



Global
DATA COUNT
2011

Violence against women is a manifestation of the historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men, and to the prevention of women's full advancement.

- Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women in 1995.



GLOBAL NETWORK
OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS

A Snapshot...

- One day in the life of women and children fleeing domestic violence around the world...
- One day's work at a local women's shelter offering safety, support, community and a sense of hope...

... A Problem Faced Every Day

- One day for each of us to reflect on the global scope of domestic violence and the impact of violence against women in our homes, communities, and workplaces.

2011 Global Count

- The 2011 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 third census conducted by the Global Network of Women's Shelters.

The Global Count

- The 2011 Global Count represents information provided by **2,636** participating shelters and **25** shelter networks from **36** countries.

Making Domestic Violence Visible

- The purpose of the Global Count is to highlight the prevalence of violence against women around the world
- It is also a ***Call to Action.***

The Numbers are Sobering

On just one day around the world

56,308 women

39,130 children

sought refuge from domestic violence at women's shelters.

520 of these women were
known to be pregnant.

Not Everyone Receives Help

7,608 women

and

4,734 children were turned away

A total of **12,342** women and children
were subject to continued risk

Domestic Violence Impacts Children

- Children may be directly victimized.
- Witnessing abuse also profoundly affects their psychological and emotional wellbeing.

Domestic Violence Affects Children

- **39,130** children arrived at shelters with their mothers seeking relief from the impacts of physical, psychological and emotional abuse.
- The need for specialized supports for children in shelters is a *necessity*.

Marginalized Women are at Increased Risk

- Migrant women and women without legal status are at increased risk - isolated and often disenfranchised, these women are more vulnerable to abusers.

Sex Trade Workers

- Women engaged in the sex trade are particularly vulnerable to gender based physical and sexual violence.
- Due to complex needs, they often fall through the cracks.
- Shelters reported the need for specialized centres to fill this gap.

Domestic Violence Affects Seniors

- In industrialized countries, the proportion of seniors is increasing at a higher rate than any other age group.
- Reported abuse of seniors is becoming increasingly common.
 - Fragile and isolated seniors are particularly vulnerable.

Domestic Violence Affects People with Disabilities

- It is imperative to address the greater vulnerability of disabled people to all forms of violence and exploitation.

Diversity

- There is also a growing need for services that adequately support diversity within shelters.

Shelters serve multiple purposes
and are vital to the safety and
empowerment of victims of
domestic violence.

Overcoming Violence

- *Shelters are **not** just beds.*
- On one day, shelter workers assisted women to:
 - recognize their resilience,
 - regain their self esteem,
 - navigate complex legal and government systems,
 - find housing, and
 - support their children.

Securing Legal Protection

- A primary need for women, and a core service of shelters, is to put legal protections in place for themselves and their children.
- Shelter workers helped women to access justice systems and legal services - that are often too few and and complicated to negotiate.

Breaking the Isolation

- Shelters offer opportunities for women to regain their sense of self and of community.
- They are a place where women and children have a chance to be truly heard, accepted and respected.

These findings illustrate the need for supports for victims of domestic violence.

BUT
the need is likely even greater than these findings indicate.

The Challenges Faced

- The shelters were challenged by a lack of funding and government support.
- They have limited resources and, in some cases, little societal support.
- They struggled to provide refuge and the required range of interrelated supports.

Lack of Funding

- Shelters in **25** countries highlighted lack of government funding as a challenge to providing services.
- This problem abounds, even in wealthier countries.

Staffing needs

- Shelters in **17** countries cited low wages for staff as a challenge to providing service in their communities.
- Shelters in **9** countries struggled to find trained professional staff.

Lack of Supportive National Legislation

- In **18** countries, poor legislation or ineffective implementation contributed to challenges reported by shelters.

Political Instability, Civil Unrest and War

- In addition to previously mentioned challenges;
 - **4** shelters that participated were operating in high conflict areas/war zones, and
 - **11** shelters were contending with a lack of security.

Change IS possible.

Public Education, Advocacy & Prevention

- Shelters highlighted a number of positive developments in efforts to bring about greater awareness of the societal impact of domestic violence:
 - The organization of shelters into supportive networks.
 - National prevention and awareness campaigns.
 - Programs working with men to bring about change.
 - New national legislation to combat violence against women.

Examples of Enhanced Supports

- Toll free help lines (Chile, Georgia, Germany).
- National, state/provincial or municipal plans to reduce violence against women and their children (Australia, Canada, Italy, Vietnam).
- Opening new shelters (Albania, Chile, Iceland).
- Establishment and strengthening of networks and alliances to combat violence (Australia, Austria, Sweden).
- Strengthening of supports to victims of violence in family court systems (Australia, Canada).

Examples of Enhanced Supports

- Development of public awareness conferences, resources and web-based tools (Austria, Canada, Chile, England, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Sweden).
- Days of action against violence (Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Vietnam).
- Research studying the costs, prevalence and roots of violence against women and in same sex relationships (Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden).
- First national outcome evaluation study of domestic violence support and information services published (Ireland).

Improved Legislation

- Forward-looking legislation identified included;
 - CEDAW/Femicide laws (Chile, Taiwan),
 - Laws against human trafficking (Chile),
 - Domestic homicide reviews (England),
 - Domestic violence protection orders (England, Iceland, Sweden),
 - Specialized courts to deal with family matters and domestic abuse (Australia, Canada),
 - Anti-sexual harassment in the workplace legislation, laws against forced marriage, Quran marriage, and acid throwing (Pakistan), and
 - Parents with a child in common are now able to apply for Safety Orders without any specific duration of cohabitation required (Ireland).

Increased Advocacy

- National policies addressing violence against women were instituted in two participating countries (Azerbaijan, Nicaragua).
- Efforts were also underway in other countries to create legislation and policy that will protect women and children through the institution of restraining and protection orders.
- Partnerships to provide better coordination of law enforcement and legal systems in the protection of women and children and the prosecution of perpetrators of violence.

Changing attitudes

- Cultural attitudes that promote and perpetuate violence against women are still pervasive and deeply seated in continuing global inequities between the genders.
- Shelters highlighted a number of prevention programs that address these attitudes including prevention programs and treatment programs for violent men.
- Other programs focused on bringing men in on the effort to address domestic violence.

The Global Network

- The Global Network of Women's Shelters is made up of 20 shelter organizations from 17 countries. 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