



Зедно против семејното насилство
Strengthening National Capacities to Prevent Domestic Violence

PRESS RELEASE

“The Future Today” appeals for new, happier beginnings

Skopje, 7 February 2012-Gjulfidan, Rabija, Fatima, and some other fifty Roma women from the Gazi Baba Municipality in Skopje could not hide their feelings while watching the new documentary on domestic violence, “The Future Today”. “It portrays our reality” they say in a chorus.

Domestic violence is a crime that often remains hidden within the walls of one’s home. “Even if we face domestic violence, we wouldn’t speak about it”, says Suzana, one of the participants. “The perpetrator might be punished, sent to jail, but what will happen when he comes out? Where will I go then?” This is only one of the fears and questions women victims of violence face daily.

Many of these issues were raised and explained during a roundtable organised by the United Nations as part of their Programme to Combat Domestic Violence. What is domestic violence? How it affects family life? What should be done? What mechanisms are there to help the victims?

“There is no excuse for domestic violence. Everybody deserves to live a decent life free of violence”, said Dusko Minovski, an Advisor of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. “Our country has established a system to help victims of domestic violence”.

During the roundtables, Roma women learned about the economic empowerment programmes for women victims of violence implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). These programmes help victims get a job, open and run their own business or obtain new professional qualifications, which will enable them to live a more independent and happier life.

To raise awareness on domestic violence and bring the economic empowerment programmes closer to women in the local communities, UNDP, in cooperation with Skopje Film Studio and one of the most famous movie directors in the country, Igor Ivanov-Izi, shot the documentary “The Future Today”. The documentary is intended primarily for Roma women, who, in the past have had a very low participation in the economic empowerment programmes.

Roundtable discussions will also be organised in Roma communities in Skopje, Prilep, Kumanovo, Bitola, Tetovo, Gostivar and Stip, through March 2012 after which the documentary will be promoted on the local and national TV stations.

The United Nations Programme “Strengthening National Capacities to Prevent Domestic Violence” (2008-2012) is supporting the Government’s efforts so that victims of domestic violence will be able to access better support services and enable them to make the changes they need to prevent becoming victims again. The Programme contributes to national policy, victims’ support, and public awareness. It is implemented by UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA and WHO with financial support from the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women.

For more info, please contact the UN Communications Officer Jelena Janevska, at jelena.janevska@undp.org, 3249 571, www.un.org.mk.

