

## **COMBATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THE WIZO WAY**

### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Domestic violence always existed, but it was “a family affair” or “our secret”.

Sadly, this is still the case in some countries and societies in the world.

It is probably the most appalling type of violence because it happens in the one place where we should feel safe – the home.

### **GENERAL & GLOBAL**

Domestic violence has many forms including physical aggression, threats; sexual abuse; emotional abuse; controlling or domineering; intimidation; and economic deprivation.

Violence against women and young girls usually occurs in societies where such behavior towards women is allowed and acceptable, not regarded as severe, and therefore, allows the continuance of such attitude towards women.

However, since the Feminist Movement raised the problem in the 1970s, awareness to this social malady has increased. Any woman, irrelevant of ethnic origin, age, residence, circumstances, religion or social status can be involved in an unhealthy relationship or become a victim of Domestic Violence, although the majority of victims are still from the lower socio-economic echelons.

Domestic Violence has many facets, some easier to hide than the obvious physical abuse – and include verbal, psychological, sexual and financial degradation. It strips the women of their dignity and self-esteem, isolates them from friends and family, and can be potentially life threatening. It also has a scarring effect on the children.

Although there is more awareness to domestic violence today, the global statistics are horrific, for instance :

(1) At least one in three women and girls is beaten or sexually abused in her lifetime.

(2) Rates of sexual abuse also varies greatly around the world—with partner rape being reported by 59% of women in Ethiopia, 46% of women from Bangladesh, and 6% of women from Serbia and Montenegro,

(3) "Honour killings" take the lives of thousands of young women every year, mainly in North Africa, Western Asia and parts of South Asia

(4) In Canada, a 2005 study reported that 7% of partnered Canadian women experienced violence at the hands of a spouse between (1999 and 2004). Of these battered women, nearly one-quarter (23%) reported being beaten, choked, or threatened with a knife or gun.

Awareness, perception, definition and documentation of domestic violence differs widely from country to country, According to some studies, less than 1 percent of domestic violence cases are reported to the police. According to the Centers for Disease Control, domestic violence is a serious, preventable public health problem affecting more than 25 million American women. Moreover, Major consequences of domestic violence victimization include psychological/mental health issues and chronic physical health problems. A victim's overwhelming lack of resources can lead to homelessness and

poverty – and therefore, although, we may find it hard to understand – this is the reason many women choose to stay with their abusive partner.

There are many different theories as to the causes of domestic violence. (1) Psychological theories that consider personality traits and mental characteristics of the perpetrator;

(2) Social theories which consider external factors in the perpetrator's environment, such as family structure, stress, social learning.

As with many phenomena regarding human experience, no single approach appears to cover all cases.

Whilst there are many theories regarding what causes one individual to act violently towards an intimate partner or family member there is also growing concern around apparent intergenerational cycles of Domestic Violence. In Australia it has been identified that as many as 75% of all victims of Domestic Violence are children

### **HOW DOES ONE COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?**

First there must be international and national discussions on the topic and decisions that the phenomenon is unacceptable and totally without social or religious justification. Women's and social organizations work endlessly on national and international levels to increase awareness while governments, and authorities, with the encouragement and support of NGOs and relevant national and ministerial services pass legislation to be implemented by law enforcement agents. I know that many countries like Israel have advanced legislation, but its implementation is not sufficient. Public awareness must be raised and today, information can be sent to the masses in a matter of minutes thanks to the media and modern technology. Information on the internet and through the social networks is very graphic, showing horrific and horrendous pictures, hiding nothing.

The UN established the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which is a landmark international agreement that affirms principles of fundamental human rights and equality for women around the world. CEDAW is a practical blueprint for each country to achieve progress for women and girls. The Convention also deals with the issue of Domestic Violence.

### **ISRAEL**

High awareness and advanced legislation on one hand coupled with insufficient law enforcement on the other characterizes the state of events in Israel.

Notwithstanding, even in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, there are still communities in Israel where there is not sufficient respect towards women and girls, due to these communities being patriarchal, traditional and/or militant, dominated by male values.

To encourage education to gender equality from early age. Education to honour human and civic rights

The reported number of women and children victims of domestic violence are approximately **200,000 Battered Women**, and **600,000 children** who have witnessed it, and if not treated – will continue the cycle of violence as adults, either as victims or as abusers.

The statistics are shocking. In 2012 **19** women were murdered, by people they knew - : spouses, partners or other family members. In some cases there was a restraining order forbidding the spouse to go near the victim – to no avail. 40% of all events reported to the police were carried out by someone close to the victims compared to 25% in 2011. Only **20%** of the women who contact Victim Centres actually file charges with the police and 68-75% of sex related cases opened by the police were closed due to lack of evidence or an unknown perpetrator.

Legislation in Israel is very advanced and the Law relating to the Prevention of Domestic Violence (1991) has been amended to impose harsher restrictions on the abuser from the time of the first arrest. The provisions restrict release on bail and allow the Courts to issue warrants forbidding the abuser from carrying any form of arms/weapons – whether privately owned or issued to the abuser by any Security Authority or any other Governmental Authority. The Law against Threatening Harassment of 1996 has also been amended and its definitions and provisions expanded to address more eventualities.

However advanced legislation has not yet solved the problem of insufficient re-enforcement by the relevant authorities, and the number of casualties and mortalities of domestic violence has increased.

More practical measures include 14 Shelters for Battered Women in Israel including 2 for Women from the Ultra Orthodox sector; 2 for women from the Arab sector and 2 Shelters operated by WIZO. One of WIZO's shelters located in the Centre of Israel is the largest Shelter in the Country. In the beginning, it was quite difficult to find an authority to allocate locations for the Shelters or neighbourhoods prepared to have such facilities within their borders. The establishment of each shelter was the joint effort of a social organization, a government ministry, a brave mayor and compassionate residents in the near vicinity.

The sectorial shelters were opened after practical experience showed that the rehabilitation was easier for women and children when in a shelter with others from the same background.

In 2012 610 referrals were directed to the shelters, out of which 85 were rejected due to lack of space or unsuitability.

## **WIZO**

In its work, providing for the welfare of women, children and youth in the Israeli society, WIZO is faced with the two main forms of violence – Domestic Violence and Child Related Violence - where children and youth can be either the victim or a witness, the abuser or any combination.

As a women's social movement focusing on the advancement of women, WIZO sees eradication of domestic violence as a core issue of its work.. The majority of abused women is unemployed or earn minimum wage, have low self esteem, may have experienced this type of relationship as daughters and not only as wives and therefore cannot perceive that it is possible to live differently.

WIZO believes that in order to break the cycle of violence, a comprehensive long term multi-faceted solution is required.

Throughout the years WIZO has done everything possible to combat domestic violence and help the women and children, victims of this social malady – such as raising more awareness to the phenomena, demanding intervention by the authorities, promoting and calling for implementation of stricter legislation and punishment against offenders, and more consideration and support for the women and children. WIZO operates three Centres for the Prevention and Treatment of Violence in the Family and initiated the rebuilding of the Shelter for Battered Women in the South of Israel. But first I would like to draw your attention to a special day in the WIZO calendar – 25 November every year.

## **THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

The United Nations General Assembly designated 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and since 1981 has invited governments, international organizations and NGOs to organize activities designed to raise public awareness of the problem on that day. In Israel women's organizations and NGOs organize events to stress the severity of the phenomenon.

WIZO marks the day by organizing an annual ceremony to honour the memory of the women who lost their lives during the past year due to domestic violence. The ceremony receives wide written, cyber and transmitted media coverage

Every year, a bereavement procession and tent are the central motives of WIZO's tribute to the murdered women.

## **WIZO PROJECTS**

### **Shelters for Battered Women and their children**

The WIZO shelters provide a residential refuge for battered women and their children for up to one year.

The two WIZO Shelters, whose location is privileged information, currently house **24 Women and about 38 Children**. The harder cases of domestic violence with the highest levels of risk are channeled to the Shelters.

With the help of a multi-professional staff, WIZO addresses the mental, emotional, functional and legal aspects of both the women and their children. This allows the woman to summon the willpower and ability to take control of their life and build a non-violent home for themselves and their children. The supportive and rehabilitative therapy they receive assists them during their stay at the Shelter and during the transition to independent life in the community. I remember hearing one of the Shelter's graduate's speaking of how "**the Shelter gave her the option and ability to start a new life, remarry and have children**". She takes nothing for granted and the most significant moment of her day is sitting with her family around the supper table.

Their children also bear scars and WIZO addresses their special needs through intervention on several levels: Therapeutic intervention guided at the emotional dimension; Educational – guided at the cognitive dimension; Health –guided at the physical developmental dimension. At the Shelter the children are able to meet benefactors and be entitled to diagnosis, treatment and study reinforcement.

For the first time they can live with no fear of abuse towards them or their mother, leaving them available to study and socially integrate at kindergartens and schools. In the WIZO Shelter in the South of Israel, additional funds allowed the purchase of a caravan to serve as a DCC for the children staying at the Shelter.

One young woman said: "**I came here with my mother at the age of five. This was the only home I know or remember** and I wrote a song in its honour, called simply "My House".

The Shelters now have close ties with the community. For instance, a group of Coca Cola employees arrived to paint all the bedrooms at our Shelter in the South. They started the day by bringing breakfast for everyone at the Shelter. Then when they finished painting, there was another surprise in store for the staff, women and children at the Shelter - they brought apparatus and products with them and prepared a barbecue. How many craftsmen do you know that bring breakfast and dinner for everyone as well as carrying out their work?

A young woman - a lawyer by occupation - after visiting the Shelter, decided that she wanted to help out. She spoke to her sister, who is an architect, and to other friends and craftsmen and all were ready to give time, funds and/or materials and products that resulted in the refurbished sitting room and a new corner where children can prepare their lessons. They also plan to renew the computer room – again – all will be free of charge. Another young woman – the Director of a Human Resources company gives counseling on professional training and how to get a job which is very important to the women's rehabilitation.

The Manager of the local swimming Pool for some years now, gives the children of the women free entrance to the pool. Then, there is an English teacher who voluntarily teaches the children, and serves as a positive male figure – something the children desperately need in their rehabilitation process. Until recently, it would not have been considered allowed, but as time goes by we learn more and more about the children and their needs and adapt the projects accordingly. These caring volunteers prove that people from all walks of life can become involved in our WIZO projects.

### **WIZO Half Way House Project (no longer operated)**

A unique project, operated in cooperation with the Ministry of Housing, to assist women and their children who have concluded their stay at a WIZO shelter and are ready to take their first steps as a single parent family. The women and children are housed in rented apartments near the shelters for a period of one year and receive ongoing counseling and care throughout that time. For some of the women it is the first time they are totally independent.

### **Centres for The Prevention and Treatment of Violence in the Family**

Treating the problem is only one kind of solution. Another is prevention. WIZO currently operates three Centres for the Prevention & Treatment of Violence in the Family.. The centres are unique as they treat the entire family - the battered woman, the abusive spouse and their children within the community framework. They receive individual, family and group treatment. Many women and men after receiving treatment and continuing with normative lives, stay on as volunteers to help others from their personal experience.

The Centre for the Prevention & Treatment of Violence in the Family in Ramat Gan, conducts workshops for police staff and doctors of Emergency Rooms. In addition, its volunteers frequent the schools to talk to children about Domestic Violence, Bullying and Anti Social Behaviour.

### **IMPROVING THE SCHOOL CLIMATE**

Having addressed violence pertaining to the family and its members, I would like to address another form of violence that affects the younger family members – violence at school. Once called **Bullying** - it is now – **ASB – Antis Social Behaviour**.

Israel is a member of the global village, and as such, is experiencing an increase in juvenile delinquency, and bullying (or anti-social behaviour) among youth. Sadly, in 2004 **one in every nine** children was involved in a violent situation – either as an abuser or as a victim.

WIZO in Israel is launching a new project called “**We Wont Give Up**” designed to reduce violence in the junior schools, where two main forms of violence or “bullying” are visible - verbal abuse towards peers and teachers, physical abuse towards peers and sometimes teachers, as well as property vandalism. The project is operated in cooperation with the Ministry of Education (Regional Supervision), the School – Management, Staff and Parent’s Board, Local Council or Municipality (Education Dept.) and the local WIZO Branch.

Anti social behaviour derives from frustration, emotional and environmental deficiencies, neglect, and inappropriate reactions of parents/teachers or lack of willingness to cooperate with the “bully”. Its reasons vary between emulating a negative figure from the neighbourhood, class or family, exposure to electronic and digital media, culture differences between new immigrants and native Israelis, inability to obtain clothes, grades and possessions – the symbols of an ever-competitive society, lack of personal or emotional attention and bad communicative skills

At school there is a variety of children each with a different behavioural pattern. Some children are quite, invert and sad – some noisy, disturbing, impatient and violent. They may suffer from the same problems - flaying concentration or learning difficulties, low esteem and lack of self-confidence. But while those with behavioral problems are branded as mischievous and aggressive, the quiet children do not attract or get special attention. Many times these children find themselves shunned by the other children. The distancing and their feeling of lack of belonging increases their frustration and tendency to resort to violence – self inflicted or targeted at others.

These children need someone to listen to them. Therefore, the local WIZO branch –places at the disposal of the project a municipal coordinator and volunteers who operate the project. The volunteers, who are selected according to predetermined criteria, undergo a training process. They are present at the school during school hours and provide a solution for children who are experiencing difficulties in the classroom.

The WIZO volunteer will sit in a room –pre-allocated by the school and there, they will meet with the children with the aim of creating good and pleasant communicative channels. The volunteers will furnish the children with a quality hour of activity: painting, reading, and homework preparation. Discussions will be conducted with the older children.

By paying attention, listening, giving positive encouragement – the volunteers will help the children channel their anger and find solutions in a positive and effective manner. They will also be able to identify signs of distress and if necessary refer for professional help. Hopefully this will help reduce violence among the children.

Providing a solution for these children not only helps the children themselves to vent their distress, but also the other children in the class who can continue their lesson without interruption.

## **TEENAGE GIRLS**

### **Girls Clubs**

Girls Clubs are designed for teenage girls in distress aged 13-18 who have been referred by the Welfare Services Bureau. Some Club activities are held in WIZO branches and are supervised and supported by volunteers. The aim of the activities is to provide a social, educational, value-based framework that enables the girls to contend with their difficulties by reinforcing and building a positive self-image. The Department is involved in operating 30 Girls Clubs around the country.

In the course of summing up a belly-dancing workshop, D. stated: “I learned to accept myself, to know my body and become confident”.

### **Warm Homes**

Warm Homes are designed for 14-18 year old girls suffering from emotional neglect and damaged self-image, who are liable to fall into delinquency and be excluded from normative frameworks. The girls attend the Homes several times a week, where they receive a hot meal, therapy, emotional support, and scholastic and social assistance.

At the Warm Home in Ramla the girls were asked to draw ‘their safe place’. One of the girls who has been attending the Warm Home for about 18 months drew a large, colorful frame with the WIZO logo inside it... This is her safe place...

Following an arts activity of the Warm Home girls and artists, Z. expressed her gratitude: “Thank you for enabling me to discover my talent... This is the first time I have managed to draw something so beautiful...”

### **“Otzma Tzeira” (Young Power)**

An empowerment program for teenage girls who are on the brink of distress and risk, and do not benefit from the support of Welfare Services Bureaus. The program is designed for groups of 15-20 girls aged 13-15 who have been identified by educational counselors in the schools. The girls have personal potential and abilities, but face the risk of deteriorating if timely preventive action is not taken. The program provides content pertaining to self-image, empowerment, couple relationships, family, violence prevention, and much more, and is operated at WIZO branches. The branch serves as a social club for the girls, and the supervising volunteers provide support in all non-formal matters. Ten such groups have been active around the country this year.

H., a volunteer in one of the groups, experienced personal loss. When the girls heard about the tragedy they immediately came together to write personal letters to her, prepared a project that reflected their feelings toward her and went to visit her in her home.

The meeting was very emotional, H. felt she was receiving so much love. Giving is a way of receiving...

The girls recount: "I learned how important it is to listen and help..."

"We gained a sense of security, stability, responsibility..."

"For me Otzma Tzeira is a place where you can safely talk about good feelings and bad. It's a place where you can pour out your heart with girls like me who support one another, and a place where you can make new friends and gain self-confidence"

(A girl at the conclusion of an Otzma Tzeira workshop)

## **MENTORING**

"Girls helping Girls"

The Programme seeks to empower and strengthen the "mentors" in Advanced Rehabilitation Procedures through University studies and integration as role models, support and help for girls in the system and service treatment. The "mentors" are given aid to shed the role of the needy for the role of the mentor. The Programme allows the development of manpower able to improve and upgrade the work with girls at risk and in distress, in the various frameworks.

Girls at risk who have managed to escape the cycle of despair have a deeper understanding for girls who still haven't. Such adolescents can serve as role models and as a source of power and hope for young girls at risk or in despair, as a motivating factor proving that change is possible, and as a resource for the professional staffs – as they have the ability to easily identify dangerous situations, to spot distress, to commentate on and decipher situations and sometimes serve as a bridge between the professional staff and the girls in the first stages of deterioration.

45 girls at risk of 17-20 who have received therapy or are in Advanced Rehabilitation Procedures, that express the ability, interest and motivation to study and are ready to take upon themselves commitment to learn and experience attend the Programme. The programme is compromised of theoretical studies, experiencing and application.

During the second year, those interested and found suitable can carry out an internship. The "mentors" will be able to help define where and how they can best assist girls at risk. The "mentors" undertake to be in touch with a Social-Educational-Rehabilitation Service that commits to continue being in contact with the girl and the Programme throughout the study phase. Alternatively instead of internship they can carry out National Service in the same format.

This Programme is operated in partnership with the School for Social Work in the Tel Aviv University, The Service for Young Girls in the Ministry of Welfare; Ashalim (founded by by the Government, JDC-Israel and UJA Federation of NY and WIZO

Three classes have taken place already.

The following testimony of one of the Mentoring Programme participants articulates exactly what the Programme is about:



*“All my experiences were taken and turned into something strong and good. In that year I was given the feeling that I had the power and that I could help others. It made me stop wallowing in self-pity. Once, in the past I was ashamed- today I understand that I am strong and the fact that my situation didn't deteriorate and that I can help others – is no small feat.”*

### **PROJECT FOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS – FILM: HE'S CRAZY ABOUT ME**

The Department for the Advancement of Women's Status has produced a film aimed at identifying early signs of a potential violent partner. The film is distributed at senior high schools all over the country and is also screened for soldiers in regular service. Screenings are accompanied by a discussion to raise the awareness of young people to this issue.

### **THE RELATIONSHIPS WITHOUT VIOLENCE PROGRAMME**

This preventative programme is for students of 10th-12<sup>th</sup> grades conducted at the Rebecca Sieff Centre for the Family in Jerusalem..

The programme was initiated and mostly written by Malca Genichovski, the Director of the WIZO Jerusalem Centre for the Prevention of Domestic Violence in partnership with the Counseling Psychology Service.

The programme is comprised of 10 ninety- minute meetings that educate towards the development of healthy normal relationships and the prevention of pathological ones.

### **PREPARATION FOR COUPLE RELATIONSHIPS PROJECT**

A Preparation for Couple Relationships Project operates in WIZO branches all over the country for couples who are about to be married or are in their first year of marriage. The aim of the project is to provide young couples with tools for constructive communication in marital life in order to enhance successful couple relationships in times of crisis as well.

### **WIZO Assistance to Battered Women who File a Police Complaint**

It takes a lot of courage to go to the police and file a complaint against an abusive partner. Too many times the complaint is cancelled from fear of the partner's reaction, and/or misunderstanding what filing a complaint entails, an/or insufficient trust in the police or the municipal supporting systems to help. In order to guarantee that the women will continue the long process of breaking the cycle of domestic violence, in order to prevent the women returning to the closet after taking this huge step, WIZO designed and operates with the police a unique programme to reach out and give the victims of domestic violence the assistance and support they need.

Volunteers from the WIZO Ramat Gan Centre for The Prevention Of Domestic Violence, many of them former victims of domestic violence themselves, in conjunction with the Police Stations in the Greater Tel -Aviv District operate the programme with great sensitivity and compassion..

From the moment the battered woman arrives at the station, the volunteer accompanies and gently guides her - connecting her with the WIZO Ramat Gan Centre for The Prevention Of Domestic Violence and the relevant authorities she has to contact (the Courts, National Insurance, etc..) , taking her to the hospital if necessary.

Thanks to the programme a considerable number of women are currently within an advanced therapeutic process, and we hope, in time, it will be affected in other districts.

### **WIZO Legal Action**

WIZO operates a network of over 30 bureaus throughout the country, staffed by 80 lawyers, mediators, psychologists, social workers and 160 para-professional volunteers that provide advice and Legal Aid on family issues such as : divorce, alimony, wills and inheritance, custody of children, financial agreements, couple mediation with the goal of rehabilitating the marriage, ongoing support services for women during and after the divorce process, drawing up divorce agreements during the mediation process and dissemination of information material outlining women's rights and services.

Over the years, the Department for the Advancement of Women's Status has been active in the parliamentary arena with the aim of advancing women in all spheres. Representatives of the Department attend the various Knesset committee meetings, initiate debates and submit position papers on women's issues. Enforcing existing legislation is one of the challenges with which the Department contends through petitions to the Supreme Court and representing precedent cases in the courts.

Attached is a list of laws WIZO has initiated, promoted and lobbied for.

### **MEN COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

WIZO is part of an international program that targets the abusive man. It provides an intensive therapeutic educational framework for men who were removed from their homes by court order because of physical abuse towards their spouses.

It is essential to involve men in the process to eradicate violence against women/girls, and therefore. in Israel,

The past year has seen more and more men becoming involved and taking action - : On the International Day for the Elimination of Domestic Violence – men walk in high heels as a declaration "stepping in her footsteps"; in some countries mean wear white ribbons,

WIZO decided this year to do just that through the "Come out of the Shadows" campaign, where WIZO calls upon men to take responsibility for the physical and emotional violence they inflict on their spouses/partners

The project includes a hotline manned by volunteers and a trained therapist. The project is accessible on website and facebook.

## **TRAFFICKING**

Although not defined as Domestic Violence – I would like to talk about another form of violence against women.

History-theme novels and stories from Arabian Nights tend to romanticize the phenomenon or see it in a cultural context, BUT **slavery, bondage or trafficking** as it is now called is probably the most blatant act of abuse and exploitation of human and civil rights, as it sees the individual solely as a mere commodity – a means to gain profit. Sex trafficking is the lowest of all trafficking forms and has increased since the 1990s especially in Eastern Europe.

Unfortunately, Israel is a destination country for women trafficked from Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Belarus, China, and possibly the Philippines for the purpose of sexual exploitation.. African asylum seekers entering Israel illegally are also vulnerable to traffickers as forced labor or prostitution.

Most trafficking victims enter Israel illegally from Egypt through Sinai. They are tempted to the region with promises of good jobs and salaries - a chance to better their lives. However, once they arrive they are faced with the terrible truth – they are to work as prostitutes in the most sordid of conditions. They are sold and passed between pimps or criminal factors. They are subject to abuse, violence and worse. Their passports are confiscated so for all due purposes – it is as if they do not exist.

As a women's organization, WIZO lobbies for stricter legislation to punish those that encourage, organize and generate pornography, prostitution and trafficking, and demands stronger law enforcement against the perpetrators. . However, WIZO also believes that programmes should be put in place to help the victims escape this cycle of degradation, abuse and violence, and. help them prepare to re-enter society – whole in body, soul and dignity. Enlightened and healthy societies owe this not only to the women but also to their own societies. Sadly victims have testified that if returned to their origin countries, their lives would not improve, quite the opposite they could be in danger or find themselves again in the clutches of abusers.

On **18 October 2006, The Law 'Prohibiting Human Trafficking in Israel'** was **unanimously approved by the Israeli Parliament**. According to the Law - human trafficking is defined as any form of commerce in human organs, children (kidnapping the mother to take the baby/child), bondage, forced labour, prostitution or pornography or sexual exploitation. It is the first time that any Israeli law defines bondage or slavery. (The law also refers to forced labour that applies more to men than women)

The Law is significant as it addresses the three important aspects – **the broad and detailed definition of human trafficking, the punishing of the perpetrators** (between 3 – 20 years depending on the severity of the charges) **and compensation for the victims** (from the perpetrators assets).

Following a government decision, a shelter was opened in 2004 for women who are victims of trafficking. The shelter has 50 places and is operated by the Ministry of Social Affairs. Since 2006 there has been a significant improvement in the work of the authorities against trafficking.

**END**

You have just heard a very condensed overview of WIZO's work to eradicate Domestic Violence. You heard a brief summary, some facts and figures but behind them there are real women with identities - faces and names – with heartbreaking stories and different ways to cope with what happened to them. The emotional and mental strength they need to break the cycle of violence in order to better their and their children's lives is enormous.

We can all be so proud that our movement has taken upon itself this cause.  
WIZO making a difference, making the impossible – possible.

WIZO – changing lives, helping unhappy, broken victims become happy productive members of the community and mentors for other victims.

## **STATISTICS 2012**

**21,241** cases of domestic violence between spouses/partners were reported to the police. 13, 541 were lodged by women.

4449 complaints were lodged by women between January – April 2013.

## **STATISTICS 2010**

**In the first 10 months of 2010 :**

**13,210** new cases of domestic violence were reported.

At the beginning of November 2010 there were **1,850** prisoners serving sentences (many multiple time offenders) and **759** detainees remanded prior to trial for domestic violence (not only against women). 60% of these men are Jewish.

There are also **1,123** prisoners and **238** detainees being held for sex related crimes.

## **THE 2010 INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

On 25 November 2010 a tent was put up in the courtyard of Beit Ariella and the Tel-Aviv Museum. Across the walls of the tent **19** faux death notices were affixed, each with the name, age and hometown of a woman murdered during the past year. The women's last names indicated that the full range of Israeli society is affected by this social malady.

Outside the tent there was an exhibition of posters pertaining to Domestic Violence – a joint project with the Department of Interactive Communication at the Sapir College.

In 2010 the WIZO Bereavement procession was escorted part of the way by 15 motor bike riders (13 men and 2 women) of the Suzuki Burgman Israel Club - a club of about 800 motor bike riders with extremely high social awareness that abhor domestic violence and regard their participation in the event as their humble way of taking a stand against the phenomena, and helping WIZO pass its message on. At Beit Ariella they stood in silent vigil by their bikes, parallel to the coffins. The stark contrast between the bikes (strength) and coffins of the women (fragility) added to the intensity of the occasion. WIZO stickers issued for the event were visible on their bikes, helmets, T-shirts and jackets.

The 90-minute ceremony held in the bereavement tent was in the presence of Ministers, Members of Knesset, WIZO Executives, relatives of domestic violence victims and members of the public.

All the speakers praised WIZO's work to combat and eradicate domestic violence as well as our activities to help the women during their stay in the shelters and in preparing them for an independent violence free life when they leave them.

MK Tzipi Livni Head of the Opposition said: "**This should be a day in which Israeli society understands that there are words that should not be used. We are erasing the term 'murder for romantic reasons' and 'murder for family honor. "There is no romance in death, and there is no honor in murder"**".

A very emotional moment for us all was when Michael spoke out on behalf of the families of the victims. His sister Orly was brutally murdered in 2009 by her husband. **It was not a crime of passion but pre-meditated and well planned.** Michael said that

he was worried about his sister but concerns about "what will every one say" prevented him from taking action; **"My sister always told me it would be alright. So I did nothing and I lost my sister. The day before she was murdered she asked me how I was and told me to take care of myself. The next day she was no more. Don't think it will be alright because it won't. Don't pay attention to what neighbours and any one else may think – it doesn't matter. I beg siblings and family members to take action if you know that something is wrong. You may prevent the next murder. You may be able to do what I was unable to – to save my sister. I want to thank WIZO for all its blessed work and for inviting me to appear before you today."**