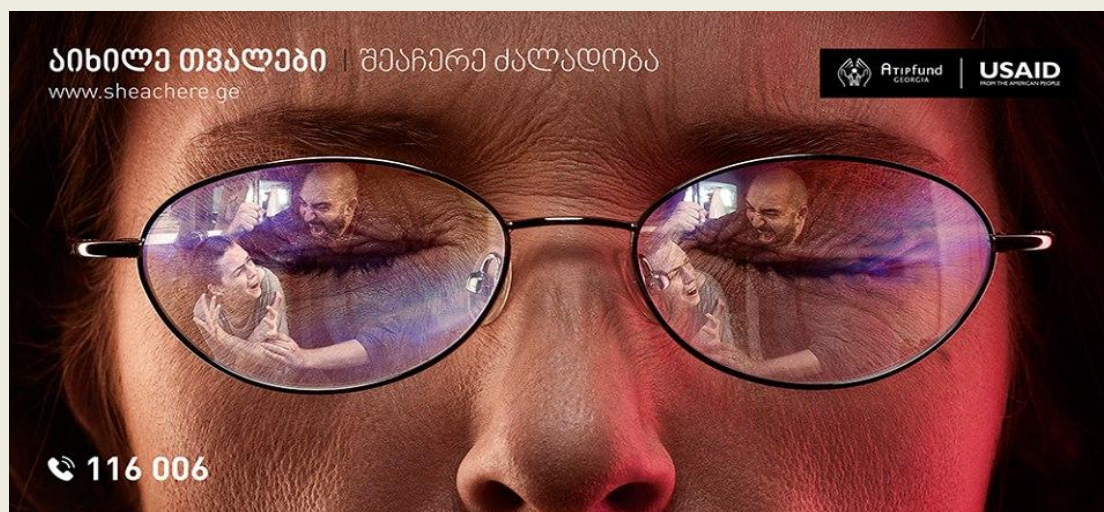


Reduction of Domestic Violence in Georgia

Achievements and Challenges Georgian experience



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Domestic Violence: A Public Health Challenge

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[ადამიანთ ვაჭრობის \(ტრეფიკინგის\) მსხვერპლთა, დაზარალებულთა დაცვისა და დახმარების სახელმწიფო ფონდი](#)

The Passion of Saint Shushanik (*Martyrdom of the Holy Queen Shushanik*) – earliest surviving manuscript and piece of Georgian Literature, 5th century.



The first reported case of domestic violence
Describes the torture and imprisonment of Queen
Shushanik (canonized by the GOC) in the hand of her
husband, prince Varsken Pitiakhsh, who had
renounced Christianity and embraced
Zoroastrianism.



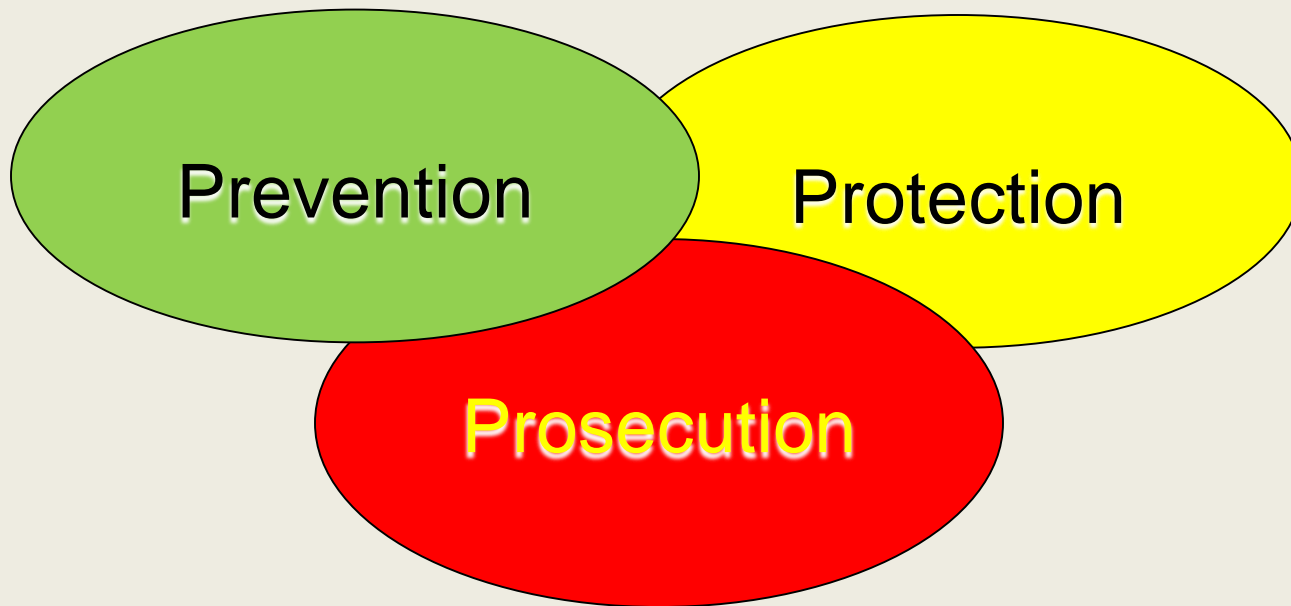
16 centuries later, domestic violence remains a
challenge to tackle.

Domestic Violence in Georgia



- Has been considered a family business
- “Probably she deserved it”
- 22% of women and 31% of men believe that wife-beating is justified under certain circumstances
- Both male (50 %) and female (33 %) likely to agree that IPV is a private matter and that others should not intervene.
- 22 percent of men and 14 percent of women agree that if a woman is raped, she has usually done something careless to put herself in that situation.
- Often unreported
- Early marriage – economic dependency, lack of support from the family
- Lifelong trauma for children
- Violence can take many forms: physical, sexual, emotional, economic.

Domestic Violence Response



Reduction of Domestic Violence in Georgia, 2015-19

Purpose:

- **Support GoG NAP to address DV prevention and protection services**

Objectives:

- **Institutionalizing the role of DV social workers**
- **Establishing a national referral system**
- **Providing Anti-DV education through schools, civic dialogue and media campaigns**

Reduction of Domestic Violence in Georgia

What has been done?

- **A National Referral Mechanism for DV cases was developed, resulting in improved coordination and multi-sectoral responses to DV**
- **Training for social workers and PHC physicians**
- **Outreach and awareness raising in schools, universities and remote communities**
- **Over two million people reached through outreach activities and information campaigns, including “დაეხმარე” and “Open Your Eyes”**
- **The number of calls to the (116 006) hotline doubled**
- **The number of shelter beneficiaries doubled compared to the same period in 2017**

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How did we do it?

National Referral Mechanism- We recruited an International Expert and two local experts: Expert on Social Work and Legal expert. We formed a working group who was reviewing the draft documents and offering amendments. After finalization of the document we held a public consultations with participation of the NGOs active in the sector and also requested their opinions, we included the relevant once in the document and submitted to government.

Training for social workers and PHC physicians –We announced a public procurement tender where we described the what we wanted to acquire and specified qualifications of the bidders. After contracting a qualified winner a training module was developed and logistics for the training organization was done. We created a calendar and a list of participants and we held 12 series of the trainings with 20 participants in each. Recruitment of the training participants was done through Social Services Agency (state LEPL who's employees are social workers). Training was held for senior social workers who then together with the training providers' trainers trained the social workers. After the training we distributed training evaluations and post tests to verify the quality of the trainings. In case of Doctors we used a training module developed by UNFPA and trainers trained by latter. We recruited training participants with the help of hospital and medical center management.

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- **How did we do it?**

Outreach and awareness raising in schools, universities and remote communities- We had procured a transportation which was taking us to the places. In case of schools first we were contacting the authority responsible for the regional schools, through them we were obtaining contact information of desirable school principal, we then were sending an official letter attached with the permit from Ministry of education to go into the schools and asking to organize a meeting with school students. In case of the universities we were contacting the university president who then referred us to the public relations department or student self government. One meeting in the community, culture or settlement centers, we were contacting municipality management who were helping us to mobilize communities.

Other outreach activities:

Concerts - we recruited an event management company through public procurement tender who was creating a concert program, mobilized artists and was occupied with the logistics, concerts were particularly successful in the regions as they are less cockered with the numerous likewise events, so attendance was very high.

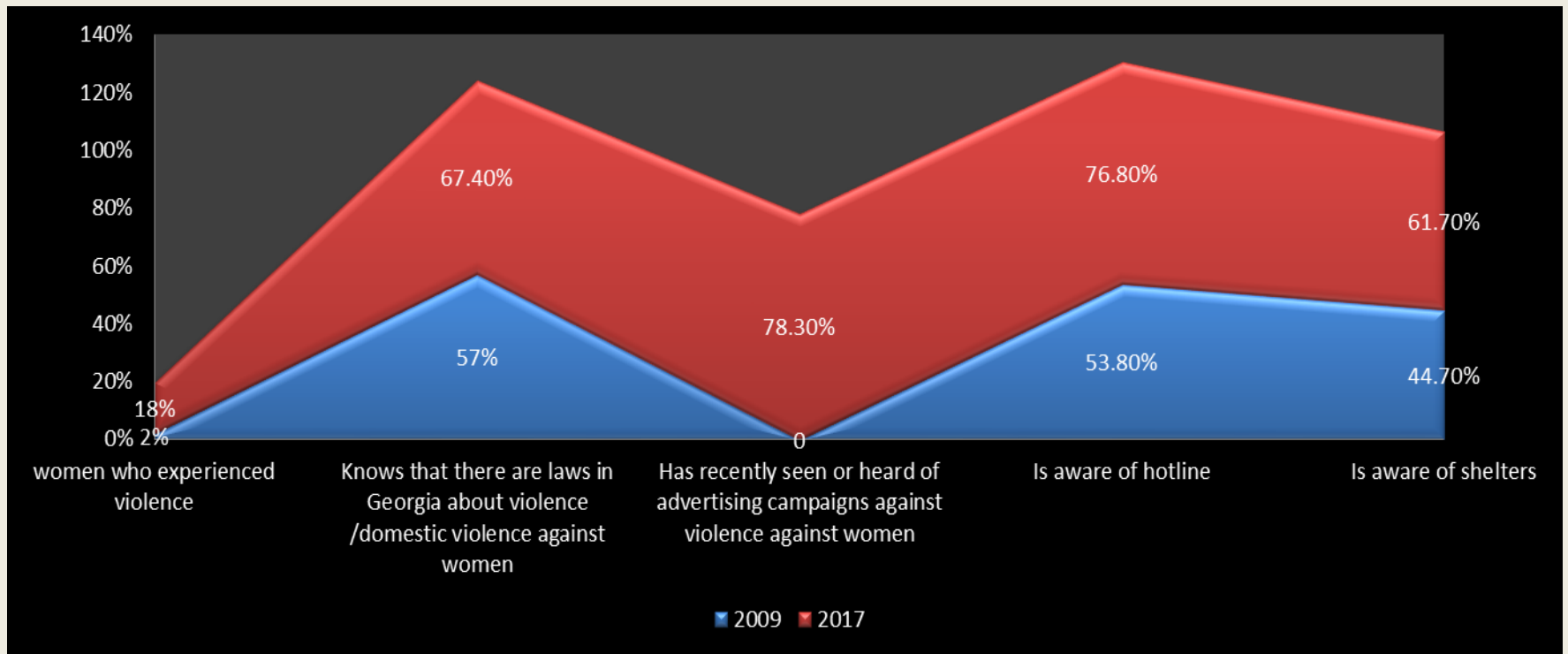
Happiness parades - we ordered colorful transparent in the shape of hearts, sun, star etc. with the anti DV messages and hotline number on it in order to raise awareness about the state services for DV and WAV victims and we conducted demonstrations in the city centers of cities were the

Campaigns – blends word transformed into campaign messages, hotline promotional sms-s sent to over 2 million customers of cell phone operators, an advertisement agency was recruited also through public procurement tender, they developed a campaign concept and its action plan, through which we created a web page, three video spots, print design and social media support was also done by them.

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- What was a our success?
 - ✓ The number of calls to the (116 006) hotline doubled
 - ✓ The number of shelter beneficiaries doubled compared to the same period in 2017
 - ✓ Resulting in improved lives of hundreds of people.

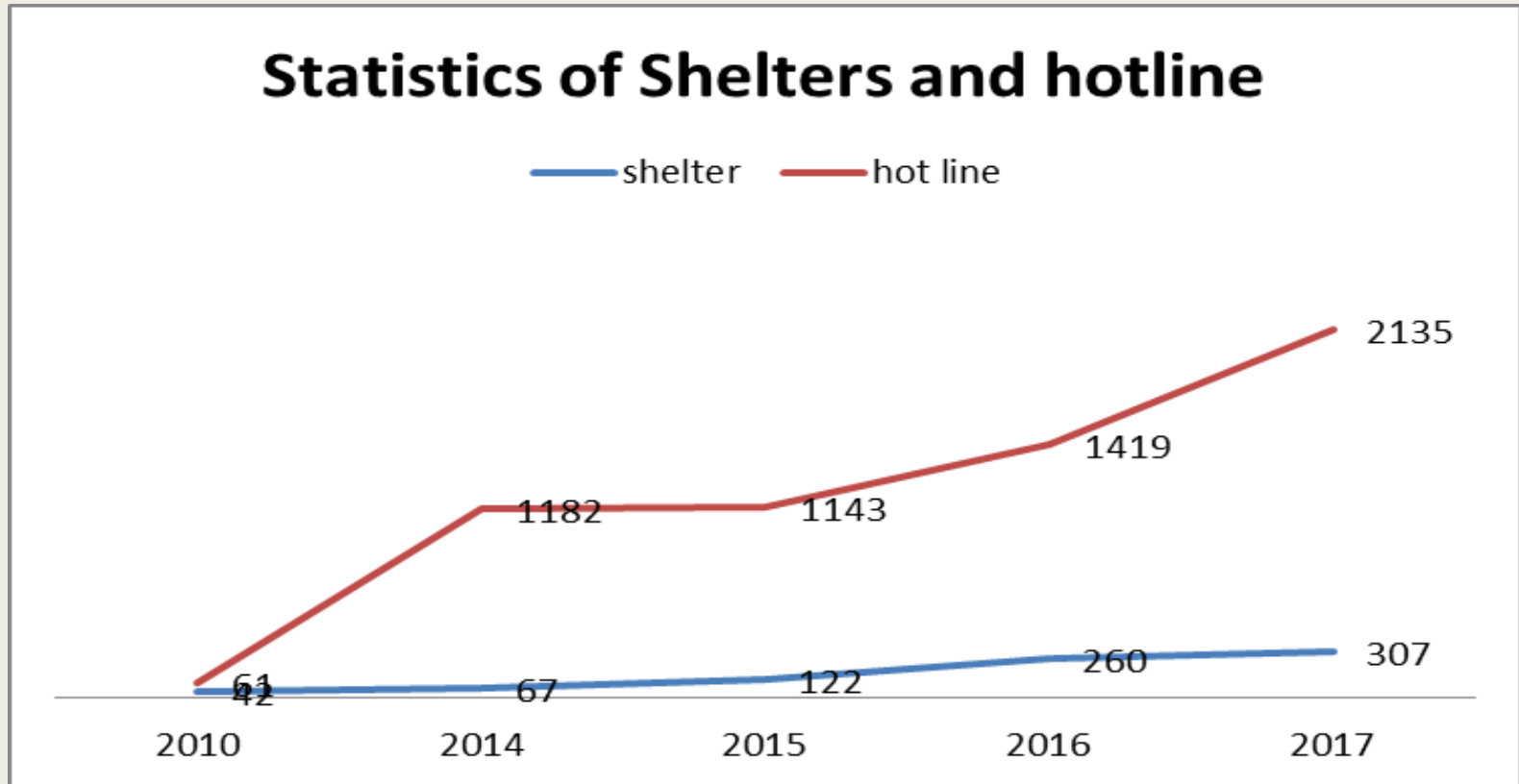
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Source:

- National study on Violence against Women, 2017 (UN Women)
- National Research on Domestic Violence against Women in Georgia, 2009 (UNFPA)

DV victims shelters and hotline use



Positive improvements in attitudes and practices (2009 vs 2017)

- Gender attitudes are less conservative
- Men and women in younger generations show less discriminatory attitudes
- A decrease in the # of women who stayed with violent husbands because they believed the violence to be normal
- A significant increase in the % of women who have experienced intimate partner violence and who reported it to the police

Source: National Study on Violence against Women, 2017, UN Women

Ministry of Internal Affairs data:

- 3,292 restraining orders during the first six months of 2018
 - Twice exceeding the same number for entirety of 2017
 - Such orders were violated in only 7% of cases
- Investigations were started for 2,804 DV cases in the first six months of 2018
 - This led to criminal persecutions against 1,933 persons
 - This equals the number of cases during entirety of 2017
- 1,328 persons accused of DV were detained during the first six months of 2018

Note: progress in tackling DV was manifested through a **dramatic increase** in the number of restraining orders, cases detected, hotline calls and perpetrators of DV convicted

Remaining gaps and challenges in DV response

- The “DV as an internal family business” attitude, still prevails in societal groups
- Need to reach out to marginalized and disadvantaged groups
- Need to work with youth and children to bring about attitudinal changes and promote positive role models
- Overloaded social workers. There are currently only 250 nationwide to deal with an array of problems
- Need for further specialized capacity building for social workers
- The economic dependency of victims, lack of comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration
- Children as victims of GBV / DV
- Case monitoring and feedback systems, including an information system/database
- Providing effective care to DV victims with mental health problems and/or disabilities
- Elderly DV victims
- Rehabilitation/working with DV perpetrators



Thank you!

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