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FACT SHEET | Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking in Greece

The **Daughters of Penelope (DOP – website)**, a leading international women’s organization, supports **WIN Hellas**, an NGO founded in Greece and active in preventing and addressing violence against women (www.winhellas.gr).

ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN GREECE

WIN Hellas provided us with the following statistics about domestic violence in Greece:

- 1 in 4 women in Greece has, or will be, a victim of abuse at some point in her life.
- 28% of women who have been victims of abuse in the past continue to be victims in future relationships.
- 1 in 2 women murdered in Greece are murdered by their spouse or partner.
- 63% of victims of domestic abuse have children.
- Approximately 80% of the victims that reach out for help are in the age bracket of 25-54, which is considered the most productive years of a woman’s life.
- About a quarter of women in Greece have experienced either physical or sexual violence since the age of 15, according to a survey by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights.

Also, the number of female victims in domestic violence cases reported to police increased 72 percent, from 1,186 in 2010 to 2,043 in 2012.¹ The report adds Greece’s DV hotline has received more than 12,300 calls since March 2011.

The 2013 State Department’s Human Rights report notes, “...*ten women were killed in domestic violence incidents in 2011, five in 2012, and eight in the first 11 months of the year [2013].*”²

GREECE’S ECONOMIC CRISIS AND ITS IMPACT ON WOMEN

Compounding the domestic violence problem, although we stress it is not the root source of it, is Greece’s unprecedented economic crisis. Unemployment in Greece hovers at 27% and among youth it is a staggering 62.5%.³ According to a Thomson Reuters report, experts believe it could be pushing more men to violence while leaving women no choice but to stay with their spouses or partners. *The Guardian* also published a piece on how women are disproportionately impacted by Greece’s economic crisis, including facing a rise in domestic violence.⁴

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN GREECE⁵

- The U.S. Department of State maintains Greece as a Tier 2 country in its latest human trafficking report (June 2013).
- Greece is highlighted as a transit destination for women and children subjected to sex trafficking and force labor.
- The report did stress the Greek government is making “significant efforts” to combat the problem despite its Tier 2 rating.
- There are currently 3,000 children transited through Greece by child-trafficking rings, according to Lambros Kanellopoulos, president, UNICEF in Greece.⁶

¹ “Greek police report spike in domestic abuse cases,” Emma Bartha, *Thomson Reuters Foundation*, December 2, 2013.

² U.S. Department of State, <http://www.state.gov/dh/rts/hmpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm?year=2013&dclid=220284>

³ “Europe’s Record Youth Unemployment: The Scariest Graph in the World Just Got Scariest,” Derek Thompson, *The Atlantic*, May 31, 2013.

⁴ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/greek-election-blog-2012/2012/jun/15/greek-crisis-women-especially-hard>

⁵ “Human Trafficking in Greece highlighted by State Department,” *EnetEnglish*, June 20, 2013, <http://www.enetenglish.gr/?i=news.en.article&id=1202>

⁶ “Greece’s child-trafficking problem,” by Giorgos Christides, *BBC*, October 21, 2013, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-24613781>