

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 125 (a) Provide well-funded shelters and relief support for girls and women subjected to violence, as well as medical, psychological and other counseling services and free or low-cost legal aid, where it is needed, as well as appropriate assistance to enable them to find a means of subsistence;

4th Quarter 2009

Global Shelter Data Count

In one day, 2,883 sheltering agencies from 24 countries around the world helped 90,602 women & 63,315 children

On this same day, these shelters were unable to accommodate 12,228 women and 8,176 children

Germany - Austria - Rwanda - Nepal - Luxembourg
Finland - Lisboa-Portugal - Canada - Sweden
Armenia - Iceland - Pakistan - United States of
America - Italy - Slovenia - Malta - Liechtenstein
Mexico - Israel - Pakistan - Vietnam - Australia
United Kingdom, Netherlands



In one day...

In September 2008, shelters from around the world came together for the first ever world conference of shelter workers in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

A number of action items were identified at the conference – one of which being the need to conduct a global data count.

The Global Shelter Data Count occurred in one day during the fourth quarter of 2009. These outcomes represent the Global Network of Women's Shelters first attempt at generating a tool to better link shelters and generate appreciation of their vital place in the world.

The data count will only get bigger as more shelters from different corners of the globe learn about GNWS and participate in the count.

Jan Reimer, Provincial Coordinator
Alberta Council of Women's Shelters

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: 54 (a) Promote research, collect data and compile statistics, especially concerning domestic violence relating to the prevalence of different forms of violence against women, and encourage research into the causes, nature, seriousness and consequences of violence against women and the effectiveness of measures implemented to prevent and redress violence against women;

A shelter in **Germany**, “Frauenhaus BORA” in Berlin served 46 people – 23 women and 23 children.

5 shelters in **Austria** (4 emergency and 1 second stage) saw 159 women and 120 children. Only 1 woman was turned away due to lack of space.

Slovenia’s “Association SOS Helpline for Women and Children Victims of Violence” helped ten women and one child.

Shelter workers said:

“I told her what happens in court, what she can expect...”

“I was proud of the caller because she knew what to do and she immediately reported him to the police.”

About a woman in shelter: “She is not okay today. She worries about her financial situation. She is paying off her debt to the kindergarten (75 euro per month). She wants to know if her debt could be written-off – could we write to the right people?”

In **Rwanda**, the “Polyclinic of Hope” received 60 women – some for social related assistance, some for anti-retroviral treatment.

Vietnam’s “Peaceful House” helped 73 women and 13 children. On their data count day, there were no women or children that the shelter was unable to help: “We tried to give more or less support to all women and children.” There is only one shelter in Vietnam, a country with a population of 84,000,000.

**in one
day...**

“Swedish Association of Women’s Shelters and Young Women’s Empowerment Centers, SKR” 22 shelters in **Sweden** helped 102 women and 65 children. They had to turn away 7 women and 9 children due to lack of resources.

Staff said: “It is hard to refer women to their social service center (for) questions concerning housing. Many times it’s a risk of ‘losing them’ in that process since they are often afraid of contacting them.”

“We need more time to accompany them to meetings with social authorities, police, healthcare, etc. as a witness and support.”

“We are the ones that can provide answers to their questions.”

1,646 sheltering agencies in the **United States of America** helped 40,045 women and 24,501 children. Participating shelters could not accommodate 5,507 women and 3,616 children on their data count day.

Shelter workers said:

“More survivors, often in life-threatening circumstances, are seeking our services, and we are overwhelmed trying to accommodate everyone who comes to our door.”

“The victims who come to us aren’t asking for much. They need safety. They need support. They need to know they can keep their children safe from violence in their homes.”

In **Lisboa-Portugal** , two shelters under the “Associação de Mulheres Contra a Violência” helped 12 women and 10 children, and turned away 2 women and 6 children.

“They (staff) comment that it is hard work with less recognition and always are in burnout! But also recognize how important is this work and how grateful is helping women and children running out from violence.”

The Woman’s Aid Federation reports that the **United Kingdom’s** 193 refuge agencies aided 2,393 women and 2,518 children.

in one day...

in one day...

Nepal's "SAATHI Organization" Helped 5 women and 2 children.

Shelter staff said:

"The work in shelter is so stressful at times... but all this is forgotten when you see how the women who have lost all hopes of living...regain their confidence and desire to rebuild their life again."

Women in shelter said:

"I was brutally hit with an iron rod... I couldn't shout... my mouth was gagged and my hands were tied... somehow I managed to run away and later seek help from Saathi which saved my life."

"I feel safe here at the shelter."

In **Italy**, "Differenza Donna NGO" helped 39 women and 18 children. 3 of the women were pregnant.

They were unable to accommodate 5 women and 3 children.

Only half of the services are able to shelter women due to lack of funding.

In **Canada**, 83 participating sheltering agencies helped 1393 women and 1075 children. They were unable to accommodate 51 women and 53 children.

Staff said:

"there are lack of resources and affordable housing options in the rural communities."

" It felt good to be able to pass along food donations to help the family until pay day."

"Today I felt like I was in the right place at the right time when a woman needed just one someone to say "You are worthwhile, you count, you deserve to be treated with respect"

Women in shelter said:

"I feel safe here, I wish I had left before but I did not know that these places existed"

"A woman said that it was paradise here, staying here allowed her to get rid of her blinders and see her situation more clearly."

In **Malta**, “Dar Merhbabik Foundation” helped 60 women and 37 children and turned away 98 women.

“Staff expressed that they would like more training in domestic violence.”

In **Australia**, 107 women and 74 children were newly accommodated.

On any given day 1 in 2 women and 2 in 3 children are turned away.

68 participating sheltering agencies in **Mexico** helped a total of 1720 women and 2556 children on their data count day. 169 women and 507 children were unable to be accommodated.

A shelter in **Israel** helped 10 women and 19 children and turned away 1 woman and her 2 children.

Staff commented:

“In our shelter the living rooms serve a number of women and children, a fact that causes frictions and necessitates bridging of the cultural gaps (and) also the daily conflicts.”

“The complicated dynamics that are part of the shared lives in the shelter need much attention, intellectual flexibility...”

“Fraenhaus Lëtzebuerg” in **Luxembourg** helped 20 women and 22 children.

Liechtenstein’s “Frauenhaus Liechtenstein” helped 5 women and 8 children.

In **Holland**, 16 shelters helped 777 women and 720 children in the shelters alone. In addition, they also provided telephone help and outreach services which were not counted.

Staff commented: “We have one woman and her child sleeping in the attic as we have no rooms left”.

In one day...

“On November 25, 2009 WRC Shelter in **Armenia** helped 11 women and 4 children by providing free psychological, legal counseling and social assistance.”

A woman who contacted the shelter said: “When I applied for the shelter of Women’s Rights Center, the psychologists, lawyers and social workers of this center helped me a lot. I have acquired computer skills and now I have a new job by their support. I live in a rented apartment with my children.”

An 11-year old at the shelter said: “Now I sleep very calmly and I again smile and laugh due to you.”

Pakistan – The shelters participating from this country helped 100 women and 150 children.

Staff said: “The women who seek refuge in these shelters usually have a life threat so we cannot even let the kids go to regular schools. Furthermore, children are there as long as their mother stays there and her stay is not for (a) certain duration so we arrange for the education of kids within shelters.”

“We never turn anyone away even if the shelter is overcrowded.”

Three shelters in
Iceland helped 86
women in distress.

IN ONE DAY...

Finland’s “Tampereen ensi-ja turvakoti ry” shelter helped 4 woman and 2 children.

Shelter staff said:

“A woman who needs psychiatric help was coming to our shelter. We guided her elsewhere.”

“The relative of a previous client contacted us and let us know that the client has gone back to the abuser. “

Compiled by:

