>1</sup> by acquiring and transferring knowledge throughout the regions where OSI has traditionally worked.<sup>2</sup> The activities of NWP in the field of violence against women were transformed into a separate program, the Violence against Women (VAW) Monitoring Program, which operated until the end of 2006.

A main focus of the Program was introducing and managing the Stop Violence Against Women (STOPVAW) website,<sup>3</sup> and establishing the National Violence against Women (VAW) Monitor Network. The website was developed by Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights in 2003, with the support of NWP and UNIFEM. Subsequently, in May 2004 NWP initiated the National VAW Monitor Program by

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<sup>1</sup> Such as the “16 Days” Campaigns against Gender Violence, and the Coordinated Community Response to Violence against Women (Duluth Program). The “16 Days” Campaigns Against Gender Violence program supported NGOs in 19 countries of the Soros foundations network to organize national public awareness campaigns on violence against women. NWP and the OSI Network Media Program provided grants, along with training workshops, in order to build the capacity of women’s NGOs and media experts, and to improve the quality of the media campaigns. Grants were offered exclusively for cross-country cooperation in 2003.

In introducing the Duluth Model, an innovative community-coordinated strategy, NWP organized several training workshops for national teams from 16 countries as well as special training for police officers and other law enforcement professionals, and supported the adaptation of the model for several years.

<sup>2</sup> These are the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

<sup>3</sup> See: [www.stopvaw.org](http://www.stopvaw.org).

establishing a network of NGOs from 24 countries. Non-governmental organizations in the fields of violence against women and gender equality take on the role of National VAW Monitors and facilitate the continued development and maintenance of the English and national-language Country Pages of the STOPVAW website.

The responsibilities of the National Monitors include the monitoring of government compliance with international obligations and the distribution of information to the international community about the successes and failures of their governments in combating violence against women. The website and the Network are active forums for information sharing, knowledge transfer, and advocacy work.

At the end of 2005 a new, comprehensive Survey to Monitor Violence against Women was initiated by NWP, inviting the National VAW Monitors and other experts to map the situation on violence against women in their respective countries, with special regard to state responses. The survey methodology prepared for the Monitors and experts to follow built upon the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers' Recommendation No. R (2002) 5 on the protection of women against violence. The goal was to collect concise and comparative information from those who are in the field, as a basis for further analysis and update. Another aim was to contribute to the Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence.

By following the words and spirit of the Recommendation of the Council of Europe, the examined fields include, among others:

- responsible government bodies and their mandates regarding violence against women;
- action plans and their implementation;
- state budgets to combat violence against women, including support for NGOs;
- laws, regulations, and codes of conduct;
- services and assistance to victims (shelters, hotlines, crisis centers, legal aid, etc.);
- training and education at all levels;
- role of the media;
- awareness-raising activities; and
- research and statistics.

As a result of the monitoring survey, Country Fact Sheets and Country Monitoring Reports were prepared. These Fact Sheets and Country Reports issue a non-

governmental assessment of the countries' situation in the above fields, and formulate clear recommendations to the governments.<sup>4</sup>

Data collection for the monitoring survey was closed on December 1, 2006. Updated information on further developments in the efforts to combat violence against women in the countries concerned is available on the STOPVAW website.

We hope that both the Fact Sheets and Country Reports will be useful advocacy tools at the national and international levels, and that, by generating legal and policy changes, they will urge the states to fully meet their international commitments to combat violence against women.

Éva Földvári  
*Program Director*  
*Open Society Institute*  
*Violence against Women Monitoring Program*

Enikő Pap  
*Program Officer and Project Coordinator*  
*Open Society Institute*  
*Violence against Women Monitoring Program*

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<sup>4</sup> The reports are available online at [www.soros.org/women](http://www.soros.org/women) and [www.stopvaw.org/Country\\_Pages](http://www.stopvaw.org/Country_Pages).



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#### THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Enikő Pap  
 Judit Herman  
 Judit Wirth  
 Miklós Vörös  
 Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights (English editing only)  
 Q.E.D. Publishing

# 1. STATE MECHANISMS OF COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

## 1.1 National institutions or government bodies responsible for policy coordination and implementation

The institutional mechanism of implementation of equal opportunities for women and men in society incorporates three sectors: parliamentary, governmental and non-governmental.

The main institution responsible for gender equality in all aspects of society (the social, economic, political, and cultural spheres) is the Office of the Ombudsman of Equal Opportunities. This office monitors the implementation of the Law on Equal Opportunities, investigates complaints on issues of sex discrimination and sexual harassment, and implements various projects to promote gender mainstreaming in the public sector in Lithuania.<sup>5</sup>

The parliamentary bodies include gender equality aspects in their work. Initiatives on legislation of gender equality have been coordinated by the Human Rights Committee of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania (*Seimas*). The Group of Women Parliamentarians unites women from all parties in the parliament in order to discuss and analyze the general problems of gender equality and women's issues.<sup>6</sup>

On the governmental level, the Minister of Social Security and Labor undertakes the tasks of coordination of policy implementation on equal opportunities for women and men. In order to involve all executive bodies in the task of implementation, the inter-ministerial Commission of Equal Opportunities for Women and Men has been established. The task of the commission is to coordinate the activities of state institutions on gender equality policies and to cooperate with NGOs that work on gender equality issues.

On the municipal level, only one Vilnius municipality has an officer who deals with questions on equal opportunities between women and men.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> *Trečiasis Pranešimas apie Jungtinių Tautų konvencijos dėl visų formų diskriminacijos moterims panaikinimo įgyvendinimą Lietuvoje*, patvirtintas Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės, 2004 m. lapkričio 25 d. nutarimu Nr. 1497 (*Third Report on Implementation of UN Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, adopted by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, Decree No. 1497 of November 25, 2004. Hereinafter referred to as *Third National Report*), pp. 2–3, 18. [www.hrmi.lt/news.php?strid=1431&cid=1440](http://www.hrmi.lt/news.php?strid=1431&cid=1440).

<sup>6</sup> *Third National Report*, p. 17.

<sup>7</sup> *Third National Report*, p. 18.

Although all of these bodies cover gender equality issues, there are no special tasks allocated in the field of violence against women, as it is not included specifically in the laws or regulations that define the duties and functions of the institutions. However, certain measures on the governmental level concerning violence against women began to be considered in 2003, when the first *National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men* was adopted. The Ministry of Social Security and Labor prepared this *National Program* and included provisions for violence against women. In order to involve all of the executive bodies in implementing the *National Program on Equal Opportunities*, an inter-ministerial commission has been established. The task of the commission is to coordinate the activities of state institutions on gender equality policies and to cooperate with NGOs that work on gender equality issues.<sup>8</sup>

## 1.2 National action plans and other policy documents

*The National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men 2003–2004*<sup>9</sup> included one chapter on the protection of women's rights within the context of equal opportunities for women and men. In this chapter there was one section on violence against women that identified the problem and nine legal and social measures to solve it.<sup>10</sup> The Ministry of Social Security and Labor was responsible for the coordination of the program. The budget for the implementation of these measures for two years (2003–2004) was 68,000 litas (19,633 euros). The *National Program* was approved by the Prime Minister in June 2003; therefore, many measures planned for that year which needed funds were not implemented, and were postponed until 2004. The funding for the measures was assigned from the state budget. The implementation of

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<sup>8</sup> *Third National Report*, p. 18.

<sup>9</sup> *Valstybinė Moterų ir Vyrų Lygių Galimybių 2003–2004 m. Programa (National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2003–2004)*; [www.socmin.lt/index.php?-1889589091](http://www.socmin.lt/index.php?-1889589091).

<sup>10</sup> These are: development of the concept of prevention of violence against women; amendments to the laws on the isolation of perpetrators from the aggrieved family; amendments to the laws changing punishments for victims of trafficking for their involvement in prostitution; research to identify the amount of social services necessary for victims of trafficking; support for NGOs working in the field of violence against women; an information manual for women victims and potential victims of domestic violence; recommendations to integrate gender aspects into the educational programs of lawyers, social educators, social workers, police and medical personnel; a seminar to discuss legal aspects and imposing possible measures on perpetrators; and a seminar on difficulties in investigating in trafficking cases. Measures on Reduction of Violence against Women in the National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2003–2004, *Valstybinė Moterų ir Vyrų Lygių Galimybių 2003–2004 m. Programa (National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2003–2004)*; [www.socmin.lt/index.php?-1889589091](http://www.socmin.lt/index.php?-1889589091).

the each action was assigned to various institutional bodies. The deadlines were not strictly identified. In fact, the time span for each action was identified by the year.

The Commission of Equal Opportunities for Men and Women monitored the results of the implementation of the *National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2003–2004* and completed two reports for each year on its implementation.

The governmental report for 2003 shows that many provisions included in the *National Program* were not implemented due to a shortage of funds, and were postponed to 2004. Only one measure of a total of six was implemented. This included the legal amendments to the laws on trafficking in persons that releases victims of trafficking from legal responsibility for involvement in prostitution (Code on Administrative Violations of Law and Criminal Code) and the legal definition of victims of trafficking in persons (Law on Legal Status of Aliens).<sup>11</sup> For these purposes no funds were allocated.

The governmental report for 2004 showed that delayed measures have been implemented. The Code of Criminal Procedure introduced provisions to isolate violators from the victim. The Ministry of Social Security and Labor supported 10 NGO projects to assist victims of domestic violence. 1,192 women from nine municipalities received temporary shelter, food, legal and psychological consultation. The other measures were conceptualized in abstract ways as two research projects. One of these was a *Strategy for the Reduction of domestic Violence against Women*. However, no results are available on this research and strategy.<sup>12</sup> The other research provided recommendations for building a victim protection model in Lithuania, and for identifying specific measures for rehabilitation and reintegration for victims of trafficking.<sup>13</sup> The fact that the state is continuing the *National Program* that includes measures on violence against women suggests an understanding of the problem on the governmental level. The report, however, did not demonstrate a systematic and complex construction of a prevention scheme to resolve the problem of violence against women. Much attention was paid to physical violence, and the measures to separate

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<sup>11</sup> *Valstybinės moterų ir vyrų lygių galimybių 2003–2004 metų programos priemonių įgyvendinimo 2003 metais ataskaita* (Report on the Implementation of the National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2003–2004 for the year of 2003), [www.socmin.lt/index.php?-1889589091](http://www.socmin.lt/index.php?-1889589091).

<sup>12</sup> The Center for Equality Advancement did not receive an official reply from the Ministry of Social Security and Labor to the letter No. S-4, January 20, 2006.

<sup>13</sup> *Valstybinės moterų ir vyrų lygių galimybių 2003–2004 metų programos priemonių įgyvendinimo 2004 metais ataskaita* (Report on the Implementation of the National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2003–2004 for the year of 2004), [www.socmin.lt/index.php?-1889589091](http://www.socmin.lt/index.php?-1889589091).

perpetrator from victim are welcomed. However, as experts suggest, the system will not work if additional amendments to the laws are not made.<sup>14</sup>

In 2005, the Ministry of Social Security and Labor produced a report on the implementation of the *National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2003–2004*.<sup>15</sup> The report indicates the achievement of these results:

- The amendment to the Code of Criminal Procedure by article 132.1 regulating the possibility of the separation of the perpetrator from the victim during the investigation period was passed.
- Support for 1192 women victims of domestic violence was provided.
- Research was completed on complex measures to minimize and prevent violence against women, including the preparation of the *National Strategy for the Reduction of Violence against Women for 2006–2009*.
- Research was completed on the identification of the amount of necessary social services for the victims of trafficking, and a recommendation was provided to develop a Model for Rehabilitation and Reintegration Services for Victims of Human Trafficking.
- A manual entitled *Legal and practical advice for women-victims of domestic violence* was published. It discusses the concept of violence and gives practical advice for victims of domestic violence, including what legal measures exist to resolve the conflict in court, state guarantees for legal support of victims, compensation for damages suffered by the victim, a list of organizations for shelter and direct help, and examples of important legal documents. The books were distributed free of charge to social workers of municipalities and smaller administrative units, police and NGOs that work with victims of violence.

The report of the Center for Equality Advancement on the implementation of Measure 51.5 of the National Program's to finance NGO projects in the field of violence against women in 2004 provided the results of NGO projects. The report contained recommendations for the Ministry to develop a strategy for continued support of NGOs; to allocate greater assets for NGO work; and to organize conferences or other

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<sup>14</sup> Žmogaus teisių įgyvendinimas Lietuvoje (Implementation of Human Rights in Lithuania), www.hrmi.lt p.57.; Giedrė Purvaneckienė, „Smurtas prieš moteris“ (Violence against Women) in *Lietuvos Moterų Pažanga: Iššūkiai ir Realybė 1990–2005* (Progress of Lithuanian Women: Challenges and Realities. 1990–2005. Vilnius, 2005), p. 226.

<sup>15</sup> *Valstybinės moterų ir vyrų lygių galimybių 2003–2004 metų programos priemonių įgyvendinimo 2004 metais ataskaita* (Report on the Implementation of the National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2003–2004 for the year of 2004), www.socmin.lt/index.php?-1889589091.

events for NGOs and governmental institutions to share good practices and experiences on effective work to combat violence against women.<sup>16</sup>

After the first Program ended, the new *National Program for 2005–2009* was adopted.<sup>17</sup> The Program continues to support NGO projects to provide services for victims and work with perpetrators. For this purpose, the Ministry of Social Security and Labor assigned 80,000 litas (23,098 euros) per year in 2005 and 2006.<sup>18</sup> The other measures cover awareness-raising campaigns on gender equality issues in 2006–2009. The main responsibility for these activities is assigned to the Ministry of Social Security and Labor, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Interior. Also, the *National Program* plans to complete two research projects: one is a victimological and sociological research study on psychological violence and sexual harassment in the military. However, no finances were allocated for this purpose and the study results are not publicly available.<sup>19</sup> The other research study will cover the results of implementation of the UN Convention of Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Convention) and the UN Beijing Platform for Action. For this purpose 30,000 litas (8,660 euros) has been allocated for Vilnius University in 2008.<sup>20</sup>

*The National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2005–2009* addresses long-term problems in Lithuanian society: women's second-class citizenship in the dominant culture; the educational gap in gender equality; lack of social support for women; and lack of legal mechanisms for implementation of legal provisions. Table 1. below shows the measures to be implemented concerning the chapter on violence against women.

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<sup>16</sup> *Support for Projects of NGOs that Work with Violence against Women*. Unpublished report of the Center for Equality Advancement on implementation of Measure No. 51.5 under the *National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2003–2004*.

<sup>17</sup> *Valstybinė Moterų ir Vyrų Lygių Galimybių 2005–2009 m. Programa* (National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2005–2009) [www.socmin.lt/index.php?-1889589091](http://www.socmin.lt/index.php?-1889589091).

<sup>18</sup> Vanda Jurseniene, Vice Head of the Department of Gender Equality and Social Integration, Ministry of Social Security and Labor, interview made on January 5, 2006.

<sup>19</sup> Prof. Jurate Novagrockiene, Director of the Institute of Strategic Research, interview by e-mail, February 22, 2006 [jurate.novagrockiene@lka.lt](mailto:jurate.novagrockiene@lka.lt).

<sup>20</sup> *National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2005–2009*; [www.socmin.lt/index.php?-1889589091](http://www.socmin.lt/index.php?-1889589091); pp. 20–22.

**Table 1.** Measures on Reduction of Violence against Women in the National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2005–2009<sup>21</sup>

Actions	Implementing institutions	Time	Budget in litas (euros)	Notes
Organize roundtable discussions on Implementation of Equal Opportunities for Women and Men: Factual Changes, Practices, Problems and Perspectives in the districts of Lithuania	Ministry of Social Security and Labor, Charity and Support Foundation, Foundation of Social Innovations	2006–2009	5,000 (1,448)	Annual budget is planned to be assigned
Organize the conference Factual Changes in the Field of Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in Lithuania	Ministry of Social Security and Labor, Charity and Support Foundation, Foundation of Social Innovations	2009	10,000 (2,896)	
Promote gender equality principles in the work of international organizations and in drafting international law	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Social Security and Labor	2005–2009	–	
Promote gender equality principles in the development and assistance projects assigned for neighboring and developing countries	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	2005–2009	–	
Inform population on equal opportunities for women and men in the legal education programs of media	Ministry of Justice	2006	–	
Analyze good practices of foreign countries on long-term isolation of perpetrator from the family and prepare complex suggestions for the situation in Lithuania	Ministry of Justice	2006	10,000 (2,896)	
Complete sociological-victimological research on psychological violence and sexual harassment in the military.	Ministry of Defense	2005	–	Research was completed by the experts from the Military Academy. It is not available for the public, not being on the website of the Ministry of Social Security and Labor. The results of the research are briefly mentioned in the Report of the Ministry for implementation of this program

<sup>21</sup> *National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2005–2009*, pp. 20–22, [www.socmin.lt/index.php?-1889589091](http://www.socmin.lt/index.php?-1889589091).



Actions	Implementing institutions	Time	Budget in litas (euros)	Notes
				for 2005. It was mentioned that research showed good knowledge on human rights among women working in the system of defense. <sup>22</sup>
Support projects of NGOs in the field of assistance for victims of domestic violence and work with perpetrators.	Ministry of Social Security and Labor	2005–2006	80,000 (23,169)	
Improve the professional qualification on gender equality of civil servants in the system of Ministry of Interior	Ministry of Interior	2006–2009	–	
Complete scientific research on the implementation of the CEDAW Convention and the UN Beijing Platform for Action	Ministry of Social Security and Labour and Vilnius University	2008	30,000 (8,688)	

Referring to the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, NGOs and the Commission of Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, the *National Strategy for the Reduction of Domestic Violence against Women* and its implementation plan has been under consideration. The *National Strategy* is designed for the years 2007–2009. The draft *National Strategy* was presented to NGOs on May 26, 2006; they were invited to discuss possible amendments to the document. As a result, few remarks on financing program activities (concerning financing the crisis centers and shelters) have been expressed, but generally, the NGOs agreed that the document covers all important aspects to improve the situation of victims of domestic violence. An increase in funding for crisis centers and shelters has been promised by the Chairman of the working group, Alfredas Nazarovas, who is also the Director of the Department of Equal Opportunities and Social Integration at the Ministry of Social Security and Labor. Currently, the *Strategy* is circulated for institutional approval and suggestions. After that, it should be approved by the Prime Minister. It is important to note that the *Strategy* includes amendments to the Criminal Code and to the Criminal Procedural Code which will change the current practice of private motion in cases of domestic violence so that the state will have the responsibility to publicly prosecute cases of domestic violence.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>22</sup> See at [www.socmin.lt/index.php?1026506581](http://www.socmin.lt/index.php?1026506581), p. 4.

<sup>23</sup> *Draft National Strategy for the Reduction of Domestic Violence against Women. Plan of Measures for 2007–2009*, p. 1. This unofficial document was distributed by the Department of Equal Opportunities and Social Integration of the Ministry of Social Security and Labor for discussion on May 26, 2006.

As mentioned in the *Third National Report* to the UN CEDAW Committee, the goal of the *National Strategy* is to develop the system to combat domestic violence against women, to guarantee necessary and readily available legal, social and psychological support for victims of domestic violence, to introduce measures to reduce their social isolation, to organize their rehabilitation, to introduce alternative measures for violators and to encourage society to resist domestic violence.<sup>24</sup> However, no draft project, scientific research on the concept of reduction of violence against women, or other documents regarding the *Draft National Strategy for the Reduction of Domestic Violence against Women* could be found on the website of the Ministry of Social Security and Labor or the websites of other governmental bodies.<sup>25</sup>

The Ministry of Interior prepared and developed the *National Program on Prevention and Control of Trafficking in Human Beings and Prostitution 2002–2004*.<sup>26</sup> The goal of the program was to start developing the system and mechanisms to reduce prostitution and trafficking and to destroy criminal networks for trafficking in humans. The program, designed for three years, had three main stages:

1. analyzing the situation of human trafficking and prostitution and to investigate the legal basis and mechanisms on control and prevention of human trafficking and prostitution;
2. developing the system of social, economic, financial, legal, organizational, informational and analytical measures to control and prevent trafficking and prostitution; and
3. identifying new strategies of prevention and control of trafficking and prostitution.

The program was formulated without a budget, but included the provision that financing would be assigned from the national budget each year when the annual budget was composed.

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<sup>24</sup> *Third National Report*, p. 9. Interview with the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Security and Labor R. Kairelis, August 27, 2004, [www.lygus.lt/ITC/smurtas.php?id=144](http://www.lygus.lt/ITC/smurtas.php?id=144).

<sup>25</sup> Vanda Juršėnienė, Vice Head of the Department of Gender Equality and Social Integration at the Ministry of Social Security and Labor, responsible for the report of the *National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men*, and the implementation, delayed the provision of the requested materials and information. The Center for Equality Advancement did not receive an official reply from the Ministry of Social Security and Labor to the letter No. S-4, January 20, 2006.

<sup>26</sup> *Prekybos žmonėmis ir prostitucijos kontrolės bei prevencijos 2002–2004 metų programa, Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės Nutarimas*, 2002 m. sausio 17 d. No. 62 (National Program on Control and Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings and Prostitution 2002–2004), [http://sos.vrm.lt/mod\\_richtext.php?pid=13](http://sos.vrm.lt/mod_richtext.php?pid=13).

The International Organization of Migration (IOM) and the Institute of Social Research evaluated the program and published its results.<sup>27</sup> IOM stated that the Ministry of Interior comprised working groups from various governmental and non-governmental institutions in order to coordinate the implementation of the program, which were to meet regularly (each month).<sup>28</sup> However, the director of the Support Center for Families of the Missing stated that there were no regular meetings and the budget was too limited to implement the program.<sup>29</sup>

IOM stated that certain positive results have been achieved. The Office of the General Prosecutor analyzed and summarized the investigation of criminal cases on trafficking in Lithuania, and the Ministry of Education and Science initiated the *Educational Program on Prevention of Trafficking in Persons and Prostitution for 2003–2004*.<sup>30</sup> This program focused on informing young students and youth about the dangers of prostitution, and on instilling good moral norms. Additionally, all educational institutions run lectures on trafficking and prostitution, sex education, violence among youth groups, the damages of sexually-transmitted diseases, drug and alcohol consumption, and the dangers of offers of good jobs and easy living in the West.<sup>31</sup> A pedagogical-psychological center prepared the manual for school psychologists and social workers for work with high-risk youth and children. Another methodological handbook was prepared for teachers and youth leaders for work on prevention of trafficking among various youth groups. Many activities involved raising awareness at schools in various regions and localities in Lithuania on the problem of trafficking and prostitution, and practical trainings for teachers and psychologists to provide psychological services for high-risk students and victims of sexual assault. Various bodies, such as municipalities, state educational centers, schools and NGOs,<sup>32</sup> were included in these activities.

Under the *Program*, preventive work covered publishing information material for parents and teachers on sexual assaults against children, development of a specialized

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<sup>27</sup> *Prekyba Moterimis: problemos, sprendimai, žvilgsnis iš vidaus*. (Trafficking in Women: Issues, Resolutions and Insight Approach) Vilnius, 2004.

<sup>28</sup> *Prekyba Moterimis*, 126–127.

<sup>29</sup> Ona Gustiene, Director of the Support Center for Families of Missing Persons. Interview made on July 1, 2005.

<sup>30</sup> Adopted by the Minister of Education and Science on November 28, 2003. No. ISAK-1699. *Prekyba Moterimis*, p. 127; *Prekybos Žmonėms Prevencijos Bei Kontrolės 2005–2008 Metų Programa*, p. 4.; [www.vrm.lt/index.php?id=567&lang=2](http://www.vrm.lt/index.php?id=567&lang=2).

<sup>31</sup> *Prekyba Moterimis*, p. 127; *Prekybos Žmonėms Prevencijos Bei Kontrolės 2005–2008 Metų Programa* (Program on Control and Prevention of Trafficking and Prostitution for 2005–2008). p. 4.; [www.vrm.lt/index.php?id=567&lang=2](http://www.vrm.lt/index.php?id=567&lang=2).

<sup>32</sup> *Prekyba Moterimis*, 128.

professional program for teachers entitled *General basic education and specialized professional program for prevention of children's commercial sexual exploitation and sexual violence*. For early stages of prevention, a *Manual for Training Social Skills* for elementary school students was published.<sup>33</sup> Additionally, the Law University in Lithuania included courses on the prevention of prostitution, children's crimes and trafficking for a Bachelor's degree and also for a Masters' degree.<sup>34</sup>

In 2002, the Ministry of Social Security and Labor received a total of 5 projects from NGOs under the *Program*, and financed them all. The projects covered very broad activities, including direct consultation and support for victims, research on the availability of psycho-social services for women at risk, and training programs for social workers. In 2004, 23 NGO projects were financed to support victims of trafficking and to aid in their reintegration. In the period 2002 to 2004, 200,000 litas (57,745 euros) were allocated from the national budget for NGO support.<sup>35</sup> In 2005 the national budget allocated 500,000 litas (144,362 euros) for the support of NGOs working directly with victims of trafficking and forced prostitution to help the reintegration and rehabilitation of the victims.<sup>36</sup>

Important changes in legal and practical elements occurred as a result of this program's implementation. The Ministry of Interior prepared recommendations on the delay of extradition and the need for security of victims of prostitution from Lithuania, and encouraged them to act as witnesses in the court process. Additionally, the ministry introduced technological tools to modernize the database of missing people in its departments. The police department organized complex police activities in 2002 and 2003. Other measures on investigation of criminal networks, international cooperation, and raising awareness on trafficking and prostitution in society were discussed during the period of the implementation of the program.

A new *National Program on Prevention and Control of Trafficking and Prostitution in Lithuania for 2005–2008* was adopted.<sup>37</sup> The program covers a wide scope of activities, including analysis and collection of data and information, improvement of legal regulations, education for youth, high-risk groups, law enforcement, social workers,

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<sup>33</sup> *Prekyba Moterimis*. 128. *Third National Report*. 27. *Prekybos Žmonėms Prevencijos Bei Kontrolės 2005–2008 Metų Programa* (Program on Prevention and Control of Trafficking and Prostitution for 2005–2008): 4. [www.vrm.lt/index.php?id=567&lang=2](http://www.vrm.lt/index.php?id=567&lang=2).

<sup>34</sup> *Prekyba Moterimis*, 129.

<sup>35</sup> *Third National Report*, 28.

<sup>36</sup> Igoris Bazylevas from the Ministry of Interior. Interview made on January 16, 2006.

<sup>37</sup> *Prekybos Žmonėms Prevencijos Bei Kontrolės 2005–2008 Metų Programa* (Program on Prevention and Control of Trafficking in Human Beings and Prostitution for 2005–2008): 4-6 [www.vrm.lt/index.php?id=567&lang=2](http://www.vrm.lt/index.php?id=567&lang=2).

municipal personnel, teachers, medical personnel, and the media, support of victims, the strengthening of institutional capacity, internal and external cooperation.<sup>38</sup> All activities began in 2006, except for victims' support, which was assigned 400,000 litas (115,490 euros) for each year between 2005–2008. The *Program* provides the sum necessary for its implementation: 6,200,000 litas (1,795,644 euros) and is gender-neutral.<sup>39</sup>

### 1.3 State monitoring of existing legislation and policies

Annual reports by state institutions on the implementation of national programs were to be provided each year by coordinating institutions and approved by the Government. The Ministry of Social Security and Labor provided two reports on the implementation of the *National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2003–2004*, as it was presented above.<sup>40</sup> Similarly, the Ministry of Interior provided a report on the implementation of the *National Program on Prevention and Control of Trafficking in Human Beings and Prostitution for 2002–2004*. The main conclusions of the program are formulated and included in the analysis of the new *National Program on Prevention and Control of Trafficking and Prostitution for 2005–2008*.

On November 2002, the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania (Seimas) adopted the *National Human Rights Support and Protection Plan*<sup>41</sup> in order to carry out human rights monitoring.<sup>42</sup> The report on implementation of human rights in Lithuania under this Plan, supported by UNDP, was published in 2005.<sup>43</sup> In the report, under the chapter on Women's Rights, key recommendations included awareness raising in society on domestic violence and changing stereotypes in society on gender stratification, gender roles, and power relations.<sup>44</sup> The media is one of the tools to be used in changing stereotypes, due to its power in forming public opinion. Currently,

<sup>38</sup> Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, General Prosecutor's Office, International Organization for Migration Vilnius Bureau, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Security and Labor, NGOs, IMO, Department of Migration.

<sup>39</sup> *Prekybos Žmonėmis Prevencijos Bei Kontrolės 2005–2008 Metų Programa* (Program on Prevention and Control of Trafficking in Human Beings and Prostitution for 2005–2008): 10–20.

<sup>40</sup> See: [www.socmin.lt/index.php?-1889589091](http://www.socmin.lt/index.php?-1889589091).

<sup>41</sup> Decree No. IX-1185.

<sup>42</sup> *Third National Report*, p. 17.

<sup>43</sup> *Žmogaus Teisės Lietuvoje (Human Rights in Lithuania)*. Vilnius: Naujos sistemos, 2005.

<sup>44</sup> Malisauskaitė-Simanaitienė, Sonata (2005) "Moterų teisės (Women's Rights)". *Žmogaus Teisės Lietuvoje (Human Rights in Lithuania)*. Vilnius: Naujos sistemos, pp. 211–224.

the media performs this job in a negative manner: it deepens existing stereotypes and creates new ones.<sup>45</sup>

NGOs working in the human rights sector provide annual reports on the implementation of human rights in Lithuania. The Human Rights Monitoring Institute's annual research for 2003<sup>46</sup> and 2004<sup>47</sup> included chapters on women's rights. The Institute monitored the laws and law amendments on protection of victims of domestic violence and concluded that more complex measures should be undertaken by the state in order to reduce and resolve the problem of violence against women. As the monitoring report suggests, there are no mechanisms to implement the amendment on isolating the abuser from the family. As practice has shown, without introducing more complex economic, social and psychological measures, the violator continues his violent behavior to terrorize the family. Further grave problems in society are the still prevalent stereotypes about victims of domestic violence, trafficking, and prostitution that place full responsibility and guilt upon women only, without addressing the violators, who are often men.<sup>48</sup>

Other national programs such as the *National Program against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and against Sexual Violence 2000–2004*, do not directly include violence against women (youth and children are considered gender-neutral categories).

#### 1.4 State budget earmarked for combating violence against women

The state budget in Lithuania is formulated according to national programs approved by the Government. At present, the state annually assigns the budget for the fight against violence against women only in the *National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2003–2004* and the *National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2005–2009*. Additionally, two *National Programs on Prevention and Control of Trafficking in Human Beings and Prostitution* for 2002–2004 and for 2005–2008 have been approved. These programs include direct measures and budget for combating violence against women, and trafficking prevention.

Thus, the *National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2003–2004* assigned budget for two research projects and for two seminars:

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<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 224.

<sup>46</sup> See: [www.hrmi.lt/downloads/structure//Moteru\\_teises.pdf](http://www.hrmi.lt/downloads/structure//Moteru_teises.pdf).

<sup>47</sup> See: [www.hrmi.lt/downloads/structure//9.4pdf](http://www.hrmi.lt/downloads/structure//9.4pdf).

<sup>48</sup> See: [www.hrmi.lt/downloads/structure//9.4pdf](http://www.hrmi.lt/downloads/structure//9.4pdf).

- research on the concept of activities to fight violence against women (10,000 litas or 2,887 euros);
- research to analyze and conceptualize the necessary social and rehabilitation services for the reintegration of victims of trafficking (20,000 litas or 5,774 euros);
- seminar on the particularities of case investigation of violence against women, violence in the family, and trafficking in human beings (10,000 litas 2,887 euros); and
- seminar on “Accountability for violators: legal aspects, alternatives, isolation measures and good practices” (10,000 litas or 2,887 euros).<sup>49</sup>

An annual budget was assigned for the implementation of the *Program on Prevention and Control of Trafficking in Human Beings and Prostitution for 2002–2004*, with the amount of 1,396,000 litas (403,060 euros) according to the Ministry of Interior.<sup>50</sup>

In the whole territory of Lithuania, there are only two institutions funded by municipal budgets which provide direct support for victims of violence, trafficking and prostitution. These are in Vilnius and Mazeikiai. Uniquely, the Vilnius Municipality allocated 527,900 litas (152,418 euros) annually for the Vilnius Shelter for Battered Mothers and Children in 2004, and fully maintains the premises, utility services and provides the salaries for the employees of the shelter.<sup>51</sup> The Municipality also buys services of other shelters and NGOs, for example, common lodging houses, without indicating that such specific services should be directly to help victims of violence.<sup>52</sup> The second municipality-supported institution is the Mazeikiai Social Support Office in the northwestern part of Lithuania, which provides direct support for the premises and 24-hour staff. This organization provides support for victims only.<sup>53</sup>

The police department stated that there were no targeted funds for the police from the state budget for the implementation of the *National Program on Prevention and Control of Trafficking and Prostitution for 2002–2004*. The police department assigned 90,000

<sup>49</sup> *National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2003–2004*, pp. 34–36.

<sup>50</sup> I. Bazylevas, interview made on January 16, 2006.

<sup>51</sup> Nijole Dirsiene, Director of Vilnius Shelter for Battered Mothers and Children, interview made on January 10, 2006. *Third National Report*: 11.

<sup>52</sup> Rasa Laicioniene, Vice Head of the Department of Social Support at Vilnius Municipality, interview made on January 10, 2006.

<sup>53</sup> Šiaulių Universiteto Socialinių tyrimų mokslinis centras, Moterų studijų centras, *Reabilitacijos įstaigų teikiamų socialinių paslaugų, poreikio ir pasiūlos bei jos efektyvumo prekybos žmonėmis ir priverstinės prostitucijos aukoms nustatymas*. Tyrimo ataskaita. Tyrimas pristatytas Seime, nepublikuota versija (Research report on social services for victims of trafficking and forced prostitution. Completed by the Siauliai University, Center of Social Research and Center of Women’s Studies.) Unpublished, pp. 36–38, 67.

litas (26,011 euros) from its reserve fund for the implementation of this program in 2003. In 2004, the police department assigned 500,000 litas (144,508 euros) for the implementation of the program from the national investment program.<sup>54</sup> For 2006, the state budget assigned 525,000 litas (151,734 euros) for the police department to implement measures of the *National Program on Prevention and Control of Trafficking and Prostitution for 2005–2006*.<sup>55</sup>

Local police agencies receive annual funding for the complex preventive program “Plastake” (Butterfly) to reduce prostitution.<sup>56</sup> For example, the Panevezys municipality assigns the police commissariat a budget of 85,000 litas (24,541 euros) for public security annually. Out of this amount, 12–14,000 litas (3,464–4,042 euros) are assigned for the NGO “Uzuoveja”, which works with victims of violence, in order to pay salaries for staff and cover communal utilities.<sup>57</sup>

NGOs are financed on principle if they participate in the implementation of certain measures of the concrete national program and/or municipal programs. Each municipality assigns finances for social support and for the social services programs. The amount of money assigned depends on the size of the territory that is under the jurisdiction of the municipality. The issues of violence against women and trafficking are included under the social support and social services programs, but they are not differentiated or mentioned in it as a separate line item.<sup>58</sup>

For the years 2002–2004 the state assigned 1,293,000 litas (373,321 euros) for NGO projects within the *National Program on Prevention and Control of Trafficking and Prostitution*. For 2005 the *Program* was assigned a budget of 500,000 litas (144,262 euros) for NGO projects.

For 2004, NGOs working in the field of assistance for women victims of domestic violence competed for and received 23,000 litas (6,640 euros) for their projects to provide support for victims under the *National Program of Equal Opportunities for*

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<sup>54</sup> Deputy Police Commissar K. Tubis, Reponse to letter No. S-6 of January 27, 2006 by letter No. 5-S-1583, February 27, 2006.

<sup>55</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>57</sup> E. Lunskis, Vice Director of Administration of Panevezys District Municipality, interview made on January 9, 2006.

<sup>58</sup> *Lietuvos Moterų Pažanga: Iššūkiai ir Realybė. 1990–2005 metai (2005) (Progress of Lithuania's Women: Challenges and Realities 1990–2005)*. Vilnius: Mokslo aidai, p. 227. Rasa Laicioniene, interview made on January 10, 2006. Sandra Mekioniene, senior officer, Social Support Department, Prienai District Municipality, interview made on January 9, 2006.



*Women and Men.*<sup>59</sup> This money came from the state budget and was distributed by the Ministry of Social Security and Labor. For 2005–2006, the Ministry of Social Security and Labor, under the *National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2005–2009*, assigned a yearly 80,000 litas (23,098 euros) to NGOs for their direct work in supporting the victims of violence, especially domestic violence, in 2005.<sup>60</sup>

Each municipality assigns a budget for various prevention programs in general, but does not specify that all of these programs must be planned exclusively to combat violence against women. Vilnius Municipality, for example, assigns around 700,000 litas (202,107 euros) for the program entitled “Supply of Social Services and Reduction of Social Exclusion.” This program covers four main areas: support for the disabled, family, community, and risk factors within which projects of NGOs on violence might be included.<sup>61</sup> Panevezhys district municipality assigns 15–20,000 (4,330–5,774 euros) annually for prevention programs in general.<sup>62</sup> Small municipalities assign small amounts of their budgets for social support programs. Prienai District Municipality, for example, assigned 3,500 litas (1,000 euros) in 2005 for support of social programs for three organizations.<sup>63</sup>

## 1.5 State financing system to compensate victims

The Law on Compensation for the Damages Caused by a Violent Crime, adopted on June 30, 2005,<sup>64</sup> defines the concept of a violent crime and identifies when compensation is available, what proofs should be provided to the Ministry of Justice, and the amount of compensation. Violent crime is defined generally, the definition is gender-neutral and without specification to domestic violence or violence against women. Two types of compensation are provided: for material damages and immaterial damages. The amount of compensation depends on the type of crime and its consequences.

Material damages are compensated as follows:

- 9,375 litas (2,709 euros) if the crime caused the death of the victim;

<sup>59</sup> *National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2003–2004*, pp. 34–36; *Report on Implementation of National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for the period of 2004*, pp. 15–17.

<sup>60</sup> *National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2005–2009*, p. 21.

<sup>61</sup> Rasa Laicioniene, interview made on January 10, 2006.

<sup>62</sup> Skaidrute Kriukiene, Head of Education Department at Panevezhys District Municipality, interview made on January 9, 2006.

<sup>63</sup> Sandra Mekioniene (Prienai), interview made on January 9, 2006.

<sup>64</sup> No. X-296. [www.tm.lt/default.aspx?item=smurt](http://www.tm.lt/default.aspx?item=smurt).

- 6,250 litas (1,806 euros) if the crime caused serious health damage, or violated the freedom of sexual choice; and
- 3,125 litas (903 euros) if the crime caused a minor health damage.

Immaterial damages are compensated by smaller amounts:

- 3,750 litas (1,083 euros) if the crime caused the death of the victim;
- 2,500 litas (722 euros) if the crime caused serious health damage or violated the freedom of sexual choice; and
- 1,250 litas (361 euros) if the crime caused minor health damage.<sup>65</sup>

The Ministry of Justice announced the possibility of applying for compensation for damages caused by a violent crime via the internet.<sup>66</sup>

According to the law, the state assigns the funds for compensation of damages from its budget. In 2005, 500,000 litas (144,362 euros) were assigned. However, the Minister of Justice, Gintautas Buzinskas, stated in an interview to the Lithuanian daily *Lietuvos žinios* on December 14, 2005, that in 2005 no one could benefit from the compensation fund because compensation could be obtained only for crimes committed in that year or later. Therefore, those few persons who applied for compensation were not considered eligible by the new law. For 2006, the state has already assigned seven million litas (2,021,076 euros) for compensation of damages.<sup>67</sup>

## 1.6 Recommendations of the UN CEDAW Committee to the state and their implementation

The *Third National Report* by the Government of Lithuania was submitted to the UN CEDAW Committee on May 16, 2005. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania stated that the report has not been discussed yet by the Committee.<sup>68</sup>

Concerning the UN CEDAW Committee's comments on the *Second Periodic Report* of Lithuania<sup>69</sup> about violence against women, some changes have been made by the state

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<sup>65</sup> See: [www.tm.lt/default.aspx?item=smurt](http://www.tm.lt/default.aspx?item=smurt).

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>67</sup> "Lietuvos žinios" (*Lithuanian news*), 2005 gruodžio mėn. 14 d.

<sup>68</sup> Jurgita Mekaite, attaché at Human Rights and NGO Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, interview made on January 17, 2006.

<sup>69</sup> Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, Twenty-third session on June 12–30, 2000.  
[www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw23/Lithuania%20as%20adopted.html](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw23/Lithuania%20as%20adopted.html).

and these are included in the *Third Report*. The changes in the Criminal Code on rape and sexual intercourse<sup>70</sup> have been adopted.<sup>71</sup> Regular support and training of professionals dealing with victims of domestic violence have been partially achieved. The *Third Report* indicates that trainings for the police do occur, but these are optional and attendance is not mandatory or noted. The financing of NGO projects increased, but these do not cover administration and staff costs, the funding is frequently delayed,<sup>72</sup> and regular funding, except for the Vilnius Shelter for Battered Mothers and Children and the Mazeikiai Social Support Office, is absent.

## **2. LAWS FOR THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE**

### **2.1 Laws addressing violence against women or its different forms. Restraining or protection orders**

There is no special law in Lithuania providing for liability for violence against women.

The legal system has no restrictive, protection or barring orders applicable to violence against women crimes. However, Article 3.65. of the Civil Code regulates provisional protection measures. It states that the court, taking into consideration the interest of the children of both spouses as well as those of one spouse, may apply provisional measures for their protection until a court decision is passed. The court may apply the following provisional protection measures:

- to oblige, if possible, one spouse to live separately;
- to decide on the place of residence of children with one of the parents;
- to oblige one spouse not to hinder the other spouse from using certain property;
- to award temporary maintenance of children or alimony to the other spouse to be paid by one spouse;
- to oblige maintenance of property by one spouse until its ownership is resolved, *inter alia*, in order to ensure payment of maintenance;
- to oblige maintenance of property of one spouse, the value of which could ensure covering of the court costs of the other spouse; and
- to prohibit one spouse from seeing the children or visiting certain locations.

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<sup>70</sup> Articles 149 and 150.

<sup>71</sup> *Third Report*, pp. 12–13.

<sup>72</sup> Dalia Puidokiene, Director of Klaipeda Center for Social and Psychological Support, interview made on January 12, 2006.

## 2.2 Applicable provisions in criminal law

### 2.2.1 Criminal offences

Criminal acts and punishment for violence against women are defined in the Criminal Code of Lithuania, but they are not based on principles of gender or family status. However, Articles 129, 135, 138, and 143 of the Criminal Code contain special provisions on acts against mothers and pregnant women.

The Criminal Code provides for liability, *inter alia*, for:

- “Murder” (Article 129); the punishment is five to fifteen years imprisonment. Punishment for murdering an underage child, a person with disability, one’s own mother, father, child, or a pregnant woman, is five to twenty years of imprisonment or a life sentence;
- “Causing severe damage [...] to the health” (Article 135); the punishment is up to ten years imprisonment. Punishment for severe health damage to an underage child, a person with disability, one’s own mother, father, child, or a pregnant woman is two to twelve years;
- “Causing minor health damage” (Article 138); the punishment is restriction of freedom, detention, or up to three years imprisonment. Punishment for causing minor health damage to an underage child, a person with disability, one’s own mother, father, child, or to a pregnant woman is up to five years;
- “Forcing someone to have an illegal abortion” (Article 143). In the case of psychological violence to a pregnant woman, or if she is forced by one or more of her relatives to have an illegal abortion, the punishment is restriction of freedom, detention, or up to three years of imprisonment;
- “Rape” (Article 149); the punishment is imprisonment for a term of up to 7 years;
- “Sexual assault” (Article 150); the punishment is detention or imprisonment for a term of up to six years;
- “Sexual abuse” (Article 151); the punishment is detention or imprisonment for a term of up to three years;
- “Trafficking in people” (Article 147);<sup>73</sup> the punishment for is up to eight years of imprisonment. Buying or selling of a child is criminalized separately in Article 157;
- “Earning a profit from prostitution by other persons” (Article 307); the punishment is fine or restriction of liberty or detention, or imprisonment for a term of up to four years;

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<sup>73</sup> Here and further reference is made to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania. *Official Gazette*, 2000. No. 89-2741. No. X-272, June 23, 2005. *Official Gazette*, 2005. No. 81-2945 June 30, 2005.

- “Engagement into prostitution of another person” (Article 308); the punishment is fine or restriction of liberty or detention, or imprisonment for a term of up to three years; and
- “Production and distribution of pornographic items” (Article 242); the punishment is fine or restriction of liberty or detention, or imprisonment for a term of up to three years.

Sexual harassment is punished by the Law on Equal Opportunities. The Office of the Ombudsperson of Equal Opportunities receives complaints or initiates the investigation if suspected the case of sexual harassment at workplace.

Violence committed or tolerated by state institutions or their officials is punished according to the general provisions, in compliance with the laws of Lithuania.

### 2.2.2 Criminal procedures and prosecution

Violence against women crimes in Lithuania are investigated following the regular procedure. The laws do not provide for any special procedural provisions.

The most frequent criminal act falling under the category of violence against women is the infliction of physical pain or slight damage to health.<sup>74</sup> These crimes are investigated only subject to private action. The victim herself or her legal representative (lawyer) has to appeal to the court of law regarding the violence she suffered.<sup>75</sup> In all other cases, such acts must be registered and investigated and subjected to criminal prosecution, within their respective competence, by the police or the prosecuting

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<sup>74</sup> Article 140 of the Criminal Code: Infliction of physical pain or slight damage to health. 1. A person, who has, by beating or otherwise committing acts of violence, caused physical pain to, or slightly injured or made ill a person for a short period of time, shall be punished by public service or restriction of liberty, detention, or imprisonment for a period of up to one year.

<sup>75</sup> Article 408 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.  
Article 409 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Transition from private charges to public charges.

1. If criminal acts specified in Article 407 of this Code are of public significance, the prosecutor may also initiate a criminal procedure regarding these acts, irrespective of whether there is an appeal from the aggravated party or a statement of action of his/her authorized agent.

2. The prosecutor also has a right at any point during the proceedings on private charges until the start of investigation of evidence, to submit to the court a written statement that he/she will, in this case, sustain public charges. In such a case, the case is handed over to the prosecutor. The pre-trial investigation and the court hearing of the case follow the general procedure.

3. If during the court hearing of the case on private charges it transpires that the defendant committed a criminal act in relation to which public charges have to be sustained, the proceedings on private charges is terminated and the case material is handed over to the prosecutor.

authority according to provisions of the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Violence against women and children is neither an aggravating nor a deciding factor in making a decision regarding prosecution on the grounds of state interest. In such cases, a criminal prosecution is carried out following the general procedure according to the provisions of the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure.

As it is stated above, aggravating circumstances in relation to punishment are provided for in the Criminal Code under Articles 129, 135, 138 and 143. It is stated in Article 60 of the Criminal Code that circumstances shall be considered as aggravating the liability of the offender if the act is committed against a woman known to be pregnant.

### 2.2.3 Special provisions in the defense of children

The Criminal Code includes a separate chapter on crimes and criminal offenses against a child and family.<sup>76</sup> This legislation provides for the following special provisions in the interest of pre-teen persons:<sup>77</sup> aggravating circumstances in case of “Light health disturbance” (Article 138);<sup>78</sup> “Severe health disturbance” (Article 135); and “Murder” (Article 129). Articles applicable to sexual crimes provide for more severe liability if the violence is committed against minors<sup>79</sup> and pre-teens. Young age of the victim is an aggravating factor according to Article 149 on “Rape” (subparagraphs 3 and 4), Article 150 on “Sexual molestation” (subparagraphs 3 and 4), Article 151 on “Coercion into sexual intercourse” (subparagraph 2), and Article 153 on “Molestation of a pre-teen person.”

## 2.3 Applicable provisions in civil and family law for cases of violence against women

The Civil Code provides that marriage can be terminated if one of the spouses is convicted of a willful crime, or commits adultery, or treats his/her spouse or family

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<sup>76</sup> Chapter XXIII. Criminal liability is provided for: child abduction or swapping (Article 156), buying or selling a child (Article 157), abandoning a child (Article 158), involving a child in a criminal act (Article 159), drawing a child into use of medicines or other intoxicating substances (Article 160), drawing a child into drinking (Article 161), exploitation of a child for pornography (Article 162), abuse of the rights or duties of parents, a foster parent or a guardian or other rightful representatives of the child (Article 163), and evasion of maintenance of a child (Article 164).

<sup>77</sup> According to the legislation preteens are defined as persons under 14 years of age.

<sup>78</sup> See above.

<sup>79</sup> According to the legislation minors are defined as persons between 14 and 18 years of age.

members with cruelty, or has left his/her family and has been taking no care of it whatsoever for over one year.<sup>80</sup> The law also provides for the above-mentioned provisional protection measures.

Article 3.70 of the Civil Code also regulates the legal consequences of dissolution of marriage because of the fault of one spouse, by establishing the possibility of compensation for pecuniary and non-pecuniary damages for the other spouse.<sup>81</sup>

Article 3.71 regulates the right to use residential premises, but without any reference to domestic violence.<sup>82</sup>

## 2.4 Victim protection and protection of witnesses

Victim protection and witness protection programs in Lithuania are mainly applied only in criminal cases related to organized crime.

In Lithuania, applicable provisions regarding ensuring reliability of proof and evidence of those participating in the case provide that case material is to be gathered during pre-trial investigation, and is to be subjected to obligatory verification in the court during the case hearing. Thus, there are no special conditions provided for in order to avoid secondary victimization through repetition of evidence, or unjustified interrogation by, for example, conducting the court hearing on a closed circuit television system, or providing special rooms for interrogations. It is not possible to indicate the actual number of violence against women cases in which victim or witness protection measures was used.<sup>83</sup>

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<sup>80</sup> Article 3.60 of the Criminal Code. Conditions for dissolution of marriage.

<sup>81</sup> 1. If marriage is terminated through the fault of one spouse, the spouse at fault for the dissolution of marriage shall lose those rights which the laws or the prenuptial agreement grant to the divorced person, including the right to maintenance. 2. The other spouse shall have a right to demand the spouse at fault for the dissolution of marriage to reimburse for pecuniary damage related to the dissolution of marriage, as well as non-pecuniary damage suffered as a result of dissolution of marriage. This provision shall not be applicable if marriage is terminated through the fault of both spouses.

<sup>82</sup> 1. If residential premises are owned by one spouse, the court may, by its decision, establish a usufruct and leave the other spouse to live there if minor children are to stay with him/her after the dissolution of marriage.

3. If residential premises of the family were leased, the court may transfer the lessee's rights to the spouse with whom the minor children are to stay or who is not able to work, and to evict the other spouse if he/she is obliged to live in separation.

<sup>83</sup> Article 183 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Republic of Lithuania. Witness examination.

The Law on Data Protection contains no special provisions regarding violence against women cases, and provisions of the Law on the Right to Obtain Information from State and Municipal Institutions can therefore be invoked.<sup>84</sup> According to Article 7 of this law the applicant has the right to obtain private information on himself/herself, with the exception of cases established by the legislation of Lithuania, when such information shall not be provided. Private information on himself/herself shall be provided to the applicant upon submission of a request according to the procedure established by this law and upon confirmation of the person's identity according to the procedure established by law.

Article 186 of the Code of Criminal Procedure regulates the interrogation of a minor witness and victim, prescribing that the interrogation shall take place generally not more than once. It also establishes the possibility of a video or audio recording, as well as the presence of a child protection officer or a psychologist.<sup>85</sup> Investigation of cases of sexual violence against children is carried out in compliance with these provisions. Special provisions in the defence of children suspected or accused of a criminal act are:

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<sup>84</sup> Any information or part thereof to be provided, created or received by a state or municipal institution or body, in written, including electronic, graphical, audio and/or visual, form, may be made available to citizens of Lithuania, citizens of a signatory state to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, foreign nationals holding a residence permit for living in Lithuania, or groups of such persons, legal bodies of Lithuania, legal bodies or other organizations registered in a signatory state to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, or their representatives and branch offices established in Lithuania.

Law on the Right to Obtain Information from State and Municipal Institutions of the Republic of Lithuania. *Official Gazette*, 2000. No. 10-236, No. 47-1344; 2003, No. 116-5250.

<sup>85</sup> 1. A witness or a victim under eighteen years of age shall be interrogated by a pretrial investigation judge (...)

2. During a pre-trial investigation, a witness or a victim under eighteen years of age shall generally be interrogated not more than once. A video and audio recording may be done during such interrogation. If the interrogation of a witness or a victim under eighteen years of age takes place with the participation of the suspect or his/her defense counsel, the pre-trial investigation judge must ensure that such witness or victim is not subjected to illegitimate pressure. A witness or a victim under eighteen years of age shall be invited to attend trial proceedings only as a matter of exception.

3. A right to attend the interrogation of a witness or a victim under eighteen years of age shall be held by his/her representative. At the request by participants of the proceedings or at the initiative of the pre-trial investigation officer, the prosecutor or the pre-trial investigation judge, a representative of the state institution for child's rights protection or a psychologist can be invited to attend the interrogation of a witness or a victim under eighteen years of age, to help interrogate the minor, taking into consideration the level of his/her social and psychological development.



a closed court hearing in case of charges against minors,<sup>86</sup> and the right of a minor to a defense lawyer.<sup>87</sup>

The legislation of Lithuania does not provide for any special provisions on the protection of professionals and service providers working on violence against women cases.

## **2.5 Legal assistance and representation for the victims of violence against women**

According to the Law on State-Guaranteed Legal Aid of the Republic of Lithuania, two types of legal aid are distinguished.

Primary legal aid is the provision of legal information in accordance with the procedure laid down by this law, legal advice, and the drafting of documents to be submitted to state and municipal institutions, with the exception of procedural documents. This legal aid also covers advice on the out-of-court settlement of a dispute, actions for the amicable settlement of a dispute, and drafting of a settlement agreement.

Secondary legal aid is the drafting of documents, provision of defense and representation in court, including the process of execution, representation in the event of preliminary extrajudicial consideration of a dispute where such a procedure has been laid down by laws or by a court decision. This legal aid shall also cover the litigation costs incurred in civil proceedings, the costs incurred in administrative proceedings and the costs related to the hearing of a civil action brought in a criminal case.<sup>88</sup>

The above-mentioned law provides for persons and conditions for the provision of free state-guaranteed legal aid. The law explicitly defines who is entitled to such aid, taking into account the level of a person's property and income and other criteria identified in the law.<sup>89</sup>

## **2.6 Providing information for victims about their rights, obligations, and the services available**

The legislation of Lithuania does not include a legal requirement to supply victims during procedures with information about their rights, duties and services to which they may turn for help.

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<sup>86</sup> Article 9 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Public hearing of cases in the court.

<sup>87</sup> Article 51 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Mandatory participation of defense counsel.

<sup>88</sup> Law on State-Guaranteed Legal Aid of the Republic of Lithuania. *Official Gazette*, 2000. No. 30-827; 2001, No. 71-2521; Ž., 2003, No. 38-1722, No. 123-5584

<sup>89</sup> Articles 11–14, Law on State-Guaranteed Legal Aid, *ibid.*

## **2.7 Mainstreaming women's safety in laws and regulations of the national, regional, and urban planning**

N/A

## **3. PROFESSIONAL GUIDELINES, PROTOCOLS, AND INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION**

### **3.1 Professional guidelines and operational protocols for dealing with cases of violence against women**

There are rules applicable to the staff of medical institutions who must report to law enforcement institutions about victims of violence who turned to medical institutions. It must be noted that no liability whatsoever is provided for medical staff failing to comply with these rules. Victims tend to be reticent about the origin of injuries, thus the medical staff are not inclined to report on the cases registered.

There are no particular provisions on how to interact with violence against women victims. The Women's Information Center has recently issued a methodological aid for the staff of medical institutions and social workers on how to interact with victims of violence against women. Although this aid has practical use, is only advisory, and not mandatory in nature.

### **3.2 Legal regulations of inter-agency cooperation**

The legislation does not provide for a legal requirement for coordinated multi-agency work and for cooperation among various institutions. It must be noted, however, that the Vilnius Chief Police Commissariat and the Mother and Child's Boarding House, an institution of Vilnius City Municipality, have developed an experimental model, a mobile brigade including police officers, social workers and medical staff. The purpose of this brigade is to go to places of family conflicts, help victims and perpetrators of violence to deal with conflict situations and to provide urgent medical and psychological assistance. Cooperations of such nature between various institutions also exists in other towns of Lithuania, for example, in Kaunas, Klaipėda, Marijampolė, etc.

In 2004, the Women's Information Center implemented a project supported by Baltic American Partnership fund to help create coalitions of the institutions that deal with domestic violence such as the police, NGOs, and medical personnel, in order to strengthen cooperation among them and unite their forces to combat domestic violence. As a result, in some areas agreements of cooperation between NGOs and

police were signed in order to exchange information and interact together in the cases.<sup>90</sup> Jurate Seduikine, project manager of the Women's Information Center, stated that the police were open and collaborative in the project, and willingly distributed information about the shelters and crisis centers in their localities.<sup>91</sup>

### **3.3 Medium- and long-term coordinated action plans for the different professions**

The existence of medium- and long-term action plans for representatives of various professions in the area of violence against women are at present not known.

### **3.4 Involvement of NGOs and other agencies in drafting laws and shaping policies**

Currently in Lithuania, there is no legislation which requires active cooperation between non-governmental organizations and state institutions working in this area. To date, only the *Draft National Strategy for the Reduction of Domestic Violence against Women*, provides for the direction and strengthening of institutional capabilities. The Draft states that an integrated inter-institutional cooperation model requires that the reduction of family violence be a top priority, and the decisions at all levels must be adopted and implemented with quality.

Systematic mechanism to involve the NGOs to the drafting, designing, implementation and evaluation of laws and policies does not exist; the involvement of NGOs is sporadic. Usually, individual experts are contracted for certain activities. Resolution No. 1042 of the Government of September 26, 2005 on Approving of the State Program of Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2005–2009,<sup>92</sup> provides for the possibility of drafting, developing, implementing, and evaluating legislation and projects in the area of violence against women. NGOs may be involved in this process.

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<sup>90</sup> *Moteru Informacijos centro 2004 m. veiklos ir finansine ataskaita* (Report of Women's Information Center for 2004) pp. 6–7.

<sup>91</sup> Jurate Seduikiene, project manager at Women's Information Center. Interview made on February 3, 2006.

<sup>92</sup> *Official Gazette*, September 29, 2005, No. 116-4202.

### 3.5 Leading NGOs working in the field of violence against women in the country

Women NGOs are active in various spheres of gender equality. Their number is approximately 100. The Women's Issues Information Center is one of the links to the civil sector and supports the electronic network by uniting state institutions, non-governmental organizations, and individuals. The Center for Equality Advancement is an organization active in promoting equality between men and women in Lithuania. It seeks to develop tolerance, a change in negative stereotypes, and to combat discrimination in society based on sex, age, nationality, race/ethnicity, and disability, and it works to reduce the social exclusion of disadvantaged groups. The Kaunas Women's Employment Information Center actively contributes to the establishment of women's employment information centers in other regions of the country.<sup>93</sup>

Resolution No. 1042 of the Government of 26 September, 2005 on Approving the State Program of Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2005–2009<sup>94</sup> states that assistance (psychological, legal, and consulting) and shelter to victims of violence are provided by over 25 non-governmental organizations, particularly women's crisis centers. A Men's Crisis and Information Center was also established, which mainly works with perpetrators of violence.

However, it must be noted that these organizations certainly do not manage to fully ensure the necessary assistance to violence against women victims, because they are not capable of serving areas of neighboring districts. Not all districts have centers which provide social services, for example, crisis centers are lacking in Jurbarkas, Tauragė, Ukmergė and other Lithuanian towns.

A coalition of non-governmental organizations for combating violence against women was established in 2005. The coalition includes six organizations from Alytus, Kaunas, Klaipėda and Vilnius, and works to strengthen capacities of NGOs to work with victims of violence and trafficking. This is a non-formal network lobbying for the reduction and prevention of violence against women in Lithuania. During 2005–2006, the coalition applied to the parliament, the Ministry of Justice and other institutions for amendments to the Civil Code to simplify procedures of separation of a perpetrator from the family, for building crisis centers with the support of EU funds, and for changing trial orders in cases of domestic violence from private motion to *ex officio*

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<sup>93</sup> *Third National Report*, p. 19.

<sup>94</sup> *Official Gazette*, September 29, 2005, No. 116-4202.

prosecution. Also, the coalition actively participated in the preparation and drafting of the resolution of the Fourth Women's Congress in Lithuania on August 27, 2005.<sup>95</sup>

The main NGO service providers in the field, beside the above-mentioned NGOs, are:

- Alytus Women Crisis Center;
- Daugai Family Center;
- Utena Eve's House Women's Center;
- Five organizations in Vilnius: Women's Information Center, Vilnius Caritas, Vilnius Women's House (crisis center), Vilnius City Shelter for Mothers and Children, Support Foundation for Mothers and Children;
- Kaunas District Crisis Center, Kaunas Caritas, Family Center for Kaunas Archbishopric, the public institution "Spring of Life";
- Klaipeda Social and Psychological Support Center, Klaipeda Women's House;
- Missing Persons' Families Support Center; and
- Crisis Centers in Pagegiai, Panevezys, Marijampole, Maczeikiai and other smaller towns.

All of the listed organizations specialize mainly in the provision of services of accommodation, psychological and legal consultations, etc. Nearly all of the organizations cover their costs using funding obtained from international foundations, and EU funds. Furthermore, NGOs are financed through different national sources: social services and support programs of municipalities; the National Programs of Equal Opportunities for Women and Men; the *National Program on Prevention and Control of Trafficking and Prostitution*. The organizations have to apply for funding annually.

Only a few of them receive total funding from municipal budgets, for example the Vilnius City Mother and Child's Boarding House, which is fully financed by the budget of Vilnius City Municipality. Organizations operating in smaller Lithuanian towns mainly have to make do with only one-off or limited financing campaigns from the budgets of their town or district municipalities, such as funds allocated for telecommunications services or rent of premises.

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<sup>95</sup> Jurate Seduikiene, project manager, Women's Information Center, interview made on July 10, 2006.

## 4. SPECIAL UNITS IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICES

In Lithuania, crimes concerning violence against women are investigated by law enforcement according to general rules and orders. Thus, no special law enforcement unit exists to deal with this problem.

Since January 1, 2006 a specialized unit at a national level department at the Bureau of Criminal Police of Lithuania was established by the Decree of the Police Commissar General to deal with trafficking in persons.<sup>96</sup> The plan is to employ five staff at this unit. The head of the unit has a university degree in law and experience in working with the police. The requirements for the other staff are similar: a university degree in law and practice in working with the police. The current head of the unit obtained various trainings abroad.<sup>97</sup> Trafficking is not divided along gender lines, but most cases deal with women. The unit investigates the cases from pre-trial investigation to the submission of the case to court.<sup>98</sup> It is involved in investigating criminal acts that have the character of trafficking.<sup>99</sup>

## 5. AVAILABLE SERVICES

### 5.1 Shelters

Shelters for women victims of domestic violence and victims of trafficking and prostitution are available in Lithuania and cover almost all of the country's territory. However, it is difficult to identify the real numbers of these organizations, because no such statistics are kept. There is no clear definition of shelter, and therefore different understandings of its functions and responsibilities exist.

The NGO Women's Information Center provides a database of NGOs available in Lithuania that help victims of violence and also identifies available services. This database shows that there are approximately 10 shelters in Lithuania.<sup>100</sup> In Vilnius, for example, there are three shelters for victims of violence. One of the biggest shelters is

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<sup>96</sup> Kestutis Tubis, Deputy Police Commissioner General. Official letter reply No. 5-S-1583. Letter dated February 27, 2006.

<sup>97</sup> Gintaras Razmys, Head of General Affairs Office of the Department of Police under the Ministry of Interior. Interview made on January 11, 2006.

<sup>98</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>99</sup> Kestutis Tubis, Deputy Police Commissioner General, *ibid.*

<sup>100</sup> Calculated from [www.lygus.lt/mic/index6.htm](http://www.lygus.lt/mic/index6.htm).

the Vilnius Shelter for Battered Mothers and Children. It receives full financial support from the Vilnius Municipality budget to provide shelter, meals, and social, psychological, and legal consultations for victims of domestic violence. The shelter has 72 places for women with children. It is open non-stop and allows women to stay any length of time. When the shelter is full, the victims are sometimes allowed to spend some time in common lodging houses or other shelters in Vilnius.<sup>101</sup> In other towns and smaller cities, there is usually one shelter for the town (as in Kaunas, and Klaipeda) or for the whole region (as in Alytus, Jonava and others) which provides shelter for victims.<sup>102</sup>

As there is no generally-adopted definition of shelter, many organizations use the crisis centers for their activities. They offer temporary or short term shelter for women, but women can stay longer if there is no other solution. If these types of shelters are included, the number of shelters would be up to 20. These NGOs have from three to seven places for victims to get temporary relief.<sup>103</sup> They provide direct support and services for victims of violence such as information, consultation, support groups, and consultations with psychologists, lawyers, social workers and medical providers. They sustain their work with project-based grants and receive financial support from international donors and, on a very limited basis, from national sources, including the municipality and state.<sup>104</sup> Many NGOs provide evidence that in rural areas or smaller towns, women avoid staying in the shelters because of the fear of continued violence by their partners. They try to move to the other localities.<sup>105</sup> Also, negative attitudes about victims of violence in the community prevail, and these negatively affect the victim in her search for support.

The Report on Services for Victims of Trafficking and Forced Prostitution by rehabilitation institutions, including the demand for and supply of these services, their costs and effectiveness under the *National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2003–2004* states that funding of these institutions is program-based, and that the staff working in such organizations is very diverse. Many women work in these

<sup>101</sup> *Lietuvos Moterų Pažanga*, p. 50–51; Rasa Laicioniene (Vilnius Municipality). Interview made on January 10, 2006.

<sup>102</sup> Calculated from *Lietuvos Moterų Pažanga*, pp. 9–185.

<sup>103</sup> Calculated from [www.lygus.lt/mic/index6.htm](http://www.lygus.lt/mic/index6.htm).

<sup>104</sup> *Lietuvos Moterų Pažanga*, p. 50.

For example, Kaunas Women's lodging house accepts women for three days (in 2004 they had only one room, but in the future they plan to move to new premises and have three rooms for women with children. Alytus Town Women's Crisis Center renovated a flat of four rooms which was financed by the Netherlands' Royal Embassy (Angele Barauskiene, Director of Alytus Town Women's Crisis Center. Interview made on January 10, 2006.

<sup>105</sup> *Lietuvos Moterų Pažanga*, pp. 147–148.

organizations because of their own or a family members' experience of violence, many have university degrees, and some have Master's degrees, mainly in social work. Also, long-time staff members often do their Master's and Ph.D studies at the universities. The report found that many women in the regions expressed their willingness to have professional training and to disseminate good practices in dealing with the issue.<sup>106</sup>

In general, there are a small number of shelters and no complex and systematic financial support from the state for equipment and services for victims. Each shelter operates on a different financial basis, has different goals, different opportunities to provide social support, and different premises and staff available. As NGOs working in the field argue, almost all shelters receive very limited support from municipalities and the state.<sup>107</sup> Some exceptional cases exist. Klaipeda Center for Social and Psychological Support has had an agreement with Klaipeda municipality for three years (from July 2005) under the municipality's social support program. According to their agreement, the municipality purchases services from the Center for the support of victims.<sup>108</sup> Also, as mentioned earlier, Vilnius Shelter for Battered Mothers and Children is fully supported by the Vilnius Municipality.

No victims are rejected if they apply for support to any shelter or any other non-governmental organization. As all shelters (except for the Vilnius Shelter) work on project-based financing, the shelters have few staff members, mainly social workers, and sometimes psychologists (depending on the size of organization.) Due to the lack of constant financial support from national, local and municipal budgets, the staff of NGOs is very limited, because projects do not cover staff costs, and self-sustaining NGOs do not have enough income to hire and retain highly qualified staff under long term contracts. Very often, the staff work under short-term or part-time contracts, or service-based contracts, for a specific task.

Shelters often perform the role of mediator and buy legal, social, psychological, and medical services and consultations, because these services are included in the project proposals for financing. Very often, funding for projects is delayed, but the services are always needed. In these situations, the organizations work under debt, but provide the necessary consultations.<sup>109</sup> Many shelters have their own code of conduct that staff and users of the shelter must follow. The rules are frequently determined by the shelters themselves.

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<sup>106</sup> *Reabilitacijos įstaigų teikiamų socialinių paslaugų, ibid.*, pp. 67–68.

<sup>107</sup> *Lietuvos Moterų Pažanga*, pp. 9–185.

<sup>108</sup> Dalia Puidokiene, Director of Klaipeda Center for Social and Psychological Support. Interview made on January 12, 2006.

<sup>109</sup> *Ibid.*



It is possible to identify two main components of support. First, the general services for victims cover the following items: shelter, meals, and legal, psychological, social, and medical services. Research shows that victims most often need psychological consultations (70%), legal services such as legal documentation for social benefits, employment, schooling of children, or litigation (50%), medical services (53%), and clothing (45%).<sup>110</sup>

Secondly, specific services cover the following areas: to help victims to obtain compensation for material and immaterial damages for violence, cultural-ecological activities (theatre, movies, camping in nature,) self-defense and self-support groups, labor therapy, professional courses, and employment possibilities.<sup>111</sup>

Immigrant women applied to shelters in very few cases. Such cases were mentioned only in Vilnius.<sup>112</sup> Though dealing with immigrant women causes extra work in arranging support for them because they are not Lithuanian citizens, the shelters recognize their needs and do help according to their capacities.

Shelters usually provide help and support for women with children. The shelters put in additional beds for children if needed. Some shelters are designed for women with infants and pregnant women (Lithuania Caritas under Vilnius Archbishopric, which helps victims of violence, trafficking and prostitution). There is no special state program with a strategy of dealing with children of victims. These children are the responsibility of the victims.<sup>113</sup> The shelters do not have special programs for children, but, with the help of social workers, they help the victims of violence to arrange social services for the children (kindergarten, schools, and informal education groups,) and to provide psychological consultation and medical services when needed.<sup>114</sup>

In 2004, research on services for victims of trafficking and forced prostitution was completed by rehabilitation institutions, which studied the supply and demand for these services and their cost-effectiveness under the *National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men 2003–2004*. The research was completed by Siauliai University Social Research Scientific Centre and the Women's Studies Center.<sup>115</sup> The research identified positive changes in the organization of rehabilitation services for

<sup>110</sup> *Reabilitacijos įstaigų teikiamų socialinių paslaugų, ibid.*, p. 36

<sup>111</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>112</sup> Nijolė Diršienė (Shelter for Battered Mothers and Children) and Ginatė Tučkuvienė (Vilnius Caritas). Interviews.

<sup>113</sup> *Reabilitacijos įstaigų teikiamų socialinių paslaugų, ibid.*, pp. 33–34.

<sup>114</sup> Dalia Puidokiene, *ibid.*, Klaipėda Center for Social and Psychological Support. Interview made on January 12, 2006.

<sup>115</sup> *Reabilitacijos įstaigų teikiamų socialinių paslaugų, ibid.*, pp. 85–86.

victims of violence, in particular with regard to trafficking and forced institutionalizations. It showed good practices of non-governmental organizations working in the field and providing direct support, and the complexity of the measures undertaken to help victims reintegrate into society. However, the research identified many weaknesses in contributing to the solution of the problem in the work of national, local and regional institutions. Negative attitudes in society, and among law enforcement and civil servants toward the victims, cause delays in building complex reintegration strategies and professional support. Another huge problem is the organization of project based financing for the reintegration services. To improve the effectiveness of services for victims, more coordination among NGOs, budget institutions and law enforcement should be foreseen and developed. The unequal distribution of shelters in Lithuania, the lack of information about available services, the lack of professional programs, trainings and methodologies and, finally, no systematic financial support, are the most essential issues in Lithuania.<sup>116</sup>

## 5.2 Hotlines

Hotlines or free telephone line for victims of violence against women do not exist in Lithuania, but NGOs have found ways to fill this gap.

There are two toll free lines available for psychological consultation and for youth in the whole territory of Lithuania, but they do not particularly involve the issue of violence against women. A few years ago, one hotline on the national level was created under the *National Program on Prevention and Control of Trafficking and Prostitution for 2002–2004*. The state assigned 50,000 litas (14,450 euros) for the development of the line in 2003. Hotline telephones were situated in four cities: Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipeda and Alytus, and covered the whole territory of Lithuania. The hotline network was managed by the Vilnius Women's House/Crisis Center for Women. Four persons obtained professional training on how to operate a hotline. Though the *National Program* covered only victims of trafficking and prostitution, the hotline was open to victims of other forms of violence. However, regardless of the good practices and good organization of the help and support for victims, the government did not extend the financing of the hotline after the national program ended in 2004. Under the new *National Program on Prevention and Control of Trafficking and Prostitution*, no measures or budget to sustain and maintain a hotline are included. Thus, the Vilnius Women's House continues to operate the only hotline by other sources.<sup>117</sup>

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<sup>116</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>117</sup> Lilija Vasiliauskiene, Director of Vilnius Women's House/Crisis Center for Women. Interview made on January 12, 2006.

Many non-governmental organizations working in the field of violence against women provide information and consultations by telephone. The mechanisms of the consultations depend upon the financial capacities of the NGOs. Sometimes, an NGO is able to cover the consultations provided by specialists for the victim.

### 5.3 Crisis intervention centers

Many NGOs that work in the field of direct assistance to victims provide multiple means of support, including legal, medical, psychological, social and self-support services. Their activities are project based and should be re-funded each year. As experts suggest, due to the absence of systematic financial mechanisms for NGOs from state and municipal budgets, NGOs include all possible work in their activities in order to get the grants. Therefore, their activities are broad and fragmented.<sup>118</sup> Sources of funding include the *National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2005–2009*, the social support section for municipalities of the *National Program on Prevention and Control of Trafficking and Prostitution for 2005–2008*, and social services programs in municipalities.

In an interview on August 27, 2005 the undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Security and Labor, Rimantas Kairelis, described the main strategies of the draft *National Strategy for the Reduction of Domestic Violence against Women* and stated that the newly-adopted measures would improve the situation because more crisis centers for victims will be established to supply more complex treatment and services for them.<sup>119</sup>

### 5.4 Intervention programs for the perpetrators

The state recognizes that penalties and administrative measures to combat violence against women are not effective enough to solve the problem. However, alternative provisions to stop offenders have not been developed yet.<sup>120</sup> The Human Rights Monitoring Institute also mentioned that no rehabilitation programs exist in Lithuania.<sup>121</sup> The new National Strategy contains a plan to develop a method for institutions to work with perpetrators and to prepare grounds for setting up Men's

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<sup>118</sup> *Reabilitacijos įstaigų teikiamų socialinių paslaugų, ibid.*, p. 82.

<sup>119</sup> Ministry of Social Security and Labor, Public Relations Office, Senior Specialist Gerda Inčiūraitė. August 27, 2004. [www.lygus.lt/ITC/smurtas.php?id=144](http://www.lygus.lt/ITC/smurtas.php?id=144).

<sup>120</sup> *Third National Report*, p. 10.

<sup>121</sup> See: [www.hrmi.lt/downloads/structure/19/4pdf](http://www.hrmi.lt/downloads/structure/19/4pdf), p. 56.

Crisis Centers in Lithuania. According to estimates 100,000 litas (28,962 euros) from the state budget will be needed for this purpose.

The Men's Crisis and Information Centre has already been established, the main activity of which is working with perpetrators of violence.

## 5.5 Other victim support services

The database of organizations that provide services for victims has been created and updated by the Women's Information Center. The database is available on the internet at [www.lygus.lt](http://www.lygus.lt), covering the whole territory of Lithuania, and includes information on available organizations, their functions, and the types of support they offer. As the database shows, many organizations offer legal, social and psychological consultations, medical services, trainings, self-defense and psychological support groups.<sup>122</sup>

Kretinga Women's Information and Training Center is an example of good practice, with a self-support group which has trained 20 trainers on gender equality issues. In turn, these trainers trained women and girls in rural areas on gender equality and other gender related questions.<sup>123</sup>

## 6. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

### 6.1 The prevalence of violence against women, prejudices, and stereotyped sex roles in school curricula and the availability of sex education programs

In general, topics on gender equality, violence (without the specification of violence against women), the rights of children, the institution of the family, public opinion and media are discussed in the curriculum on civil education that is taught in the 10th grade. No specific courses on violence against women are included. Gender mainstreaming and respect for human rights was considered by the Expert Commission responsible for evaluation and adoption of the textbooks. The evaluation questionnaire includes an item on the content of the textbooks in regard to gender equality, age groups, ethnicity, minority, race, and religious tolerance.

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<sup>122</sup> See: [www.lygus.lt](http://www.lygus.lt).

<sup>123</sup> *Lietuvos Moterų Pažanga*, p. 188.

The indicators for adopting textbooks include the requirement of tolerance in terms of gender, age, minorities, disability, ethnicity, race, and citizenship.<sup>124</sup>

The rights of a child are presented in the subject “Basics of a Civil Education.” It covers the legal aspects of the rights of a child, and the main national and international instruments and organizations that work to promote children’s rights.<sup>125</sup> Tutors of the class, psychologists and social workers also distribute information on where to seek help if these rights are violated.

The Ministry of Education and Science adopted and implemented the *Educational Program on Prevention of Trafficking in Persons and Prostitution for 2003–2004*. This program was one of the measures of the *National Program on Prevention and Control of Trafficking and Prostitution for 2002–2004*. The Educational Program’s goal was to run an awareness raising campaign on the dangers of trafficking and prostitution, and to inform the youth population, their parents, and school community in general about the problem. Materials were prepared for the students on the chances of being drawn into prostitution through advertising and offer to work abroad. The program also provided seminars on trafficking for the school staff in order to improve their consultative services in psychological-pedagogical, social, legal and health support for children and for parents of high risk groups.<sup>126</sup>

The Ministry of Education and Science has adopted a sex education program for the schools which includes a broad range of various aspects of sexuality, such as a respect for diverse sexuality, gender nondiscrimination, and preparation for family life, masculinity and femininity.<sup>127</sup> As indicated in the program, sex education in primary and secondary schools is integrated into other disciplines. Though the program includes a strong emphasis on the importance of moral training, due to the pressure of the Catholic church, (which defines the program as training for free sex and the free use of contraception, and as the source of low morals), the program is only vaguely implemented at schools.<sup>128</sup> The program is not mandatory, and is dependent upon teachers’ attitudes, sensitivity, and competence.

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<sup>124</sup> Response of Ministry of Education and Science, No. 12-05-R-707, February 7, 2006 to the letter S-3, January 20, 2006.

<sup>125</sup> Ministry of Education and Science, No. 12-05-R-707, February 7, 2006.

<sup>126</sup> *Educational Program on Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings and Prostitution for 2003–2004*. [www.smm.lt/teisine\\_baze/docs/isakymai/03-11-28-ISAK-1699.htm](http://www.smm.lt/teisine_baze/docs/isakymai/03-11-28-ISAK-1699.htm).

<sup>127</sup> See: [www.smm.lt/veiklos\\_planai\\_ir\\_programos/docs/rs\\_ugd\\_univers\\_prg.pdf](http://www.smm.lt/veiklos_planai_ir_programos/docs/rs_ugd_univers_prg.pdf)+Lytinio+svietimo+programa&chl=lt&gl=lt&ct=clnk&cd=6.

<sup>128</sup> Margarita Jankauskaite, Board member of the General Education Board at the Ministry of Education and Science. Interview made on February 14, 2006.

## 6.2 Mandatory and other training programs for future professionals

Mandatory courses for any future professionals contain the basics of the profession. Depending on the profession, the main courses are on family issues (for example in law, pedagogy, sociology) children (rights, psychology, development, pedagogy), prevention (laws, pedagogy, psychology), and gender sociology. Prevention in general is defined as a subject in the courses for social work, social pedagogy, and law. However, violence against women and its different forms as a subject are not included.

In the law faculties of the universities, there are courses on crimes of minors and family law which are optional for law enforcement professions. Courses on violence in general (without specifying violence against women) are suggested for the professions of social work, psychology, and sociology. Specific courses on violence against women are not offered.<sup>129</sup>

Discrimination issues are involved in the general topic of ethics that is provided for law enforcement professionals, teachers, health and social professions, but without any specification regarding gender.<sup>130</sup> Courses on gender equality and gender studies in general are suggested by the departments of social science.

Optional courses for future teachers on child pedagogy, including psychology, development stages, prevention, family and other aspects of a child's conditions, are suggested.<sup>131</sup>

Measure 51.7 of the *National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2003–2004* discussed how to prepare recommendations to integrate gender aspects into training programs for lawyers, social teachers, social workers, police, and the medical profession. The measure was originally to be implemented in 2003, but was postponed to 2004. Responsible bodies include the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Social Security and Labor, the Ministry of Health, and NGOs.<sup>132</sup> No provisions about this measure are included in the 2004 report on the implementation of the National Program.<sup>133</sup>

Under the *National Program on Prevention and Control of Trafficking and Prostitution for 2002–2004*, the optional courses for middle range police professionals at the

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<sup>129</sup> *Informacinis leidinys: Kur stoti moksliviams?* (Informative publication: Where can school students seek university and/or college degrees?) 2005 m. pp. 13–22.

<sup>130</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>131</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>132</sup> *National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2003–2004*, p. 36.

<sup>133</sup> *Report of 2004 on Implementation of National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2003–2004*, pp. 14–21.

University of Law (currently M. Riomeris University) include measures for preparing to work with children. Therefore, trainings on particularities of police work in the prevention of crimes by underage children, such as drug and substance abuse, prostitution and alcoholism, were introduced in studies for a Bachelor's degree. In the programs for a Masters' degree at the same university, the courses on psychology and organized crimes include aspects of trafficking in persons.<sup>134</sup>

The *Draft National Strategy for the Reduction of Domestic Violence against Women* includes Measure No. 20, which is for professional law enforcement personnel to pass a mandatory course on domestic violence. No funding for these purposes is planned. The responsible bodies include the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Interior.<sup>135</sup>

### 6.3 Mandatory and other training programs for practicing professionals

Mandatory courses for practicing professionals were not identified.

Training programs for practicing professionals are undertaken within the implementation of the *National Program on Prevention and Control of Trafficking and Prostitution for 2002–2004*, and by NGO projects funded by international donors (UNDP, UNFPA, Baltic American Partnership Fund – BAPF).

Under the *National Program on Prevention and Control of Trafficking and Prostitution for 2002–2004*, the Center of Pedagogy and Psychology implements training courses for teachers on the prevention of trafficking, violence, and prostitution among children up to 18 years old. The funding for this is assigned from the state budget. It consists of irregular courses of 1–2 days.<sup>136</sup> Under the *National Program*, the International Organization for Migration trained social workers to work with victims of trafficking.<sup>137</sup>

Some NGOs and other organizations (for example the Women's Information Center, Vilnius City Section of the International Police Association, etc.) are implementing short- and medium-term (up to one to two years) training programs for social, medical, and police staff, sometimes as a part of international projects. Professional training for medical personnel in gynecological clinics was organized by the NGO Women's Information Center in 2001 and funded by the UNFPA project to inform medical

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<sup>134</sup> *Prekyba moterimis*, p. 129.

<sup>135</sup> *Draft National Strategy for the Reduction of Domestic Violence against Women*, p. 9.

<sup>136</sup> *Prekyba moterimis*, pp. 127–128.

<sup>137</sup> *Prekyba moterimis*, p. 130.

personnel on how to recognize victims of sexual violence and how to provide the necessary professional support for them.<sup>138</sup>

For law enforcement, especially police, training on dealing with victims of domestic violence under the project funded by BAPF was implemented by various organizations, with the help of international donors, in the period of 2002–2004. The Women's Information Center trained police in ten districts to help victims of domestic violence.

#### **6.4 Gender equality issues in higher education curricula and human rights programs**

Specific programs dealing with gender equality issues are not included in the general description of the professions. These programs might only be integrated in the various disciplines in regard to human rights, social work, psychology, and other social sciences.<sup>139</sup> Gender studies are mainly optional courses in studies on gender history, theory, sociology, feminism and others.<sup>140</sup>

There are certain provisions for building a gender perspective at the schools. At schools, human rights education is integrated into the general civic education that promotes nondiscrimination and tolerance in regard to sex, minority, ethnicity, race, age, and ability.<sup>141</sup> As it was mentioned above, gender mainstreaming was considered by the Expert Commission as a factor in the evaluation and adoption of the textbooks.

## **7. THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA**

### **7.1 Media law provisions concerning violence against women and the portrayal of women**

There are two laws in Lithuania that encompass rules, provisions and regulations for the media on presenting information in public: the Law No. X-752 on Provision of Information to the Public, adopted on September 1, 2006, and the Law No. IX-1067 on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effects of Public Information, adopted on September 18, 2002. Neither one of them includes direct provisions concerning violence against women, but they do include gender-neutral categories on

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<sup>138</sup> Jurate Seduikė, project manager at Women's Information Center. Interview made on February 3, 2006.

<sup>139</sup> *Informacinis leidinys: Kur stoti moklieviams?* pp. 134–141.

<sup>140</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 13–22.

<sup>141</sup> Ministry of Education and Science. No. 12-05-R-707. February 7, 2006.



prohibition to publish information instigating or advertising violence and violent movies, pornography, erotic films that demonstrate sexual acts, sexuality, and sexual services. Also, both laws include provisions on the prohibition of discrimination against sex, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, and age.<sup>142</sup>

## 7.2 Guidelines and codes of conduct for media professionals

The Code of Conduct of Journalists and Publishers in Lithuania stipulates the rules by which information should be presented. Article 46 directly says that media professionals cannot inform society about domestic conflicts, except in cases where the domestic conflict is of public interest.<sup>143</sup> The other articles under the Chapter on Protection of Personal Honor, Dignity, and Privacy, include provisions on the prohibition of violent films, the protection of personal privacy, and the elimination of discrimination against sex, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, and age.<sup>144</sup>

## 7.3 Media watch organizations monitoring violence against women, sexism, and stereotyped portrayal of women

The Inspector of Journalists' Ethics (appointed by, and accountable to, the Parliament of Lithuania) has an authority regarding the published media, while the Lithuania Radio and Television Commission (a state institution) is responsible for radio and TV transmissions. The Commission of Journalists' and Publishers' Ethics (a self-regulation body) analyzes the information in the media in general, and defines the faults or ethic misdeeds, and has the power to require the miscreant to publicly announce these ethical faults by distributing the information about them to the National Radio.<sup>145</sup>

Both state institutions analyze media products by referring to implementation of media laws. Both bodies have the power to warn media operators, and to penalize them, according to Violations of the Administrative Law Code, by fines. The Lithuania Radio and Television Commission has the right to terminate the license of a TV

<sup>142</sup> *Nepilnamečių apsaugos nuo neigiamo viešosios informacijos poveikio ĮSTATYMAS* (Įsigalioja nuo 2002 09 18) (Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information) [www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter2/dokpaieska.showdoc\\_l?p\\_id=221504&p\\_query=](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter2/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=221504&p_query=).  
*Visuomenės informavimo įstatymas (Nauja įstatymo redakcija nuo 2000 m. spalio 1 d)* (Law on Provision of Information to the Public) [www3.lrs.lt/cgi-bin/preps2?Condition1=107744&Condition2=](http://www3.lrs.lt/cgi-bin/preps2?Condition1=107744&Condition2=).

<sup>143</sup> Art. 46 of the Code of Conduct of Journalists and Publishers in Lithuania.

<sup>144</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 11–12.

<sup>145</sup> Article 47 of the Law on Provision of Information to the Public.

channel for three months. The Inspector of Journalists' Ethics receives the complaints of individuals and has the right to initiate an investigation.<sup>146</sup>

No special provisions for acting on the grounds of violence against women exist in Lithuania. All of these bodies watch the implementation and violation of media laws. Although in 2005 the biggest Lithuanian daily was penalized for screening violence, this act was considered as gender-neutral, because it involved information that negatively affected youth.<sup>147</sup> No specification on violence against women has been done.

#### **7.4 Training programs for media professionals on violence against women**

No special training program on violence against women for media professionals exists. Informal training for journalists is offered by the Center of Journalism, where a participant can receive knowledge and obtain skills on the theory of journalism, ethics, media genres, practical skills, and others. Each course contains 120 hours of class work and four weeks of practice in various types of media institutions. Violence as a subject is discussed in some courses within the topics of ethics and theory, but violence against women is not distinguished as a separate and independent topic or discipline.

#### **7.5 Media activity in raising the awareness of the general public of violence against women**

The media informs the general public on the events of the "16 Days of Activism" campaign when NGOs organize them under the general rubric of news during the relevant time in the capital of Lithuania. Local newspapers publish only the news on violence against women in their localities. Under the *National Program on Prevention and Control of Trafficking and Prostitution for 2002–2004*, the media were involved in two information campaigns. As there is no systematic information campaign, they do not contribute much to the changing of attitudes towards victims of violence, intolerance to violence and violent behavior. As experts in human rights emphasize, the media frequently reinforces stereotypes of women and men and images of violent

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<sup>146</sup> Articles 48 to 51 of the Law on Provision of Information to the Public.

<sup>147</sup> Deivis Velkas, Adviser to the Inspector of Journalist's Ethics. Interview made on January 13, 2006. Mindaugas Jackevicius, "Zurnalistu etikos normos galioja ne visiems" (Norms of Journalists' Ethics are not valid for each journalist). [www.lzs.lt/about.php?id=211&type=paper&page\\_menu=4](http://www.lzs.lt/about.php?id=211&type=paper&page_menu=4).

behavior, and makes little effort to use its powers to change social attitudes and social understanding of violence in society.<sup>148</sup>

## 7.6 Analyses on violence against women in the media

The Inspector of Journalists' Ethics analyzes the print media and, every two years, publishes an official newsletter: *Informaciniai pranešimai*.<sup>149</sup> However, the topic of violence against women is not a theme of analysis.

In 2002, the NGO Lithuania's Women Association completed research on "Attitudes of Media towards VAW" sponsored by Open Society Fund–Lithuania. The findings of the research showed that journalists do not consider violence against women to be an important issue. It becomes important only in the extremely cruel cases of violent crimes or murder. Emotional violence is considered a minor problem. Journalists named physical and emotional violence against children as the most important issue to transmit to society.<sup>150</sup>

# 8. AWARENESS RAISING

## 8.1 Campaigns on violence against women

Campaigns against violence against women were more active until 2002, while the Open Society Fund–Lithuania had its women's program. The events were nationwide, raising the awareness of politicians and media representatives, and uniting the many NGOs that worked in the field of prevention of violence against women. In 2002, the Men's Crisis Center initiated the "16 Days Campaign against Violence against Women," under the title *Men against domestic violence*.<sup>151</sup> Since 2002, as interviews of NGO activists around Lithuania demonstrate, many NGOs do not have the financial and human resources to organize wider campaigns. Since 2004, international donors have been withdrawing from Lithuania, and therefore NGO financing capacities are limited to national donors, such as municipalities and governmental bodies. Due to the

<sup>148</sup> *Žmogaus teisės Lietuvoje*, p. 224.

<sup>149</sup> Deividas Velkas, Adviser of Inspectors of Journalists' Ethics. Interview made on January 10, 2006.

<sup>150</sup> Lietuvos Moterų Draugija. (2002) Sociologinio tyrimo „Žiniasklaidos darbuotojų požiūris į smurtą prieš moteris“ ataskaita. (Report on the Sociological Research by Lithuanian Women's Association.) Unpublished.

<sup>151</sup> The project was supported by the UNDP and OSF-Lithuania.

lack of systematic funding for violence against women, NGOs seek funding to cover their direct duties and responsibilities to provide support and assistance for victims.<sup>152</sup>

Campaigns highlighting other forms of violence against women such as trafficking and prostitution also took place.<sup>153</sup> The International Organization of Migration organized a public awareness raising campaign on trafficking in persons in 2001–2002. The project was carried out with the financial contributions of the Finnish government, the U.S. government and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). The campaign contributed somewhat to the development of government prevention programs.

## **8.2 Conferences and other awareness raising, information, and prevention programs**

There were many national conferences and awareness raising projects in the field of violence against women and its different forms during 2000–2005. This shows that the problem has been recognized and discussed, but a systematic and complex approach to resolve the problem has not yet been adopted. The Fourth Women's Congress of Lithuania took place in August 2005 and adopted an important resolution on violence against women:

- acknowledge violence against women in the family as an issue of human rights rather than a social problem; and
- build and develop a national strategy to overcome violence against women in terms of improving the legal basis, enhancing capacities of NGOs in their direct work with victims, building the legal competences of the rural population, and enhancing women's empowerment strategies on the national and local governmental levels.<sup>154</sup>

The financial sources for the event were received from the government, municipalities and private donations. The main supporter was the Prime Minister of Lithuania, Algirdas Brazauskas. Thus, the government money exceeded private funding, and

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<sup>152</sup> Interviews with NGO leaders in Kretinga, Marijampole, Klaipeda, Vilnius. November 11–12, 2005.

<sup>153</sup> A powerful campaign in response to an amendment to the Code on Administrative Violations of Law in 2005 has been organized by the Women's Issues Information Center together with the Klaipeda Center of Social and Psychological Help and Kaunas Caritas entitled "It Is Shameful to Buy a Woman." The campaign covered 13 towns in Lithuania and aimed to deconstruct the invisibility and innocence of the consumers of prostitution. The campaign was supported by the Ministry of Social Security and Labor of Lithuania and the European Women's Lobby. [www.lygus.lt/ITC/news.php?id=773](http://www.lygus.lt/ITC/news.php?id=773).

<sup>154</sup> *Lietuvos Moterų Pažanga*, pp. 243–244.

therefore the Congress lost the right to severely criticize the government for its delay in resolving important issues of women's rights.

In 2003, IOM initiated a regional Baltic information campaign for youth against trafficking. With this SIDA-funded project, IOM aimed to sensitize both girls and boys to the problem of trafficking, and to empower them to make safe and informed decisions in high risk trafficking situations.<sup>155</sup>

Since 2002, events on violence against women have been organized by the Women's Information Center with the support of UNDP and the Baltic American Partnership Fund.<sup>156</sup> As a whole, the project has shown tendencies for cooperation by the police, and avoidance and unwillingness on the part of lawyers and prosecutors to investigate violence against women cases.<sup>157</sup>

### 8.3 Information materials for the victims about their rights and the services they can seek help

In 2004, the Center for Equality Advancement prepared and published *Legal and Practical Advice for Women Victims of Domestic Violence*.<sup>158</sup> This publication covers legal acts and provisions for assistance and help for victims of domestic violence. Financial resources for this publication, 10,000 litas (2,887 euros), came from the Ministry of Social Security and Labor under *the National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2003–2004*.

*Advice to support-providers for victims of domestic violence* was published by the Coalition "NO to Domestic Violence" with the support of the Baltic-American Partnership Fund in 2005. 4,000 copies were distributed for target groups only. It describes the methods of possible help and the necessity of teamwork in providing the support.

Leaflets by the Women's Information Center from the funds of UN Population Fund for victims of domestic violence contain information on where to seek assistance. Separate leaflets were prepared and distributed for ten districts of Lithuania with specialized information for each district. They contained phone numbers and addresses of shelters and messages of social and psychological support.

<sup>155</sup> Rasa Erentaite, project manager at IOM Vilnius Bureau. Interview made on February 21, 2006.

<sup>156</sup> Jūratė Šeduikienė, project manager, Women's Information Center, Vilnius. Interview made on February 3, 2006.

<sup>157</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>158</sup> *Tėisiniai ir praktiniai patarimai moterim, patyrusioms prievartą šeimoje* (2004) (Legal and Practical Advice for Women Victims of Domestic Violence.) Vilnius.

In 2001–2002, IOM brochures, postcards and leaflets in Lithuanian and Russian on available assistance in trafficking cases were produced and distributed at secondary and higher schools via the Ministry of Education, border checkpoints, including airports, and train stations via State Border Guard Services, local and regional labor exchange and police offices, and municipality social departments via municipality associations, crisis centers, day centers, shelters, bars, nightclubs, cinemas, and NGOs. IOM brochures, postcards and stickers produced during 2003–2004 were distributed through the secondary schools and through specialized NGOs. The production and distribution of all materials was funded by SIDA.<sup>159</sup>

## 9. RESEARCH AND SURVEYS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

### 9.1 Research programs and surveys

In 2000–2005, scientific research centers and NGOs completed scientific and qualitative research on different forms of violence. The goals of the research covered a broad scope from investigation of social context to attitudes of society in general, and from media stereotyping to the services of rehabilitation and reintegration of the victims. It covered forms of domestic violence, physical violence, emotional and economic violence, trafficking and prostitution.<sup>160</sup> Donors for the research were both national and international. The Ministry of Social Security and Labor financed the research on rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of trafficking and prostitution under the *National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2003–2004*.<sup>161</sup> The Ministry allocated 15,000 litas (4,330 euros) for this research. Other studies were funded by international donors: SIDA and OSI funded research on trafficking in women, UNDP funded a qualitative research study on domestic violence,

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<sup>159</sup> Rasa Erentaite, project manager at IOM Vilnius Bureau. Interview made on February 21, 2006.

<sup>160</sup> Jolanta Raingardienė (2001) *Socialinis prievartos prieš moterį kontekstas Lietuvoje*. (Social context of violence against women in Lithuania.) Daktaro disertacijos santrauka. Kaunas. Unpublished. Qualitative research *Gyvenimas be prievartos* (Life without violence), completed by Women's Information Center in 2002. [www.lygus.lt/ITC/lyciu2.php?tipas=2](http://www.lygus.lt/ITC/lyciu2.php?tipas=2). J. Ruskus, N. Mazeikiene, A. Blinstrubas, S. Balciunas (2005) *Prekybos moterimis ir prostitutcijos auku reabilitacija ir reintegracija*. Sipaviciene, Audra (ed) (2004) *Prekyba Moterimis: Problemos, Sprendimai, Žvilgsnis iš Vidaus* (Trafficking in Women: problems, solutions, view from inside), Vilnius.

<sup>161</sup> J. Ruškus, N. Mažeikienė, A. Blinstrubas, S. Balčiūnas (2005) *Prekybos moterimis ir prostitutcijos auku reabilitacija ir reintegracija*.

and Linköping Institute in Sweden funded a study on the social context of domestic violence.

The main findings and conclusions of the studies were the following:

- Domestic violence is a latent problem. Eighty-seven percent of the population recognizes the existence of domestic violence, which includes physical, sexual, emotional and economic forms, in society. Inquiry of women showed that 35 percent suffered from constant physical violence, 17 percent suffered sexual violence, 80 suffered emotional violence, and 20 percent experienced economic violence.<sup>162</sup>
- The population identified the main reasons for violence as the weak nature and psychic conditions of women and stereotypes of gender roles of women and men that influence gender behavioral models in society.<sup>163</sup> Media representations of violence against women have been reproducing and reinforcing traditional images of femininity and masculinity as being within the “natural” social order. The media depiction of domestic violence reflects the ignorance, neutralization and minimization of the problem. Images of violence against women also reflect the commodification of women’s bodies as a consequence of disadvantaged femininity and privileged masculinity in the current condition of social order.<sup>164</sup>
- Consequences of violence include damages to physical and psychic health and social sanctions – obstacles to having a career, financial sanctions, and loss of employment.<sup>165</sup>
- The findings on the impact of violence on women and their families reflect that silence is the most common survival strategy among female violence survivors. The meaning of assault for women is affected by normative ambiguity surrounding private violence in general. Women’s fear of being blamed, a sense of shame, self-blame and their intentions to forget the incidents are impacted by displaced responsibility, or a victim blaming approach in society for the survivors’ provocative character, or for not being able to remove themselves from a violent situation.<sup>166</sup> The negative attitudes

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<sup>162</sup> See: [www.lygus.lt/ITC/lyciu2.php?tipas=2](http://www.lygus.lt/ITC/lyciu2.php?tipas=2).

<sup>163</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>164</sup> J. Reingardienė. *Daktaro disertacijos santrauka*, p. 34.

<sup>165</sup> See: [www.lygus.lt/ITC/lyciu2.php?tipas=2](http://www.lygus.lt/ITC/lyciu2.php?tipas=2).

<sup>166</sup> J. Reingardienė. *Daktaro disertacijos santrauka*, p. 35.

on victims of trafficking and prostitution held by the police, municipal administration, social workers, and society in general, still prevail.<sup>167</sup>

- Women's distrust the efficiency of service providers, and their unwillingness to involve them in their cases draws attention to the cultural importance ascribed to family privacy as well as limited social acceptance and limited trust in the power of public social assistance.<sup>168</sup> The research shows the limitations in necessary assistance, such as psychological and social consultations in Lithuania, information about their existence, a lack of professional training for staff of rehabilitation institutions in working with victims of trafficking, and the structural limitations of law enforcement, such as the establishment of special units in the police to work with victims of human trafficking that have few female staff in members and inefficient professional competences.<sup>169</sup>
- Systematic financial support by the government for the institutions and organizations that provide direct help and assistance to victims of violence against women is lacking.<sup>170</sup>

## 9.2 Violence against women on the agenda of research centers dealing with equality issues

The most active research centers are: the Institute of Social Research in Vilnius; Center of Social Research at Vytautas Magnus University (project-based activities); Scientific Center of Social Research at the University of Siauliai; Gender Studies Center at the University of Siauliai; Gender Studies Center at Vilnius University; and Women's Studies Center at Klaipeda University.<sup>171</sup>

All of these centers have limited resources from the state, but sustain themselves from various international and national project based activity grants. None of them specialize in the subject of violence against women, but they include research on violence against women within the broader context of gender equality issues.

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<sup>167</sup> *Reabilitacijos įstaigų teikiamų socialinių paslaugų, ibid.*, pp. 85–86. Audra Sipavičienė (ed.). *Prekyba Moterimis: Problemos, Sprendimai, Žvilgsnis iš Vidaus* (Trafficking in Women: problems, solutions, view from inside). Vilnius, 2004, pp. 206–207.

<sup>168</sup> J. Reingardienė. Daktaro disertacijos santrauka, p. 36.

<sup>169</sup> See: [www.lygus.lt/ITC/lyciu2.php?tipas=2](http://www.lygus.lt/ITC/lyciu2.php?tipas=2); *Reabilitacijos įstaigų teikiamų socialinių paslaugų, ibid.*, pp. 85–86.

<sup>170</sup> *Reabilitacijos įstaigų teikiamų socialinių paslaugų, ibid.*, pp. 85–86.; Audra Sipavičienė (ed), *Prekyba Moterimis: Problemos, Sprendimai, Žvilgsnis iš Vidaus* (Trafficking in Women: problems, solutions, view from inside), Vilnius, 2004, p. 208.

<sup>171</sup> See at [www.sti.lt/](http://www.sti.lt/), [www.vdu.lt/](http://www.vdu.lt/), [www.lygus.lt/ITC/lyciu.php?id=34](http://www.lygus.lt/ITC/lyciu.php?id=34).



## 10. STATISTICS AND DATA COLLECTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

### 10.1 Official statistics, data collection, and specific indicators on violence against women

On May 8, 2003, the Minister of the Interior approved the Instruction of Centralized Registration of Criminal Acts, Persons who Committed the Acts and Victims of the Acts, by Order No. IV-160. The Instruction establishes the procedure for the registration and management of data of persons recognized as victims in compliance with Article 28 “Victim” of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the procedure for the completing, registering, sending, and keeping of statistical cards (Card F50).<sup>172</sup>

The Information and Communications Department of the Ministry of the Interior states that it collects data about the criminal acts registered in the institutions of pre-trial investigation and in the prosecutor’s office. These bodies, as well as the courts that investigate cases of private motion (domestic violence falls under this category) under the articles of the Criminal Code (Table 2 below), complete the statistical cards by including the following information: type of criminal act, results of its investigation, and information about the victim, such as sex, age, citizenship, education, employment, the person that attacked the victim (spouse, partner, father, mother and other), circumstances and consequences (victim died, injured, suffered material damages, physical violence, sexual violence, and other), and act of crime according to the Criminal Code. The card about victims includes an item that identifies the offender. There is also another card (1G-A) that includes more data about offenders.<sup>173</sup> The Information and Communications Department provides information on victims each month on the website: [www.vrm.lt](http://www.vrm.lt).<sup>174</sup>

Statistics in law enforcement are collected according to the articles of the Criminal Code that cover crimes of violence in general. Official statistics on criminal acts do not include any item specifically on domestic violence or violence against women as such, except trafficking and forced prostitution. Similarly, the National Prosecutor’s Office states that the crimes are registered according to the Criminal Code, where violence against women is not identified under a separate article, and therefore statistics on this

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<sup>172</sup> *Third National Report*, p. 18.

<sup>173</sup> Alvyda Pupkoviene, Deputy Director at the Information and Communications Department of the Ministry of the Interior. Official letter-response No. 6-2-9R-850, dated February 3, 2006.

<sup>174</sup> *Ibid.*

specific crime are not compiled.<sup>175</sup> As the Information and Communications Department of the Ministry of the Interior states, the institutions of pre-trial investigation, the Prosecutor's Office that starts the pre-trial investigation and the courts collect data about the criminal acts and register the data in the Registration List on Criminal Acts.<sup>176</sup>

The government's official explanation about the official statistics of offences suggests that it has registered only a minor portion of all domestic violent misdemeanours, as in most cases the victims of domestic violence do not apply to law enforcement institutions or other public organizations.<sup>177</sup>

The Information and Communication Department of the Ministry of Interior stated that gender-based statistics on criminal acts are available for 2000–2003, and from 2005. The new Criminal Code, effective from May 1, 2003, includes the amendment that the statistical card of a criminal act would not include the sex of the victim. But the other statistical card of the victim of the crime includes the sex. Subsequently under the Decision of the Minister, the statistical card used to record a criminal act was amended and the sex of the victim is now indicated.<sup>178</sup> Therefore, previously it was not possible to ascertain the number of women who were victims of domestic violence.<sup>179</sup>

The Department of Statistics of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania constantly collects, analyzes and publishes statistical data on gender distribution in public and private life. The Department provides standardized statistics on crimes, sexual crimes and violent behavior in general, without distinguishing gender. Separate statistics of violent crimes are identified for juveniles.

It seems that in general, statistics on violence against women should be compiled, and should be readily available; however, each institution, such as the Information and Communication Department of the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the National Courts Administration and the police department, replied that the statistics should be available yet did not provide concrete statistics. However, the Information and Communication Department of the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of

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<sup>175</sup> Skirmante Gadiškyte, adviser to Senior Prosecutor, Department of Investigation of Organized Crimes and Corruption, Office of the General Prosecutor. Interview.

<sup>176</sup> Information and Communication Department under the Ministry of Interior, Letter Nr. 6-2-9R-850 from February 2, 2006.

<sup>177</sup> *Third National Report*, p. 18.

<sup>178</sup> Danguole Bikmanaitė, Information and Communications Department of the Ministry of Interior. Interview made on July 11, 2006.

<sup>179</sup> *Third National Report*, p. 18. Information and Communication Department of the Ministry of Interior. Response Letter Nr. 6-2-9R-850. February 2, 2006, to S-5 from January 24, 2006.

Justice had statistics that identified women victims registered in pretrial investigations under the crimes in the articles of the Criminal Code.<sup>180</sup>

None of the law enforcement institutions, such as Ministry of Interior, the police department or the National Court Administration, indicated that they collect gender segregated statistics or that they identify the relationship between the victim and the offender. In general, according to the statistical card F50, the gender of the victim and relationship with the offender is indicated, but this information disappears from general statistics, because they are compiled separately according to the criminal acts as listed in the Criminal Code, the victims and the offenders or suspects of the criminal acts. None of these institutions completes an analysis of the interrelation among those three pillars of statistics.

From the statistics that are included in card F50, it is possible to identify the relationship between the victim and perpetrator – without indicating sex in the period 2003–2004. The general data shows that 3.05 percent of victims (in general) suffered from criminal acts by their spouse, 0.19 percent from acts by their partner, 1.67 percent from acts by a cohabitant, 2.47 percent from acts by their father or step-father, and 0.12 percent from acts by their employer.<sup>181</sup> Sex is indicated in this card. The statistical analysis provided did not include gender.

The police department stated that the forms (annual and half-year) for reporting by each police unit were approved by Decree No. 5-V-184 of the Police Commissioner General on March 8, 2005. The report of the patrols' activities includes data on calls to cases of domestic violence. The reports of the prevention departments include information on the cases of violations of Article 182 of Administrative Violations of the Law on Providing or Buying Prostitution Services.<sup>182</sup> Statistics of the prevention departments for 2000–2004 are accessible on the website of the police department.<sup>183</sup>

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<sup>180</sup> Information and Communication Department of the Ministry of Interior. Response Letter Nr. 6-2-9R-850. February 2, 2006, to S-5 January 24, 2006. Ministry of Justice letter No. (116)-7R-1371. February 27, 2006. National Courts Administration letter No. 6.2-177. February 13, 2006. Police department letter No. 5-S-1583. February 27, 2006.

<sup>181</sup> Rokas Uscila, *Domenys apie asmenis nukentėjusius nuo nusikalstamų veikų Lietuvos Respublikoje per 2003 m gegužės-gruodžio mėn* (Data on persons that suffered from criminal acts in the Republic of Lithuania in the period from May to December, 2003). Rokas Uscila, *Domenys apie asmenis nukentėjusius nuo nusikalstamų veikų Lietuvos Respublikoje per 2004 m. sausio-gruodžio mėn* (Data on persons that suffered from criminal acts in the Republic of Lithuania in the period from January to December, 2004).

<sup>182</sup> Deputy Police Commissar Kestutis Tubis. Letter-Response No. 5-S-1583 of February 27, 2006 to the Letter No. S-6 of January 27, 2006.

<sup>183</sup> *Ibid.*

Data collection on trafficking by law enforcement has been systematic and accurate due to the fact that trafficking is identified as a crime in the Criminal Code. Also the Government adopted the *National Program on Prevention and Control of Trafficking and Prostitution*, where the statistics are used to show the development tendencies of the cases, their investigations and results.<sup>184</sup> The data is collected and analyzed by the Ministry of Interior, which coordinates the implementation of the National Program.

Table 2 shows an increase in investigation of trafficking cases in the period from 1999 to 2004. However, the statistics of cases that reach the court comprise a very low percentage compared to the estimated number of trafficked persons (1,000–1,200 per year).<sup>185</sup>

**Table 2.** Cases of trafficking in human beings

Years	Total No. of cases	Cases transferred to the court	Cases investigated in the court	Cases that were refused investigation	Cases in which the investigation was suspended	Cases in which the investigation was canceled	Persons observed by law enforcement	Suspects	Victims known to law enforcement	Victims	Convicted
1999	3	1	1		2		2	2	2		2
2000	5	3	3				7	3	2		3
2001	19	6	3	2	9	2	52	18	37	9	7
2002	17	10	3	1	5		58	26	23	16	6
2003	18	5	2	1			40	33	28	7	2
2004	22	13	4	–	3	1	41	25	31	23	14
Total	84	38	16	4	19	3	200	107	123	55	34

**Source:** *National Program on Prevention and Control of Trafficking in Human Beings and Prostitution for 2005–2008*, pp. 6–7.

The Information and Communication Department provided data about the statistics they collected but did not provide any analysis. The statistics refer to criminal acts as defined in the Criminal Code.<sup>186</sup>

<sup>184</sup> *National Program on Prevention and Control of Trafficking and Prostitution for 2005–2008*, p. 3.

<sup>185</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 5.

<sup>186</sup> Information and Communication Department of the Ministry of Interior. Letter No. 6-2-9R-850. February 2, 2006.

**Table 3.** Statistics compiled by pre-trial investigation institutions on registered acts of crimes according to the Criminal Code, where the victims were women.

Articles of Criminal Code (CC)	Registered cases				Passed to the court			
	2000	2001	2002	2005	2000	2001	2002	2005
Murders (CC, Art. 129, 130)	113	107	80	107	80	83	82	70
Heavy health damages (CC, Art. 135)	70	58	73	56	53	50	55	32
Light health damages (CC, Art. 138)	226	233	257	774	106	105	123	164
Causing physical pain (CC, Art. 140)	111	109	153	470	89	92	134	470
Threats of murder (CC, Art. 145)	41	23	41	386	25	21	25	60
Illegal detention (CC, Art. 146)	8	15	13	36	4	5	7	15
Trafficking in human beings (CC, Art. 147)	1	16	19	32	0	4	15	12
Sexual violence (CC, Art. 149, 150, 151)	169	176	178	489	123	132	158	249
Involvement into prostitution (CC, Art. 308)	5				4			
Robbery (CC, Art. 180)	1151	1330	1495	1490	268	450	558	426

**Source:** Information and Communication Department of the Ministry of Interior.  
Letter No. 6-2-9R-850. February 3, 2006.

In cases of violent injuries, medical professionals must register the case in the registration journals of the medical institution, and must immediately inform the police. Medical personnel consider only medical issues of the injury, and refer the case to the police to find out and clarify the reasons for the injuries.<sup>187</sup> No special registration or statistics are available for domestic violence.

<sup>187</sup> Interview of R. Gaidelyte, Lithuanian Health Information Center.

In the annual Publication on Women and Men in Lithuania, one section is dedicated to the victims of criminal acts that are identified according to the Criminal Code (www.std.lt). Also, information on victims of criminal acts is available on the website of the Information and Communications Department of the Ministry of Interior at www.vrm.lt. Although information is collected on criminal acts, there is no overall information accessible to the general public with concrete data on domestic violence. Trafficking and forced prostitution are included in the Criminal Code; therefore, information for these issues is compiled and is accessible to the general public.

In 2004, the Center of Criminal Investigations started collecting DNA material for its DNA Data Bank in cases of sexual violence. The laboratory research is completed for pre-trial investigations. No accurate statistics on cases when the perpetrators are unknown have been compiled by the Center. Approximately 20–30 cases per year are investigated where the perpetrator is unknown or unidentified by the victim.<sup>188</sup> The DNA laboratory of Mykolas Riomeris University Institute of Forensic Medicine completes the research and has statistics on calls they have taken to perform the test for a pre-trial investigation. According to data from 2005, the DNA experts were called 340 times to complete the necessary tasks in cases of investigation of sexual violence. The head of the laboratory stated that in 2004 they responded to slightly more cases.<sup>189</sup>

## 10.2 NGO statistics on violence against women

There are only scattered and non-systematic statistics kept by NGOs in Lithuania. Though some NGOs cooperate with police in order to receive data about registered violence against women cases, they do not keep systematic statistics.<sup>190</sup>

# 11. CASE LAW ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

## 11.1 Cases on violence against women before the national and international bodies dealing with human rights issues

The Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsman investigates cases of sexual harassment in the labor market. There were almost twenty cases during the period of 1999–2005. The cases were initiated by complaints of victims received by the Office of

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<sup>188</sup> G. Birmontas, Deputy Director, Center of Criminal Investigations of the Police Department. Interview made on February 3, 2006.

<sup>189</sup> R. Baranoviene, Head of Serology and DNA laboratory, M. Riomeris University, Institute of Forensic Medicine. Interview made on February 3, 2006.

<sup>190</sup> *Lietuvos Moterų Pažanga*.

the Equal Opportunities Ombudsman. Many cases were terminated in the middle of the process of investigation due to a lack of proof, the unwillingness of witnesses to testify, and other reasons. There were two cases which were successfully resolved for the victims. One case was resolved in 1999. The other case was widely publicized and debated in the year 2004. It involved a charge of sexual harassment between a university lecturer and a student. The case was widely discussed in public. The Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsman completed an investigation and passed the case to the General Prosecutor's Office. As a result, the lecturer was fired and lost his case in court to return to his previous position at Vilnius University. A public campaign of awareness raising about the crime of sexual harassment has had a preventive effect in society.<sup>191</sup>

No violence against women cases before the international forums were identified.

### 11.2 Published court decisions, case studies, and analyses of case law

In academic journals, there are articles on criminal acts in general, which investigate the problems of criminal laws and processes; however, no court decisions specifically on cases of violence against women were investigated. A legal expert indicated that no in-depth studies on this topic have been completed.<sup>192</sup>

Questions about the existence of a guiding court decision on the topic were addressed to the Ministry of Justice and the National Court Administration, but no answers were received.

## 12. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT

- Make amendments to the legal acts that, in the cases of violence against women, would change private accusation practices to state accusation;
- Provide appropriate mechanisms to make effective separation of the perpetrator from the victim in criminal and civil litigations;
- Assign a special amount in the state budget to combat violence against women, including appropriate financial support for NGOs working in the field;

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<sup>191</sup> Laima Vengale, Adviser at the Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsman, interview made on February 14, 2006. Pažyma Dėl Liepos Eglės Kiauleikytės Skundo Tyrimo April 20, 2004. No. (040-SN-7), Vilnius.

<sup>192</sup> Comments made by Brigita Palavinskiene, Legal expert, lecturer at M. Riomeris University.

- Develop special programs with a budget for the perpetrators as an alternative measure for their accountability and their involvement in the prevention of violence against women;
- Encourage cooperation between the police, the health care and social services, the judiciary and the NGOs, and develop special protocols based on a multidisciplinary approach to ensure comprehensive, coordinated, gender-sensitive treatment of and assistance to women victims of violence;
- Provide specialized training for schoolteachers on gender mainstreaming and integration of gender equality in each discipline;
- Include a special item in the school curricula, both elementary and secondary, about stereotyped roles of the sexes, gender equality and violence against women;
- Introduce mandatory continuous pre-service and in-service training programs on violence against women, including treatment of victims, for all law enforcement professionals;
- Amend existing media laws to include special provisions on the portrayal of women and violence against women;
- Provide trainings for media professionals that would include themes of gender equality and violence against women, and encourage media watch organizations to include tasks regarding violence against women and sexism in their mandate; and
- Develop integrated statistics to measure the scale of violence, to begin systematic data collection, and to begin the registration of cases in all relevant law enforcement professions.



## ANNEXES

### Annex A. List of laws and regulations screened

Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania. *Official Gazette*

Code of Criminal Procedure of the Republic of Lithuania. *Official Gazette*

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Code of Conduct of Journalists and Publishers in Lithuania

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- Valstybinės moterų ir vyrų lygių galimybių 2003–2004 metų programos priemonių įgyvendinimo 2003 metais ataskaita* (Report on Implementation of National Program on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2003–2004 for the year of 2003)  
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