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WORKSHOP WITH MEN IRELAND

IMPRINT

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Project workstream 2



SUNIA GEEL – Prevent and combat violence
against children, young people and women and to
protect victims and groups at risk

For further informations please visit:
www.suniageel.eu

PROJECT- COORDINATOR

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Series of Community Workshops

Raising Awareness about Domestic Violence

Working with Men



EXCHANGE HOUSE
National Travellers Service

Overall Objectives

Sunia Geel derives from the Irish Traveller language, Cant. It translates "take care of yourself", and is viewed as an appropriate name for what the project aims to achieve - families being valued and supported.

The goal of the "**Sunia Geel Domestic Violence Project**" is to prevent and reduce the extent and impact of domestic violence within marginalized communities by generating education, community awareness and providing support to Women, Children and Young People. This will promote positive attitudes, and behavioural changes within disadvantaged Communities. It will also expand knowledge of effective domestic violence interventions with these minority groups amongst service providers. This knowledge will be disseminated to other service providers through training and resource materials provided by **The Sunia Geel Domestic Violence Project**. The partners of Sunia Geel have identified specific target groups. These include; Irish Travellers, Sinti and Roma families, and Muslim migrants in Europe. The objectives of the project are:

1. To increase the knowledge base and skills of service providers in addressing the needs of marginalized, minority groups experiencing domestic violence. This objective acknowledges that Domestic Violence has not been effectively addressed by service providers in the past
2. To generate domestic violence community awareness and address domestic violence from within these communities
3. To support the victims of domestic violence from disadvantaged and marginalized communities through the use of therapeutic interventions. The project aims to empower women, children and young people to make informed decisions
4. To develop knowledge and a set of generalizable insights for use in addressing domestic violence within marginalized communities. The strategic approach developed will be of assistance in other cultural contexts

Objectives of the Workshops

The series of Workshops are intended for male participants from the Travelling Community.

The focus is on raising awareness and self-awareness, by providing information and an opportunity to discuss the issues surrounding domestic violence in the Travelling Community.

By understanding contributing factors and development of domestic violence it is hoped that male Travellers will better understand their role within the family, to reflect upon the function of their position within the family and to learn how to find ways to avoid, address and overcome domestic violence. The role of culture – values, traditions and everyday structures – will underpin the information provided.

Format of the Workshops

There are six Workshops planned.

Each Workshop has a duration of 1 – 2 hours (depending on numbers, and time allocated to discussion)

These address the following topics:

- Workshop 1 - Definitions of Domestic Violence
- Workshop 2 - The various forms of Domestic Violence
- Workshop 3 - The impact of Domestic Violence
- Workshop 4 – Men’s role within the family – values and traditions
- Workshop 5 – Domestic Violence and the Legal System
- Workshop 6 - Support Services

Required equipment

Flipchart Flipchart pens
Paper Pens
Pins
Information material
USB stick
DVDs DVD player
Computer/Laptop
Name tags
Sign in Sheet / Evaluation sheets

The Workshops are designed to be cognisant of varying levels of literacy skills.

Workshop 1

Introduction to Domestic Violence

Learning Objectives:

Participants will:

- Be introduced to purpose of Workshop series
- Learn a definition of Domestic Violence

Facilitator Tasks:

- Introduce purpose of series of Workshops
- Introduce Workshop 1
- Introduce self
- Allow for participants to introduce themselves
- Ice-breaker exercise
- Explain format of Workshop, and housekeeping rules
- Allow time for any questions

Content

Domestic Violence (DV) is a whole pattern of actions that one person uses to dominate and control another person through physical and sexual violence, and the ongoing threat of violence.

Activity:

Ask participants what comes to mind when they hear the term domestic violence.

Write the themes of the discussion up on the flipchart

Who Commits DV?

Any person who uses physical violence and the threat of violence to control or limit the actions of his or her partner.

A victim of domestic violence is any person who is in a relationship with this person.

DV happens in every neighbourhood, in every social class, and in every religious, racial and ethnic group. It can happen to our friends, grandparents, neighbours and ourselves.

The majority (90%) of reported domestic violence assaults are committed by men against women. Some women assault their male partners, but in many of these cases, they are acting in self-defence.

Domestic violence also occurs in gay and lesbian relationships.

Domestic violence may also occur across generations

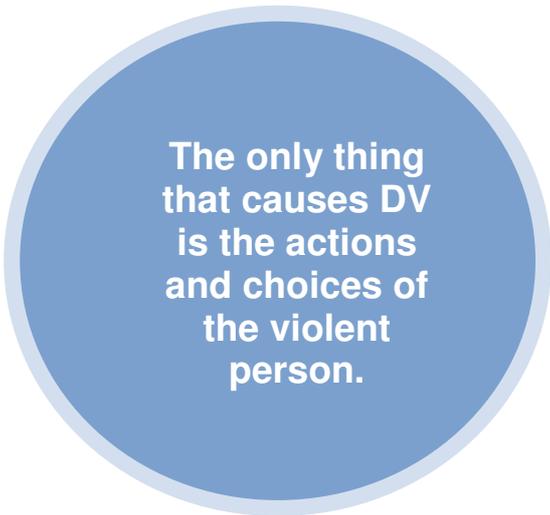
Why Are People Violent to Their Partners?

People are violent to their partners because at some time in their lives, they have learned that being violent is the way to make your partner and children act the way you want them to. They believe that they have the right to be violent at home.

Men who batter are often supported in their violence by social norms that say that the man has to do whatever it takes to "be in charge," or "wear the pants." They may also be supported by family members, friends or others who choose to ignore the violence when they hear about it.

Domestic Violence is **not** caused by:

- Stress
- Alcohol or drugs
- Problems in communication
- Something the victim did
- Anger
- Jealousy
- Insecurity



The only thing
that causes DV
is the actions
and choices of
the violent
person.

Activity:

Ask participants one thing they will remember from Workshop

Write all points up on flipchart

Workshop 2

The forms of Domestic Violence

Learning Objectives:

Participants will:

- Increase their understanding of various forms of domestic violence
- Be introduced to 'Wheel of Violence'

Facilitator Tasks:

- Introduce Workshop 2
- Recap Workshop 1
- Explain format of Workshop, and housekeeping rules
- Allow time for any questions

Activity:

Ask participants to discuss in small groups (3/4 depending on numbers), what they think domestic violence includes.

In large group put all points discussed up on flipchart

Content:

The Wheel of Violence

(could show this as handout or ppt slide)

Domestic violence is described as a behavioural pattern which a perpetrator uses to control the partner living in an intimate relationship with him; hence, the focus on "power" and "control". A perpetrator systematically uses threats, fear and coercion against the partner. The behaviour patterns are the hubs of the wheel. The violence pattern keeps everything together. Both victims and perpetrators are protagonists.

The Wheel of Violence – elements

Physical violence

Pushing, hitting, kicking, choking, restraining, tying up, burning, inflicting injuries, throwing objects at her, denying food...

Sexualised violence

Rape, forcing her to perform sexual activities against her will, attacking her sexually, treats her as a sex object...

Economic violence

Prohibition or coercion to work, making her beg for money, assigning pocket money to her, taking her money away, refusing insight and access to the family's income, controlling her expenses...

Use of children

Imposing feelings of guilt on the woman in relation to the children, using children as intermediaries, taking advantage of the visiting rights in order to bother her, threatening to take away the children from her...

Control/Isolation

Controlling her doings, with whom she speaks, where she goes, whom she meets, threatening to limit her social contacts, extreme jealousy as a justification of behavioural patterns ...

Psychological violence

Belittling her, undermining her self-confidence, declaring her mad, insulting, humiliating her, doubting her mind, implanting feelings of guilt ...

Claims to male power

Treating her like a servant, making decisions without or for her, behaving like a master at home, determining the role of man and woman

Intimidation/ threatening behaviour

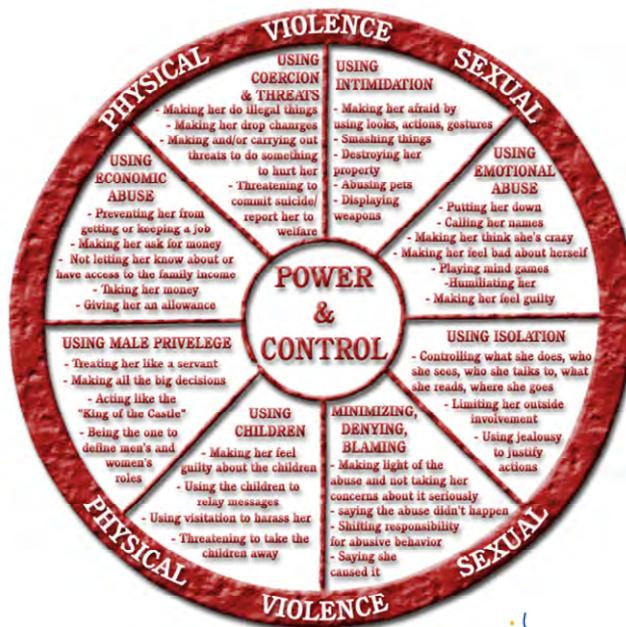
Frightening her with glances, actions or gestures, destroying objects, mistreating pets, destructing her property, displaying weapons....

Threat/ coercion/ compulsion

Threatening to finish her off and doing something to injure her, threatening with suicide, threatening to leave her, reporting her to the social welfare office, forcing her to commit illegal actions ...

Minimisation/ denial/ shift of guilt

Playing down or denying abuse, blaming her or others for using violence ...



eaphne with financial support from the Daphne III Programme of the European Union

Activity:

Discussion of whether participants agree the above are forms of violence

Workshop 3

The Impact of Domestic Violence

Learning Objectives:

Participants will:

- Increase their understanding of the impact of domestic violence

Facilitator Tasks:

- Introduce Workshop 3
- Recap Workshop 2
- Explain format of Workshop, and housekeeping rules
- Allow time for any questions

Activity:

Ask participants to form in small groups (3/4 depending on numbers),

Each group is allocated one of the following:

- Impact on Children
- Impact on Women
- Impact on Men (perpetrators)
- Impact on Family as a whole
- Impact on wider community

Ask each group to discuss and come up with a list of what they think the impact might include

In large group put all points discussed up on flipchart

Activity:

Show the DVD: 'Speak Up, Be Heard'

Discussion in group on participants' thoughts on DVD

Workshop 4

Men's role within the family – values and traditions

Learning Objectives:

Participants will:

- Discuss their own attitudes towards domestic violence
- Increase their understanding of the role their culture and tradition plays in this understanding

Facilitator Tasks:

- Introduce Workshop 4
- Explain format of Workshop, and housekeeping rules
- Allow time for any questions

Content:

Culture is how people – communities of people – create and organize their life.

Cultures are always changing, mixing, and influencing each other. They are not fixed entities.

Each culture is a product of a long historic process and continuous influences. Culture is actually not a thing but something people do and experience.

Activity:

Discussion within the large group of aspects of the Traveller culture.

Facilitator to put relevant points up on flip chart

Start with positive aspects e.g.

Role/importance of family

Family traditions

Respect / belonging

What are the beliefs about gender / power / violence?

Is it acceptable?

Is it changing? Is there room for change? How will it change?

Content:

If violence within the family is kept secret, tolerated and unpunished, children will learn right from the start: violence wins! This fact has serious consequences on the individual her/himself, but also on society as a whole.

Experiences of violence in childhood increase the probability many times over to later become a perpetrator or victim of violence yourself. When children experience violence within their family, they get to know violence as element of a relationship. This experience shapes their entire life and their idea of a partnership. Children from families in which domestic violence reigns therefore tend to solve their arguments more often in an aggressive manner, since they were unable to learn coping with conflict in a constructive, peaceful way within their own families.

Workshop 5

Domestic Violence and the Legal System

Learning Objectives:

Participants will:

- Have increased understanding of the legal consequences of domestic violence
- Have an opportunity to discuss same

Facilitator Tasks:

- Introduce Workshop 5
- Explain format of Workshop, and housekeeping rules
- Allow time for any questions



Content

Legislation in Ireland

In Ireland the crime of domestic violence is legislated by two main acts;

- Domestic Violence Act, 1996
- Domestic Violence (Amendment) Act, 2002.

There are four kinds of protection available in this legislation namely; Safety Order, Barring Order, Protection Order and Interim Barring Order.

Safety Order:

A safety order prohibits the person against whom the order is made (the respondent) from engaging in violence or threats of violence. It does not oblige that person to leave the family home. If the person does not normally live in the family home, it prohibits them from watching or being in the vicinity of where the person applying for the order (the applicant) and dependent children live. A safety order can be made for up to five years.

Barring Order:

This requires a person against whom the order is made, to leave and stay away from the place of residence of the person applying for the order and/or the dependent children. It may also include terms prohibiting the respondent from using or threatening to use violence. The District Court can make a barring order for three years and this can be reviewed. A Barring Order can be sought if the couple has lived together for six months during a nine month period. Once a summons has been issued for a safety order or a barring order the applicant can apply for a protection order or an interim barring order while waiting for the application to be heard in court.

Protection Order:

This is a temporary safety order. It gives protection to the applicant until the court decides on a safety or barring order application. It is intended to last until the case is heard and a decision made. It does not oblige the respondent to leave the family home.

Interim Barring Order:

This is a temporary barring order. It is intended to last until the barring order application is heard in court and a decision made. Under the Domestic Violence Act, 2002 a full court hearing must take place within eight working days of the granting of an interim barring order. The Court must be of the opinion that there are reasonable grounds for believing that there is an immediate risk of significant harm to the applicant or any dependent person if the order is not made immediately and the granting of a protection order would not be sufficient to protect the applicant or any dependent person.

An applicant can apply *ex parte* (without notice to the respondent) for a protection order or an interim barring order. The order takes effect once the respondent is notified; oral communication is deemed sufficient.

What happens if an order is breached? If an order is contravened the respondent can be arrested without warrant and subject to a fine or a term of imprisonment.

Where to apply for an order? The Family Law Centre, Dolphin House, Essex Street, Dublin 2.

There is a walk-in service available from 09:30a.m.–12:30p.m. and 14:00p.m.– 16:30p.m. Check www.courts.ie for court services within the local area.

Limitations of the Legislation

Currently under the Domestic Violence Act 1996 unmarried cohabitants need to meet strict eligibility criteria as follows:

- To apply for a Safety Order, a cohabitant must have lived with the other person for 6 (in aggregate) out of the previous 12 months.
- To apply for a Barring Order, a cohabitant must have lived with the other person for 6 out of the previous 9 months.

This means that many cohabitants and former cohabitants who cannot meet these criteria remain unprotected. Voluntary Services regularly work with women who cannot avail of protection under the Act because they cannot satisfy the eligibility criteria. Some current cohabitants may not have been living together long enough, or the period of cohabitation was interrupted, for example because the violent partner has spent time in prison or been out of the country. Women may hope that separating from a violent partner will end the violence and when they realise that this is not the case and that the abuse continues, it is too late to apply for protection against a former cohabitant partner.

In many cases, former cohabitants are not eligible because the very short window of opportunity to apply after separation has passed before they are willing or able to apply. This includes cases where the ex-partner was due to face criminal charges of assault for a serious attack he had made against the woman or their child, cases where the woman cannot satisfy the cohabitation requirement because her partner has been in prison and cases where the woman is still harassed, abused and put in fear years after the ending of the relationship.

Research has proven that often separation does not end the violence and sometimes it actually escalates it. In 2008, 10% of callers to the Women's Aid Helpline disclosed that they were being abused by former partners to whom they were not married. It is therefore essential that cohabitants and former cohabitants can access protection without time limitations.

The Act also does not offer any protection to parties with a child in common but not residing together. This is very worrying as where there is a child in common there is often continued contact between the parents and with this contact the opportunity to continue the abuse.

Parties in a dating relationship are also not protected. Since the Act was passed, a number of groups including Women's Aid, the Law Society of Ireland, the Law Reform Commission, the Government Task Force on Violence against Women and Amnesty Ireland, have called for the Act to be amended in order to address these issues.

Activity:

Discussion in large group of content

Personal experience

Beliefs, attitudes to legal system

Workshop 6

Support Services

Learning Objectives:

Participants will:

- Be provided with information about support services in area of Domestic Violence
- Evaluate overall experience of Workshop series

Facilitator Tasks:

- Introduce Workshop 6
- Explain format of Workshop, and housekeeping rules
- Allow time for any questions
- Complete evaluation of Workshop series

Content

The Spiral of Violence

According to the 'Circle of Violence' the "Spiral of the Violence" can demonstrate the development of violence within a family and which behaviour patterns are exhibited by the affected people (victim and perpetrator alike) by using a time grid.

Supporting Family Members?

Supporting friends?

Addressing perpetrators?

Self?

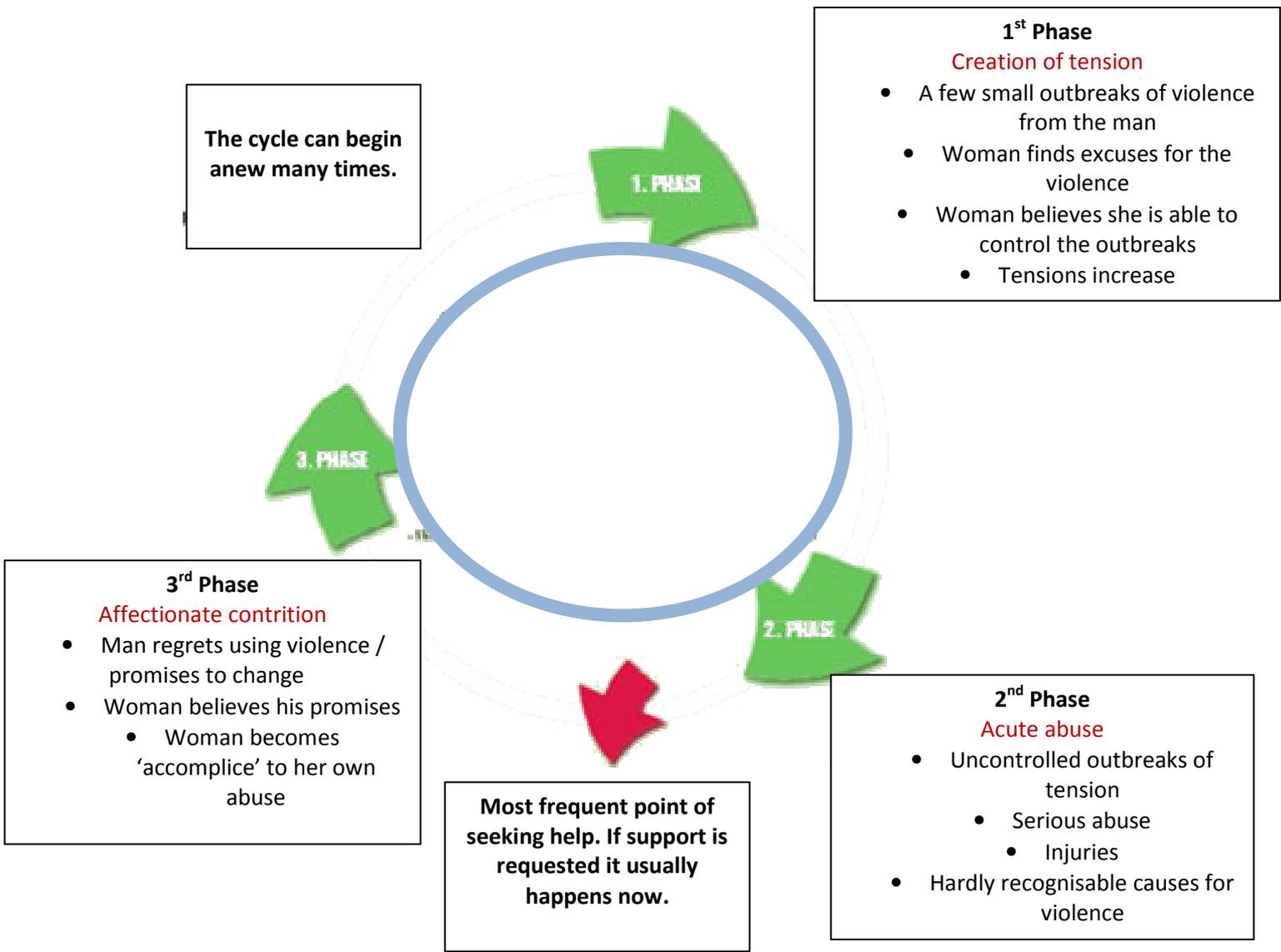
Activity:

Do they know of somebody in this spiral?

What can they do? Not do?

What can you do? Not do?

The Spiral of Violence: L. E. Walker



The cycle can begin anew many times.

1st Phase
Creation of tension

- A few small outbreaks of violence from the man
- Woman finds excuses for the violence
- Woman believes she is able to control the outbreaks
 - Tensions increase

2nd Phase
Acute abuse

- Uncontrolled outbreaks of tension
 - Serious abuse
 - Injuries
- Hardly recognisable causes for violence

Most frequent point of seeking help. If support is requested it usually happens now.

3rd Phase
Affectionate contrition

- Man regrets using violence / promises to change
- Woman believes his promises
 - Woman becomes 'accomplice' to her own abuse

From and Adapted from: Walker, L. E. (1984) The Spiral of Violence

Resources:

Traveller Organisations:	
Domestic Violence Services : Dublin	
<p>Amen A confidential helpline, information and support service for male victims of domestic abuse and their children Tel: 046 9023718</p>	<p>Clondalkin Women's Service Mon – Thurs 9am – 5pm Tel: (01) 4670708</p>
<p>Dublin 12 Domestic Violence Service Tel: 01 456 3126 Helpline: 01 456 3126 Access Hours: 9.30am to 1.30pm Monday to Friday</p>	<p>Hesed House Counselling service and support for women experiencing domestic violence Tel: 01 4549474</p>
<p>Inchicore Outreach Service The Centre offers support to women experiencing VAW on a one to one basis/phone. Court accompaniment and network with any service which offers support Tel: (01) 454 5239</p>	<p>Southside Women's Action Network Ltd. Offers free and confidential support and counselling to women who are experiencing domestic abuse. Tel: (01) 282 5932 Email: swannetwork@eircom.net</p>
<p>Women's Aid Tel: 01 868 4721 Helpline: 1800 341 900 (10am to 10pm, 7 days) Email: info@womensaid.ie Website: www.womensaid.ie</p>	<p>W.O.V.E (Women Overcoming Violence) Provides a support group for women who have experienced domestic violence. Tel: (085) 162 0257</p>
<p>Exchange House National Travellers Service 61 Great Strand Street, Dublin 1. <i>Direct provision of family support and social work; education and youth work</i> Tel: 01 872 1094 Email: info@exchangehouse.ie Web: www.exchangehouse.ie</p>	<p>Crosscare Traveller Inclusion Project The Red House, Clonliffe College, Dublin 3. Tel: 01 836 0011 Email: info@crosscare.ie Web: www.crosscare.ie</p>
<p>National Traveller MABS Unit 2, North Park, North Road, Finglas, Dublin 11. Tel: 01 864 8510 Email: nationaltraveller@mabs.ie Web: www.nattravellermabs.org</p>	<p>National Traveller Women's Forum First Floor, Unit 4, Tuam Road Retail Centre, Tuam Road, Galway. Tel: 091 771 509 Email: ntwf@iol.ie Web: www.ntwf.ie</p>

<p>Pavee Point 46 North Great Charles St, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 878 0257 Email: info@pavee.ie Web: www.paveepoint.ie</p>	<p>For details on where your local Traveller organisation is please contact: The Irish Traveller Movement, 4/5 Eustace Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 679 6577 Email: itmtrav@indigo.ie Web: www.itmtrav.com</p>
<p>The Parish for Travelling People New Cabra Road, Phibsboro, Dublin 7. Tel: 01 838 8874</p>	<p>Traveller Counselling Service 6 New Cabra Road, Phibsboro, Dublin 7. Tel: 086 308 1476 Email: travcounselling@hotmail.com</p>

Also:

Legal Aid Centres

Rape Crisis Centres

Women's Aid Refuges



EXCHANGE HOUSE

National Travellers Service

Exchange House National Travellers Service is the leading provider of front line services to some of the most marginalised Travellers in Ireland since 1980.

We are a multi-disciplinary frontline service provider offering Family Support Services, Youth Services, Addiction Services, Prison Services and Education Services to members of the Traveller community based in the greater Dublin area.

In addition, we deliver a national service through training, provision of expertise and partnerships with other organisations providing services to Travellers in Ireland.

Exchange House has been providing a professional standard of practice that has been shown to produce good results with our client group, particularly as it relates to domestic violence.

Exchange House utilises a distinctive multi-disciplinary approach. Clients are facilitated to address their individual situation and needs under one roof; from crisis intervention through to long term education and employment.

OTHER EXCHANGE HOUSE SERVICES

Family Support Service

Addiction Service

Youth Service

Education Service

Research & Policy

Training Programmes

Conference Facilities

Visit our website

www.exchangehouse.ie

for more information



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EXCHANGE HOUSE

National Travellers Service



Sunia Geel Domestic Violence Project



SUNIA GEEL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT

The *Daphne* project is an EU funded project. Out of hundreds of applications made to the EU Commission's Justice section, Exchange House National Travellers Service was selected as the only Irish organisation to lead this project under the Daphne III Programme. The Sunia Geel Domestic Violence Project will run for 24 months

"Sunia Geel" derives from the Traveller language, Cant. It translates "take care of yourself", and is viewed as an apt name for what the project aims to achieve - families being valued and supported.

The prevalence of domestic violence within minority groups and barriers to resolving this is Sunia Geel's focus.

The goal of the Sunia Geel Domestic Violence Project is to prevent and reduce the extent and impact of Domestic Violence within marginalised communities in Europe by:

- Providing Support to Women, Children and Young People
- Generating Education & Community Awareness
- It will also expand knowledge of effective domestic violence interventions with these minority groups (Travellers in Ireland) amongst service providers

This will promote positive attitudes and behavioural changes within disadvantaged communities



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESPONSE

- Counselling
- Family Support
- Group work with women
- Group work with men
- Group work with children
- Community awareness
- Research
- Seminars
- Training on Best Practice when working with Travellers experiencing domestic violence

SEMINAR WITH MEN'S COMMUNITY GROUPS

In line with Sunia Geel's main objective, Exchange House provides open Community Awareness Groups for Traveller Men.

The purpose of this group is to raise awareness around domestic violence and to explore interventions.

This group is facilitated by Traveller Men and is 2 hours long.

The group can be held at Exchange House Offices or at a venue of choice.

**For enquiries please contact Exchange House at
01872 094**



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