



**Alliance of Women in Slovakia**  
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## **ANNUAL REPORT 2005**

Alliance of Women in Slovakia works in the sphere of human rights, with the emphasis on women's human rights.

Our organization does not employ many people, and it hired internal employees only in 2004/5 (thanks to VUC Bratislava and NOS – OSF, program TRUST) and most of the work has been done on the voluntarily basis. Nevertheless, the list of accomplished activities, organized campaigns and programs, published publications and participations in other organizations' activities is very long and still expanding.

Just like during previous years, the activities of Alliance of Women in 2005 continued in the spheres, where women's human rights are being violated.

### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, GENDER VIOLENCE)**

#### **A. SOS LINE AND INTERVENTION CENTER**

The already established SOS line (0903 519 550) and the Intervention centre of Alliance of Women have continued functioning through 2005. These activities were supported by VUC Bratislava.

In 2005 we had approximately 230 new clients, but we also continued working with approximately 80 clients from previous years.

To our clients we mostly provided:

- support and direct help in accordance with international standards on providing counselling based on feminist principles
- general social and legal counselling
- mediating such help from state institutions
- accompanying to the police, doctor
- legal counselling
- help with the legal proceedings
- representing in the court
- psychological counselling
- psychological counselling separately for the children of victims
- assisting in gaining place in one of the shelters

**In 2005 we had approximately 1000 phone calls:**

- requests for one-time information
- requests for one-time counselling consisting of several questions
- requests for meetings (we also offer them sometimes)

## **We had approximately 450 personal meetings:**

- single meetings (approximately 150)
- repeated meetings (approximately 50)
- meetings with several professionals at once (approximately 80)
- accompanying to the police (17)
- accompanying to social affairs department
- accompanying to the court (19)
- combination of more institutions (4)
- special separate care for the child (7)

## **B. ACTIVITIES IN CHANGING THE LEGISLATION**

Besides providing the social-psychological and legal counselling, we were also collecting individual cases and analyzed them from the point of view, what were the legal obstacles when solving the individual cases – respectively what solutions does/does not our legislation provide. We analyze the situation concerning the implementation of new legislation at individual District Courts.

*(In May 2001 we started preparing amendments to relevant laws dealing with domestic violence and we invited for cooperation JUDr. Lipšič, Mgr. Štíft and JUDr. Valová from the Ministry of Justice SR. The amendments for laws against domestic violence were prepared in October 2001. However, our initiative concerning the changes of legislation continued in the sphere of lobbying in the parliament during the whole spring of 2002 until June 19th 2002 when the amendments were passed. During this period we organized several working meetings concerning the legislation (for example with National Association of Slovak Lawyers – trying to eliminate the possible gaps in the new legislation; with members of the re-codification commission; with Dr. Rosa Logar, the author of Austrian legislation, etc.) as well as visits in individual parliamentary bureaus, where the amendments were discussed.)*

We also prepared amendment of Law on the Police Force, which was sent to the Presidium of Police Force at the Ministry of Interior. This amendment was publicly presented at a conference Violence against Women as a Problem of Social Politics, organized by the Institute for Public Affairs in Bratislava on November 11, 2005.

We were also invited to the Ministry of Justice – specifically to the Interdepartmental working group for dealing with the position of victims of violence in legal procedures. This working group created a leaflet with contacts for 5 SOS lines. Alliance of Women is among them, and is one of the few that provides non-stop service. These leaflets are available for the victims of violence at all Police Departments.

## **TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN**

### **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

In the field of anti-trafficking we have been cooperating with international organization La Strada, especially La Strada in Czech Republic and Poland. In 2005 we run a project in the prevention of trafficking in Roma communities (Trilateral Initiative to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Women within Roma Communities). This was a follow-up project of a previous project from 2004 called Prevention of Trafficking in Central and Eastern Europe.

Besides trainings and seminars on prevention and social assistance we also organized the first 'round table' for specialists and experts in order to create a lobbying team for creating a National Action Plan on Anti-trafficking.

We continue in our cooperation with Austrian NGOs LEFOE and Peregrina (we cooperated in producing a documentary Ueber die Grenzen – Over the Borders, about lives of women leaving to Austria to find a work, respectively about female migrants that fight with the discriminatory attitude of Austrian society. A movie called Gute Arbeit (Good Job) was premiered in January 2004 and received much attention. Simultaneously to the presentation of the movie there was an exhibition in Wien Museum at Karlsplatz called Gastarbajteri prepared by organization Initiative Minderheiten, who is also among our partners.

Moreover, we attended an OSCE conference in Vienna on Trafficking in Human Beings (November 7-8, 2005).

## **TRAININGS, SEMINARS, LECTURES**

We organized several educational activities during 2005:

### **On Domestic Violence**

1. In our office, which we have been reconstructing ourselves, we have organized many seminars for students of social work in Bratislava.
2. We trained 4 new social workers for work on SOS line.
3. We continue in educating students of law at the Trnava University as part of a project in clinical education. This project is organized by a new NGO called „Clinical Education TU“, which we established together with UNHCR, Citizen and Democracy, Helsinki Council in 2002. Alliance of Women is responsible for the Clinic of domestic violence, which mandatory elective course at the University. The students come to our office and with our clients' approval they participate in counselling. Eventually, they themselves are able to provide counselling. This activity was supported by Old town Bratislava.
4. In 2004 we received an official accreditation form the Ministry of Education for our training programs on domestic violence and trafficking in women.
5. In May 2005 we gave a pilot lecture at the Police Academy, which should develop into permanent cooperation and education of students at the Police Academy in 2006.

## **PUBLISHING AND MEDIA**

We are often invited to give interviews in the radio stations (Devin, Regina, etc.) and TV programs (in JOJ, Markiza, STV. TA3). Moreover we contribute articles to newspapers and magazines (Sme, Nový Čas, etc.).

In previous years we have also published several books (on Domestic Violence, Reproductive Rights, Women's Right to Vote etc.).

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Director