



Improving the Framework for Reporting and Resolution of Gender-Based Violence in Tajikistan



15 districts

- 9 cross-sector stakeholders
- 300 community leaders
- Female victims of GBV and at-risk populations of women

45 training sessions

1 analytical research report

Increased reporting of domestic violence

With the support of the European Commission, **Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia (EFCA) - Tajikistan** has been tasked to improve the design and implementation of legal remedies to gender-based violence (GBV) in Tajikistan, with the ultimate goal of strengthening respect for human rights and gender equality across the country. With this project we are:

- increasing the ease of **reporting for victims of GBV** by focusing activities on building confidence in the capacity of formal and informal authorities, and increasing the effectiveness of communication between victims of GBV and those in power.
- streamlining the **institutional frameworks related to GBV** through inter-agency cooperation for an effective GBV response mechanism that engages society at all levels, by addressing any procedural gaps that may exist between reporting channels.
- expanding the scope and **awareness of legal remedies to GBV**
- increasing the availability of **accurate data on GBV** and its causes, with the goal of increasing the sustainability and long-term impact of our project.





Research and access to information

EFCA Tajikistan studies the root causes of violence against women in the home in Tajikistan to inform our recommendations for CSOs, the police, the executive and the legislature. This is aided by a targeted information campaign on television and radio to raise awareness on the legal remedies available to victims of GBV, as well as publicly accessible aspects of our project such as the national hotline for domestic violence.

EFCA also creates a GBV resource centre, which will include a hotline for victims of GBV as well as a unified statistical database on domestic violence, resources for at-risk women and families, and other related issues.

Training

EFCA Tajikistan uses human rights centric counter-GBV training methods throughout the project implementation period. Formal and informal community leaders and police officers are trained on: General responsibilities towards human rights; Enforcement of the 2013 Law; and Cooperation with CSOs and the local government. This training will focus on specific law enforcement responses to GBV, best practices, legislation and gender sensitivity.

Additional training is provided to foster inter-agency cooperation between social service providers, to develop a community-level response to GBV, and to increase operational clarity for first responders: if approached by a complainant, police will know to which institution she should be directed to fit with her situation, be it medical help, psychological care, a support centre or a particular local CSO.

EFCA Tajikistan selects female graduating cadets from the MIA Academy to participate in a specific GBV response training. Currently, in Tajikistan there are only 10 gender-sensitive units who are well-equipped to deal with cases of gender-based violence.



Lobbying for Legislative Change

At the conclusion of our project, we use the findings from our research and feedback from training participants to lobby parliament for discrete legislative changes, including explicit criminalisation of gender-based violence, as well as an increased role for local courts in relation to the state police. Our project will culminate in an international conference held in Dushanbe, which will bring together the various stakeholders in our project - including experts from the EIHR and Khurshedi Zindagi, recipients of our training programs, and government representatives from the State Women's Committee and other bodies - for a day of learning and exchange of ideas.

