**Project launch CCM-GBV for refugee women gender-based violence victims**

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In line with the [European Commission's year focused on actions to combat violence against women](http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/item-detail.cfm?item_id=607757), the project "Co-creating a Counselling Method for refugee women Gender-Based Violence victims" (CCM-GBV) (01/11/2017 - 31/10/2019) has received a project grant under the [European Union’s Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1397223391719&uri=CELEX:32013R1381) (2014-2020).

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a violation of human rights, largely affecting women. GBV against refugee women has particularly received heightened attention since the EU's migration crisis. Even though the CEDAW, Istanbul Convention and the EU's Reception Directive (2013/33/EU) stress that women are a particularly vulnerable group, the [European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights](http://fra.europa.eu/en) (FRA) highlighted GBV against refugee women - including forced marriage, domestic violence, rape, sexual harassment and physical assault - as an area of concern in its June 2016 report on the migration situation. Information on the extent of the GBV problem amongst refugee women within the EU is however lacking. Furthermore, the Council of Europe (2015) stresses that women with an insecure residence status often face the problem of having limited or no access to services making them aware of such rights. This situation leads to significant barriers in accessing certain types of interventions such as turning to the police, and may increase the period of time that women are exposed to abuse. Thus, it is very important for refugee women to receive adequate help from specialised support services in line with the [REC-VAW-AG-2016](https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/rec/calls/rec-vaw-ag-2016.html) Call’s purpose that this project establishes through the co-creation of a counselling method. In this project, co-creation (=creating a service based on user experience) is used to create a specific counselling method, involving both end-users - meaning refugee women GBV victims - and service providers, the counsellors.

At the end of the project, a handbook is issued, entailing challenges from consulting practice for refugee women GBV victims and summarising recommendations for practitioners. Also, a training manual on dealing with GBV issues in the refugee context will be published. Moreover, a [project facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/EU-Ccm-Gbv-Project-1750925935203070/?notify_field=blurb&modal=profile_completion&notif_id=1512600057831737&notif_t=page_profile_blurb) is available on which project developments, publications, events, etc. on the project are published.

The project takes place in the countries of the main refugee routes and main refugee receiving countries through following project partners: SOLWODI Deutschland e.V. (SOLWODI) (Germany), the Italian Refugee Council (CIR) (Italy), G.I.R.A.F.F.A. onlus (Giraffa) (Italy), the Greek Refugee Council (GCR) (Greece), the Cyprus Refugee Council (CY.R.C.) (Cyprus), Suomen Setlementtiliitto (Setlement) (Finland) and the Jesuit Refugee Services (Croatia). The European Regional Institute in the United Nations Criminal Justice and Crime Prevention (HEUNI) (Finland) supports the project with its expertise in monitoring and evaluating data on vulnerable people. The European Network of Migrant Women (ENOMW) (Belgium) will support the beneficiaries in holding an EU expert meeting and disseminating the project results.

For further questions on the project, please contact the project manager (G.I.R.A.F.F.A Onlus,Ms. Maria Favia: faviamara@gmail.com).

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