

Women's Support Center

Winter-Spring 2018 Newsletter

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Welcome to our e-newsletter designed to keep you informed of our current activities. Below we highlight the work we've carried out in the past few months to ensure the safety of women and children victims of domestic violence and advocate for change. Engage with us by following our [Facebook](#) page, [website](#), and [contacting](#) us. We would love to hear from you!

CAPACITY BUILDING TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Social Workers take part in training on domestic violence. The training was implemented in the framework of a 2017-2019 program funded by the United Nations Democracy Fund.

Domestic violence is one of the most complex, widespread and dangerous challenges women in Armenia are faced with today. According to official police reports, at least 50 women have lost their lives to domestic violence in the past 7 years, with the number of cases increasing yearly.

Through a combination of direct assistance, shelter services, advocacy and awareness raising, the Center strives for a society that has zero tolerance for violence against women. Provision of training to specialists such as lawyers, social workers, educators, journalists, etc. is a key part of WSC's efforts towards the formation of such a society.

Recently, the Center held a training session for a group of social workers from Yerevan. During the training, WSC specialists explored the roots and underlying causes of domestic violence, described the most widespread types and manifestations and presented best practice methods and approaches to working with women who have survived such violence. The trainees were especially interested in possible measures to tackle harmful stereotypes, stigma and gender inequalities that lead to domestic violence, as well as available instruments for legal protection.

PUBLICATION



Women's Support Center has recently published a brochure that describes strategies to cope with recurring effects of trauma. This publication aims to help women recognize the effects of trauma and choose among a variety of coping mechanisms that will help with debilitating trauma effects. This is one-of-a-kind publication that is made available in Armenia for the first time. Victims of domestic violence did not have any access to this kind of information. We already receive positive feedback from those women who read the brochure: "I never knew that I can do things to help me deal with memories and flashbacks that were creating fear and panic in me. I know now that this is ok, and I am not going insane."

FUNDRAISING



Maro Matosian presenting to the Boston community.

Women's Support Center Executive Director Maro Matosian did a Fundraising Tour in US this spring. She visited a number of Armenian communities, where many supporters and friends of WSC gathered to hear updates on the work we are doing. Maro presented WSC activities, situation of women in Armenia, particularly the adoption of the domestic violence law. She also discussed the challenges that advocates for women's rights continuously face in Armenia. For more details you can read this article in the Armenian Weekly.