European Conference

SOME STORIES ARE HARD TO TELL
Project Results and Outlook

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Awareness - raising meetings and focus groups at local level

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1. Awareness-raising meeting and focus groups in Bulgaria

BGRF conducted Awareness raising meeting and focus-group in Sofia (January 2012)

**Aims:** to present the research, good practices and to raise awareness

**Participants:** managers of social services, organisations for the elderly (NGOs, union of pensioners), human rights organisations, gender NGOs etc. Total: 30 participants
2. **(Results of the focus-groups and awareness –raising meeting)**

1. BGRF promulgated the research results, the issue of violence against elderly and the good practices among the media, Bulgarian institutions and the Alliance for protection against domestic violence.

2. Not all institutions were aware of the expertise of Bulgarian NGOs for protection against domestic violence.

3. More awareness is needed on issues related to gender-based violence in Bulgaria. Violence against elderly has strong economic aspects. The crisis provokes more severe acts of violence.

4. Legislative changes for protection of vulnerable groups are needed.
3. (Challenges and needs: Bulgaria)

- Education in schools on gender-based violence is needed
- Bulgaria to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating VAW and domestic violence
- Specific services for elderly women victims of DV to be introduced, tested and funded by the State
- The alliance of more than 10 NGOs have experience, programs and projects for this specific target group
4.  
(BGRF actions for support of elderly women within STOP v.i.e.w project January 2012-January 2013)

- BGRF elaborated methodology/program for social work with vulnerable victims of DV (including elderly)
- Agreements with the Alliance for protection against DV, police, Center for prevention in Sofia for consultation of victims of DV
- BGRF secured sustainability of STOPv.i.e.w with another project, started in December 2012 for mobile services for elderly and sick people