



LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND THE UN TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

A joint workshop with service providers and women with intellectual disabilities from custodial institutions; Belgrade, Serbia. Photo: MDRI/ Viktor Ljevar

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES



Women and girls with disabilities experience many of the same forms of violence all women and girls experience (e.g. psychological, physical, sexual and economic abuse). However, they suffer up to three times greater risk of rape, are twice as likely to be survivors of domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence and are likely to experience abuse over a longer period and with more severe injuries than women without disabilities.¹

The UN Trust Fund already supports projects to end violence against women and girls with disabilities. Its 2017 Call for Proposals will focus specifically on ending violence against women and girls with disabilities.

CENTRO REGIONAL DE DERECHOS HUMANOS Y JUSTICIA DE GÉNERO: CORPORACIÓN HUMANAS – CHILE

Title: “It happens to me, I tell, I prevent”

Public policy in Chile has focused primarily on protecting women in situations of extreme violence in the private sphere (intimate partner violence), leaving out other manifestations of violence

and spaces where it occurs. The lack of comprehensive legislation preventing violence against women and girls outside the family context places many women in vulnerable situations.

By promoting cultural change through various actions and using an empowerment and participatory approach, the project aims to undertake a thorough assessment of the situation of underserved women including immigrants, LBT, women living with HIV and with disabilities, in five communities, as well as promoting activities to increase visibility, advocacy, and capacity building. “It happens to me, I talk, I prevent” highlights the violence suffered by underrepresented women in Chile that public programmes have failed to address and prevent.

MENTAL DISABILITY RIGHTS INITIATIVE (MDRI-S) – SERBIA



Title: “Deinstitutionalize and End Violence against Women with Disabilities in Custodial Institutions”

Policies and action plans in the Republic of Serbia do not include references and measures for protection of women with disabilities in custodial institutions, with the exception of the Strategy for prevention and protection against discrimination. Given the fact that there are over **3000** women in different custodial institutions in Serbia and that they are at a higher risk of multiple forms

¹ Ortoleva S. and Lewis H., Forgotten Sisters - A Report on Violence against Women with Disabilities: An Overview of Its Nature, Scope, Causes and Consequence [2012].

of violence and abuse, it is important for Serbian policies and legislation to recognize this group of women and incorporate specific measures and support programmes for them.

The project works to improve mechanisms and measures to end violence against women with disabilities in custodial institutions and advocates for deinstitutionalization. MDRI-S has brought together **30** policy makers from government institutions and other bodies to present research, analysis and recommendations for change. It has also trained **60** service providers on violence against women with disabilities in custodial institutions. By involving policy makers and service providers, MDRI-S is ensuring that those working directly with women with mental disabilities are sensitized to have the information needed to prevent abuse from occurring, and encourages policy makers to become advocates for deinstitutionalization.

THE LEONARD CHESHIRE DISABILITY ZIMBABWE TRUST – ZIMBABWE



**Title: “Access to
Justice of Girls
and Women with
Disabilities”**

The Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe Trust is implementing a project in eight districts in Zimbabwe to improve access to justice for girls and women with disabilities who experience gender-based violence.

During 2016, **141** survivors were given practical assistance to access services, including **95** survivors with mental disabilities, **29** survivors who have hearing or speech impairments, three survivors with physical disabilities and two blind or visually impaired survivors. Most people are referred to the project by the police and courts either requesting disability expert services or logistical support.

In 2016, workshops/sessions were held with judicial officials, police officers, health personnel and women’s and children’s organizations to sensitize them on how different disabilities put girls and women at higher risk of gender-based violence. The workshops also highlighted legal, attitudinal, cost and environmental barriers that hinder survivors with disabilities from accessing services. As a result of these workshops, there have been notable changes in attitudes and skills among justice actors in Zimbabwe. For example, **32** Victim Family Unit officers who were trained on sign language now have basic skills in communicating with Deaf or hearing and speech impaired people. The feedback from survivors with disabilities, caregivers and stakeholders confirms that the project has brought the issues of violence against girls and women with disabilities to the public’s attention and greatly empowered survivors to stand up for themselves.

NOTE: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on the maps in this fact sheet do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND SERIES

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women supports projects that strive to protect the human rights of women and girls to live a life free of violence. These projects are reaching out to communities and individuals around the world, including the most underserved women and girls, who are often at an increased risk of violence not only because of their gender, but also because of their ethnicity, sexual orientation or disability. Working under the umbrella of the UN 2030 agenda, the UN Trust Fund contributes to its aim to leave no one behind. This factsheet is one in a series which showcase efforts and results of the UN Trust Fund’s grantees in local and national contexts.

THE UN TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (UN TRUST FUND)

The UN Trust Fund, created in 1996 by the UN General Assembly and managed by UN Women on behalf of the UN system, is the only global grant-making mechanism dedicated exclusively to addressing all forms of violence against women and girls. To date, the UN Trust Fund has supported 462 initiatives in 139 countries and territories with grants totalling US\$129 million. Its current portfolio consists of 106 grants in 77 countries and territories totalling US\$54 million.



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