

responsibility for financing the services provided in the shelters rests with the State. Most of the service providers are still NGOs. Now the shelters for victims of domestic violence are open for anyone – women, men and children of all ages – who has experienced acts or threatened acts of domestic violence. The shelters are open 24/7, free of charge and one doesn't need a referral. The National Institution of Health and Welfare is responsible for the national co-ordination and development of the shelter services. There are already common national quality standards drawn up together with national and local agencies and NGOs. The aim of the quality standards is to improve the quality of shelters and give uniform norms for granting a shelter license. In Finland we think this legislation is a great step forward for the State to take responsibility to help victims of domestic violence. This improvement was made thanks to the Istanbul Convention.

## 254 DOES ATTORNEY REPRESENTATION LEAD TO GREATER CHILD CUSTODY PROTECTIONS FOR IPV VICTIMS?

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**Background** A potential intervention for improving protections awarded to IPV victims in child custody determinations is the provision of attorney representation. The aim of this study was to evaluate the effectiveness of attorney representation in gaining greater legal protections in these cases.

**Methods** Study subjects were couples undergoing marriage dissolution involving children who had a history of male-perpetrated IPV. IPV victims with attorney representation were propensity score matched to unrepresented victims. Key study outcomes included the parameters of the court ordered child custody and visitation awards.

**Results** Cases in which the IPV victim parent received legal aid attorney representation were 85% more likely to have visitation denied to the IPV abusing parent, 77% more likely to have restrictions placed on the IPV abusing parent's child visitation, 47% more likely to have treatment or program completion ordered for the IPV abusing parent, and 46% more likely to have sole decision-making awarded to the IPV victim parent relative to unrepresented comparison group cases after adjustment for confounding. Cases in which the IPV victim parent received private attorney representation were 63% more likely to have supervision of the IPV abusing parent's child visitation ordered by the court and 36% more likely to have treatment or program completion ordered by the court relative to unrepresented comparison group cases after adjustment for confounding.

**Conclusions** Parties involved in child custody determinations are not entitled to publicly supported attorney representation in the U.S. even among cases with a history of IPV. The examination of the effectiveness of attorney representation in improving protective outcomes among these cases has critical importance from a policy standpoint. This study provides evidence of the effect of attorney representation of IPV victims in these proceedings. A follow-up study of custody evaluations is underway, and will also be discussed.

## 255 SITUATION ANALYSIS ON CHILD MALTREATMENT PREVENTION IN SEVERAL SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

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**Background** Child maltreatment is a serious public health problem that has graved impact on health and well-being of children. The current situation of child maltreatment in Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania, aimed to identify the gaps and needs, and take further actions for prevention in line with the recommendations of the European report on preventing child maltreatment and the WHO European child maltreatment prevention action plan 2015–2020.

**Methods** In the period of November 2014 to October 2015 the situation analysis have been conducted in four respected countries. The analysis relies on: 1) assessments with the relevant stakeholders by semi-structured interviews and 2) computer-based search in the area of: policy framework, legal framework, researches and study data obtained; and surveillance data.

**Results** Macedonia and Albania has prohibited corporal punishment in all settings, and in Montenegro and Serbia needs to be additionally legalised in home setting, still the prevalence rates of physical violence are high in all countries from 21% in Macedonia up to 40% in Albania. The policy framework targeting child abuse and neglect have been implemented in Macedonia and Serbia covering both protection and prevention. In Montenegro and Albania, the policy has tackled child abuse and neglect in other cross-cutting policy documents. Majority of the services are provided by the protection services and less on implementing evidence based preventing programmes. The health, social, police, education and justice sectors need coordinated approach in delivering the quality services for recording, detection, treatment, prevention and protection of children. The relevant data suggest persisting of inequalities.

**Conclusions** Policy and legal frameworks in the countries supports suitable platform for child maltreatment prevention in the respected countries. Still there is a need for comprehensive policy with an emphasis on prevention. Additionally, the legal framework in the countries should enable ban of corporal punishment in all settings and reinforcement. The response should facilitate multisectoral approach and collaboration and tailored programmes, plans that combat social inequalities such as: rural/urban, regional, children living in poverty and families at risk.

## 256 SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC DETERMINANTS OF DATING VIOLENCE VICTIMISATION AMONG FEMALE ADOLESCENTS IN NIGERIA

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**Background** Dating Violence (DV) is a major public health problem among adolescents and Female Adolescents (FA) are particularly at risk of becoming victims. Current study described socio-demographic determinants of DV among female victims. This information would help in formation and evaluation of programs that would promote the health and right of FA.