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Empowering women or perpetuating victimhood?

IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
POLICY AND PRACTICE FOR
MINORITY ETHNIC, REFUGEE
AND ROMA WOMEN



REGIONAL
SOCIAL WELFARE **RESOURCE CENTRE**
BUDAPEST



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Security



Project partners

Islington Training Network (ITN) was established in 1998 and have since grown into a successful network with members from all key sectors with a majority from the community and voluntary sector. ITN enables its members to widen participation and increase opportunities for skills development and employability through a twin track approach of direct resourcing and capacity building.

ITN is committed to promoting economic inclusion and social justice through supporting a range of organisations working with a diversity of groups experiencing multiple disadvantages in the labour market and inequalities of access to opportunities and services.

Regional Social Welfare Resource Centre Budapest (BSZF) was founded by the Municipality of Budapest in 1997 to

train social workers. BSZF collaborates with an extensive network of various institutions including NGOs.

It receives funding from European Commission, government and City of Budapest to undertake a range of projects on social inclusion.

Since 2000 BSZF has been working on prevention of domestic violence. It has designed and delivered training for a range of public agencies on various aspects of domestic violence. It conducts research and contributes effectively to various initiatives to tackle domestic violence in Hungary.

IMECE is a women only community organisation established in 1982. It provides advice, advocacy and information services for Turkish, Kurdish and Turkish Cypriot women. Its purpose is to raise awareness of issues such as domestic violence, racism and women's rights to enable women to overcome barriers of isolation and exclusion.

IMECE also provides capacity building services for small Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) community organizations to improve their Domestic Violence (DV) services. It carries out research into DV legislation and its implementation. It also researches the specific needs of BME women survivors of DV.

The project

'We start from the premise that women's rights are human rights'

The project aims to contribute to the effectiveness of existing policy and practice on gender based domestic violence particularly for Minority Ethnic, Refugee and Roma women. Women from these communities face particular issues and challenges that hinder their access to effective services such as lack of culturally sensitive support and discrimination.

The work undertaken by the project partnership will adopt a rights based approach and will be located within the wider framework of international and national human rights instruments and standards including CEDAW. We start from the premise that women's rights are human rights and violence experienced at home – physical, sexual and psychological – diminish life chances of all women and those from disadvantaged communities even further.

The project will focus on four levels. It will:

Undertake research to map national policies and legislation regarding Domestic Violence to identify similarities and differences between legislation in the partner countries – UK and Hungary. The mapping will also include Poland



and Bulgaria to extend the scope of the research.

Collect and analyse data of direct experience of survivors and practitioners to identify gaps in service delivery.

Develop and pilot training modules for service delivery agencies directly working with or likely to come into contact with survivors of DV. These include police, healthcare professionals and local authorities. The training will give participants better knowledge and tools to provide appropriate support to DV survivors, especially from minority ethnic, national minority and refugee communities.

Propose recommendations based on project activities which will contribute to raising awareness of DV issues through different mediums such as publications, partner websites and final conference. We will also work with selected journalists to highlight the project and relevant issues and outcomes.

