



UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN COVID 19 SURVEY – Violence Against Women – Domestic Violence - ZI Participation

INTRODUCTION – COVID 19 PANDEMIC

While everyone around the world is affected by the global COVID 19 pandemic, it is causing particularly devastating consequences for women and girls. Across every sphere, from health to the economy, security to social protection, the impacts of COVID 19 are exacerbated for women and girls simply by virtue of their sex and social standing.

UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women (VAW) recognized the pandemic crisis COVID 19, its causes and consequences and realized the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic on women's right to a life free from violence. The Special Rapporteur warned in March 2020, the current pandemic crisis may lead to an increase in domestic violence (DV) against women. Lock downs of various strengths around the world will affect especially hard women, children and girls, resp.

Furthermore, as women often take on greater care demands at home, their jobs will be disproportionately affected by cuts and layoffs. The COVID 19 global crisis has made visible the fact that the world's formal economies and the maintenance of our daily lives are built on the invisible and unpaid labor of women and girls.

Women's situation during the pandemic crisis can be summarized:

- (1) Gender Blindness: there is the need to analyze the different impact of the crisis on women in comparison to men.
- (2) Health Care: According to the International Labor Organisation (ILO) women globally make up over 70 per cent of the health care workforce, what makes them more exposed to potential infection.
- (3) Economic Impact: It is expected that the pandemic crisis will cause a serious economically negative impact on women being more vulnerable due to their weaker position in the labour market.
- (4) Quarantine, lockdown: Growing incidences of domestic violence against women due to increased tensions and stress within the home.

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO COVID 19

Zonta members from around the world responded to COVID 19 at the international, national and local levels. Zonta clubs and districts were shifting their service, advocacy and member engagement initiatives in response to the needs of members and the community. In a Zonta talk on 15 May 2020 Zonta members discussed their initiatives to alleviate the affections on families and in particular women caused by the COVID 19 crisis.



See Zonta talks “Zonta Cares: Our Responses to COVID 19” - <https://zonta.org/images/docs/NewsEvents/Newsletters/English/July2020newsletter.pdf>
<https://www.zonta.org/Web/News/Events/Articles/Zonta%20responds%20to%20the%20COVID-19%20pandemic.aspx>

UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN - SURVEY ON COVID 19

On that background the United Nations Special Rapporteur on VAW encouraged in May 2020 the submissions of information relative to COVID 19 and the increase of DV against women. The Special Rapporteur addressed civil society, States, National Human Rights Institutions, international organizations, academia and other stakeholders to monitor and to document the devastating consequences of the COVID 19 pandemic for women and girls. In detail, the survey dealt with the following issues:

1. To what **extent** has there been an increase of violence against women, especially domestic violence in the context of the COVID 19 pandemic lockdowns?
2. Are **helplines** run by Government and/or civil society available?
3. Can women victims of domestic violence be **exempted** from restrictive measures to stay at home in isolation if they face domestic violence?
4. Are **shelters** or alternatives open and available?
5. Are **protection orders** available in the context of the COVID 19 pandemic?
6. What are the impacts on women's **access to justice**?
7. What are the impacts of the current restrictive measures on women's access to **health services**?
8. **Obstacles** to prevent and combat domestic violence during lockdowns.
9. Examples of **good practices to prevent** and combat violence against women and domestic violence by **Governments**
10. Examples of **good practices** to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence by **NGOs and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI)**

See UN human rights office of the high commissioner OHCHR “Call for the COVID Survey”:
https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/SRWomen/Pages/call_covid19.aspx

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION IN THE UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN SURVEY

Furthermore, Zonta International participated in the United Nations Special Rapporteur on VAW survey about the impact of COVID 19 on DV in May 2020. ZI response represents an effective common effort of the ZI UN Committee and the District UN and Advocacy chairs. 60 surveys were submitted by Zontians from 28 countries - USA, Canada, Uruguay, Chile, Australia, New Zealand, Bangladesh, India, Taiwan, Philippines, Japan, Nepal, Ukraine, Lebanon and 14 Western European countries. The survey period was May 10 – June 17, 2020. *See attachment 1 Contributing countries in the COVID 19 Survey, names and contacts, resp.*

End of June 2020 the then Zonta President and the then ZI UN Committee Chair presented the results of the COVID 19 Survey also during a Zonta talk “Zonta cares: Domestic Violence on the Rise? See:

https://zonta.org/Web/Our_Programs/Zonta_Talks/Web/Programs/Zonta_Talks.aspx?hkey=80f856d1-f785-4d2c-8d51-fde4ed929876#COVID



RESULTS OF THE UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN SURVEY

A) Estimated increase of domestic violence (Chart 1a, 1b, 1c)

At the time of the survey (May/June 2020) only six countries reported **no raise** of violence in the **first weeks of lockdown**: Bulgaria, Germany, Luxemburg, Switzerland, Thailand, the Philippines. The estimated increase in the 28 countries, which varies from no increase – reference early in the pandemic crisis - up to 30 % or more. Some surveys are referring to official data, while others are based on Zonta experience in the field.

Chart 1a Participants and estimated increase of Domestic Violence (DV)

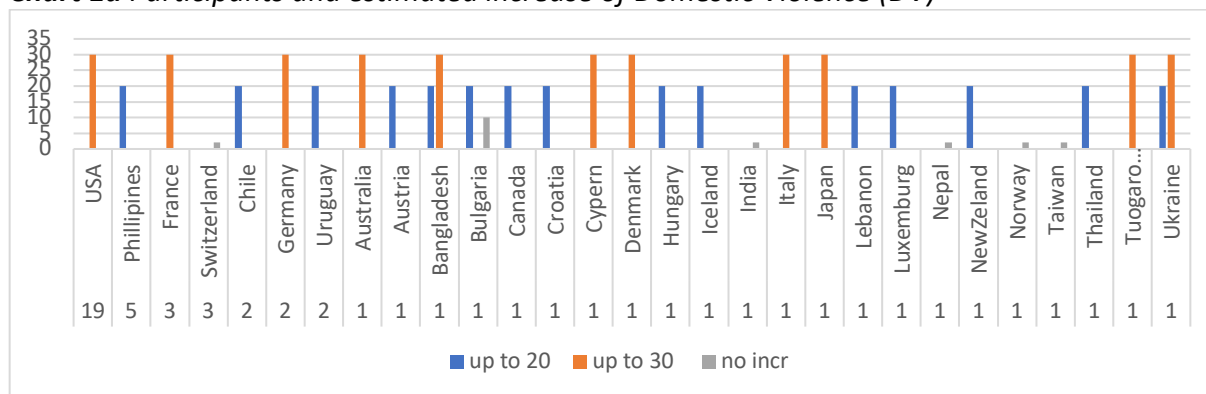
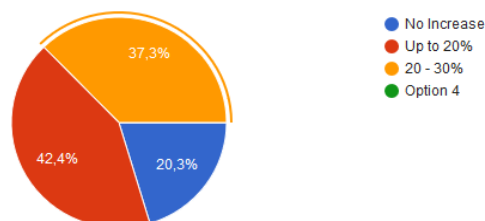


Chart 1b Estimated increase of domestic violence – overall

To what extent has there been an increase of violence against women, especially domestic violence in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns?

59 Antworten



The majority (60%) reports: data on increase of violence **not yet available** (June 2020). The incidence of domestic violence varies widely. At the time of the survey no central data base available.

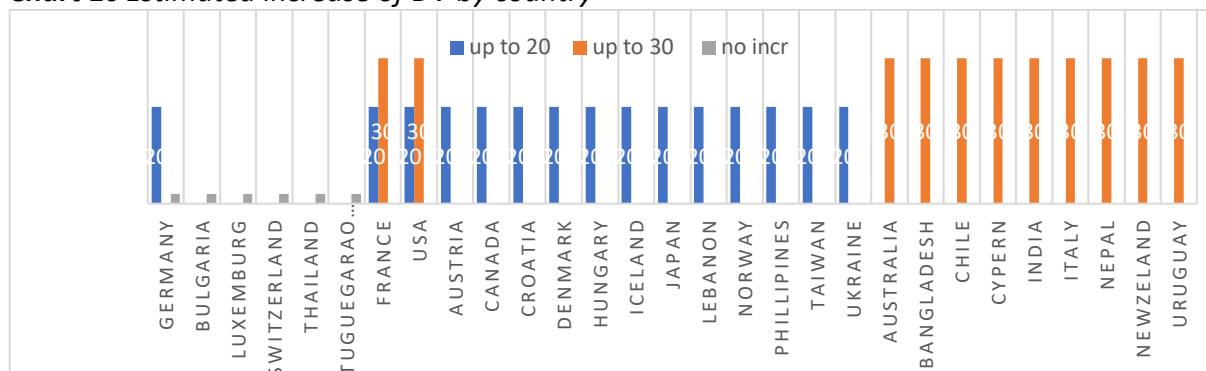
Additional material f.e.:

<https://www.admin.ch/gov/fr/accueil/documentation/communiqués/msg-id-79335.html>

<https://www.br.de/nachrichten/kultur/gewalt-in-der-familie-hier-gibt-es-hilfe,RxR4hrD>



Chart 1c Estimated increase of DV by country





Bulgaria, Luxemburg, Switzerland, Thailand, Tuguegarao City in the Philippines recorded no increase, Germany's first survey reported no increase, the second survey as of end of May reported an increase up to 20%. All these countries have sufficient protection orders, provide exemptions from restrictive measures to stay home, provide open shelters



B) Availability and usage of helplines (Chart 2)

Over all country reports submitted it appears that nearly 62 % of available helplines were run by the government; 38% were run by Civil Society. In the context of COVID 19 the great majority of countries (83%) report an increase of calls.

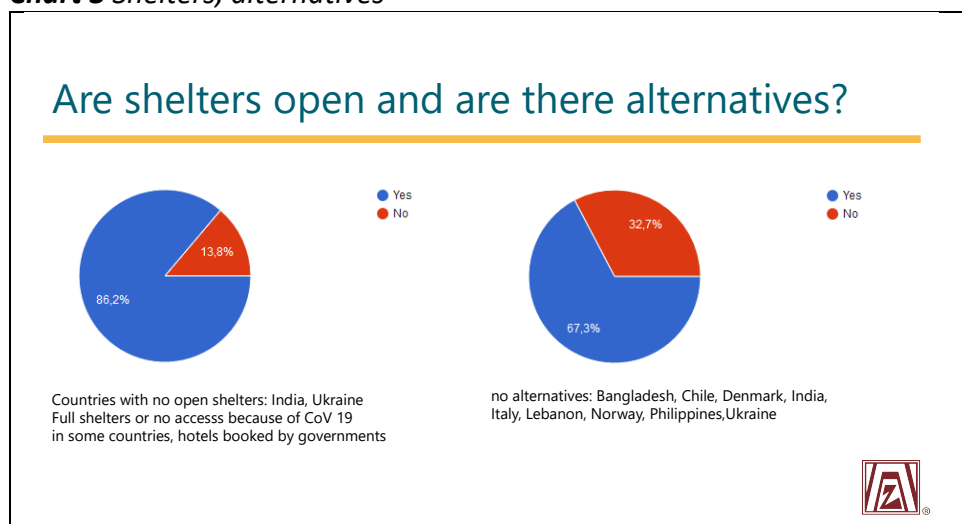
Chart 2 Helplines run by Government and/or civil society available? 60 responses.

Helplines run by Government are available	38,3 %	23
Helplines run by Civil Society are available	61,7 %	37

C) Shelter availability, protection orders, restrictive measures (Chart 3, 4a, 4b, 5)

Answers to the questions whether **shelters are open/available** and whether alternatives exist revealed that the two questions could not be answered clearly, as it was not differentiated between governmental, governmental funded and shelters run exclusively by NGOs. In some countries no additional shelters were needed, in others no shelters and alternatives are provided by government, but by Civil Society. In some countries (like Italy) shelters were full or access was forbidden, because of COVID 19 infection. In other countries hotels were booked by governments to provide shelter for victims.

Chart 3 Shelters, alternatives

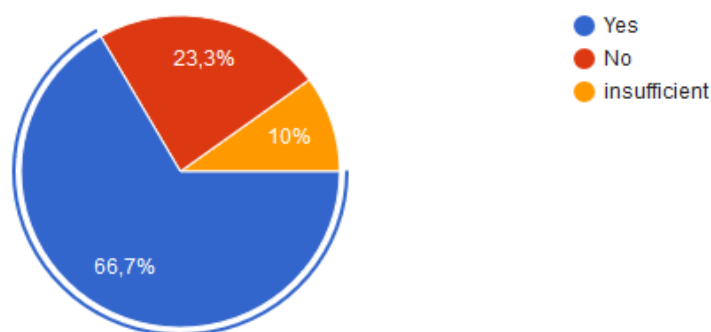


The primary issue of Governments was combating COVID 19 by setting up national action plans. In this context the **protection orders** play an important role, as the **negative impact** of the lockdown increased the vulnerability of women, in most countries the orders were insufficient at the beginning, they were not translated in the language of migrants and refugees, many aspects were neglected like the consequences for victims experiencing the stay at home restrictions or the closing of courts.



Chart 4a

Are protection orders available?



At the beginning of the pandemic in most countries the protection orders were insufficient, but improving over time. No protection orders reported: India, Ukraine



Chart 4b

Can women victims of domestic violence be exempted from restrictive measures to stay at home in isolation if they face domestic violence?

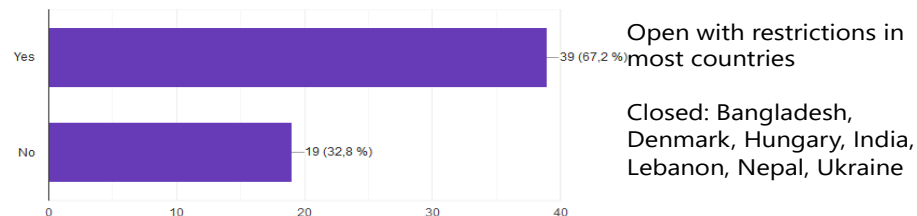
Yes	41,4 %
NO	48,3 %
INSUFFICIENT	10,3 %



Despite this inefficiency of protection orders two thirds of the countries report that basically **courts are open** to women providing information and support in cases of domestic violence - however with more or less restrictions!

Chart 5

Courts are closed



Open with restrictions in most countries

Closed: Bangladesh, Denmark, Hungary, India, Lebanon, Nepal, Ukraine



Civil Society started to claim for **exceptions and adaptations of the regulations**, e.g. permanent evaluation of consequences of restrictions, for ways of exceptions, for ways of communication with victims, for public awareness raising of Domestic Violence, which includes intimate partner violence as well. The postponements of hearings and investigations in the

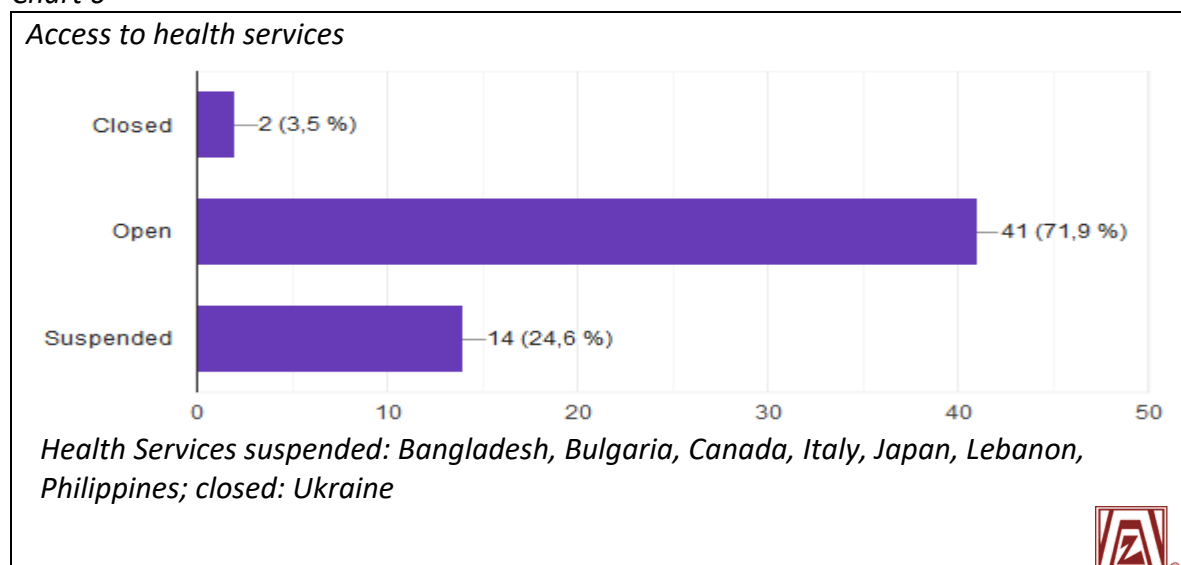


context of DV could cause additional violence, as the victims had to stay with their perpetrators in the same home; police prosecuted murders only.

D) Health services (Chart 6)

More than two thirds of the reports register open access to health services for women. Complementary country notes suggest that health care services and proper medical treatment during the lockdown might have an impact on the health situation of women, as the increase of unwanted pregnancies was reported e.g. from the Philippines.

Chart 6



SUMMARY ON IMPACTS OF THE PANDEMIC AND MEASURES TAKEN

28 countries participated in the survey. The majority of countries submitted most comprehensive facts and comments on the impact of Covid 19 on women's lives.

The results reveal the manifold impacts from the pandemic crisis and the numerous obstacles that governments and civil societies as well as NGOs will have to meet to combat violence against women.

A) Circumstances that cause the negative impacts on women during the pandemic lockdown:

- personal living condition, social and economic situation
- workload: home office, household, home schooling
- women in informal/part time jobs – loss because of lockdown
- 90 percent of caretakers in health services are women and/or part of public infrastructure; they have a low image and low wages, but are often the „bread winners“ of the family during lock downs....

....as the Japanese report summarizes: “Over and above the domestic duties relegated to them, women are expected to carry out additional unpaid work, home schooling their children while also attending to their “formal jobs” by working on-line and also ensuring a state of tranquility at home so that the so-called “male primary bread-winner” is able to continue to deliver his work.”



Not to forget, migrant women being highly threatened because they work – most often - illegally and live on daily earnings.

- B) According to women's "problematic situation" they suffer everywhere severe **consequences** caused by the Covid crisis: increase of Domestic Violence (DV) due to
- anxiety, uncertainty, hopelessness, stress, overload, burnout
 - unemployment
 - confinement with violent partners 24 hours a day
 - no chance to leave the home alone, no chance to look for help
 - unwanted pregnancies, limited or no access to health care centers
 - loss of authority of the former „bread winner“ in the family – especially in the context of traditional patriarchal family systems where domestic violence is wide spread
 - children, especially girls stop education, early marriage and child labour is increasing (Philippines, Lebanon)
- C) At the same time **awareness of DV rises** among Government as well as Civil Society which in turn requires coordination of actions during lockdown, e.g. ongoing evaluation of consequences of restrictions, ways of exceptions, ways of communication with victims, awareness raising of DV in the wider public.
- D) However, **coordination** between the stakeholders encounters obstacles that seriously impede the combat against increased domestic violence caused by the pandemic crisis:
- Restricted access to shelters – closed because full, no access because of Corona addiction or general governmental Covid measures (India)
 - Restricted access to health care systems because of Covid measures
 - Restricted access to courts partly being closed, cases postponed, no witnessing of injuries (India, Nepal)
 - Differences between government and women's rights organization on violence against women (Hungary)
- E) NGOs and civil society deal with the obstacles by identifying effective ways of **communication** (best practice) with victims:
- advertising help numbers "hot lines", address of online/consulting service, shelters through flyers in food stores (US, some European countries)
 - inserts on payment documents of food stores etc.
 - advertising in public media, press campaigns (US, EU countries)
 - „silent“ communication:
 - by code „Mask 19“ (Chile, Spain, France, Italy, Germany) - *see attachment 2*
 - Offering food service for households with low or no income (US, ZC Beirut, Uruguay, Hawaii, Philippines,)
 - Increase of shelters, online consultation, 24hrs helplines etc., partly financed by governments and manned by NGOs, (best practice examples in some European countries, New Zealand, Uruguay, Philippines, Thailand)
 - Advertising for support and the like through social media Facebook, Instagram (US, Nepal, Cyprus)

In the context of "Best Practice" to combat the consequences of the pandemic crisis, in particular "domestic violence" the survey discloses these additional aspects:



- Action Plan promoting the protection of families (Hungary)
 - Working group of police and civil society organizations (New Zealand)
 - Governments and Women's Organizations resp. provide funding to help the vulnerable during lock down
 - Government, Media, NGOs: Provision of masks, gloves, antiseptics, COVID 19 testing
 - Increasing collaborative effort between NGOs, civil society organizations, other equality bodies is in process with the Government and international organizations (USA)
- See attachment 3 "Text Notes of Country Reports": The notes refer in particular to obstacles and good practices to combat domestic violence against women.

CONCLUSION

Awareness raising

The Survey on COVID 19 reveals that this pandemic is a driver of awareness raising to trace Domestic Violence. Countries with proper legislation concerning women's rights are combating VAW and DV within their legal framework for gender equality (following the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Istanbul Convention or similar national legal frameworks), raised their budgets during lockdown.

No action plans

Countries with no legal frameworks and traditional, patriarchal family laws (Ukraine, Nepal, Philippines) still neglect the issue of DV and have no action plans. In these countries NGOs with support of international organizations are taking care of victims of DV.

NGOs reliable partners

NGOs are acknowledged as experts of VAW, they are reliable and essential partners of (local) governments. In the context of COVID 19 our voice counts and we must use this momentum for changes, in respect to DV to campaign for a change of mindset, for improvement of legislation and implementation of Conventions, victim protection and continued awareness raising of violence against women, in particular domestic violence during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Gender blindness

The COVID 19 pandemic has an impact around the world. According to actual findings men are more hit and die from COVID 19 during this crisis than women. However, mainly women suffer from the pandemic as the Survey revealed. Most information fails to incorporate a gender perspective - gender blindness prevails during this crisis, too.

*Zonta International UN Committee 2018-2020
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Attachment 1 Contributors COVID 19 Survey May 2020

Attachment 2 Description of Code MASK 19

Attachment 3 Text Notes of Countries – selection – that participated in the survey



ATTACHMENT 1: Contributors COVID 19 Survey May 2020

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ATTACHMENT 2 Description of Code MASK 19

“Mask 19” is a code. Women seeking help go in the pharmacy asking for MASK 19. Pharmacist will call police while the women “waits” for her order. The campaign “Mask 19” centers around the support from pharmacies and the cooperation with the police.

Pharmacists are asked to display the flyer in their women's restroom and alert all pharmacy personnel of the MASK-19 code word. Survivors will be encouraged to ask for a “Mask 19” at their local pharmacy if they are in imminent danger. The code word signals the need for help and a request to call “the emergency number”. Prime requirement is close cooperation between Civil Society, pharmacies and police.

MASK-19 to be promoted on social media and website to help spread the word to the affected, the survivors.

See: <https://www.myharmonyhouse.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/MASK-19-Toolkit-and-flyer.pdf>

Zonta International Campaign “Zonta says no to violence against women” -

“Through the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign, Zonta clubs around the world are uniting to raise their voices to bring awareness to this issue and advocate on behalf of gender-based violence survivors.”

Sharon Langenbeck

Zonta International President 2020-2022

See 16 Days of Activism Campaign Toolkit: <https://www.zonta.org/images/docs/MyZonta/Tools/AdvocacyTools/ZontaSaysNOToolkit.pdf>

ATTACHMENT 3 TEXT NOTES of Country Reports

Selection of countries, excerpts of notes, in particular concerning “Obstacles” and “Good Practices”

BANGLADESH:

- survey conducted in 24 districts & 4 corporations of the country,
- during lockdown: 4249 women & 456 children subjected to domestic violence,
- 1672 women & 424 children endured the violence for first time.
- Out of total 17,203 women who participated in the survey, 848 of the women were assaulted physically, 2008 mentally
- Due to concern with money, security & health increase tensions & strains worsened by the cramped & confined living conditions of lockdown during the



pandemic crisis. In this difficult situation of being lockdown, some steps have been carried out by journalists, INGOs, IGOs & local NGOs.

- According to Manusher Jonno survey, 92% children were subjected to domestic violence, abused by their own family

BULGARIA

Obstacles

- A social worker in the Sveti Petka crisis centre, ruled by the Animus Association Foundation came out with a positive test for COVID-19. Thus, the particular social worker, as well as the whole crisis centre, which for Sofia and the district is the only one available, had to be put in quarantine and a stricter epidemiological control had to be undertaken by both staff and sheltered women
- During the crisis many media representatives contacted us, being interested in the situation with domestic violence during the pandemic. This was a great help for the distribution of phone numbers and email addresses of the Helpline, the correspondence programme and the foundation, for the distribution of knowledge and information about domestic violence in society.
- Increase of the number of relatives, friends and neighbours calling the Helpline, asking for support and information for victims of violence they know.

Good Practices of NGOs, NHRIs

- Online work in cases of crises of domestic violence (via Viber, Skype, telephone,
- Development of the correspondence programme of the organisation for receiving letters and messages from victims needing help and support.
- number of calls increased 3 times: from 1 message weekly before the state of emergency to several messages every day during the crisis. We suppose that in isolation it was easier to write a message than to call, as they were in lockdown together with their partners and families.
- Growing number of volunteers offered their assistance. We received humanitarian help from the Bulgarian Food Bank for the victims in the shelters, as well as donation of food from pupils.

CANADA

Obstacles

- Difficulty for women to safely reach out for help
- There has been an initial decrease in request for services. COVID-19 represents an important barrier which women face to leaving a domestic violent situation.

Good Practices

- Making women's shelters essential services.
- Government increased funding,
- Wide range discussion that this is truly a pandemic within a pandemic
- Awareness raising and prevention methods while preparation for an anticipated surge in demand for services
- <http://www.learningtoendabuse.ca/>

CHILE

Obstacles

- Access to court, online platform to address institutions to follow issues of violence



- The economic problems that Covid 19 brought, the loss of wages or suspension of jobs, has prevented many women from denouncing their attackers as they need their financial support.
- Since schools are closed, having the children at home - problem for parents that sometimes increases the violence.

Good Practices

- Government has given emphasis to the protection of work with public policies where companies have adhered to protection plans for their workers. These companies cannot continue to pay their wages in full or have been reduced by sending the workers to their homes so that once the pandemic ends, they will be rehired. This type of public policy, due to lack of resources, has forced women victims of violence to accept the economic protection of their aggressor without denouncing him, since they prioritize the protection of their children due to food subsistence.
- Strong campaign against violence has been carried using social networks and also through the media. **"Mask -19"** was implemented, it is a special code that women use to report that they are victims of violence in member pharmacies and where the person of the same informs the police.
- Today there is a new law that goes against the violence of women in times of pololo or courtship. In addition to the law against domestic violence.
- Some local governments have implemented a system of home visits where there is domestic violence with professional psychological support.
- Generating actions that can be disseminated have been implemented in the agendas of public institutions: through electronic platforms or directly to find out which woman needs help.
- Coordination of support for these women through the welfare departments, where a protocol is activated in response from their own organization.

CYPRUS:

Good Practices

- Government supported financially the NGO "Association for the Prevention & Handling of Violence in the Family: „a specialized, focused and very strong organization.
 - A) During the pandemic the Government issued instructions and decrees for the lockdown for the exclusive use of the shelters and custody of victims.
 - B) Police activated the decrees concerning the domestic violence victims.
 - C) Government and particularly the Ministry of Health issued instructions on the prevention of C19
 - D) Government supported financially the NGO "Association for the Prevention & Handling of Violence in the Family.

Good Practices other than government but NGO (Zonta) included:

- A) Creation of external operating structures.
- B) New line for SMS messages for victims
- C) Live chat service (similar to Messenger) 24/7
- D) Providing teleconferences
- E) Providing telephone counseling appointments
- F) Providing to employees, victims and children masks, gloves, antiseptics, vitamins
- G) Actions to include abused women and children in an examination for C19
- H) Strengthening programmes by purchasing services for staffing the organization



- I) Creation of TV spots broadcasting nationally by major tv stations, inviting women to make use of the organization's services when in need.

DENMARK

Obstacles – Good Practices

- Women cannot call to the crisis centers because the partner is also at home.
- The government has created special e-mail address to help the women who cannot call, but not everyone has possibility to e-mail
- There has been extra financial help from the government to increase the number of rooms and space in the crisis centers. An e-mail hotline has been created.
- New sites with special advice for battered women have also been created on the crisis centers own websites, in Danish only
- (<https://www.lokk.dk/lille-menu/nyheder/vores-rad-under-covid-19/> and <https://danner.dk/blog/coronap-bud-f-r-partnervold-til-stige-verden-rundt>)

FRANCE

Obstacles

- The major difficulty is to be able to communicate the help numbers to women victims of violence and to help them get out of the grip of their violent companion during confinement.
- The victims do not want to meet people they know in shelters - do not want to contaminate each other
- The accommodation centres - Have often suspended their external services, such as psychological assistance.
- Family planning sees an 80% decrease in its activities this excluding abortion - Drastic decrease in attendance at family planning centres due to internal pressure in the home - Abortion - An amendment to extend the legal period of abortion, the time of confinement, by two weeks was rejected by the government - an irresponsible and absurd refusal. - The management of women who may be pregnant in demand of abortion is becoming more and more complicated.
- Concern at the time of de-confinement, an increase in requests for voluntary termination of pregnancy and an increase in the average age of pregnancies.
- Accommodation centres remain open during confinement but difficulties throughout the year increase. Many no longer have spaces for abused women.
- Some structures have stopped entrances and exits as a result of containment.
- The High Council on Equality is concerned about the lack of budget for emergency housing for battered women.

Problematic Issues

- Migrant women are highly threatened, working illegally and living on the money they earn during the day • Social actors, political and scientific elites exploit racism and activate feelings of rejection • Stigmatizing the Chinese population • Suburbs are assimilated to foreign populations • Media elites focus on neighbourhoods • No mention is made of the more difficult conditions of modest populations • Asylum offices are closed – all rights linked are denied, this is an exacerbated vulnerability

Good Practices

- communication as much as possible on emergency numbers and reception centers available to receive women victims of violence 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.



- Access to information is more difficult during confinement, so the French government has set up emergency numbers by communicating them on television,
- associations also run stands in supermarkets to take out women abused by the grip of their companions.
- A number has been set up so that dumb women can report the violence by SMS

GERMANY

Obstacles

- o Women affected by the lock down with difficulties to find „privacy“ when searching for consultation .Many women with children at home could not leave the house for help/support nor retire in the home for privately ask for support – especially when the partner threatened with violence – him being at home as well!
- Generally, the situation of women remained difficult after the loosening the lock down. No way to escape the „control“ of the partner

Good Practices

- Government passed a bill for easier access to social security and protection of social services due to coronavirus. Government funding program “Together against violence toward women” to alleviate access to support services
- Increased cooperation with the federal working group on perpetrator work to prevent domestic abuse.
- perpetrators should be offered to contact support services online in crisis situation.
- “Mask 19” to support victims getting help at pharmacies and doctor’s offices. Leaflets with national and regional helplines, posters at doctor’s offices. Radio spot to raise awareness of domestic violence.
- <https://www.br.de/nachrichten/kultur/gewalt-in-der-familie-hier-gibt-es-hilfe,RxR4hrD>

HUNGARY:

Obstacles

- Increase of abuse against women
- The Minister of Family and Youth Affairs has been continuously promoting the Annual Action Plan for the protection of families. The government has been pressing the importance of these measures
- Government has rejected to adopt the Istanbul Convention, because they consider Hungarian Law to be sufficient and satisfactory and to be consistent with the recommendations by the European Union.
- Views of the government and of women’s rights organizations differ
- <https://www.kormany.hu/hu/igazsagugyi-miniszterium/hirek/a-nok-vedelmet-es-a-kapcsolat-elleni-eroszak-elleni-kuzdelmet-szolgalo-jogi-eszkozok>

Good Practices

- The Minister of Family and Youth Affairs has been continuously promoting the Annual Action Plan for the protection of families. The government has been pressing the importance of these measures
- The government has been following how violence has changed against women. Information gathered by the Department of Interior Affairs is posted on portal G7. It reports significant increase in abuse against women.

<https://g7.hu/adat/20200423/masfelszeresere-nott-marciusban-a-csaladon-beluli-eroszak-a-bunozes-negyedével-csokkent/>



<https://magyarnemzet.hu/belfold/az-orszaggyules-elutasitotta-az-isztambuli-egyezmény-ratifikációját-8077928/>

[https://hvg.hu/elet/20200509_Isztambuli_Egyezmeny_nok_el-
leni_eroszak_spronz_julia_patent_egyesulet?fbclid=IwAR1qjiubpe-
JXdhfh38LHzS8wUD94ix1bkxteU2C21W7R5V-B0tGsBccOrIU](https://hvg.hu/elet/20200509_Isztambuli_Egyezmeny_nok_el-
leni_eroszak_spronz_julia_patent_egyesulet?fbclid=IwAR1qjiubpe-
JXdhfh38LHzS8wUD94ix1bkxteU2C21W7R5V-B0tGsBccOrIU)

INDIA

Obstacles

- The lock down prevents women to leave the house – so it is true for Zontians!!
- shelter is not admitting women - we are not able to provide shelter to women
- Police being stressed because of pandemic crisis cannot/is not cooperating.
- There is no transport facility for the woman to move out to go to a safer place.
- ZCs maintain record of incidents which have happened during the lockdown and where we were not helped by police and hospitals. The intention is to speak up to them after the lockdown.
- The club installed telephone counselling, continuous networking with the system and the stakeholders, other NGOs

Good Practices

- We have been maintaining a record of all the details of the incidents which have happened during the lockdown and where we have not been helped by Police for an NC or FIR and the hospitals for not providing the MLC, so that after the lockdown can speak to them
- Finding ways to help the survivor of Domestic violence to look out for a place where she can stay, like her relatives or the neighbours as they cannot come to their Natal family and there are no admissions to the shelter homes at present.
- Our Crisis emails and Helpline number provided on our website through which we reach many women who are in Crisis.
- The club installed telephonic Counseling with our clients and taking a follow up. Networking with the systems and the Stakeholders like ICDS, other NGOs and CBOs.
- Government had enacted the Domestic Violence Prevention & Protection Act, in 2010 criminalizing domestic violence. It has women's complaint cell in the major cities of Bangladesh but despite that, complaints are far & few.
- Government helpline received only 109 calls which are increasing; however, services are reducing as most service providers are not in the field due to pandemic.
- Counseling support group assist to give survivors & victims the courage they require to come forward for redress. Oral evidence is never forth coming as any documents that may exist will be the last thing to be considered.

JAPAN

Good Practices

- Government approved the joint press statement Protecting Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Promoting Gender-responsiveness in the COVID-19 crisis.
- Special cash payments made to the household under family registration system
- customarily the husband, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications mentioned that the victims of domestic violence would be exception.



- government secured the supplementary budget: 150 million yen (1.4 million USD) to address violence against women.
- New Consultation service started on April 20, 24 hours free line and since May 1,
- SNS online chat available in 10 languages. (<https://soudanplus.jp/>)

LEBANON

Obstacles

- The difficult living conditions have worsened with the lockdown, definitely among the factors escalating domestic violence.
- Uncertainty, anxiety and pressure in addition to helplessness increase men's guilt feeling towards their families and those who have pre-disposition to lose temper or control can easily slip into violence.
- nationwide closure of courthouses also prevents survivors of domestic abuse from seeking justice or protecting themselves from perpetrators
- A nationwide closure of courthouses also prevents survivors of domestic abuse from seeking justice or protecting themselves from perpetrators.
- increased workload in the domestic chores women are expected to carry out - this in turn drains them physically.
- Domestic duties relegated to them, women are expected to carry out additional unpaid work, home schooling their children while also attending to their "formal jobs" by working on-line and also ensuring a state of tranquility at home so that the so-called "male primary bread-winner" is able to deliver on his work.

Good Practices

- Attorney General started to prosecute cases relating to domestic violence under the lockdown.
- Judicial police were requested to open immediate records of all cases of domestic violence, even those without witnesses.
- The victim was not required to be present at the police station for testimony in case of health hazards, and could testify via video call

LUXEMBOURG

Obstacles

- Office consultations have been replaced by telephone consultations. Therefore, difficulties in contacting the people in need. The situation of confinement certainly gave the perpetrators of domestic violence the possibility of increasing the victim's social isolation, control and pressure on the victim.
- Significant drop in the number of calls and requests for consultations. With deconfinement, increase of numbers of calls, requests for consultations and requests for admissions to homes

Good Practices

- Govt funding of \$150 Million for domestic violence. Govt called for submissions from Women's alliances and organizations working with women.
- Close collaboration between all services active in the field of domestic violence
- Setting up of a helpline for those concerned. Presence of associations in the media to promote the helpline.
- Government funded women's alliances submitted discussion papers to government regarding the impact of Covid -19, specifically addressing the impact on women's economic security, deepened gender inequalities



NEPAL

Obstacles

- 1. Closure of many support and rescue organizations.
- 2. Insufficient number of shelters, one stop crisis centers and safe houses.
- 3. Helplines mostly remaining unmanned.
- 4. Preoccupation of the police with other matters and their primary efforts to act as mediators instead of taking action.
- 5. Unavailability of transportation renders the women immobile as they are unable to leave their home to go stay elsewhere or file a police report.
- 6. Social norms and traditions shackle the women from taking decisive steps in the patriarchal society.
- 7. Continuous surveillance by the Work from home directive has closed down all options of victims reaching out to friends or organizations.
- 8. Women are often reluctant to speak out about domestic violence even during normal times and the lockdown has effectively served to silence them, as they cannot risk being thrown out at a time like this.
- 9. Immobility affects accessibility to essential health care services especially reproductive health care. The health of the women is not a priority for most families and it is the men who usually make the decision on the travel and use of contraception and abortion. This also sets the norm for more unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions
- 10. Health care professionals are more focused on aiding coronavirus patients and catering to the overload in hospitals, so those facing violence in the home are unable to reach out and seek medical help or therapy.
- 11. Increased workload of the women at home in their roles of caretakers and caregivers adds additional strain within the household
- 12. The closure of courts has interrupted the legalities associated with domestic violence.
- 13. Many women now face uncertainty with their jobs and this creates an environment where they find themselves more dependent; and more compelled; to stay in an abusive relationship to sustain their families.

Good Practices

- Most civil society organizations provide mental health and psychosocial support. Anyone suffering from depression or any other mental health problems can seek help. Not only that, if the person is suffering from the psychological problems triggered by gender-based violence, the police are also alerted.
- A collaborative effort between the NGOs, civil society organizations, other equality bodies is in process together with the Government and international organizations
- Social media utilized and the organizations have urged people in potentially risky situations to use the chat and text options available on their website. Some of the organizations have mentioned that although they have barely received one or two calls in the past days, they have been getting many more messages related to domestic violence on Facebook Messenger.

NEW ZEALAND:

Obstacles



- The abuser is ever-present and even more in control. Fewer opportunities for a victim to escape, to call for help, to notify the police.
- Abusers had been controlling women's digital and economic means, including monitoring of the victim's phone or social media, or restricting what the victim could buy, including food and sanitation essentials

Good Practices

- Government increased funding to help the vulnerable in lockdown for
 - o services supporting victims of family violence (NZ\$142 million);
 - o services to help perpetrators to stop inflicting family violence (NZ\$16 million)
 - o support for victims of elder abuse (NZ\$25 million).
 - o giving NZ\$27 million to social service providers to help the vulnerable in lockdown in New Zealand.
- On 9 May 2020, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and Minister for Social Development Carmel Sepuloni announced an increase of NZ\$76.2 million over four years to fund the family violence sector service. This is a 30% increase to the current funding level.
- On 11 May 2020, the Government announced that in its 2020 Budget, there would be funding of NZ\$183 million over the next four years for the Ministry of Social Development to ensure continued access to specialist family violence services, including: • services supporting victims of family violence (NZ\$142 million); • services to help perpetrators to stop inflicting family violence (NZ\$16 million), and • support for victims of elder abuse (NZ\$25 million). A further \$19.9 million was allocated to boost multi-agency specialist support for victims of strangulation. These initiatives build on the 2019 Wellbeing Budget, which saw NZ\$320.9 million invested that was dedicated to eliminating family violence and sexual violence

NORWAY:

Good Practice

- Ministry of Justice requested a national guide on rape and violence in 13 languages

PHILIPPINES

Obstacles

- Government action plans during lockdowns that are disseminated thru all media platforms do NOT address the vulnerabilities of women and girls who are abused inside their homes
- Victims CANNOT report incidences, their abusers are locked in with them. Lockdowns have caused loss of daily wages leading some parents to exploit their children thru online. About 500 teenage childbirths each day.
- Consequently: loss of wages
- Government focused on addressing the spread of the Covid virus and finding solutions to minimize the spread. Government's attempts to address the lack of food, of medical facilities and the lack of housing has not been adequate.
- The victims need to have easy access to 1) hotlines that are manned 24 hours; 2) digitalized information in different dialects that helps to bring awareness on their rights and how to protect themselves from abuse; and 3) online support network

Good Practices

- Collaborations among government agencies and civil society organizations held a Facebook Live last 7 May 2020, 9 - 10:30am.



- On Mother's Day, the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD) held a special episode on Human Development to discuss the prevention of violence against women and girls.
- The PLCPD Facebook page, Video posting "Usapang Human Development Season 2 Episode 1, (dialogue in English and Tagalog) can serve as an eye-opener for those interested in learning more about the Philippine Situation with regards to online behavior/habits of Filipinos during these lockdowns.

SWITZERLAND:

Good Practices

- o Government has put in place a network of assistance to women who are victim of domestic violence. The network consists of centers aiming to prevent violence, doctors, health care workers, services providing urgent aid and assistance, shelters (short term aid), medical centers, youth care, refugee houses for women and children (longer term aid), legal assistance, services provided by the police, equality office etc.
- o A campaign to prevent domestic violence and violence against women was set up immediately at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Its aim was to provide information on where to get support and assistance in case of violence actor and victim.
- o Government and Civil Society initiated an extensive press campaign
- o <https://www.admin.ch/gov/fr/accueil/documentation/communiques.msg-id-79335.html>

TAIWAN:

- more temporary shelters needed
- Great coordination between health and domestic violence service center,
- Fund raising and community mutual help program
- Lyn Trice USA: Zonta club used a grant to purchase a zoom program to continue the Domestic Violence classes at our local Family Crisis Center.
- If women shelter is full there have been motel rooms purchased, and storage unit.

UKRAINE

Obstacles

- Police do not react adequately, only in criminal cases, murders.
- No punishment, no fines. Aggressors have no fear.
- Women mostly silent. Almost no shelters.
- Istanbul Convention – still on agenda in Government. We sign a petition again, in 20 days it will or will not be ratified, several years ago it was not ratified because the word “gender” was not clear to the parliamentarians.
- In opposition: public organizations, financed by Europe and USA, mostly feminist and LGBTQ organizations

Good Practices

- Big influence of the church in Parliament on the deputies – 3/4 of them joined the union “Values. Dignity. Family” in January, 2020, where they speak up for “traditional” values, role of women in the family etc. “To protect the eternal values of Ukrainian society (alcoholism and violence) and to oppose attempts to destroy fundamental natural law in the name of political fashion”.



- HOWEVER: their understanding of “natural law” can violate the rights of women, the rights of “non-traditional” families and it is a step back for what has already been achieved in terms of gender equality and human rights.

URUGUAY

Obstacles

- Laws that seek to protect victims of domestic violence. However, the judicial system does not succeed in time the needed measures to protect the victims.
- Vice President is a woman - awareness raising campaigns,
- many NGO’s are working to prevent and assist victims of domestic violence.
- The Zonta Club of Punta del Este- Maldonado has a Center that helps women victims of violence – with psychologists, lawyers and social workers who support these women free of charge.
- The local government helps the club pay the salaries of these professionals and also collaborates when the victims need food and / or shelters.

USA Summary

Obstacles

- loss of wages, locked down with the abuser, no way of getting away from him
- lack of jobs & money plus confinement contribute greatly to domestic violence.
- Reports to the police are down, but calls to the Hot lines have increased
- Shelter closures, limited safe space away from abuser
- Seems to be no barriers, except reporting by the victims. One barrier: men are tending to drink more as they become financially strapped or unemployed. Unemployment could become a major DV/ IPV factor in increasing incidents
- survivors are struggling leaving the abuser because the State is under quarantine → high volume of calls for help and resources but low utilization in our shelters.
- regular operations have been suspended to no in person hearings. Domestic violence crime is exempt meaning those still heard by judges
- Victims have to stay with abusers unless they have the possibility to go elsewhere.
- more police calls due to the living conditions under COVID 19 restrictions
- The greatest obstacle for survivors is sheltering in place with the person who is harming them, limiting their ability to reach out to hotlines. The lockdown has heightened isolation from friends, family and their support network.
- Certain police departments experience a decrease in domestic violence calls because victims may be afraid to encounter with the police and the abuser during lockdown.
- Victims may turn to civil society organizations rather than the police for assistance - thereby decreasing the numbers of calls.
- There is a sharp decrease in calls coming from schools and hospitals where abuse has been identified and reported.
- Domestic violence shelters are overwhelmed with treatment of Covid-19, in terms of residents and staff. Providing information to outside bodies is not a priority at the current time. Data on incidence rates varies widely across the District, making even general trends too hard to estimate at the current time.
- <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/what-we-know-about-crises-and-domestic-violence-and-what-that-could-mean-for-covid-19/>



Good Practices

- NGOs are open for business, many judges refer victims to community-based shelters
- Hotlines will continue to be key resources for survivors during pandemics. Hotlines will begin offering text hotlines more and more, which provide a more discreet way for survivors to access the services they need.
- More support is being provided with posters, code words and staff trainings at grocery stores which continue to operate in pandemics and may be a survivor's only opportunity to engage with someone outside of the home.
- All agencies are struggling to keep their doors open.

Good Practices - Hawaii

- Government has been releasing different PSAs and has been very innovative in getting information to Domestic Violence Survivors, e.g. giving the community resources at food distribution centers.
- Reaching out to a qualified expert in safety planning and resources is key. Government has been targeting local entities to help identify DV and link people to appropriate resources.
