

Es tiempo de hacer del mundo  
¡Queremos a la mujeres viva  
se detenga. The time has come to  
femicides! Shelters, refuges and centres  
de faire de ce monde un n  
et libres! Controns les fém  
teviura là pour toutes l

## *THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS*

### *2012 Global Data Count*

*One 24 hour day...*

*One day in the life of women and children who sought shelter...*

*One of the many days we provided support and worked to create change in our communities...*

*One more day in our global efforts to end violence against women.*

bydo, inkamot mamamano  
e eta neskato guztiak bizirik  
izidioa! Eman babesak emak-  
ekuei eta zentroei. Emaku-  
go dira genero-indarkeriak

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 2012 Global Count represents information provided by 121 participating agencies from 44 countries<sup>1</sup>. Shelter workers and regional organizations gathered together information with the help of the 106,108 women and children who told their stories of courage and resilience.

The Global Network of Women’s Shelters would like to thank everyone who participated in the 2012 Global Count. Each year, the number of shelters participating in the Global Count grows.

The Global Count is an ambitious exercise that requires the hard work and dedication of many people within the Global Network. The Global Data Count Committee took the lead on this ambitious project. They are:

Maria Stetter Rubin (Kommunikationschef, DANNER, Denmark)

Margaret Augerinos (CEO, Centre for Non Violence, Australia & WESNET Australia representative)

Jan Reimer (Executive Director, Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters, Canada)

The committee would like to thank Margarita Guille, who translated the data count into Spanish.

Special thanks also to:

Jennifer Ness of ACWS, who assembled the data and Lori J. Shortreed, who authored the report, with the assistance and expertise of Brooks Hanewich and Dianne Henshaw.

Together they sorted through the wealth of responses to create the themes that resonate throughout this report.

*It is important for us to remember that the figures in this report have their weight because they represent the many resilient women and children who have come to us for safety as part of their courageous journey towards fulfilling lives free of violence and abuse.*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Who We Served on This One Day .....	1
We Were Unable to Help Everyone Who Reached Out For Our Support.....	6
The Barriers We Faced .....	6
We Continue To Be Inspired! .....	8
Breaking The Cycle – Advocacy and Prevention .....	9
Changes We Have Seen Over	
The Last 5 Years.....	15
The 2012 Global Data Count .....	18
Who Is The Global Network of Women’s Shelters?.....	19
How Was the Global Data Count Conducted?.....	19

We would also like to thank the many shelters who contributed pictures to use in this report.

This report was produced by the Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters.



<sup>1</sup>Agencies include individual shelter and shelter networks.

# THE GLOBAL COUNT

*The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) defines the term violence against women in Article 1 as “Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”.*

The 2012 Global Count is a snapshot of one day in the lives of women seeking refuge at women’s shelters around the world. It is the fourth census conducted by the Global Network of Women’s Shelters. Formed in 2008, its international membership is a united body, speaking with one voice, with the common purpose to support and strengthen the women’s shelter network; and, to advocate for the creation and implementation of social policy and social values that will end violence and oppression against women and their children.

Each year, the number of participating countries and agencies has expanded. The growing number of participating countries shows both the strength of our movement, and our dedication to bringing forward information that can help to focus efforts on preventing all forms of domestic violence.

With each count, we have a clearer representation of the scope of the issue in our communities.

Year	Number of Participating Countries
2009	24
2010	30
2011	36
2012	44

The Global Count is only one of our individual and collective efforts to bring about change. Women’s shelters have been at the forefront of prevention activities including public education and national campaigns that highlight the impact of domestic violence in our communities. We have successfully lobbied our governments to enact effective legislation to protect women and children and have advocated with the courts and law enforcement agencies to ensure that it is enforced.

We have yet to capture the full extent of violence against women and children existing in our communities. The Global Count does not include information gathered from every country, let alone every woman’s shelter. We must therefore emphasize that our numbers for the day are incomplete. Many more women and children may have sought safe shelter, or sadly found nowhere to go. Their stories have yet to be told.

Sincerely,

Global Network of Women’s Shelters

# WHO WE SERVED ON THIS ONE DAY

Of The **67,484** Women Helped  
**1,133** Were Known To Be Pregnant

Shelters provided abused women and their children with safe haven and a wide range of supports. They participated in support groups, counseling, and made plans for their future. Safe from harm, they were encouraged to recognize their resiliency and to take the first steps in their physical, psychological and emotional recovery. Most importantly, women learned they were not alone.

**Honduras:** *I arrived emotionally destroyed because the damages suffered have been great. We arrived without hope, with an uncertain future and with the dilemma of moving forward or returning to the aggressor. But at the shelter they empower us to see the light at the end of the road."*

**Kosovo:** *My live is changed from the moment I had arrived in shelter, there, in this house I find the all good peoples who helped me to be in the new area without violence, to enrich my self esteem and to be strong to fight against those who damaged my life"*

**Vietnam:** *Our honor, dignity has been assured when we stay at Peace House.*



The women received counseling to help redeem their self-esteem. They participated in parenting courses to rebuild their relationship with their children and were supported in their efforts to help their children recover.

**Armenia:** *I was hopeless, isolated and nervous, nothing interested me and I was bothered that my son's nervous behavior will never change. With individual and group studies, the relations with my son improved, my self-esteem raised, I became more independent, organized and old fears did not worry me anymore.*

**Sweden:** *I was physically and psychologically abused. The support from the shelter means everything to me. Finally me and my children can see the light. We can feel joy and happiness in our lives.*

**38,624 Children Found Relief**  
From The Physical, Psychological and Emotional Abuse  
Experienced As Victims of Domestic Violence

Children who have witnessed or been drawn into domestic violence require sensitive and compassionate support to help them to regain their sense of safety and security. In the shelters, they receive counseling that helps them to deal with the effects of trauma, feelings of fear, anger, guilt, and depression.

**Taiwan:** *Children in the shelter don't like to be labeled as someone who lives in a shelter. They feel like they've been sent to the shelter because they did something wrong, while in fact, they are victims of domestic violence.*

**Italy:** *For the first time in our life we've felt safe, at home, never happened before since we're born (three Chinese brothers in the shelter).*



***The women came from diverse backgrounds and communities***

**In The Participating Countries...**  
**66%** Served Aboriginal and/or Minority Ethnic Women<sup>2</sup>  
**52%** Reached Out To Women in Prostitution<sup>3</sup>  
**30%** Worked With Incarcerated Women<sup>4</sup>  
**25%** Provided Services for Transgender and Transsexual Women<sup>5</sup>  
**64%** Supported Disabled Women<sup>6</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Armenia, Australia, Austria, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, England, Finland, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, Italy, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Peru, Puerto Rico, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Taiwan, USA, Vietnam, Wales

<sup>3</sup> Armenia, Australia, Austria, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Hong Kong, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Peru, Sweden, Taiwan, USA

<sup>4</sup> Australia, Canada, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, Italy, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Peru, USA

<sup>5</sup> Australia, Austria, Canada, Croatia, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, Italy, Peru, Sweden, USA

<sup>6</sup> Australia, Austria, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, England, Ethiopia, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Peru, Puerto Rico, Sweden, Taiwan, USA, Vietnam

Aboriginal or indigenous peoples face marginalization and exclusion within many of the post-colonial states, including Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the USA. The women who are subject to gender based violence can face additional barriers accessing services and supports and in some cases discrimination in their dealings with law enforcement.

Immigrant, refugee, migrant, and women working as temporary foreign workers or accompanying their husbands or other family members are often socially and physically isolated and lack awareness of their rights in their new communities. Lacking social networks, financially dependent, and frightened to lose their status or access to their children they are often reluctant to come forward for help.

There are also a growing number of women without status, those who have fallen through the cracks of their host countries. Some are victims of trafficking, others disappear into the shadows and become particularly vulnerable to abuse.

**Austria:** *My visa is not valid anymore, please help me. I want to stay in Austria and I'm very afraid about sending me back to my country. I can't live there anymore and my husband will find me there and kill me...*

Other vulnerable populations, including older women and women with disabilities, also shared their stories reminding us that violence against women occurs in a range of demographics.

**Australia:** *I may have disabilities but I am still capable and deserve to live in this world, hopefully when I move from the refuge my carer will not be violent and I will be safe in my home.*

**Ghana:** *Widows are often labeled as witches who have killed their husbands. Their children are given out for marriage without the knowledge of the widows for dowry. Most widows are often thrown out of their husband's home when they refuse to choose a member in the family to marry.*

**61%** of participating countries reported gaps in services and supports for marginalized<sup>7</sup> women<sup>8</sup>



<sup>7</sup> Marginalization refers to a segment of population which is essentially "left out", or not cared about; they are often excluded, considered unimportant, powerless or a combination by decision makers and/or by a majority of the population.

<sup>8</sup> Armenia, Australia, Austria, Cameroon, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Taiwan, USA

Shelters and other services may struggle to meet the needs of diverse communities. Not all shelters have staff trained in the complexities of refugee and immigrant issues. They lack resources and expertise to ensure that they are fully accessible and able to provide culturally sensitive and relevant supports.

**Morocco:** *I am scared and worried, my husband is dangerous. I don't speak French, how can I communicate with other women.*

### **The women and children who reached out to us had complex needs**

Many countries reported significant mental health issues amongst women using shelters. Respondents felt that the mental health issues added another level of complexity and challenge to an already difficult situation (Taiwan, USA, Australia and Denmark). Respondents also suggested an increase in the number of mental health disorders in women visiting their shelters (Germany, Canada).

**Canada:** *We are seeing more and more acute co-occurring disorders such as PTSD, mental health issues and addictions.*

**USA:** *People are forced to stay in abusive relationships due to a lack of those resources.*

**Nepal:** *I was mentally disturbed when brought to shelter. I didn't know what to do. I was a victim of rape. The rapist had already flown to a foreign country. My family started behaving awkwardly after I was raped. They used to torture me day and night. Later, after I gave birth to child, I was driven away from home. When I was in dire need of support from my family, I was deserted. Dejected and discarded I was wandering here and there not knowing where to go.*

### **Women faced barriers transitioning back into community**

In many countries (Canada, Australia, USA, Austria and Sweden) shelters identified how women face difficulty transitioning back into community due to a lack of affordable housing and shelter. The lack of housing created the impossibility of "exit points" and an inability to move out of the shelter. This can strain a shelter's already taxed resources.

**Costa Rica:** *"I need an employment",... "stable work because once we're over a certain age, they won't hire us anymore", ... "a safe place to live", ... "houses or apartments are above the price", ... "I need financial help to get food and everything my children need."*

**Australia:** *Women become stuck in refuge and we have done all we can do, now just waiting for housing. No new women can access beds because no movement is happening.*

### **How we helped**

**Canada:** *The Crisis Worker's were amazing. They were always there for me, even when I didn't realize I would need them. Every minute of support that they offered was priceless to my growth. They have an uncanny sense for when a person needs a kind word or hug or even alone time.*

Beyond the basics of safety, security, and emotional support, the women who came to the shelters mentioned repeatedly the importance of our programs and services. Many of the women cited personal development and growth in self-esteem; that they were encouraged and empowered to move forward. The education and counseling programs were a very important part of their shelter experience.

**Nigeria:** *I feel good to be in a place where I can discuss my problem freely" "My husband always tells me that there is nothing good in me, that I am good for nothing but after this workshop, I now know that I am good in many ways, I am a good mother, I can create things, I am wonderfully made by God*

**Puerto Rico:** *During the eight months I was sheltered, I got to know myself, value myself and think about my children and establish priorities. I could recognize I was a victim subjugated by my aggressor, receiving all types of bad abuse. Now, thanks to the help received at the shelter, I learned to value myself and believe I can make it on my own.*

Legal help and financial literacy were also cited as vital aspects of the services received at the shelter.

**Nepal:** *I have been able to heal. Besides, I have also filed case against the perpetrator and also been able to claim property from my family.*

**Australia:** *The services connected me to legal and financial services and have helped get my issues under control".*

**New Zealand:** *Finally I am taking my power back- I would not be getting this protection order if it was not for you.*





## WE WERE UNABLE TO HELP EVERYONE WHO REACHED OUT FOR OUR SUPPORT

**8,148** Women were turned away from shelters due to lack of resources  
**4,385** Children could not be accommodated  
In total **12,533** Women and Children were subject to continued risk  
Others had nowhere to turn -  
**16%** of participating countries reported there were **NO** shelters<sup>9</sup>



## THE BARRIERS WE FACED

**77%** of shelters did not receive adequate government funding<sup>10</sup>  
**68%** lacked financial security<sup>11</sup>  
**68%** struggled to maintain staff due to low wages<sup>12</sup>  
**50%** had difficulty finding trained staff<sup>13</sup> while  
**25%** depended upon the commitment of volunteers<sup>14</sup>  
**61%** of shelters lacked physical security<sup>15</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Cameroon, Canada, Italy, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda

<sup>10</sup> Armenia, Australia, Austria, Cameroon, Canada, England, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Rwanda, St. Lucia, Sweden, Vietnam, Wales

<sup>11</sup> Armenia, Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Kenya, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, Sweden, Syria, Taiwan, USA, Vietnam, Wales

<sup>12</sup> Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Germany, Ghana, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Sweden, Syria, Taiwan, USA, Vietnam

<sup>13</sup> Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Ethiopia, Germany, Ghana, Honduras, Iceland, Italy, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Puerto Rico, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Syria, Taiwan

<sup>14</sup> Cameroon, Canada, Germany, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Morocco, New Zealand, Niger, Sweden

<sup>15</sup> Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Germany, Ghana, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Sweden, Taiwan, Vietnam

Shelters worked to maintain and deepen their services. While the challenges shelters faced were varied there was one common thread: a lack of secure funding leading to insecurity and the inability to provide needed space and services.

**Cameroon:** *The greatest challenge so far is been unable to provide adequate support to the women and children due to limited resources.*

Respondents from Germany, Kenya, Ghana, and Morocco pointed to a lack of training for staff as a significant problem. While this was often simply stated as a need for basic training, respondents from Cameroon and Kenya also pointed to the fact that many of their staff were volunteers and were “overwhelmed because they give their time and resources to intervene in extremely difficult circumstances.” (Kenya)

Alternatively, when staff are properly trained, they are able to provide competent service and meet the needs of the women they support.

**Puerto Rico:** *98% of our staff have received knowledge about working with women and domestic violence. 87% of our staff have academic preparation in domestic violence. Because of this, our staff provide excellent service.*

### **Complex systems and bureaucracies created additional barriers**

Many countries also reported that it was essential to work with and be able to navigate a complex network of service providers and social welfare networks, such as police, legal institutions, educational institutions and the medical system.

Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Germany, Italy, Nepal, Mexico, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, and USA all stressed frustration dealing with institutional barriers, such as police, medical, and legal systems that would not cooperate or made it difficult for women to get support.

**Mexico:** *It is also valuable to share the terrible frustration that some of the benefited population and the group of professionals face against the personnel that is in charge of law enforcement and that in many occasions, far from helping, interfere in the advance of the cases, over victimizing the women, with sexist judgments, that corner us to desist from initializing any legal process for their protection and exercise of their individual rights.*

Some pointed to necessity to share data and information with other service providers; that many share clients or have crossover connections. A respondent from Germany indicated that the barriers can be mitigated through the use of networking.

**Germany:** *Bureaucracy is increasing. Many women are hardly able to cope with all the forms and applications. Still, the helping system for women and their children who have experienced domestic violence has expanded in the past years. We have more legal opportunities ... and more help from the community due to intensive networking. Today we are getting more positive feedback from our clients and we can see that our work is more successful.*

**Vietnam:** *Local authorities have no thorough solution to Domestic violence.*

# WE CONTINUE TO BE INSPIRED!

Staff at the women's shelters face demands of extremely challenging, difficult and often frustrating work, and yet they spoke of how their experience was rewarding, encouraging, inspiring and empowering.

**USA:** *Helping each woman identify her individual needs and/or the needs of her children and developing a plan to meet those needs is difficult, but rewarding. Challenges of time, space, and resources are frustrating and often require a creative energy.*

**Cameroon:** *It's challenging but there is more joy in restoring hope for the hopeless.*

The overwhelming majority of survey responders spoke of their experience working in the shelters in positive terms. Staff from Australia, Kosovo, Mexico, Saint Lucia, Sweden, Pakistan and USA spoke of the reward and satisfaction they gained assisting women to transform their lives.

**Sweden:** *It is an honour to being part of women's processes. It is fabulous to see them take power of their own lives and give themselves their freedom. Fantastic to be part of the process when women leave their abusers and become free, their own, happy, brave individuals.*

**USA:** *I immensely enjoy seeing the transformation of the women during their stay at the shelter. The women have a wonderful, unique opportunity to start their healing process and expand their networks.*

Staff from Cameroon, Israel, Canada, England, New Zealand, described their work as "rewarding", they also spoke in terms of hope.

**Israel:** *Greatest satisfaction is to meet a woman who was a shelter in the past and is now able to live in the community, non-violence with a job and continue to move forward in life.*

And respondents from Canada, USA, Germany, Italy, Nigeria, Netherlands, and Ethiopia spoke of the work in this field providing personal change.

**Canada:** *Working with women and children in a shelter setting has been more rewarding than I ever dreamed. I found that helping our clients change their lives has also changed my own. Working in this field has been a life changing opportunity.*

Australia and Taiwan also spoke of learning from inspirational women that come through their shelters.

**Australia:** *Recently I was privileged to get a visit from a client I supported 8 years ago. I remember her fleeing the State under police escort as they could not keep her safe. She had returned due to her mother's ill health. She presented as a confident woman, in full time work. She had worked hard and bought herself a home. The children were doing well at school. She had told her story to her manager at work and her manager agreed to donate some money to the shelter. This Christmas she is volunteering her time at the service as she wants to give back to us a little of what we gave to her. This is why I do this job.*

# BREAKING THE CYCLE – ADVOCACY AND PREVENTION




Shelters are embedded within communities. They are not simply a last resort for women and children in duress, rather, they have long worked to address the underlying causes of domestic violence. Shelters have been innovators and leaders in the development of programs and services that address gender inequality, poverty, and the requirement for systemic change that build human rights and support respect for the rights of all persons in our societies.<sup>16</sup>

The three clearest prevention themes identified by respondents were working with children through school programs, hosting and facilitating specific workshops on violence and abuse, and community mobilization. Many of the respondents are working with local community groups and institutions to stop violence and abuse. Other interesting themes arose related to prevention with specific groups: the LGBTQ community, ethnic minorities, men, seniors, parents and offenders.

Research was an important component of the prevention and advocacy work we did. It helped to guide our work and to build our case for change in our values, attitudes, and institutions (Netherlands).



<sup>16</sup> Examples of preventative work (taken from From A Different World is Possible from The End Violence Against Women Coalition) were provided to shelters as background information for this part of the survey.



Shelters in **ALL 44** reporting countries are leading efforts  
to advocate for change and to build safer and healthier communities

**77%** stated they are involved in school programs<sup>17</sup>

**80%** stated they use media campaigns<sup>18</sup>

**91%** reported they use public awareness campaigns<sup>19</sup>


**68%** have developed gender equity campaigns<sup>20</sup>

**77%** are involved in community mobilization<sup>21</sup>

**77%** provide education to service providers<sup>22</sup>

**66%** work with men to change attitudes and to bring them into  
the battle against domestic violence<sup>23</sup>

**57%** monitor and evaluate prevention activities<sup>24</sup>



---

<sup>17</sup> Australia, Austria, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, England, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Rwanda, St. Lucia, Sweden, Taiwan, USA, Wales

<sup>18</sup> Armenia, Australia, Austria, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, England, Finland, Germany, Hong Kong, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Syria, Taiwan, USA, Vietnam, Wales

<sup>19</sup> Armenia, Australia, Austria, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Rwanda, St. Lucia, Sweden, Syria, Taiwan, USA, Vietnam, Wales

<sup>20</sup> Armenia, Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Israel, Italy, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Rwanda, Sweden, Syria, Taiwan, USA, Vietnam, Wales

<sup>21</sup> Armenia, Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Honduras, Italy, Kenya, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Puerto Rico, Rwanda, St. Lucia, Sweden, Taiwan, USA, Vietnam, Wales

<sup>22</sup> Armenia, Australia, Austria, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Honduras, Hong Kong, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, Sweden, Taiwan, USA, Vietnam, Wales

<sup>23</sup> Armenia, Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Hong Kong, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Rwanda, Sweden, Taiwan, USA, Wales

<sup>24</sup> Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Finland, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Kosovo, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Puerto Rico, Rwanda, Taiwan, USA, Vietnam, Wales

## Advocacy and Political Action

**43%** of participating countries reported there is still no national policy addressing violence against women<sup>25</sup>  
**43%** contended with poor legislation<sup>26</sup> while  
**57%** believed there is good legislation but it is poorly implemented<sup>27</sup>

Shelters have long been at the forefront in advocating for stronger legislation and social policy to protect women and children and to improve access to supports for victims of violence. They have fought for national legislation to protect the rights of women and children, for laws against femicide, trafficking, discrimination and sexual harassment.

They have taken the lead in forging partnerships with law enforcement, legal communities and social justice agencies to work towards change in political institutions, legislation and policies and to support the equality of women (Netherlands, Finland, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco).

**Netherlands:** *We are founders of a "Political Party" in favour of Domestic Happiness. During local and national elections we are on the street to spread our message and to comment the programs of the regular political parties on the subject of prevention of domestic violence.*

<sup>25</sup> Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Ethiopia, Germany, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Syria, Wales

<sup>26</sup> Armenia, Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Syria, Taiwan

<sup>27</sup> Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Germany, Honduras, Iceland, Italy, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, Sweden, Taiwan, Vietnam, Wales

**Finland:** *Lobbying for the needed services, structures and resources among local and national decision makers.*

**Kyrgyzstan:** *CC "Sezim" was one of the initiators of the Law "On social-legal protection from family violence", adopted in the year of 2003.*

**Morocco:** *Awareness raising campaigns in marginalized regions; local and international advocacy supporting a new law protecting women against violence; creation of an equality and equity institution.*

**Australia:** *Campaigned for "Equal Pay" with Australian Services Union.*

## Working together with men to end domestic violence

Shelters are working with men for gender equality and in the promotion of safety and justice for women and children. As fathers, sons, and husbands, they are equally impacted by violence against the women and children they love and support. Prevention activities have focused on bringing men into the efforts to change cultural values that promote and perpetuate violence against women (Cameroon, Pakistan, Armenia, Netherlands).

**Cameroon:** *Our organization is involved in organizing workshops and seminars that involved both men and women in order to raise awareness on the fact that violence against women is a violation of a woman's fundamental rights.*

**Pakistan:** *Engaging men to end violence against women through school, colleges, and community groups.*

**Armenia:** *"Men against Violence against Women", is training for men with the purpose to involve men in combating domestic violence in Armenia as well as to create men-networks.*

**Kenya:** *We have launched a program on awareness focusing specifically on schools of girls and boys with a hearing disability.*

### **Working with media to engage community**

The shelters and their community partners are involved in numerous national campaigns to raise awareness about domestic violence. Media have long been important partners in getting the message out and in championing the issue.

**Denmark:** *In order to prevent dating violence LOKK has produced an app where young people can get information about violence and test themselves.*

**Finland:** *We have a 3 year co-operation with one of the biggest womens' magazines in Finland: they regularly write articles about domestic violence, how to recognize it and how to get help.*

**Germany:** *We go to schools to talk about violence and what we can do against it. We started a campaign with design art students that will make a campaign to our topic and present it in different locations.*

### **Partnering with educational Institutions to raise awareness and change attitudes**

A number of the respondents highlighted their efforts to reach children in school and to teach about the impacts of domestic violence and abuse. They offered a wide range of programs with the intent to raise awareness that children are often victims when women are abused (Canada, Kenya, Netherlands, Pakistan, Sweden, USA, Australia, Denmark, Germany, Finland). Shelters also work with universities to raise awareness with young adults about violence against women and children (Sweden, Germany).

**Finland:** *We made with school students a leaflet for teachers and youth workers "Dare to talk about violence - three ways of discussing domestic violence in junior high school".*

**Mexico:** *We have developed preventive actions by giving thematic workshops in basic education schools (elementary, middle and junior high schools), also to teachers, mothers and fathers.*

**Canada:** *Individual counseling for children who have witnessed woman abuse Stop Abuse in Relationships (STAR) Program - individual counseling for secondary school students related to dating violence, bullying and healthy relationships; classroom and community presentations on healthy and unhealthy relationships.*

**USA:** *School programs include: Respect, Safe Dates, Hands are Not for Hurting, Incredible Years, and other age appropriate curriculum.*



## ***Building community capacity through workshops and training***

There was a clear focus on raising awareness and training for men and women and institutional authorities (e.g., police) on violence against women and how to recognize and prevent it (Cameroon, Canada, Mexico, Canada, Kosovo, Austria, Armenia, Nigeria, Vietnam).

**Kosovo:** *Organize workshops and roundtables with all key actors including governmental mechanisms and line ministries, Kosovo Police, civil society.*

**Austria:** *We offer trainings for police officers, nurses, staff from the youth welfare service.*

**Nigeria:** *We have led customized empowerment workshops for 220 women in the community. These workshops are designed to help women increase their self-confidence and self-knowledge so that they can discover what's important to them. After identifying their dreams, we teach them to translate this knowledge into a workable vision that they can manifest through an actionable growth strategy to attain their goals. We also provide them with assistance in identifying and transforming the limiting beliefs that inevitably arise when creating something new.*

## ***Collaboration and community mobilization***

Many respondents indicated that they are working with various community institutions, like the church, police, religious institutions and service groups. Community mobilization focused on strengthening networks and alliances with local community groups and institutions, building capacity to support women and to open dialogue within communities (Niger, Sweden, Germany, Peru, Canada, Pakistan, USA, Denmark, Finland, Vietnam).

**Niger:** *Working with police officers, religious groups (Muslims and Christians), medical (nurses, doctors, etc.), civil servants.*

**Sweden:** *Collaborate with the local police and social services; forming a local team called "the Women's Safety Team".*

**Germany:** *We talk about different aspects of our work to interested groups like church, Lions, Rotary.*

**Canada:** *Doing educational seminars to local community groups and religious organizations.*

**USA:** *Our agency has a Prevention Program that is within the local schools in the area and does speaking engagements to local church's, social clubs, etc., to explain what domestic violence is, warning signs, and what resources are available.*

**Denmark:** *LOKK has from November 2012 started an intervention center in one region of Denmark. When the police in this region has cases of domestic violence they will contact the local shelter, who will provide counseling for the victim and also for the perpetrator in cooperation with the organization "Dialog against Violence".*

**Finland:** *We organise regularly meetings and education to our shelter workers and also educate the workers of local municipalities to deal with domestic violence problems.*

## ***Creating safer workplaces***

Shelters have also created specific programs for the workplace to address sexual harassment and to make workplaces safer places for women.



**Canada:** *We have programmes which focus on domestic violence in the workplace; engaging employers, employees and management...*

### **Meeting the needs of minorities – we are here to serve all survivors**

Shelters can be havens for anyone seeking to escape the trauma of domestic violence. In our increasingly diverse societies, sexual minorities (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, queer, and trans-gender/trans-sexual), members of ethnic communities, indigenous peoples, seniors, and men all required our support. We provided shelter and, we helped to create awareness about the prevalence of violence against some of the most marginalized in our communities.

#### Sexual Minorities

**USA:** *Provide workshops and presentations on domestic violence both in heterosexual and LGBT communities for various organizations including government agencies, colleges, other NGOs and community groups such as churches. ... Work with Rainbow Response Coalition particularly around safe housing for LGBTQ survivors, participation in DV Awareness Month planning committee.*

#### Ethnic Minorities

**USA:** *Provide support for community groups to address domestic violence in their communities, we have been working closely with Arab Cultural and Community Center's DV program, we have Japanese women's group who provide DV educations in Japanese language, also Thai women's group who produces literature on DV prevention. We welcome various community groups to contact us and receive technical assistance on DV prevention and education for free.*

#### Seniors

**Canada:** *Women came to our shelter today to be a part of a support group for senior women who have experienced domestic violence and intergenerational family violence.*

**Canada:** *Our organization goes out into the community and provides educational presentations on elder abuse... (what it is, how to recognize it, what to do about it)*

### **Breaking the cycle - working with offenders**

Ultimately, we are seeking a solution to the problem of violence against women, children, and other vulnerable individuals. This must include working with the perpetrators of violence, to bring about change, and to engage them personally to address the problem and to understand the consequences of their actions.

**Canada:** *High risk offender management project where police, crown, VAW, CAS and male batterers program staff collaborate to mitigate risk and increase safety while holding abusers accountable. ... "Caring Dads" was developed by an agency, our shelter ED, child protection staff, and others, to mitigate risk and break the intergenerational violence cycle.*

**Netherlands:** *Our organization also offers shelter to perpetrators whom are evicted from home. This is within the scope of "the Law Temporary Restraining Order".*

# CHANGES WE HAVE SEEN IN THE LAST 5 YEARS

When asked about major changes in their country in the last 5 years, the most common response world-wide was increased awareness of the issues around domestic violence. Survey-responders from 18 countries cited greater sensitivity to the issue. Increased media attention to issues surrounding domestic violence was mentioned specifically by 12 countries (Croatia, Finland, Nepal, USA, Germany, Italy, Kenya, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Sweden, Taiwan).

**Taiwan:** *In the last 5 years, the awareness for the need of protection of women who suffer from domestic violence is getting higher and higher in the public sphere, and the resource and advocacy for rescuing women are also become more varied. The awareness of those who ask for assistance and those who help the victims is also making progress.*

There was also a trend toward increased reporting of incidents of domestic violence in countries such as Armenia, Australia, Kenya, Netherlands, Nigeria, Saint Lucia, Sweden, UK.

Along with increased awareness about the issues of domestic violence, many countries report that their governments are putting improved legislation in place regarding stalking (Italy, Denmark), and domestic violence in general (Australia, Austria, Morocco, Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo, Hong Kong, Nepal, Netherland, New Zealand, Nigeria, Portugal, Taiwan, USA, Vietnam, Wales). As each country faces different issues, there is a broad range in the nature of the laws passed.

**Finland:** *All battery at home is now under general prosecution - which means that the judicial process goes forward regardless of the actions of the victim,*

**Australia:** *The Victorian Family Violence Act of 2008 is the best in the country so it provides hope for change and opportunities for those in need to have their voices heard.*

**Israel:** *What stands out especially are laws that give economic rights and better material for women in shelters to help them prepare for independent living.*

**Honduras:** *Approval of second plan on gender equity and a law against human trafficking.*

Increasing fathers' rights was cited by 4 countries (Australia, Austria, Germany, Netherlands) as a major change in the last five years.

The progress towards change is well-illustrated by the situation in Wales, where a comprehensive public relations campaign begun in 2009 brought about major attitudinal change which has since resulted in proposed legislation that will be passed in 2013 and implemented in 2014.

**Wales:** *Proposals in the Bill include the majority of what WWA (Welsh Women's Aid) and the wider VAW sector have been asking for including compulsory preventative education on healthy relationships in the Welsh Curriculum in all schools, an Independent Ministerial Advisor on VAW, compulsory workplace VAW policies and statutory duties on public bodies to take greater action to tackle VAW locally and regionally.*

Both the United States and England have new legislation that broadens the definition of domestic violence to include psychological intimidation and controlling behaviour, and these laws will apply to youth under 18 years of age.

In some countries, however, legislation has been proposed but women are still awaiting its passage (Cameroon, Ghana). Women in Cameroon are hopeful that long-awaited legislation will soon be passed.

**Cameroon:** *Well since 1979, the law regulating the situation of women in Cameroon has been in the parliament but last year members of parliament started deliberation on this law and we are hoping that by the end of this year parliament must have changed some of the laws affecting women in Cameroon. Some countries report improved legislation, but admit there is a long way to go.*

**Morocco:** *The main changes are related to the constitution which recognizes the supremacy of international laws, bans discrimination and violence and calls for parity and gender equality. Other national laws were amended, yet there many others in the penal code and family code in addition to labour code which need to be reformed to ensure legal protection to women .We are currently calling for the amendment of an article in the penal code which allows the rapist to marry the victim in order not to be jailed.*

Increased awareness has not yet lead to legislative changes in some places. (Pakistan, Syria)

**Pakistan:** *It has started becoming a much visible issue of the country but yet there is no legislation against it.*

Many countries have seen funding for shelters and women's support services reduced (Canada, Germany, Syria, USA) in the past five years.

**USA:** *Over the past 12 years participants and workers in the social service field have seen a drastic reduction in service providers and the resources that are government funded. Government funded resources that assisted in eliminating barriers such as transportation, childcare, food and housing have become scarce. Even 6 years ago there were agencies that would assist with paying car insurance, car repairs, childcare fees, college tuition / books and down payment assistance. Most of those resources lost funding and ceased to exist.*

On the other hand, there are some countries in which training and funding for staff has increased (Germany, Sweden) and many also report new programming for women's support services (Australia, Cameroon, Denmark, England, New Zealand, Taiwan, Vietnam). In Denmark, there is now free anonymous counseling outside the shelters, in the 2 major cities.

**Taiwan:** *... Coordinated efforts among agencies; Multi-agency risk assessment of high-risk case in DV: brought the idea from Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) from Britain which assembled social welfare department, police department, health department, and medical department etc. through once a month intensive meetings to discuss issues, divide work, and reduce the risk and frequency of violence against the victims.*

Expanded training for the police, and new cooperative efforts with the judicial system also emerged as a trend in many other countries that responded to the survey (Australia, Israel, Kosovo, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand and Nigeria). Even in countries where traditional resources have been scarce, there is renewed awareness and new strategies are taking hold.

**Saudi Arabia:** *There is a renaissance in helping women overcome violence and we are still at the beginning of the road.*

Several survey responders noted a change in awareness and in the reporting of abuse against women in vulnerable populations, including elder abuse (USA, Canada), and women in immigrant communities (Austria, Canada, Sweden, USA)

**USA:** *the increase of anti-immigrant sentiment has grown in our country and it can be seen in the lack of commitment from politicians to pass legislation that protects and provide services to immigrant women or other minority group. Women leaving prostitution (Iceland), LGBT women (USA) or women with mental health problems are also vulnerable to domestic violence.*

**Canada:** *There are more and more government doors closing for help for the mentally ill and women with addictions or multiple needs so we are seeing more of these women in abusive situations with little skills or resources to help.*

Changes in laws and in practice in the prevention of domestic violence were noted in several of the responses (Australia, Austria, Cameroon, Cyprus, Denmark, Puerto Rico, Vietnam) though the strategies around prevention varied from country to country. For some, prevention meant increasing awareness campaigns, while for others; more cooperation from the police was cited as a preventive measure.

**Puerto Rico:** *Our country have been working hard to find equality for women's and their safety by different programs like for example GPS for aggressors, and the policy for the police department in different municipality that give prevent and safety for domestic violence women's.*

**Australia:** *South Australia and a number of other states in Australia have recent updates in legislation governing Intervention Orders (or restraining orders/apprehended violence orders etc.*

**In Costa Rica,** *prevention measures mentioned included more participation of female citizens in local governments, more access to micro-business projects for women, and more awareness and conscience among the population of the unequal distribution of workloads as care and home activities.*

Survey responses on the whole reported mostly positive changes over the last 5 years, but sometimes discouragement with the pace of change and the scope of the problems crept in. For example, this response from Canada.

**Canada:** *No major changes - we are still so very far behind the times when it comes to addressing Domestic Violence and the needs of the women and children we serve.*



# THE 2012 GLOBAL COUNT

Participating Shelters in (Country):		Number of women helped today	How many were pregnant?	Number of children helped today	Number of women turned away today	Number of children turned away today
1	Armenia	18	0	8	1	2
2	Australia	783	30	729	66	-
3	Austria	186	4	177	4	3
4	Cameroon	40	2	11	19	9
5	Canada	3817	76	2193	283	146
6	Costa Rica	38	1	21	0	0
7	Croatia	47	1	18	0	0
8	Cyprus	35	0	8	2	3
9	Denmark	333	-	229	10	9
10	England	15440	725	6030	1020	-
11	Ethiopia	89	20	37	37	-
12	Finland	62	2	74	0	0
13	Germany	1110	33	653	43	41
14	Ghana*					
15	Guatemala	110	1	9	0	0
16	Honduras	36	1	12	0	0
17	Hong Kong	74	0	27	0	0
18	Iceland	20	1	2	0	0
19	Israel*	128	17	193	12	19
20	Italy	650	21	150	22	24
21	Kenya	16	-	6	10	0
22	Kosovo (Republic of)	160	-	60	10	10
23	Kyrgyzstan **	12	-	0	-	-
24	Mexico	32	2	217	0	0
25	Morocco	23	3	9	2	3
26	Nepal	115	6	14	0	0
27	Netherlands	1109	36	862	42	15
28	New Zealand	277	42	237	1	0
29	Nicaragua	45	2	5	0	0
30	Niger	10	-	5	-	-
31	Nigeria	350	9	77	300	80
32	Pakistan	1450	25	55	0	0
33	Peru	360	45	65	0	0
34	Portugal	32	1	10	0	0
35	Puerto Rico	175	0	147	1	1
36	Rwanda	36	1	5	0	0
37	Saint Lucia	152	2	24	0	0
38	Saudi Arabia	40	1	8	30	3
39	Sweden	89	5	44	9	13
40	Syria	25	0	7	2	0
41	Taiwan	325	16	173	0	0
42	USA	37974	-	24783	6200	4004
43	Vietnam	12	-	0	0	0
44	Wales	1649	2	1230	22	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>67484</b>	<b>1133</b>	<b>38624</b>	<b>8148</b>	<b>4385</b>

A (-) sign wherever indicated on the above chart means information was either not collected or unknown.

\*Ghana and 1 out of 2 reporting agencies for Israel did not provide daily data so they are not reflected in this chart.

\*\* Did not provide daily data, average daily figure based on 2011 annual report

# WHO IS THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF SHELTERS?

The Global Network of Women’s Shelters is made up of **20** shelter organizations from **17** countries. The founding member organizations come from the following regions:

Armenia	Iceland	Rwanda
Australia	Israel	Sweden
Canada	Italy	The Americas
Denmark	Mexico	United States
England	Nepal	Vietnam
Europe	Netherlands	
	Pakistan	

Its international membership is bound together by the following goals:

1. *To be a strong and active global network with a recognized international voice*
2. *To ensure global awareness of violence against women and their children*
3. *To support and strengthen the women’s shelter movement*
4. *To promote effective policies and their implementation in order to prevent violence and protect and empower women and their children*
5. *To promote social change that ends violence and oppression against women and their children*

## HOW WAS THE GLOBAL COUNT CONDUCTED?

### ***How it Started***

In September 2008, shelters from around the world came together for the first ever world conference of shelter workers in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. This landmark event was organized by the Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters. A number of action items were identified at the conference – one of which being the need to conduct a global data count. The first Global Data Count was conducted on one day during the fourth quarter of 2009. These outcomes represented the Global Network of Women’s Shelters first attempt at generating a tool to better link shelters and generate appreciation of their vital place in the world. In February 2010, the results were presented to the Commission on the Status of Women in New York. In 2012, the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) organized the Second World Conference of Women’s Shelters in Washington, DC and our contact list for the data count grew even larger.

### ***Data Count 2012***

Members of the Global Data Count Committee garnered feedback from participants in the 2011 data count and solicited questions for the 2012 data count. An information package was developed and disseminated to the Global Network members, past participants of the 1st World Conference of Women’s Shelters and those who attended the 2nd World Conference.

The questions were translated into Spanish and placed online. In some cases, Networks incorporated the questions into their own national or regional counts; in other cases, shelters entered their data through the use of an on line survey. The results were collated and the report produced by the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters. The draft report was circulated to all participants for comment and review prior to its finalization.

### GNWS

Executive Committee:

Co-Chair: Bandana Rana, Saathi, Nepal

Communication-Awareness Committee Chair: Maria Stetter, Danner, Denmark

Governance-Structure Committee Chair: Pat Vargas, Safe Place, Canada

Policy Committee Chair: Margarita Guille, InterAmerican Network of Women's Shelters, Mexico

**The time has come to make  
the whole world a safe place  
for all women and girls.**



GLOBAL NETWORK  
OF WOMEN SHELTERS