



# Change

Empowerment & Restoration



## How Covid-19 is affecting domestic and gender based violence

### C4C Website & Social Media Channels

From November our project has its own website at [www.achance4change.eu](http://www.achance4change.eu) Visit the site to get updates of what is being done with C4C.

#chance4change\_KA205  
@chance4change.KA205



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0QX008WHiJB14zP3a4E8Zw>



<https://www.facebook.com/chance4change.KA205/>

### Do the measures to #StayHome and to #StaySafe include everyone?

In times of crisis such as an outbreak, women and girls may be at higher risk of intimate partner violence and other forms of domestic violence due to increased tensions in the household. As systems that protect women and girls, including community structures, may weaken or break down, specific measures should be implemented to protect women and girls from the risk of intimate partner violence with the changing dynamics of risk imposed by COVID-19.

Gender based violence referral pathways must be updated to reflect changes in available care facilities, while key communities and service providers

must be informed about those updated pathways.

Experiences have demonstrated that where women are primarily responsible for procuring and cooking food for the family, increasing food insecurity as a result of the crises may place them at heightened risk, for example, of intimate partner and other forms of domestic violence due to heightened tensions in the household. Other forms of GBV are also exacerbated in crisis contexts.

For example, the economic impacts of the 2013-2016 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, placed women and children at greater risk of exploitation and sexual



## The Partnership



# Increase in gender-based violence - News from partners

violence. In addition, life-saving care and support to GBV survivors (i.e. clinical management of rape and mental health and psycho-social support) may be disrupted in one-stop crisis centers in tertiary level hospitals when health service providers are overburdened and preoccupied with handling COVID-19 cases.



Among the many side effects produced by the extraordinary situation observed at the spread of the Covid-19 there is one that affects violence against women. In the presence of restrictions that prohibit going out with the exception of a few explicitly indicated cases, women who live with a violent partner and who suffer actions are found in a locked cage. The anti-violence centers report a drop in contacts for help. In this period, abused women are more controlled, they are not free to telephone and in the face of

the danger of contagion many choose to endure.

The United Nations special rapporteur on human rights, Agnes Callamard, who had reflected on the measures imposed by authorities around the world to combat the spread of coronavirus, had also raised the alarm since the beginning of the epidemic. "Authorities known or known that isolation measures will also cause victims among women and children," Callamard wrote on Twitter, arguing for the need to develop "an emergency plan" that can protect people at risk. , which are separated from women and children In Italy, measures to prevent contagion and manage the emergency have worsened with the worsening epidemic that has hit the nation hard. The women's shelters make it known that they remain open and that they are always contactable in case of help and need if, despite a series of precautions, the services must work. The emergency is compounded by the structural weakness of the measures aimed at financing the existing Centers, the shortage of individual safety devices including masks.



Equal Opportunities Minister Elena Bonetti has announced an extraordinary fund of another 30 million already available for the emergency. Bonetti has also announced the allocation of resources dedicated to the emergency and the Minister of the Interior Luciana Morgese is working to equip the territories with additional housing.

Senator Valeria Valente, president of the commission of inquiry on femicide, has launched an appeal to all women. "Complaints are dwindling these hours, which means that not only is staying at home with your persecutor dangerous but it can become more difficult, if not impossible, to ask for help. This is why I say: do not be discouraged, you can also try via chat and with the app, the operators and the police are there" Save the children has also raised the alarm. "Isolation, forced coexistence and socio-economic instability in this period of coronavirus emergency - they explain - can entail the risk of greater exposure to domestic and assisted violence for women and their sons and daughters"; given the sharing prolonged spaces between the victims and those who mistreat them. The possibilities for asking for help were also reduced, which were often linked to the absence of the partner from the home or to the victims' exits, now reduced, if not canceled.

A group of organizations, including Agevolando, Artemisia, Cismai, Coordinamento nazionale comunità per minori, Arci Ragazzi, Coordinamento nazionale comunità di accoglienza, Terra dei piccoli, and many others, calls for the necessary to be implemented to protect the situations of strong vulnerability that many children and kids are living right now, which are likely to remain invisible: immediate local task forces and protective measures are needed. In addition, an online petition that individuals and organizations will be able to sign will also be activated in the next few days. As reported by Vita, an Italian magazine entirely dedicated to associations and social cooperation, there are about



450,000 minors in Italy in charge of social services, of whom 91,000 are due to mistreatment. Faced with this reality, organizations plus some private citizens have written an open letter

and even more of the relational aspects, making these boys and girls feel that they continue to be thought of, that there is a reference adult. sensitize the law enforcement agencies

## People are using code words at pharmacies to escape domestic violence during lockdown

to the President of the Council of Ministers to ask for "urgent measures to meet the needs of protection and to ensure the rights of all children and young people, placing conditions in social, scholastic, educational, training and other services to be able to intervene - with appropriate tools and with the involvement of the juvenile judiciary where necessary - in all the risk situations listed above and in all those related to the rights of minors (protection, education, play, sociability, participation, adequate information, etc.)". In the coming days, an online petition will also be activated, which individuals and organizations can sign. The organizations ask for the following measures to be implemented: to set up local task forces between schools, juvenile judicial authorities, social, health and third sector services create groups of psychological and pedagogic support for teachers who, having closed schools, who have to deal with distance learning on the computer,

to promptly respond to the calls for help they may receive with respect to situations of family violence

The youth workers of the Asad social cooperative are also engaged in home education services and continue to work with minors, when possible, by going home and giving young people appointments on the main video-marketing platforms. Regards the work of the operators involved in residential services, «it is considered necessary to provide health support and to intervene in the most delicate situations (foster care, family homes, educational communities, parent-child communities, anti-violence centers, shelters) towards children, boys and women accepted, to deal with the issues of this trauma so pervasive that we are experiencing, also through psychological and pedagogical advice. Finally, «measures to safeguard third sector entities, such as layoffs and other forms of economic support, need to



## Chance 4 Change Updates:

be connected. The social and socio-health sector is currently guaranteeing territorial stability and social mediation through the continuation of activities, the risk is to collapse the entire public and private social system that manages the essential services for the protection of children and families in our country ».



The team of researchers at University of Huelva conducted a Focus Group on March 5th as part of the project A Chance for Change. Seven youth workers participated, and topics of Media Literacy, Restorative Justice and Gender Based Violence in formal and informal education contexts were discussed. The group provided great insights about their experiences as youth workers today, faced with a changing environment of converging social media and technology with

behavior and family issues that are difficult to manage in many of these contexts. The competences necessary for youth workers to effectively approach these issues were also covered.



In March we announced the launch of the Surveys and the Focus Groups whose completion will help to shape up the Chance Competences Framework and Self Assessment tool, whose aim is offering comprehensive guidance to organisations wishing to create tailored training programmes for youth workers in the domain of GBV prevention within Restorative Justice approach and Media Literacy. SDA, the UK associate of GIDE, put at disposal of Chance its SCROLL (<https://www.sda-ltd.com/scroll>)

a professional web-based survey platform used in Chance for building and delivery of the surveys directed to youth workers.

The SCROLL tool offers the advantages of an extreme flexibility in the building of the questionnaire but, overall, it guarantees data protection. SCROLL's intuitive features make survey design very accessible and offer Multiple views of survey data from pre-set reports to complete flexibility in describing variables and granularity. SCROLL allows to create benchmark reports comparing data across different levels of aggregation.

Insofar around 40 youth workers have completed the survey in Italy and UK whereas the Spain survey has not started yet, due Covid19-caused delays.



## A Chance for Change: Empowerment & Restoration

[www.achance4change.eu](http://www.achance4change.eu)

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