



European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination

FLASH REPORT

Country:	Greece
Title:	Significant increase of domestic violence during the lockdown
Date:	14 May 2020
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Context	
Issue at stake:	Significant increase of domestic violence against women during the lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic
Grounds of discrimination:	Gender
Field of application:	Violence against women
Source:	Policy development
Relevant document:	The newsletter dated 5 May 2020 of the General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality.

Content

National policy measures: During the lockdown due to COVID-19 in Greece, an information campaign was launched by the General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality (hereinafter GSFPGE) in order to support women victims of violence under the title 'We stay home but we do not stay silent. Confinement at home does not mean tolerance to violence'.¹ This campaign was coupled with the Greek Union of Pharmacists which joined the European campaign 'Mask-19'. Posters with the Code 'Mask-19' and explanatory notes were placed in the front of pharmacies and relevant advice was given to pharmacists by their Union.² The posters invited victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse to come to their local pharmacy to ask for a Mask-19, which will let the pharmacist know that they need to contact the GSFPGE's SOS hotline to get help.³ To date the Greek Union of Pharmacists has not made public any data on eventual calls to local pharmacists for help by victims of domestic violence. However, the GSFPGE, by a newsletter dated 5 May 2020,⁴ announced that there has been a significant increase of domestic violence against women during the lockdown and the confinement at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic in April 2020.

Key points of analysis: More specifically, in April 2020, a total of 1 769 calls were made to the GSFPGE's SOS hotline SOS 15900. According to the data available, 1 070 of these calls concerned incidents of violence, in comparison with 325 calls in March 2020. Moreover, in April 2020 the calls for domestic violence incidents quadrupled from 166 to

¹ Available at the site of General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality: <http://www.isotita.gr/>.

² See document No 1396/21.04.2020 of the Greek Union of Pharmacists, available at: <http://www.fsa.gr/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=zRO%2bDD5sCiA%3d&tabid=36>.

³ The posters stated: 'Mask-19. If you are a victim of domestic violence or sexual abuse, come to your local pharmacy and ask for the mask that will save your life. Ask for Mask-19. Your pharmacist knows that he/she has to call 15900', available at: <http://www.fsa.gr/>.

⁴ Newsletter of the General Secretariat for Family Policy and Gender Equality dated 5 May 2020 available at: <http://www.isotita.gr/δελτιο-τύπου-σημαντική-αύξηση-των-περ/>.

648 in comparison to the previous month. Seven out of 10 of the above violence incidents were reported by the victims themselves whereas 3 out of 10 were reported by third persons, i.e. parents, children, siblings, neighbours, friends. Nine out of 10 persons who dialled the SOS hotline 15900 called for the first time. According to the General Secretary for Family Policy and Gender Equality, M. Syreggela, this is attributable to the effective information campaign of the GSFPGE. The majority of the victims of violence (61 % of the incidents or 485 persons) were spouses/partners. Moreover, 10 % of incidents (77 victims) concerned children, 8 % of incidents (56 victims) concerned ex-spouses/partners and 9 % of incidents (67 victims) concerned parents and siblings. The main age group was 40-54 years (27 %) with the age group of 25-39 years (18 %) to follow. Regarding family status, the majority of victims were married (52 %), with children (62 %) and employed (21 %). 40 % of the victims sought psychosocial support; 36 % asked for legal counselling and help; 41 persons asked for accommodation at hospitality structures. Fifteen calls concerned emergency incidents and the victims had to be immediately removed from their house and accommodated in special lodging provided by the GSFPGE in collaboration with the 'Hellenic Society of Forensic Medicine'.

Internet link source: <http://www.isotita.gr/δελτιο-τύπου-σημαντική-αύξηση-των-περ/>.