



Annual report

2020



Sigurna
Ženska
Kuća

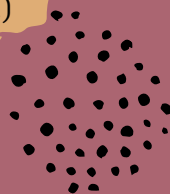
In 2020, 650 persons with experience of domestic violence or violence against women turned to the Women's Safe House for help.



After the initial consultation with women, in accordance with their needs, they were provided with help and support. In **2020**, initial counseling was provided **1262 times**, as follows: initial counseling by phone / online **979 times** and by talking in the office **283 times**. In practice, it often happens that a person with experience of violence repeatedly requests initial counseling - either by phone, social networks or by coming to the office.

Legal aid - a total of **685 times**, of which:

- **representation of parties before courts** - **151**
- **legal advices** - **433**
- **legal submissions** - **101** (lawsuits, interim measures, motions for enforcement, response to lawsuits, criminal charges ...)



Number of persons accommodated in the shelter (total): 82

- Number of women accommodated in the shelter: 33
- Number of children accommodated in the shelter: 49

In 2020, the *Women's Safe House* in total provided **2,895 services** to women and children with experience of violence.

Psychosocial help and support –

174

Police reports
were in
218 cases.

*Mediation in contact
with institutions-*

223

*Confidential person
(escorting the client in
proceedings before
institutions) -*

137

In the shelter, in 2020, 36 work-occupation workshops for women with experience of violence and 49 creative-educational workshops for children were held. 64 psychological workshops were held with the persons accommodated in shelter, as follows: 24 for women and 40 for children. Furthermore, 21 self-help groups and 8 yoga workshops were held. Depending on the epidemiological situation, the mentioned workshops were held in direct contact or through an online platform.

Projects:

Osvijetlimo mrak seksualnog nasilja



Conference "LIGHT UP, BELIEVE, ACT"

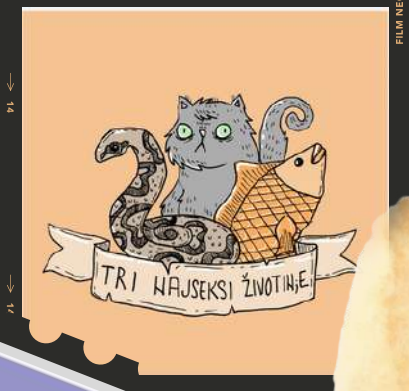
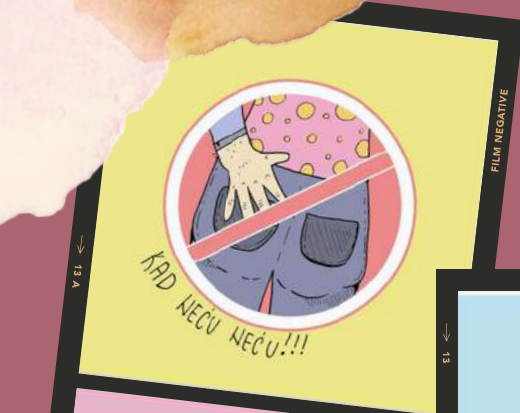
Closing conference of the project "Naming and shaming sexual violence against women and children in Montenegro".

For the first time in Montenegro, a comprehensive study on sexual violence was conducted, and for the first time, an international conference on this topic was organized. The aim of the conference was to draw public attention to the fact that sexual violence exists in Montenegro, to point out the current situation, and to make constructive proposals for a better understanding of sexual violence and a more efficient response of all actors in the process of providing assistance and support.

The conference presented the results of the "Study on Sexual Violence against Women and Children in Montenegro", which contains an analysis of the level of harmonization of legislation, national policies and strategies in Montenegro with European standards, as well as an analysis of the situation in practice.

The conference was attended by representatives of state institutions as well as representatives of the non-governmental sector from the region. Conference "LIGHT UP. BELIEVE. ACT." was organized with partner organizations SOS Telefon Nikšić and NGO Prima within the project "Naming and shaming sexual violence against women and children in Montenegro" funded by the European Union and co-financed by the Ministry of Public Administration.

Stickers and billboards aimed to break stereotypes when it comes to sexual violence.



Naming and shaming sexual violence against women and children in Montenegro

Umjetnost je ženskog
roda

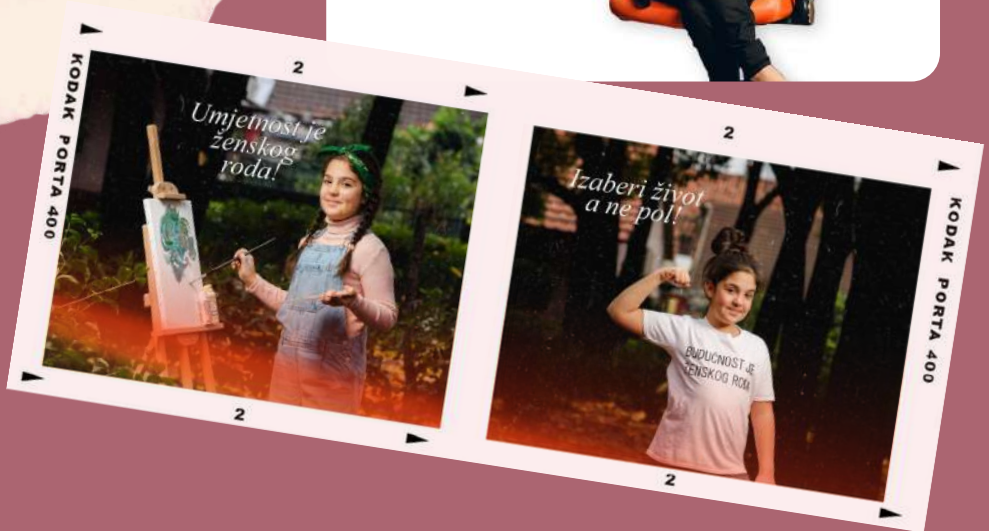


The aim of the project "Umjetnost je ženskog roda" was to contribute to the **elimination of gender stereotypes among citizens through art forms**, which was also the beginning of shaping the culture in Montenegro that destroys patriarchal ideology and the unequal position of women. The project was supported by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights.



Umjetnost je ženskog
roda

Politika je
ženskog
roda!



Billboards were set up in 4 Montenegrin cities with messages aimed at contributing to breaking down gender stereotypes and prejudices, which are often the reason for depriving women of their right to life and the right to equality.

The aim was to send a clear message that women must not be excluded, belittled, discriminated against, humiliated and victims of violence, just because they are women.

Students of the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Montenegro, through various art forms, drew attention to the position of women, inequality of women and men and in an interesting way expressed their disagreement with all the stereotypes that rule Montenegro. The traveling exhibition visited Podgorica, Bijelo Polje, Kotor, Nikšić and at the end the same exhibition was held in Cetinje, where three cash prizes were awarded to students. *At the Faculty of Fine Arts of the University of Montenegro, three awards were given to Sara Petrović, Jovana Mrvaljević and Ivana Radulović.*

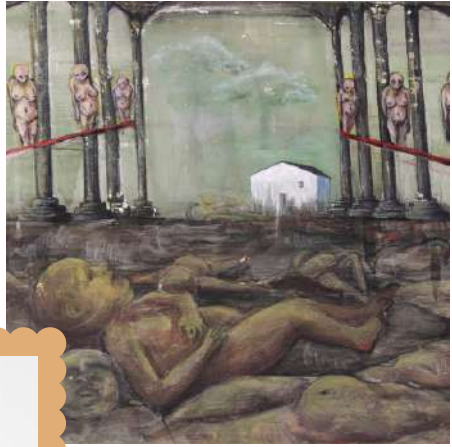
Also, leaflets with works of art created on this occasion were distributed via info corners.



*Umjetnost je
ženskog roda*



Award-winning works
of art:



*For a life without violence with
the help of online platforms*



In order for women with experience of violence to receive the necessary support and assistance, the Women's Safe House team, with the support of the US Embassy in Montenegro, organizes online counseling for women with experience of violence and provides psychosocial, legal assistance, as well as yoga workshops and self-help groups. The realization of the project is organized from September 2020 to the end of May 2021.

Although our organization has an **SOS line (069 / 013-321)** that is available 24/7 through which women with experience of violence contact us daily, face-to-face contact is necessary to provide comprehensive support to women who have experienced some form of violence. Women with experience of violence were prevented from coming to our office due to the measures taken during the pandemic and thus encountered a barrier that probably discouraged some of them from leaving the violent community and turning to us for help. In this regard, it was necessary to enable women with experience of violence to receive our full help and support from a distance, ie through video contact mechanisms that are available through online platforms.



*For a life without violence with
the help of online platforms*



Legal aid and support

From the beginning of the project implementation at the beginning of September 2020 until the beginning of 2021, a total of **109 women** contacted us for help and support through the online platform. That is, 30 women contacted us for psychosocial help and support, 17 women participated in self-help groups, 40 women contacted us through an online platform for some kind of legal aid, while a total of 22 women participated in online yoga workshops.

After contact by phone, we agree with the woman which way of video contact is easiest for her, ie whether we will hear each other via Viber, Skype, Zoom, Messenger. If a woman does not cope best with these methods of communication, we will give her precise instructions. Our experience so far shows that women manage very easily when we explain them precisely and so far we have not had any technical problems for this type of help.



Fight against domestic violence during the Covid-19 pandemic

Women's Safe House, together with partner organizations Center for Roma Initiatives, Sos Ulcinj - Ulqinj, NGO "Kseno" Herceg Novi, NGO IKRE Rozaje, Montenegrin Women's Lobby, Sos Niksic is implementing the project "Fight against domestic violence during the pandemic COVID 19" .

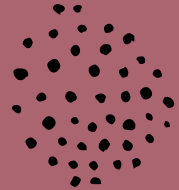
In this way, we have provided additional accommodation capacity for **24 persons** so far in apartments in Ulcinj, Niksic and Podgorica, which has enabled us to successfully respond to the increased number of requests for accommodation of women and children who have survived violence. 6 roadmaps were made to establish support for women with experience of violence for five different municipalities. Also, in 2020, we started conducting meetings with representatives of centers for social work to exchange experiences.

What is even more important for this project are the forums with interested citizens on the topic of the phenomenon of gender-based violence.

- The service of a confidential person has been provided **147 times** in different municipalities in Montenegro



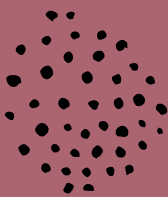
Fight against domestic violence during the Covid-19 pandemic



- The project is implemented with the financial assistance of the European Union, through the project "Stopping Violence against Women in the Western Balkans and Turkey: Law Enforcement, Changing Attitudes", implemented by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Montenegro and the United Nations Empowerment Agency women and gender equality (UN WOMEN).

Donations:

In 2020, thanks to donors from LDS Charities, the German Embassy in Podgorica, IPOM, the Islamic Community and the NGO Legal Center, we distributed aid packages with basic foodstuffs and vouchers worth 50 euros for supermarket purchases to women with violence. Then we handed out candy packets to the children for the New Year holidays. What is very significant is that we received a valuable donation to set up a high fence around the shelter.



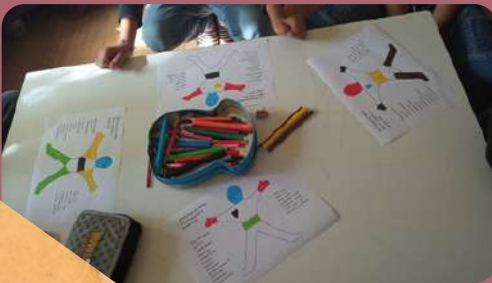
Occupational workshops with women and children accommodated in the Women's Safe House shelter, conducted through the project "Protection from Violence against Women and Domestic Violence" funded by the Ministry of Finance and Social Welfare.



Workshops
in shelter:

Workshops in shelter:

Occupational therapies were done with women, while therapeutic-educational workshops were done with children. Workshops with children included working with educational material, drawing and interpreting drawings, techniques for recognizing and naming emotions, as well as working according to educational programs.



Membership:



- Our organization is a member of the coordinating committee for the coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence covered by the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention)

- WSH employee Jovana Hajduković is a member of the working group of the National Council for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention



- Since 2020, we are in the **WAVE** network (Women against violence Europe)
- Our employee Zvezdana Radulović is **WAVE** Youth Ambassador Montenegro



- A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed with the Secretariat for Labor and Social Welfare, for 5 years. This created the conditions for us to apply to the OSCE for the construction of a prefabricated house that will be intended for women and children with special needs as additional accommodation capacity, and which will be completed in 2021.



.....
The prefabricated house which construction started in 2020 will increase the accommodation capacity by 5 places.
.....

- A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed with the Faculty of Political Sciences - University of Montenegro, thanks to which we have been conducting internships for students of social policy and social work for the last 3 years.

Television appearances:



Zoom meetings:



- Executive Director Mira Saveljić took part in a meeting of civil society organizations with the newly appointed Head of the **UNICEF** Office, Mr. Juan Santander.

Topics of common interest were discussed with reference to the involvement of civil society organizations in providing support to children and adolescents in the context of the COVID19 pandemic and their psychosocial development as well as the prevention of violence against women.

- On the occasion of Human Rights Week, Jovana and Ljiljana participated in a lecture marking 16 days of activism against violence against women and International Human Rights Day. The lecture was attended by members of the Montenegrin Association of Political Science Students (**MAPSS**).

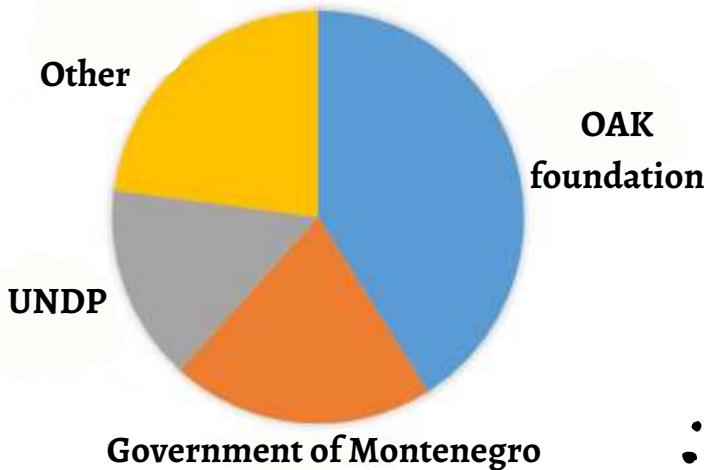


- Online lecture with students of the Faculty of Fine Arts - Cetinje, University of Montenegro; on the topic of gender stereotypes and prejudices, as part of the project "Art is female".



Sources of funding:

In 2020, the total budget of the Women's Safe House was
EUR 214,106.00.



Other: US Embassy, German Embassy, LDS Charities, OSCE, UAE Embassy, Sportina Delta city, Islamic Community

Thank you!



- Women's Safe House team