



WSC beneficiary and survivor Karine: "If the WSC was not around, I don't know what would have happened to me. I always remember your wise words and advice. It gave me strength to rebuild my life."

[Make a difference in the lives of women and children across Armenia and Artsakh](#)

Karine (pictured above) endured unconscionable abuse. Her husband attempted to burn the house down while she and her three children were inside. Luckily, the police rescued them in time and brought them to the WSC. She and her children stayed at our shelter for 6 months to stay safe and regain their emotional equilibrium. Karine eventually moved her family to another village, where she works for the local government as a bookkeeper and also runs a flower business. She is very happy to live free from abuse and have the ability to care for her children.

This year, with your help, the WSC served 358 women and children, many of whom were in grave danger. We housed 63 women and children seeking refuge; answered 2,592 hotline calls; provided women and children with 6,727 social, psychological, and legal counseling sessions as well as court representation; and helped nearly 60% of beneficiaries find employment and jumpstart their small businesses.

Alarmingly, the number of domestic violence homicides has sharply increased this year, with at least nine women killed in the first half of 2018 alone. A better functioning criminal justice system and shelter assistance could have prevented these deaths and many more. Currently, the WSC is the only organization in Armenia that offers shelter to women and children fleeing abuse in addition to comprehensive services. Our safe houses give beneficiaries like Karine the opportunity to break the cycle of violence and reintegrate into society. **We are proud to report that 74% of survivors who came to our center and shelter this year now live free from abuse.**

To meet the growing demand for our services, we have embarked on a long-term partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs, which is providing us with a three story building outside of Yerevan to convert into a domestic violence shelter that will accommodate 15 women and 40 children at any given time. This year's annual holiday crowdfunding campaign will go toward the costs of renovating and refurbishing the new shelter, estimated at \$168,000, which will provide beneficiaries with a proper safe space in which to rehabilitate as they access our services.

With an estimated 1 in 4 women in Armenia subjected to domestic violence in their lifetimes and only a handful of shelter spaces in the entire country, your contribution to our campaign is desperately needed and truly lifesaving. **Donate today to ensure that hundreds more women and children in Armenia and Artsakh can rebuild their lives and live free from abuse.**

[I'm in! I'd like to donate.](#)