

# Fire-Place Booklets

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NANE Women's Rights Association

## **Lessons learned: Adapting and using the WAVE Training Programme on Combating Violence Against Women**

Sensitisation and training of professionals on  
violence against women

Budapest, 2006





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## **Introduction**

This booklet has been produced as part of the Daphne II Call 2 project “Adapting the Training Programme on Combatting Violence Against Women originally produced by WAVE” As part of this programme, NANE Women’s Rights Association, using the expertise and experience of the European network Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) as well as the local expertise, large experience and professional networks of a Hungarian judge, a psychotherapist, a social worker and a police officer, translated, adapted and used WAVE’s training programme in Hungary. We would like to thank all of them as well as staff members of NANE involved in this project for their contributions.

The project itself has consisted of three major parts: the translation and adaptation of the manual created during the WAVE Training Programme on Combating Violence Against Women in 2000 with the support of the first Daphne Programme of the European Commission. Secondly, trainings were held with the twofold aim of testing the manual and creating a pool of multiplicators from different professions in order to work as co-trainers with NANE’s own trainers at different trainings for professionals on violence against women.

In the third phase, the results of the training and the experiences from the adaptation process were gathered in this English language booklet which will be disseminated both in print and through the Internet in the hope that other countries planning to adapt this or other international materials will find our experiences useful.

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## **Description of Daphne project „Adapting the training programme on combating violence against women”**

As an NGO from a newly-acceded country, NANE Women's Rights Association was first eligible to apply for Daphne funding as main applicant in 2004. In the accession year, instead of only one call, a second special call for application was also placed, which made it possible to apply specifically with the aim to disseminate the results of previous (preferably Daphne-funded) European Union projects.

This project focussed on the prevention of violence against women, and intervention in such cases. NANE has adapted and applied the 'Training Programme on Combatting Violence Against Women' developed and piloted by the WAVE Office and the Austrian Women's Shelter Network under DAPHNE I (project nr: 1999/DAP/288/WC), a programme designed for use in training of professionals in various fields.

### **The Hungarian context**

The training of professionals dealing with victims of violence against women and children (VAW) is of special importance. Professionalism in handling cases and the fast and efficient provision of support alleviates the hardships and in many cases prevents further violence (tertiary prevention). In Hungary the formal academic training of law enforcement, judicial, medical and psychosocial professionals does not include up-to-date information on violence against women. The lack of expertise and resources in the academic training of the involved professionals has created the need for relevant NGOs, such as NANE, to provide such trainings for

practising professionals. Battered women and young people who call our helpline regularly express their need for receiving better service from judiciary professionals, police and social service providers financed by the state and local authorities.

The project intended to address some of the specific problems resulting from the above:

- Most of our clients experience a complete lack of empathy and knowledge about violence against women when contacting state run victim support services.
- The small number of staff at competent NGOs cannot cope with the raising demand for training, there is a need for more trainers.
- Training is more successful if the NGO trainers are accompanied by trainers from the given profession, thus reducing the resistance towards 'outside' knowledge. Currently there are no such trainers in Hungary.

### **Aims and objectives of the project**

It was our aim to create a training programme tailored to Hungarian realities and to have access to a pool of co-facilitators from different professions who are able to organise and run short awareness-raising trainings within their own professions along with NANE's own trainers.

In order to achieve this, we intended to

- adapt the Training Programme so that it can be used successfully to sensitise and train Hungarian law



enforcement, judicial, medical and psychosocial professionals on.

- run a series of train-the-trainer courses for Hungarian professionals in order to disseminate the Training Programme; target groups: judiciary (public prosecutors, judges, lawyers), law enforcement (patrol officers, victim support officers, crime prevention officers), medical (doctors and nursing staff) and psycho-social professionals (social workers, psychologists, psychotherapists).
- publish and disseminate 'Lessons learned' to share experiences of adaptation in an Eastern European context; target groups: organizations doing similar work on tackling VAW, lobbying organizations, policy-makers and others (students and researchers of the field)

### **Approach, training methodology, training methods**

In line with NANE Women's Rights Association's overall philosophy, the training was to be constructed within a human rights framework, meaning that the moral and legal ground for state intervention in the cases of domestic violence and other forms of violence against women are the relevant human rights conventions which have all been signed and ratified by the Hungarian State. Another important element coming from feminist tradition was the inclusion of women's and children's realities into the training, these being points of view that have been long silenced or ignored.

When planning the learning process of participants we had to take the following factors into account:

- relatively short time to achieve the highest possible impact (trainings could only start after the Hungarian

version of the manual was at least electronically available in its final format), and that we were approaching new people whom we were not likely to commit for a longer period of training made it necessary to plan for short, four-day residential trainings;

- participants are all active professionals not yet familiar with our methods and work → commitment to longer trainings is not very likely;
- participants knowledge of their everyday practice is superior to ours, and it is crucial to provide space to show their own competencies

Based on the above, we planned four four-day residential courses that would focus on individual professions. To increase effectivity and make it possible to effect the attitudes of participants, we decided for using methods typically present in non-formal education: working in a small-group (maximum 20 people setting), cooperative learning, role-plays. It was also crucial to cater to the different learning styles of participants in order to maximise the effect of the relatively short training, therefore we used discussions, visual and verbal exercises as well as such that allowed for more motoric input.

## **Lessons learned: experiences, results and conclusions**

The first phase of the project consisted of the translation, adaptation and expert review of the WAVE training manual. A limited tender with translators with whom we have worked before on shorter but similar materials ensured the best quality of translation. The most important factor was a good command of the special (English and Hungarian) vocabulary of violence against women in general and domestic violence in particular.

### **Translation and adaptation of the training manual: views of the editor of the Hungarian version**

In translating any text into a different language issues of cultural adaptation always come up due to the inherent differences in language and the general culture. This was also the case with this training manual. During the editing phase the following areas needed special attention:

#### *Legislation and services*

These two areas were the main areas where the text had to be handled with care and changed. As Hungary did not have a women's movement like many Western European countries had, we lack the several decades of conscious and critical analysis of services for victims of domestic violence as well as an evolution of feminist professionals and services. For this reason we tried to be as non-specific as possible when writing about services and made sure that individual places where specific services were mentioned were changed according to Hungarian realities. One typical example was the restraining order, i.e. the legal possibility of distancing

perpetrators of domestic violence from their homes and their victims. At the time of the editing of the manual this Hungarian law was still in the middle of the legislative process so we could not refer to it as a measure protecting battered women and children, whereas in the original version it was routinely mentioned throughout the manual.

In order to provide exact information on the Hungarian realities we put special emphasis on involving our external experts already in this phase of the project in order to read all the relevant chapters of the manual and made detailed comments about the content and the wording of the Hungarian edition.

All through the text we tried to strike a delicate balance. On the one hand this manual is a good-practice model for the treatment of victims of domestic violence i.e. it is an idealized model for an idealized world. On the other hand it is also a methodological reference book that offers real-life suggestions. We know from our experience as trainers that many Hungarian professionals tend to react in a negative if not pessimistic way to foreign good-practice solutions claiming that “This is not a reality in Hungary and will never be”. To avoid this alienating effect we tried to use formulations for suggested changes of practice that have acknowledged the difficulty in achieving some of these goals due to current financial and political realities related to police work in general, and working against domestic violence in all sectors.

### *Adding specific Hungarian content*

In order to provide a culturally adapted manual we added certain parts to the text that were originally not specified. We also added an extra sub-chapter about present Hungarian

legal remedies and obstacles and at the end of the manual we listed all relevant book sin Hungarian that trainers and trainees would find useful in future. .

### *Changing focus and emphasis: immigration*

As in Hungary immigration is not such a large-scale phenomenon than in richer ‘Western’ countries like Austria, we tried to adapt the relatively large number of exercises dealing with the specific problems of immigrant women. Instead we tried to find a culturally similar group of marginalized women so we decided to use case study examples of Roma women as well as Hungarian women living in territories of former Hungary (for example a woman living in Ukraine and marrying a battering man who is a Hungarian citizen). Similarly, some of the general myths about domestic violence describing immigrant populations had to be changed or paraphrased.

### *Certain content-issues*

There were some parts of the text that had to be revised from due to different experiences of both NANE staff and our psychotherapy expert: the sub-chapter on the psychology of battering men was enhanced to include more content on the effects of socialization and learning patriarchal models: the authors of the original version put the main emphasis on psychological factors like dysfunctional childhood models e.g. a missing father, but many studies and our experience shows that domestic battering is at least equally a social problem originating in the culture and the value system held by men and women in general and battering men in particular.

Also the order of the chapters of the manual was changed to enable easier access of the profession-specific handouts. The handout chapters were rearranged so each training module for one specific professional group is followed by the handout for that group.

## **Trainings of multipliers**

The preparations for the trainings have started already during the manual production phase. Individual and joint meetings with the team of experts were held several times to discuss the possible contents, participants from the given professional group, way of organisation, administrative matters to be taken care of (especially in the case of police and judiciary, where many formal arrangements were necessary in order to have access to participants, and to enable them to participate).

Certain practical matters also needed to be clarified; some of these seem to be banal details, however, any and all of them could have been crucial for success or failure of the course. As such, we discussed early on, what are the circumstances under which potential participants are likely to join the trainings. Some of the issues that we have agreed on were:

- to run the training on workdays only
- to cut most trainings to three days instead of four
- to use training locations for the police and for the judges with which they are familiar

**Views of the project’s expert for the training of police officers, Police Captain László Oláh (Budapest Police HQ, Crime Prevention Unit):**

“I first encountered domestic violence 18 years ago – as soon as I’ve become a police officer. In the first 13 years I did not experience any kind of activity within the police regarding this phenomenon – although of course some efforts might be not known to me. We the police used the already “established” schemes, and we thought we did do everything possible within the then existing legal framework. In those years I had no experience with non-governmental organisations since the police generally did not appreciate NGO activism, and as a „good cop” I did not start any individual action.

Five years ago things changed... I was working as a victim support officer of the 8th district police station, and I met the representatives of NANE. Slowly a professional relationship developed, which has lasted ever since and I very much hope that we will be able to help each other in our work for many more years to come. I could say it is a mutual commitment, although it is fair to say that NGOs tend to be more committed than the police.

What I like about being a police officer is when I feel that I can help. Unfortunately, it is still not very common that I have the chance to experience this great feeling. Nevertheless, we have made a major leap forward in the last three years to change police attitudes related to domestic violence.

The WAVE Training Programme was a natural follow-up of this work. This material is a great source of support for us, police officers with regards to both its contents and

methodology . I recognized this immediately when I received the first draft of the translation: I read it almost in one sitting... I am convinced that the more police officers receive training based on this material, the better.

In order to get acquainted with the material of this programme there should be basic and advanced level trainings. Unfortunately, the police does not have the financial means for such training courses, therefore the police leadership was very pleased with the opportunity of a three-day training course offered by NANE Women's Rights Association. Despite the observed need for such training, finalising the list of participants, which was my task, proved quite difficult. Many colleagues had still reservations about a training run by an NGO. The training methodology is also unusual for us: we are used to frontal teaching methods, when the lecturer speaks and the students listen. It caused some difficulties to become used to more modern methodologies which prefer cooperative learning. Despite the initial negative feelings, I can highly recommend trainings in this format. The programme was successful, though training fifteen victim support and crime prevention officers is not enough, we need to move on to reach patrol officers, ) who are often the first to encounter domestic violence cases. It is important to keep in touch with the multipliers whom we have trained in December in order to maintain and strengthen their commitment.

A follow-up project should provide regular contact and information materials to help our trainees to cooperate both at a local and a regional level.”



## **The four trainings**

The project started almost a year after we have designed it, the actual trainings almost one-and-a-half year later. Therefore, when the preparations to organise the four trainings have began, it was clear that some changes have to be made. The changes were partially based on the recommendations of our external experts, and partially mirrored the reality of NANE's professional contacts.

The most significant change was that of omitting a whole target group for the training and including a different one. When we wrote the project, a medical expert was not included, since we did not have the kind of reliable working relationship with a member of this profession as we had with the other groups, the representatives of which were hired as external expert (a judge, a police officer, a psychotherapist and a social worker).

Unfortunately, by the beginning of the project period, we have not managed to find a health professional who could both commit herself or himself to this project at the necessary level or of whom we thought we could work with, and the frames of the project did not make it possible to start with somebody who was much behind in commitment and expertise in the field of domestic violence and experience of the training methods used by NANE as to make the inclusion feasible. Nevertheless, we received volunteer support from a medical expert who contributed to the project her time to go through the medical chapter of the manual. However, we did not find anybody with whom we could run a training for a group of medical professionals.

We decided to look around and find another professional group of which we might not have thought at all when

writing the proposal, but with which we have managed to develop contacts in the mean time. We've find this professional contact among the body of teachers who have child protection duties in their schools. This contact was developed mainly through our other Daphne II Call 1 project which contained a mixed-discipline training element in a Budapest district. This training was attended by several child protection teachers, and it was their feedbacks and suggestions in October 2005 that enabled us to find the right contacts by early 2006 to make the decision to include child protection teachers as a fourth group in our Call 2 project.

The four trainings were coordinated by NANE's project manager with the support of individual experts at the trainings that were for the group of their field of expertise. Apart from the external experts the training teams consisted of NANE's senior trainers, who have several years of experience at running such training, furthermore, two of the trainers have attended WAVE's original training of trainers for the manual in 2000. Although originally we planned to involve a WAVE trainer on all training days, we have finally decided against this, since the ongoing translation would have diminished the intensity of the training sessions, instead we agreed on having single inputs from WAVE's experts during the trainings.

### **Training content and structure**

NANE's training team designed the curriculum or the trainings, in consultation with WAVE. As the main aim of the trainings was to work on the attitudes and skills of participants, the planned content focussed mostly on these points.

When designing the training structure, the training team has taken into account that the aims and objectives of the trainings and the planned content required intensive group interaction as well as an atmosphere of safety and trust. Therefore elements of the training aimed at group building, sometimes within a thematic exercise, sometimes with exercises that served group building only.

### **Summary of participants' evaluations**

As part of the closing of the trainings, participants had to fill out a detailed anonymous evaluation form. Following is a summary of the answers given to our questions.

*How did other participants contribute to your learning process?*

On the whole most participants found it useful to work in a group setting with interactive methods. They mentioned that they had learnt about the opinions and viewpoints of other group through the group discussions and sharing their experiences with each other, and that by being active participants they could enhance each others' learning. They also said that they had found it inspiring to talk about their professional views and to hear new ideas from other participants, and appreciated the openness and honesty of the rest of the group.

*How did you contribute to the learning of others?*

Participants felt that they had mostly contributed to the learning process of the group by sharing their opinions and by active participation. Some pointed out that they were consciously trying to motivate her/his colleagues.

*What do you think about the composition of the group?*

Most participants were satisfied with the composition of the group. Apart from that, views were very mixed. Some were glad to have a homogeneous group; others would have preferred a multi-professional group. E.g. a feedback from the judicial training was that there were not enough civil court judges (the group was predominantly made up of criminal court judges) and that male judges were somewhat in the minority. Some police officers would have preferred to have more patrol officers in the group (most of them were from victim support or crime prevention units) who regularly see cases of domestic violence. It was also expressed that since people arrived from the same professional background the content of the training could be focused and to-the-point. Several people also mentioned that teamwork and common thinking was smooth and effective.

*What do you find the most important thing/idea etc. that you have learnt during this training?*

a) about IPV/domestic violence:

The need for multidisciplinary cooperation was mentioned by most participants as an important new knowledge they have gained during the training. Many emphasized the tolerance and empathy they had acquired as well as their new abilities to uncover hidden circumstances typical of battering and to understand more about the process of battering itself. The judicial participants found it very useful to learn more about the concept and limits of mediation, as well as the discussions on the new restraining order. Many people mentioned they felt they had been given a new paradigm through which they could see domestic violence from a different point of view from now on. They also emphasized

their new ability to see the warning signs in batterers and on victims alike, the signs of abuse, and communication skills to be used with victims. Some mentioned a new knowledge that enables them to recognize violence as well as a better understanding of the prevalence of DV in all walks of life. Many people said they were shocked by the statistics about the prevalence of DV but these numbers and facts also made them more aware of this problem.

b) about the training of professionals on IPV/domestic violence:

Here participants also mentioned the need for patience and empathy as well as the benefits of the pending restraining order. People stressed that apparently there are many ways to help – “all we need to do is to find the proper way to do this”.

*Is there any part of your professional life where you feel this training will be useful? What are these?*

Participants named several areas where they felt they had learnt more skills and experienced insights: custody issues, visitation rights and court decision in such cases, violent crimes like bodily harm, sexual crimes like marital rape and crimes of a sexual nature. Some members also mentioned that they had been offered new ideas on talking and listening to victims and perpetrators – they felt that they would be able to recognize victims and see through perpetrators more easily in future.

People here mentioned the need for professionals to learn about the signs of violence and the symptoms of battering, especially in children. They also stressed the importance of

an approach that focuses on the development of cooperation between professions as a vital part of quality service. It seemed from the answers that participating professionals were aware of the need in their training about issues concerning violence within intimate relationships.

*Has your awareness in any way changed relating to IPV?  
How?*

Many participants believed that their awareness had been raised or strengthened during the course of this training. They especially named issues of domestic battering and the recognition of the warning signs of a batterer. Many participants mentioned the strengthening of their commitment to stand up against domestic violence.

It was also mentioned that their awareness around issues concerning domestic violence has changed significantly – at the end of the training they reported seeing many things in a different light. They have been given answers to several questions that have been unanswered for them about intimate partnership violence (i.e. the reason ‘why women stay’). They also said they had been given new perspectives to understand and react to DV in general both as private individuals and as professional service-providers. People named several techniques that they felt as potentially useful as an integral part of the training of professionals in the issues of DV: technique of providing information about violence for victims, as well as communication skills.

*Do you have any ideas for the continuation of this training?  
What are these?*

Participants suggested organizing more trainings of this kind, maybe also in the form of ‘advanced’ courses. Specific suggestions included: compulsory trainings instead of optional ones like the present one, one-day lectures/presentations for regional county courts, holding joint trainings for all professionals who are important in this field, e.g. all types of police officers and prosecutors. Participants would like to see the continuation of this training as well as more training opportunities of this kind. They also stressed the importance of a network-building between the members of the social service systems as these cases cannot be solved by individual effort only. Two people specifically mentioned the importance of teacher-training. Participants suggested that this training be continued and be available for other institutions like family support centers and child protection agencies. Some people also mentioned schools in this respect as a location where trainings should be organized. One participant suggested that we systematically distribute our 120-page booklet called “Why does she stay?” so this information can reach families where there are battered persons.

*Suggestions, ideas about the content of the training?*

There were several suggestions about introducing and discussing more specific cases and practices during the training. Participants also voiced their interest in seeing more best-practice examples from abroad from the EU and the United States. One suggestion came asking for more trainings like this one. Participants mentioned that they would have liked to see more interviews and concrete cases

analyzed. They also wanted more detailed discussion about current initiatives and developments (like restraining order). One person suggested organizing a series of evening courses with overnight lodging. Suggestions were mainly voiced about a more 'practical' content and a deeper discussion of specific cases brought in by participants from their everyday professional lives.

### *Other ideas, remarks, criticisms, etc.?*

Some participants found the time insufficiently short for this type of training, although many mentioned that they would have not applied in the first place if it was a longer training. However they also pointed out that the trainers were very successful in maintaining the attention of the group despite the frustration this set-up may have on the patience of group members (i.e. there is not always enough time to go into discussions in such a detail as the group would like to). People found the training useful. Some would have preferred even more concrete cases instead of theoretical discussions. One participant said s/he missed a more detailed discussion of sexual violence in battering relationships.

## **Conclusions**

NANE Women's Rights Association already had significant experience in the field of organising and running trainings for groups of professionals prior to designing and implementing this project. Nevertheless, this programme was not only a learning experience for the participants of the four trainings, but also for NANE. The participants' and NANE's internal evaluation brought both



### *Using external experts (foreign and local)*

It turned out to be a very useful idea to involve not only the experts hired for the project but also further experts to run parts of the training. We did this whenever it was relevant, e.g. we were aware that mediation is becoming a tool for judges to consider in their verdicts, therefore we found it very crucial that they receive information on the *limits* of mediation (i.e. when NOT to consider it). We received positive feedback on our foreign contributors as well: as many countries have several years of practice in dealing with domestic violence, participants had great interest in their experiences.

As opposed to our original idea to involve a WAVE trainer on every training day, once we had the structure and aims of the individual training courses we have decided against this, since using interpretation equipment during the whole training would have made the interactive parts more difficult. Based on our experiences with these trainings we will continue to design trainings in Hungarian only, with only short inputs that need to be translated.

### *Length of training*

We have changed the length of the training for three out of four training at the urging of our experts. They have all suggested, that although a three-day training is very short, still, it is very unlikely at this stage that participants would be ready to commit themselves to a longer one. This was reflected also by participants, who mentioned that the training was very short, but still, they probably would not have applied to a longer one. We have by now significant amount of feedback on this from previous participants to believe that in the future we can design courses where we use

a three-training introductory course to create commitment in participants and then include a further training of 3-5 days to people who are ready to learn more about the topic.

*Professional groups to be targeted*

There are many more professional groups that have not been addressed at all, or not in any significant way. It is our experience that prior to planning a training to a given group it is crucial to build meaningful contacts with practicing members of that profession. Further trainings should focus on using the multipliers already trained in regional trainings as well as reaching out to further groups of professionals such as doctors and nurses, especially HMOs and forensic medicine experts.

# The European Commission's Daphne II programme<sup>1</sup>

The Daphne II programme runs from 2004 until 2008 with a budget of EUR 50 million. It aims at supporting organisations that develop measures and actions to prevent or to combat all types of violence against children, young people and women and to protect the victims and groups at-risk.

The need for concerted worldwide action to defend human rights and to eliminate violence has long been recognised at different levels and in different ways.

Several measures have been taken along these lines, such as the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, the platform for action of the 1995 Beijing Conference, and the 1996 Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action at the first World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.

At the second World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, in Yokohama in December 2001, the Daphne programme implemented by the European Commission was acknowledged as a very useful tool.

Why a European programme to prevent violence against women and children?

The Daphne II programme runs from May 2004 to 31 December 2008. It is complementary to programmes that exist in the Member States of the European Union, especially in the way it focuses on the exchange of good practices about violence across the Union.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: [http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/funding/daphne/funding\\_daphne\\_en.htm#](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/daphne/funding_daphne_en.htm#)

Daphne represents the starting point of NGOs and voluntary organisations cooperation at EU-level in the fight against violence towards children, young people and women. It encourages NGOs to set up or reinforce European networks and helps them implement innovative projects, the results of which can be disseminated to other Member States and regions.

In many cases, these organisations offer services which the public authorities do not have the power or the ability to provide. Society will only benefit from the expertise and experience of the NGOs if their ideas and programmes are disseminated throughout the European Community and shared with like-minded organisations in other Member States.

The Daphne II programme supports actions to combat all types of violence against children, young people and women in Europe and all aspects of this phenomenon (violence in the family, violence in schools and other establishments, violence at work, commercial sexual exploitation, genital mutilation, health repercussions, trafficking in human beings, rehabilitation of perpetrators, etc.).

The activities that can be supported are:

1. identification and exchanges of good practice and work experience with a view in particular to implementing preventive measures and assistance to victims;
2. mapping surveys, studies and research;
3. field work with the involvement of the beneficiaries in all phases of project design, implementation and evaluation;
4. creation of sustainable multidisciplinary networks;
5. training and design of educational packages;
6. development and implementation of treatment programmes and support for victims and people at risk, as well as for perpetrators;
7. development and implementation of awareness-raising activities targeted to specific audiences;

# **Organisations participating in the project**

## **NANE Women's Rights Association (applicant)**

NANE, Women's Rights Association was founded by eleven volunteers as a non-profit, non-governmental charity organization in January 1994. It achieved the legal status of "Important Charity Organization for the Public Good" in 1999.

Since our beginnings in 1994 the range of our activities has grown considerably. We have initiated amendments to laws and public administration reforms in areas where the current regulations do not guarantee equal protection under the law for victims of domestic violence. We petitioned the Constitutional Court to declare that marital rape is a crime and therefore should be included in Hungarian criminal law. Our efforts, which turned into a vocal public movement, succeeded in 1997 when the Hungarian Parliament outlawed marital rape. As well as a crisis hotline, we also voice our views through several media channels.

In 1999, NANE was awarded the status of a outstandingly important charity.

### *Mission and goals*

NANE is primarily dedicated to ending the human rights violations and the threat of violence against women (VAW) and children through advocacy, personal support services and public education. Our goal is to facilitate and promote changes in the laws and legal regulations so that they will be better able to provide legal protection for women against discrimination and violence; to facilitate and encourage the creation of presently missing protocols related to all fields of VAW; to improve legal practice so that it will stop discriminating against women; to empower women to be

better able to represent their own issues and to be better able to name their realities.

NANE is based on the principles voiced in the international human rights and women's rights treaties, such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the New York Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, the Beijing Platform of Action and the 1993 UN General Assembly Resolution on the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

We wish to achieve the above goals through the following activities:

- running a hotline with trained volunteers for women and children who are exposed to physical, sexual, economic and emotional violence (since 1994);
- running an information help-line for young women planning to work abroad to promote the prevention of trafficking in women (since 2000)
- advocating for, and introducing, law-amendment proposals where current regulations need enhancement regarding equity, litigating power of women and children, and protection of women's rights (since 1994);
- providing legal support (counselling and - depending on financial means - representation) for battered or otherwise abused women;
- cooperating with governmental and non-governmental institutions to improve;
- public education and providing information to the wider public on the roots and effects of VAW and children, and victims' rights in the form of campaigns, Silent Witnesses marches and speak-outs, public service announcements (PSAs), leaflets, a web-site, the publication of gap-fill books and other publications, and holding open discussion

sessions once a month as an awareness raising forum for women

- holding training sessions for groups of professionals, students, and volunteers on diverse topics ranging from non-discrimination and women's rights to VAW, to gender equality and equal opportunities;
- monitoring, evaluating and researching the implementation of legal regulations and the realization of equity and non-discrimination rules, and researching the actual situation of women and the problems they face (since 2000; most recently preparing a [shadow report](#) for the CEDAW Committee in 2002 and a [shadow letter](#) for the UN Human Rights Committee in 2002.

*For more information visit [www.nane.hu/english/index.html](http://www.nane.hu/english/index.html)*

## Women Against Violence Europe/WAVE (partner)<sup>2</sup>

WAVE is a network of European women's non-governmental organisations working in the field of combating violence against women and children (women's refuges, counselling centres, SOS hotlines/help lines, organisations focusing on prevention and training, etc.).

Currently the network focuses specifically on violence in the family and in intimate relationships. The network sets out to promote and strengthen the human rights of women and children in general and to prevent violence against women and children in particular. We fully support the aims of the United Nations, stressing the importance of working towards ending all forms of violence against women and children in public and private life in accordance with the [Vienna Declaration](#), the Declaration on Violence against Women, the Beijing Platform for [Beijing Platform for Action](#) and all other related documents.

### *Progress to date*

The WAVE Network was founded in 1994 and launched its activities at the World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. Because of lack of funding the network could not fully develop its activities until 1997. In that year the European Commission started the [DAPHNE Initiative](#), which supports transnational projects aimed at preventing and combating violence against women and children. The WAVE Network successfully applied for funding and was able to set up the basic structure of the network, starting in November 1997. In January 1998 the first WAVE Conference took place in Vienna with 57 participants from 23 European countries. An office settled in Vienna, produces reports, a monthly newsletter about international activities and developments, information material and publishes twice a year a periodical called Fempower.

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<sup>2</sup> Source: [www.wave-network.org](http://www.wave-network.org)



Additionally a database has been established containing addresses of women's organisations and basic information on the situation in each European country.

For more information about the history of the WAVE network see "Background"

### *Structure*

The network comprises approximately 2500 women's organisations combating violence against women and children in Europe. At the regional and national level 70 Focal Points form the basis of the network. They undertake to disseminate WAVE information regularly to groups within their network, to collate information from their national network and to pass it on to the WAVE network or/and to the other Focal Points.

### *Aims of the network*

- to gather information in relation to male violence against women and children
- to exchange information on women's organisations, research, applicable laws and prevention strategies
- to influence national and European/international policies on violence
- to take common action and further feminist analysis
- to promote feminist analyses of violence against women
- to develop and promote criteria and guidelines at the European level in relation to legislation, services and prevention strategies
- to offer mutual aid (financial, training, resources)
- to enhance awareness and create a deeper understanding of male violence against women
- to strengthen the links between different regions in Europe
- to strengthen the rights of marginalised women

The office was set up on the premises of the [Austrian Women's Shelter Network](#) and acts as an information and service office for members or anybody else requiring information.

The WAVE Office team consists of four women. Their main tasks are to co-ordinate the **WAVE Network**, to manage the **European Info Centre Against Violence** and to update and attend the **database**. Principal functions contain the following: to collect and disseminate data on organisations working in the field of violence against women and children and on the applicable legal provisions, prevention programmes, campaigns and international activities in this area; to issue publications (newsletters, conference reports, national reports etc.); and to organise and co-ordinate events such as the WAVE Conference and Steering Group meetings.

The WAVE Office acts as a point of contact between women's aid bodies in Europe and seeks primarily to accelerate the flow of support and information.