

have an overall understanding of interpersonal violence, and are capable of speaking about these issues to their peers.

IOM (INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION) HOTLINE

In this joint project with IOM, NANE operates a hotline 4 hours every weekday for women who are planning to work abroad. The purpose of the project is a) to lower the risk that women face when working abroad, especially forced prostitution and trafficking in women, b) to offer information on their rights and obligations abroad, and c) to offer information on the institutions that can be of help, should they need it.

PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

This is a campaign funded by the Soros Foundation and USIS to produce leaflets, information cards, and stickers providing information on the following topics: how to recognize battering, the rights of victimized women, the effects of violence on children, myths and facts about domestic violence, and information about our hotline.

'SILENT WITNESSES'

In line with the public education campaign, this individual project is also designed to call attention to the serious, in many cases, deadly effects of domestic violence. The 'Silent Witnesses' are wooden silhouettes of female figures painted in red with a true story on each side of a woman murdered in a domestic violence case.

PUBLICATION PROJECT

This project started the publication of books on issues that are closely related to violence against women and other women's rights issues. We will publish a series of books dealing with the following topics: psychological trauma following rape/incest and other domestic violence-related crimes and their treatment, assertiveness and self-defense for young people, feminist writings from the women's movement, women's health issues, etc.

TRAININGS AND COURSES

Each year we hold a minimum of two volunteer training courses, 50 hours each. Besides, we regularly hold trainings

for members of different professions who come into contact with battered women and children. We have several modules from 60 minutes introductory classes to the 50 hour full training.

SOME OF NANE ASSOCIATION'S PREVIOUS FUNDERS AND PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

Past and present partners

- The Center for Reproductive Law and Policy (CRLP)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE)
- Models of Social Action Involving Communities (MOSAIC), USA
- OSI Network Women's Program
- B.A.B.E., Women's Rights Organization Zagreb, Croatia

Major funders since 1994

- Open Society Institute
- The EU (PHARE)
- The New School of Social Sciences
- Network of East-West Women (NEWW)
- The Global Fund for Women
- The SOROS Foundation
- The League of Women Voters E.F.
- Pro Helvetia Foundation, Budapest
- Embassies of Canada and the Netherlands
- Urgent Action Fund
- British Women's Association, Hungary
- We received relatively minor Hungarian state funding, in particular from the Parliament, the Ministry of Social and Family Affairs, and the Budapest Municipality.

Published by NANE Women's Rights Association

1447 Budapest, P.O. Box 502.

Phone/fax: +36 1 267-4900

E-mail: nane@posta.net

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NANE Women's Rights Association

Hungary



NANE, a Hungarian Women's Rights NGO was founded in January 1994, and achieved the status of a highly charitable organization in 1999. NANE is primarily dedicated to ending the human rights violations and the threat of violence against women and children through advocacy, personal support services and public education.

OUR MAIN ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- running a hotline with volunteers for women and children who are exposed to physical, sexual, economic and emotional violence;
- lobbying and introducing law-amendment proposals where current regulations need enhancement regarding equity, litigating power of women and children, and protection of the rights of women;
- providing legal support (counseling and/or representation) for battered or otherwise abused women;
- cooperating with government and non-government institutions to improve policy;
- and public education on the roots and effects of violence against women and children, and victims' rights.

THE HOTLINE operates from 6 to 10 p.m. seven days a week by around 15 trained volunteers who give callers emotional support, information about their legal options, and referral to other services if required/available. We get an average of 60 calls a week, and the number is rising. There are, in fact, desperately few resources available for abused women and children in Hungary at all. Officials and practitioners in the criminal justice system (including attorneys, judges etc.), the law enforcement and health care professions show little sympathy or understanding for the victims, as well as virtually no knowledge of the realities of violence against women as a human rights violation. The equal protection of the law guaranteed by the Declaration of Human Rights and the Hungarian Constitution is a long way from being realized in practice.

PUBLIC DEBATE AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE LEGAL BACKGROUND for women's rights have always been a priority for NANE. In 1994 we started a public campaign in the media and by collecting signatures, to have marital rape included in the definition of rape in the Hungarian criminal

code. In 1995 we petitioned the Constitutional Court to declare this exclusion unconstitutional. Though the Constitutional Court never managed to pronounce an opinion on this topic, in 1997 the Hungarian Parliament finally did amend the Penal Code to outlaw marital rape. In 1999, in cooperation with both Hungarian NGOs and an American non-profit organization, we participated in organizing public debates and a demonstration against the restriction of reproductive rights. We currently have two law-proposals handed in, one to the Ministry of Justice, the other, through a Member of Parliament, to the Parliament. Both proposals aim to remedy discrimination of women and girls (and, in the first case, sexual minorities), which the current legal regulations perpetuate. These proposals were worked out and signed in cooperation with other human rights organizations.

Highly dependent on our funding situation, we nevertheless attempt to provide **LEGAL ASSISTANCE** to as many of our clients as possible. Many callers need legal advice, which is either provided by our trained hotline volunteers, or by lawyers we are in contact with. Some clients need legal representation, which we usually cover from funding for this purpose. Up to now, funding for this activity was scarce, but there is a growing need that the organization faces regarding the provision of legal representation which we are determined to answer. Also part of this activity is the assistance in the writing of official letters, inquiries etc. in legal cases, accompanying the client to the court, the police, or to other authorities where she is likely to be treated more lightly if she is on her own, sometimes even covering travel costs for a client to go to a hearing.

COOPERATING WITH GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS TO IMPROVE POLICY consists of trainings we hold for government officials from such different fields as the police and the visiting nurses, for example, as well as trainings/demos at schools (elementary, high schools, colleges and universities) and other NGOs. Apart from an introductory session of about 60-90 minutes usually used in classes at schools and universities, we have three training modules: an introductory training of 10-15 hours, an advanced training of 30 hours and the full course of 50 hours. It also includes the distribution of our booklet we published in the beginning of the year 2000 on domestic violence, and trainings and talks we are invited to as a follow-up.

PUBLIC EDUCATION is achieved by a relatively constant presence of NANE in both the written and the electronic media. We have at least one electronic media appearance and at least one article in a bigger magazine or newspaper per month in which we have a chance to voice our views on the issue. Our first public education campaign is in the process, it includes leaflets, wallet cards, and posters on the rights of victims of violence, the effects of domestic violence on women and children, and steps communities, authorities, politicians and experts may take to prevent and/or stop violence against women and children.

It is important to understand that women's rights and children's rights are often inextricably linked in Hungary. Though our organization is focused on women's rights issues, we nevertheless often find ourselves advocates for children's rights as well. This is especially true when battering and abuse goes on in the home, or when sexual abuse is involved. Therefore, we included children in the above description of our activities wherever, based on our every day experience, children are abused in a direct correlation with the abuse of women.

PROJECTS CURRENTLY RUNNING

HOTLINE

Since the establishment of NANE in January, 1994, our hotline for abused women and children operates every day all year from 6 to 10 p.m. Since 1999 we have been able to offer a toll-free number for our callers. There are approximately 6-12 calls per night. The cases often demand our involvement regarding legal aid, representation and practical help with non-cooperative institutions.

'WHY DOES SHE STAY?'

In this recently published 52-page-long booklet we outlined the background of a battered woman, her relationship to her abuser, the ways individuals and institutions can help her and the way she herself can be empowered to change her situation.

PEER EDUCATION PROJECT

In this project we aim to reach young people who are also affected by violence but who are still more flexible to realize it and change it than many adults. We have several teens who by now, as we are nearing the official end of the project,



