

THE ASSOCIATION SOS HELP LINE

The Association for Women and Children - Victims of Violence



Viktorija Zupancic, SOS Help Line

On The Association SOS Help Line

Association SOS Help-line started and is still holding on to feminist ideas and tradition, is a women's **non-governmental, non-profit** and **humanitarian organization** that works in a **public interest**.

Our aim is to **help, support and counsel women and children** who have experienced or are still experiencing violence in their families and relationships- domestic violence and sexual abuse.

The mission of the Association is to offer **protection** and **support** to women and children, as well as **educate** and **raise awareness** about violence and the unacceptability of violence. We also actively work and strive to change legislation and policies in this field.

It was established in 1989, we celebrated 34-year anniversary just days ago, with desire to prevent violence against women, children and young people. **First non-governmental organization in the field of work against violence against women and children in Slovenia.**

Our principal areas of activity

- the toll free 24/7 SOS Help Line for women and children victims of violence;
- the 2 Shelter for women and children victims of violence; with additional 3 units
- individual counseling self help group for women – victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse;
- Immigrant women's support services
- education and workshops for the interested public;
- preventive work with the expert public and media, sensitization and education of the general public about violence against women and children and human rights of women, etc.;
- change legislation, policy counseling.

22 employed (our last colleagues coming is cultural mediator for Albanian language and media expert who is taking care of our overall media image- communication with the public), **around 40 volunteers**

The Association SOS Help Line is a member of international networks WAVE (Women Against Violence Europe), The European Women's Network Against Sexual Violence (is the feminist and anti-fascist network that promotes child and adult survivor-centered perspective and healing related to sexual trauma), Child house (member in the board), local initiatives, networks, working bodies for legislation changes

Dominantly national and municipality funding of activities

What is one of most **relevant attributes for enabling our work is continuous founding**. On this place I can say we have successfully been collaborating with, partnership with one of our most supportive founders MOL, who is supporting our work for nearly since the beginning of the Association- It is very important to have a partner like that that is working in the best interest of victims, supporting and has interest for changes and development and is also enabling us growth of programs according to the needs of victims of violence.

5 programs run by The Association SOS Help Line

- **2 SHELTERS:**
- 2 shelters for women and children (first one opened in 1997, second in 2009) + 3 units/flats for women who no longer need so much help and support from the Shelter, who are more self-sufficient and are basically just waiting for their own apartment or division of property

24/7 SOS Help Line

- ❑ On January 1st, a project titled „We listen, we don't judge, we help - SOS for victims of domestic violence 24 hours a day (SOS 24/7)„ was launched.
- ❑ The most common way of contacting us is by a telephone. Our help line is free of charge, anonymous and intended for counselling, support and information.
- ❑ Counselling in Slovene, English, Croatian, Bosnian and Serbian language.
- ❑ E-counseling is available (also in Russian and Albanian).
- ❑ Legal counselling (3 hours every second week).
- ❑ Counselling on police matters by a Criminologist (2 hours every second week).

- **Immigrant women's support services- for victims of domestic violence (since 2023)**
- Specialized support for immigrant women, victims of domestic violence (women of different legal statuses- asylum seekers, refugees, etc.)
- Cultural mediators
- Interdisciplinary groups

- **Psychosocial support for women and children victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse**

*individual counselling (155 women included in the program in 2022)

*group (3 groups)- one also in women's prison Ig

The Association **SOS Help Line** for Women and Children - Victims of Violence

- Fundamentally a feministic project, **established in 1989**, out of a need recognized and defined by a small group of women who wanted to help women with experience of violence.
- **First non-governmental organization** in the field of work against violence against women and children in Slovenia.
- The mission of the Association is to offer **protection** and **support** to women and children, as well as **educate** and **raise awareness** about violence and the unacceptability of violence.

Violence against women and children SOS Help Line (2020/2021)

- Form of violence:
 - psychological violence,
 - physical violence.
- Perpetrators:
 - current or former partner,
 - adult children.
- Average age of a victim:
 - between 30-40 years old,
 - over 65 years old.



SOS 24/7



SOS
TELEFON
24
UR/DAN

Poslušamo. Ne obsojamo. Pomagamo.

080 11 55

ZA ŽENSKÉ IN OTROKE – ŽRTVE NASILJA



24 UR/DAN

Svetovanje
kriminalistke
v primerih nasilja
v družini.

SOS
TELEFON

WWW.DRUSTVO-SOS.SI
DRUSTVO-SOS@DRUSTVO-SOS.SI

080 11 55

ZA ŽENSKÉ IN OTROKE – ŽRTVE NASILJA



Društvo SOS telefon

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The SOS Helpline is also available in English, on 15th of June from 10:00 to 12:00 on our number 080 11 55, which is free of charge.

#DruštvoSOS #ESS #MDDSZ #svetovanje
#angleščina
#poslušamoneobsojamopomagamo



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Main programs within our Association

Safe house for women and children
(established in 1997).
(2020: 21 users and 11 children)

SOS phone counselling and e-counselling
(2020: 1303 calls, 139 e-mails;
1.1.2021 - 31.5.2021: 974 calls and 77 e-mails).

Personal psychosocial and psychological counselling by a psychotherapist.
(2020: 121 clients)

Social advocacy and accompaniment to institutions
(court, police department, social services institution).

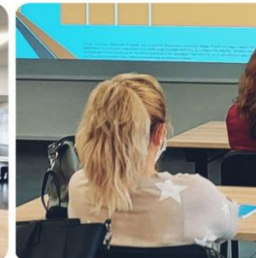
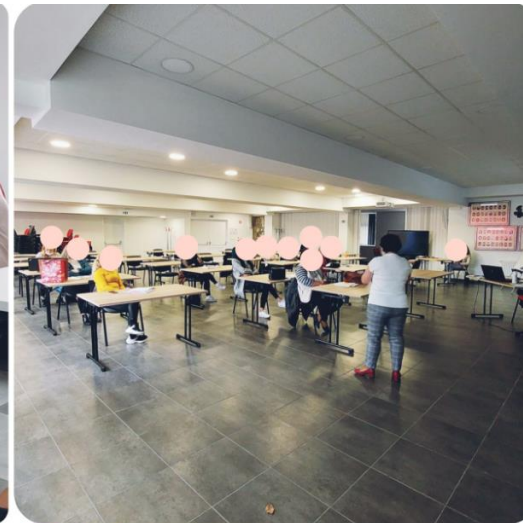
Safe house II for women and children
(established in 2009).
(2020: 13 users and 10 children)

SOS support group for women with the experience of violence.
(2020: 9 users in two support groups)



SOS Association Preventive Activities

- It started with trust...
- Conducting workshops across Slovenia (14 workshops in 6 different cities).
- Collaboration with other non-governmental institution (ex. Amnesty International, DNK).



THANK YOU FOR THE ATTENTION.

