



GEORGIA 2017: DEVELOPING A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RISK ASSESSMENT

UN Women and Global Rights for Women (GRW) Shared Goals

Ending violence against women and girls within the country of Georgia using institutionalized state and victim-services agency intervention. UN Women partnered with GRW to create a tool to assess the risk an offender poses to re-abuse or kill a victim of domestic violence. This tool supports the justice system in Georgia to protect victims and hold offenders accountable.

This collaboration is an initiative under the “Unite to Fight Violence Against Women” project funded by the European Union

GRW GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Over the course of decades, we have learned that to critically respond to offenders and evaluate their likelihood of repeated violence, we need input from victims and community partners. For this project, GRW sought contributions from victims in Georgia, UN Women, community members, justice system practitioners, advocates, agency leaders, and experts. This interagency input and approach needs a system of communication and linkage between each agency to develop a risk assessment tool for law enforcement that can also inform the rest of the system’s response.

- Requires engagement and coordination of many agencies that will engage victims from their initial call for help through case discharge
- Needs to be consistent: new system practitioners can count on a consistent, effective, and fair response
- Agree on fundamental intervention principles that are clear to victims and offenders
- Interveners must see scope and severity of offender’s violence, how often and under what circumstances it is occurring, and the pattern of abuse: escalating, deescalating, potentially lethal, or unpredictable
- Gather information to propose interventions based on circumstances, severity, and frequency of abuse
- Dialogue with victims through focus groups about their experiences with the criminal justice response in Georgia

Global Rights for Women strives to create standardized practice among all police throughout the country that makes the *severity* and *frequency* of the domestic violence *visible* to all justice practitioners

- GRW traveled to Georgia twice within 2 months to develop a risk assessment tool and work with local practitioners to adapt it
- GRW developed this tool to anticipate the likelihood of repeat violence and potential lethality by the perpetrator

GRADA | Georgia Risk Assessment for Domestic Abuse

Tool developed for law enforcement in Georgia

We incorporated input from victims and practitioners in Georgia and combined it with years of research on factors that show an increase in probability of committing further abuse or using lethal force. GRW collaborated heavily with UN Women and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia to develop this tool.

NOVEMBER WORKSHOP COMPONENTS

- Training and facilitated discussion on understanding domestic violence offender's use of coercive controlling violence and its root cause, and best practice in system response
- Teaching the importance of standardized risk assessment practices with an emphasis on the information gathered by the MIA, and how to use that risk information between agencies within the criminal justice system
- Discussion and feedback about development of GRADA and the studies that support its validity

PARTNERS & PARTICIPANTS

- UN Women
- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Prosecutor's Office of Georgia
- Anti-Violence Network of Georgia
- Victims State Fund for Protection and Assistance
- Georgian Young Lawyers Association
- Judiciary
- Ministry of Corrections
- National Probation Agency
- Hon. Lori Flohaug, former US prosecutor, current tribal judge
- Marcus Bruning, US retired law enforcement officer
- Kay Arola, Executive Director, US Arrowhead Regional Corrections
- Ketevan Reaves, interpreter and translator

RESULTS:

COLLECTED
INPUT FROM

40

PRACTITIONERS,
EXPERTS, AND
SERVICE
PROVIDERS IN
GEORGIA ON GRADA

CONDUCTED
FOCUS GROUPS
WITH

18

VICTIM SERVICES AND
SHELTER STAFF IN
GEORGIA

CONDUCTED
FOCUS GROUPS
WITH

26

VICTIMS OF
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
IN GEORGIA*



*we were able to compensate victims and NGO organizations for their time thanks to individual donations from GRW donors