



Women's Association From Sibiu

Annual Report – 2015

About our Association.

The Women's Association from Sibiu is a nonprofit and nongovernmental organization established in 1996 by a group of women who aimed to promote activities and social projects addressed to women and children coming in a position to be victims of domestic violence.

Since 2007 the Association is a member of **ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World)**, based in London, through which since 2010 there are conducted periodically educational projects for victims and their children receiving specialized care from the Shelter.

Within the Association with the support of **Norwegian Women and Family Association**, since 2007 there runs a shelter called "Center of emergency reception for women and children, victims of domestic violence".

The shelter operates according to Law no. 217/2003 republished on preventing and combating domestic violence.

The Women's Association from Sibiu is accredited in 2007 as a provider of social services and provides the following social services through Shelter:

- Identification and evaluation of cases of domestic violence;
- Hosting women alone or with their children for a period determined by law;
- Mentoring and guiding;
- Social, psychological counseling and legal assistance;
- Support services for various difficult situations.

Our services are addressed to women seeking accommodation only and those who ask support and advice to the problems faced in their couple relationships. The shelter receives women - victims of domestic violence and their minor children, regardless of ethnicity, political affiliation, nationality, race, religion.



About Shelter

Our expert care is intended for persons faced with conflict situations in their families often extremely serious, so interventions to support them require quick measures and actions which give them adequate and real protection.

With access to the provided services, the Association and shelter offer victims a nonviolent, secure medium and trust that they could exceed well a critical, painful and sad period in their life, and for cases outside the Shelter support when they need help .

Services offered.

Identification and assessment of cases of domestic violence.

Shelter staff pursues on priority at interventions on cases to identify situations of violence, forms of violence as stated in the Law no. 217/2003 republished and also risk assessment, hazard that many victims do not know they are exposed to.

Depending on the severity of the case or the number of seats available, victims are hosted or directed to other institutions.

Hosting women alone or with their children.

The capacity of hosting in the shelter is of 7 seats and can be extended in special situations to 9 seats.

The hosting rooms are arranged as beneficiaries and their children have part of the privacy and tranquility that their violent family environments have not had. During their receipt of assistance the sheltered persons have to care and maintain their own spaces where they live, they can continue their life and daily activities without stress, tension or fear accumulated in relationships with their partners.

For victims who have insufficient incomes, the shelter provides them within available resources, needed material assistance: food, clothing, footwear, medicines and things of necessities for themselves and their children to support them in their attempt to come out of their crisis situation.



At the time of hosting, each beneficiary is informed about the contractual conditions for which she can be hosted and receive assistance in shelter. The beneficiary undertakes to respect in the period of hosting these conditions, which are required from them to be protected from bullies.

Shelter Team is composed of the shelter coordinator, social worker, psychologist, two night watchmen and an accountant, an employee of the Association, with clear duties and responsibilities upon everyone in carrying out activities. In the shelter there is always a contact person because its work is continuous and can not be interrupted.



Mentoring and guiding.

Victims receive information about their rights they will benefit and about the institutions they may support in their steps they take to solve their cases.

Specific information on domestic violence are found on the website of the Association. The shelter distributes annually informational materials on the prevention of violence and contact details of the Association.

Social, psychological and legal counseling:

Through psychological counseling we aim to identify forms of violence, the problems faced by victims, some of them emotionally affected, limiting the negative conditions experienced by them, understanding the cycle and the dynamics of violence.

Subsequently, counseling focuses on setting objectives appropriate to the needs of beneficiaries, these are encouraged to speak about the abuses they went through, to recognize signs of aggressive behavior in order to avoid unpleasant situations, to use means of nonviolent networking, to recognize and control problematic situations they might confront with.

Social counseling aims to establish a contingency plan in agreement with the beneficiary, the safety plan by which the beneficiary learns to avoid the conflicts with the aggressor, his responsibility with regard to parental rights and duties upon his children, finding housing according to her income available, to register at a family doctor.

Legal counseling is done through a lawyer. Such victims are informed about the legal rights they have in such situations and may require from the Court legal means for criminal or civil punishing of the aggressor.

We mention as an example that such legal aid is to obtain Protection Orders, as emergency measures against the aggressors just due seriousness of cases and high risk of violence on their part. Later on the victims are assisted in Court seeking legal steps to complete against aggressors.

Support Services

For our shelter every case of violence means dealing with very high risk - taking the victim and her children from the violent environment, protecting them against the aggressor during the hosting of the Shelter, accompanying the victim in legal, social or health proceedings to the headquarters of institutions that can support the completion of her case.

It is very important for victims to limit their actions against aggressors and children in order to prevent other acts of violence from their part. There are prevented conflict situations by a prompt collaboration with the Police that may occur after Court proceedings conducted by victims against perpetrators.

The provided support helps the victims in drafting petitions to the Police or other similar institutions, brokering other jobs, CV writing support according to their professional or study preparation.

Also expenses may be settled strictly related to their cases (forensic certificates, medical treatments, medical tests, medicines, school supplies or eyeglasses).

By paying these expenses, possible through donations to the Shelter, victims bear the difficult time easier going through after the separation from offenders and which presuppose financial and material consumed efforts, that not all victims have at their fingertips.

The Association collaborates with a medical unit that provides specialised consulting at the coming to the shelter for victims who do not have or can not call their family doctor.

Sheltered Cases

During 2015, the shelter provided accommodation and assistance to **25 persons** in the city, Sibiu county, Iasi County respectively: 10 women, victims of domestic violence and their 15 children.

In 8 of the 10 hosted cases the reception of the victims and their children **was carried out urgently**, due to the imminent danger of being hit further by bullies or after a serious episode of violence against them.



In 5 of the 10 hosted cases the Shelter has extended the hosting or received them back because of legal, psychological or social problems related to the completion of their cases, as follows:

- In one case, the hosting for the victim and her children has been extended 4 times;
- In 4 cases, the hosting for the victim and her children has been extended 2 times;
- 3 cases were hosted for periods of less than 60 days;
- In 2 cases received by the end of 2015 their host has been extended for next year.

In four of these cases, due to the support from the Shelter, the victims have obtained Order of Protection for themselves and their children. In one case, there was completed a prosecution against the aggressor at the victim's request, the object was hitting or other violence. The other cases have moved into another flat or were guided to their relatives after leaving the shelter.

The access to services provided by the Shelter, allowed women and children to continue working at their jobs and schools that the children were attending thus has been avoided disruption of their jobs or other situations of serious risk due to the violent conduct of perpetrators. Volunteers from the Women's Association, included in the draft FDSC, also have participated at the activities developed by beneficiaries and their children.

For instrumentation and completion of cases, the Shelter collaborated with Public Social Service Sibiu, the Sibiu County Police Inspectorate, the National Agency against Trafficking of Persons and the law firm that assisted beneficiaries in court.

Counseled cases

Social services are offered to other people facing conflict situations in their families by psychological, social, legal counseling by or donated clothes, shoes or personal belongings.

In 2015, there were a total of **40 requests** addressed to the Shelter, where our specialised staff provided advice, support services and information for people in the field of city / county of Sibiu and Gorj, Galati, Olt, Arad. The interventions were conducted by telephone, email or meeting at the headquarters of Sibiu SPAS with the applicants.

The provided assistance consisted of identifying and assessing cases of violence, mentoring, guidance, accompanying to the Medical Forensic Institute of Sibiu (for obtaining medical certificate) or Sibiu Court (for obtaining Order of Protection), social, psychological, legal (by law office) counseling, writing referrals for protection of victims (the Police stations in the city / county of Sibiu) and information in the field (prevention / avoidance of violence, data about the rights of the victims benefitting in Court, similar institutions she may apply).

Projects

Grant program social services

In 2015 the Association received the grant awarded by the Municipality of Sibiu and Sibiu Local Council, under Law no. 34/1998 on subsidizing non-governmental organizations that provide social services, for a maximum of 7 people per month, which are hosted in the Shelter. The amount paid of 250 € / hosted beneficiary for social services covers very little expenditure on beneficiaries of the shelter. Through this grant they were supported victims and their children residing in Sibiu, during their hosting Shelter.

FDSC project - „Domestic violence causes suffering - to control and limit the phenomenon of domestic violence in Sibiu
Women's Association from Sibiu in partnership with the Norwegian Women and Family Association has continued the project activities in 2015 implemented through the Civil Society Development Fund by the call for proposals after the launch of the component “Basic social services within the NGO Fund” as part of the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area (EEA) 2009-2014 financed by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

Thus in the year 2015 there were carried out 2 of the 3 sessions of program information, awareness and consultation with specialized personnel from municipalities, public and private institutions in Sibiu with duties on social





services or **session 2** in Medias in 28.04, 29.04 Sibiu, Agnita 24.09 and 25.09 Sibiu 2015. The theme of the sessions included:

- Requirements for a coordinated response of institutions in situations of domestic violence/ domestic violence;
- Presentation of the Norwegian model of intervention in domestic violence (procedures, working methods, ways of collaboration and interinstitutional communication, normative regulations) presented by Ms. Lone Johansen - expert from the Secretariat for crisis centers in Norway;
- Intervention in situations of domestic violence - in terms of specific institutional and professional roles (role of the police, health professionals and professionals in social services - counselors/ social workers, psychologists);
- Principles of working with people with violent behavior.



Then has followed the **3rd session** conducted in 25.11 Medias, Agnita in 15.12, 24.11 and 12.16.2015 in Sibiu. Session topics included:

- Multi-institutional coordinated response to situations of domestic violence / domestic violence;
- Referral of cases;
- Prevention of domestic violence;



There were continued such activities related to project management, auditing project, advertising and promotion project, providing social services at the Centre, the realization of an information campaign and awareness of the community in Sibiu County on domestic violence, by creating and distributing 10,000 flyers.

We wish to thank on this way to M. Sorina Bumbulut, psychotherapist and trainer from the Association of Women Against Violence - Artemis Satu Mare - for the information provided in the program on domestic violence and how flawless she has presented the material related to the project, in training sessions.

Information about these activities are presented in summaries of activity at: <http://www.asociatiafemeilorsibiu.com/en/68-2/>

Organizational Development

April 2015 - volunteers of our Association attended the Easter bazaar and in December 2015 the Christmas Bazaar, organized by the Circle of Evangelical Women and held every year at the headquarter of the German Forum in Sibiu, where together with the other participants there were exposed items for sale made by association members and beneficiaries of services for these events.



October 2015 - Shelter Coordinator attended the seminar organized by WAVE Network and A.L.E.G. Bucharest titled: "Capacity for risk assessment and safety management in order to protect women victims of violence and their children" where they presented the results of the PROTECT II Daphne and multidisciplinary response to domestic violence.

October 2015 - Shelter Coordinator attended the workshop in Bucharest: "Transfer of best practice in services for victims of domestic violence (of the Guide to Intervention specialists)" organized by the Network for preventing and combating violence against women.

Our Association has followed in 2015 the promotion of social services by allowing those interested **to donate 2% of gross income** to support activities that require support for victims Shelter. Till the end of the completion period for the Form no. 230 in the month of May 2015 for the destination of up to 2% of annual tax, 103 people in Sibiu County and other counties have completed those forms addressed to the Association. More details can be found at: <http://www.asociatiafemeilorsibiu.com/en/donation/>

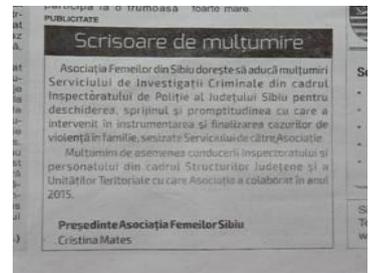


The Association participates each Friday **at the Bio-Market**, organized by the Evangelical parish of Sibiu and held in the courtyard of the Evangelical Church, where there are exposed to exploitation objects made by the Association members and beneficiaries of services.

Partners / internal collaborators 2014

County Police Inspectorate Sibiu, Sibiu Public Social Service, National Agency against Trafficking of Persons, non-governmental organizations active in the field of domestic violence, municipalities in the county of Sibiu.

We mention the close collaboration with the staff from Criminal Investigation Service and also the staff of other structures of the IJP Sibiu completion of cases and participating in information sessions on the project of the Association, for which the Association has thanked in a letter published in local mass - media (December 29th 2015).



Partners / collaborators / external donors in 2015

Norway: Norwegian Women and Family Association;

Germany: Office for Mission, Ecumenism and Global Responsibility within Evangelical Church of Westphalia Region (Amt für Mission und Ökumene kirchliche Weltverantwortung (Möwe) Evangelischen der Kirche von Westfalen);

Soroptimist International Club Hildesheim/ family Dr. Lucia and Stefan Ruhnau;
Mrs. Maria Schneider;

England: Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) - London.

Netherlands: Heart for Romania - Mr. Jos Gisbert.

In addition to these partners, the Association has received donations of food, personal items or small amounts of money from individuals in Italy and Romania.

We wish to thank all our partners for the opening and support, through which the Shelter and the Association have completed cases which occurred. Through their unconditional efforts, we provided to victims and their children an alternative to the humiliations and sufferings experienced in dealing with bullies, we offered another beginning, where to decide for themselves without being constrained and offended every day what they want to do next with their lives. We are grateful to the above donors, with regret that in Romania there is no understanding for the suffering of victims, as these donors understand to support us voluntarily.

Our interventions in these cases even seem routine, are an assumed risk and menus carefully for each victim separately in order to avoid tension and conflict with the subjects that can become extremely violent with anyone who provide support to victims, in order to discourage to leave them.

Through its activities during 2015, the Shelter has provided support to women and children who needed specialized care. Given the seriousness of these cases, we consider as a priority for the community in Sibiu, to support further this shelter, unfortunately due to lack of legislation and the indifference of the authorities, we are obliged to provide assistance under increasingly unsafe conditions.

Donation

For direct sponsorship, our bank details are as follows:

Bank details:

Name of the bank: **BANCA TRANSILVANIA SUCURSALA SIBIU**

Address of the Bank: **P-ta Aurel Vlaicu nr.1, bl. V4/ 550377 SIBIU / ROMANIA**

Tel: **0040269/211568**

Beneficiary's Name: **ASOCIATIA FEMEILOR DIN SIBIU**

Beneficiary's Address: **550183 SIBIU, STR. AVRAM IANCU NR. 25, /ROMANIA.**

Beneficiary's Account in RON (Romanian New Lei): **RO24BTRL03301205485079XX**

Beneficiary's Account in Euro: **RO70BTRL03304205485079XX**

Beneficiary's Account in GBP (Pounds): **RO19BTRL03307205485079XX**

Beneficiary's Account in NOK: **RO60BTRL03316205485079XX**

SWIFT CODE: **BTRLRO22SBA**

Contact

For more information and opportunities for contributing to the shelter, please contact Women`s Association from Sibiu:

Address: **Sibiu Str. Avram Iancu Nr. 25, România;**

Tel.no. Association: **0269/216580**

Web-site:

<http://www.asociatiafemeilorsibiu.com>

<http://www.asociatiafemeilorsibiu.org>

E-mail:

af.sibiu@yahoo.com

afsibiu@asociatiafemeilorsibiu.com

afsibiu@asociatiafemeilorsibiu.org

contact@asociatiafemeilorsibiu.com

President of the Association - Cristina Mates.



Shelter Coordinator - Adrian Nistor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "AN", representing Adrian Nistor.