



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

FLASH REPORT

Country:	Netherlands
Title:	Domestic Violence during COVID-19
Date:	22 July 2020
Expert:	Marlies Vegter
<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	Measures to counteract domestic violence during the corona crisis
Grounds of discrimination:	Gender, Sex
Field of application:	Violence against women
Source:	Policy development

Content

In the Netherlands, there has not been an increase of reports of domestic violence during the corona crisis. This, however, does not mean that there was indeed less domestic violence. It is possible that the violence became less visible and/or that victims had less opportunity to ask for help. As of 25 May 2020, 26 centres of the organisation 'Safe at Home' opened a hotline in order to provide advice and support to victims of domestic violence. Already in the first week, 400 conversations took place through the chatfunction of the organisation, despite the fact that the chat could and can only be reached between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on working days (there is a phone number which can be reached 24/7, but this is less safe).

Another measure was the introduction of the code word 'Masker19' (Mask19), as of 1 May 2020. Victims of domestic violence could use this word in pharmacies in order to ask for help in an incognito way. It is not clear yet what the result of this measure has been.

In the last week of April 2020 the government started an awareness raising campaign with the aim to encourage victims and bystanders to take action in the event of domestic violence. This campaign had been planned already and was not related to the corona crisis.

Internet link sources:

<https://veiligthuis.nl/> (website of 'Safe at Home' with the chatfunction).

<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/05/01/huiselijk-geweld-melden-via-apotheek#:~:text=Als%20een%20slachtoffer%20de%20woorden,huiselijk%20geweld%20telefonisch%20te%20melden> (information from the government about the use of the code word 'Masker19').

<https://www.ggdghorkennisnet.nl/thema/veilig-thuis/nieuws/14430-campagne-tegen-huiselijk-geweld-en-kindermishandeling-in-coronacrisis> (information about the campaign against domestic violence).